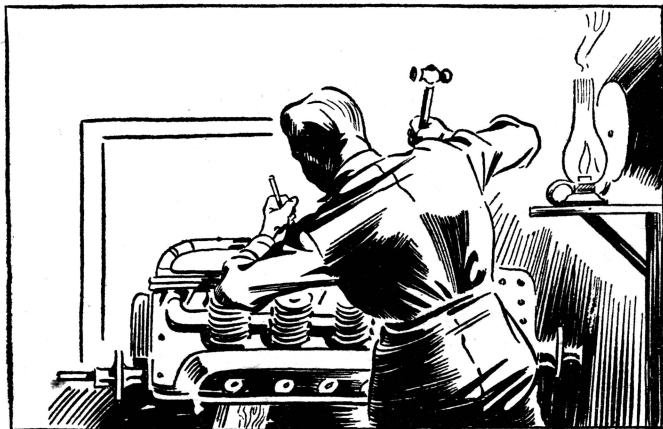


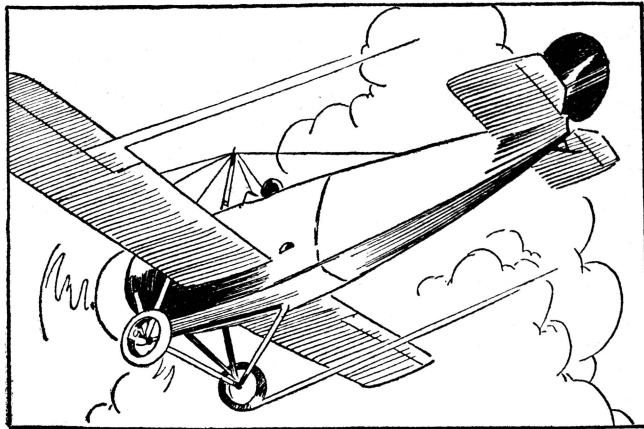
They Had What It Takes

XXVI—GEOFFREY De HAVILLAND—ACE DESIGNER

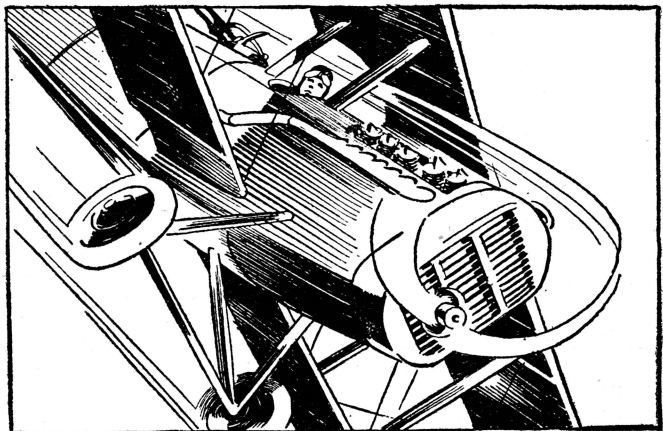
By ALDEN McWILLIAMS



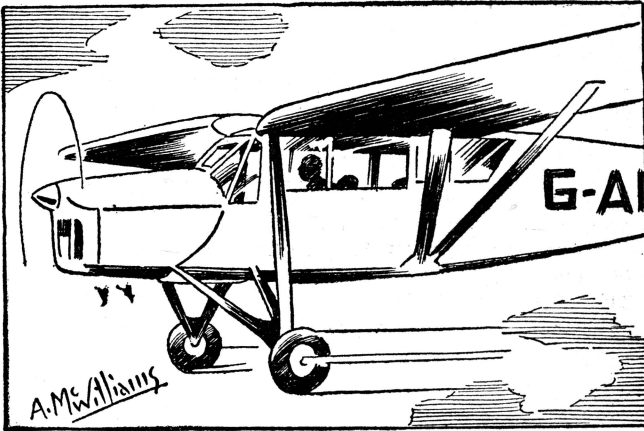
1—Geoffrey De Havilland was born in England on July 27, 1882. Following his graduation from school as an engineer, he experimented with an airplane of his own design and construction as early as 1908. His failure to find a suitable power plant for his plane didn't faze him, either. He simply planned and built his own engine—and it worked!



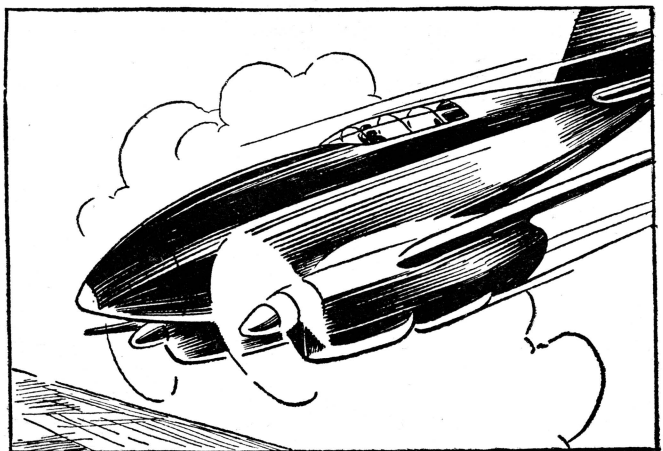
2—By 1911, young "Jeff" was "in the game for sure" both as a flyer and as a builder. For the four years prior to the Great War, he was chief designer and test pilot at the Royal Aircraft Factory, at Farnborough, and he was also an R.F.C. officer. While at Farnborough, he produced the famed B.E. series of planes that culminated in the B.E.2c job.



3—In June, 1914, on the eve of the Great War, De Havilland was engaged by Holt Thomas to be chief designer of the Aircraft Manufacturing Company, better known as the "Airco." Immediately, the brilliant Geoffrey began to produce the famous D.H. type planes. The ultimate in designing at the time, D.H. craft have continuously won renown through the years.



4—Following the War, in which his ships achieved great success, Captain De Havilland turned his attention to the manufacture of civil aircraft. In 1920, with the support of Mr. Thomas, he founded the De Havilland Aircraft Company. Among the many types of jobs he turned out was the Puss Moth which the Mollisons flew across the Atlantic non-stop.



5—The De Havilland firm then built the Hercules airliner, the Dragon airliner, and the sleek Comet job in which Scott and Black won the England to Australia air race in 1934. Finally, in 1927, the company began the construction of aircraft engines, and the efficient Gypsy series of power plants became especially noteworthy. The latter are used in both large and small craft.



6—Despite his plane-building activity, De Havilland still found time to fly; indeed, he won the King's Cup Air Race in 1934, when he was past 50! Then in 1934, the Royal Aeronautical Society awarded him its British Gold Medal—the first time this honor was ever bestowed. And so we hail Captain Geoffrey De Havilland—a great designer and a great flyer!