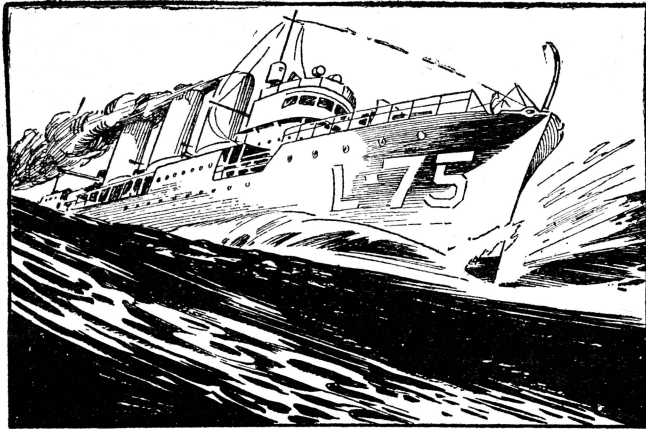


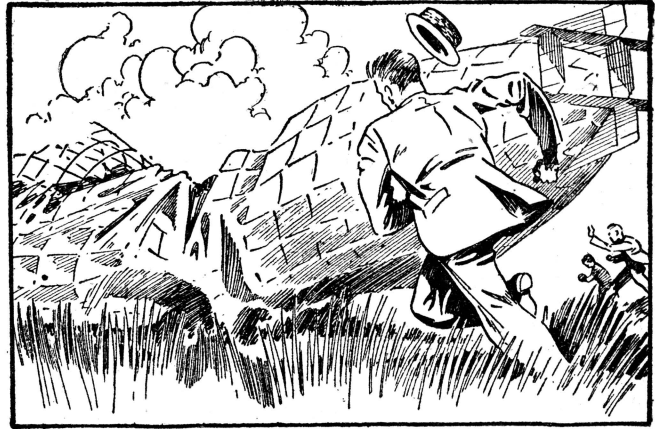
They Had What It Takes

XXXI—CHARLES E. ROSENDAHL—AIRSHIP ACE

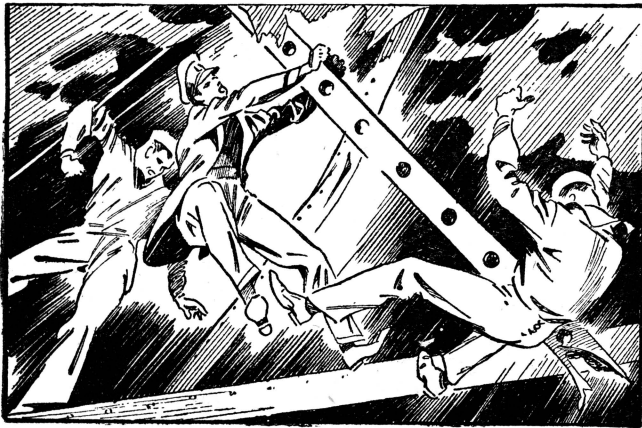
By ALDEN McWILLIAMS



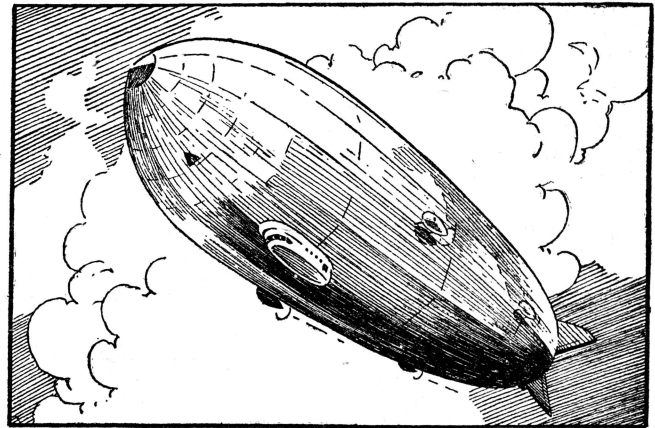
1—Charles Emery Rosendahl was born in Chicago in 1896 and had his early schooling in Topeka, Kan. The Rosendahls then moved to Clerburne, Tex., where, after graduating from high school, Charles was appointed to Annapolis. He was graduated as a commissioned Ensign in 1914. And after the U. S. declared war on Germany, Rosendahl served on the cruiser *Huntington*.



2—In 1921 he returned to Annapolis as an instructor. Next, he took up aircraft duty at Lakehurst, where he soon was graded as an airship aviator. Here he was associated with a group of survivors from the *ZR-1*, which had crashed, killing 29 Britons and 15 Americans. A short time later, Rosendahl was assigned to the newly commissioned *Shenandoah* as aviator.



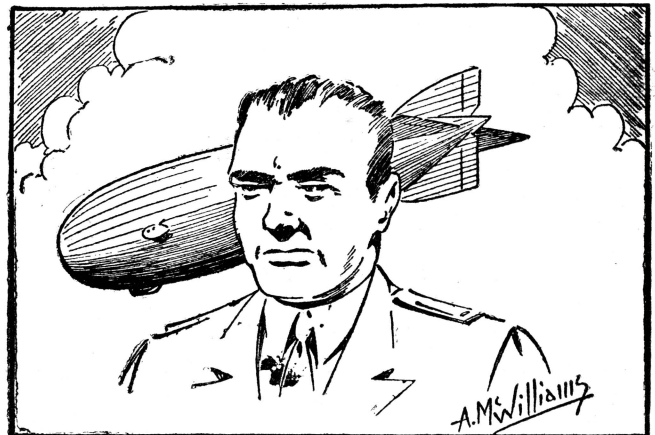
3—He made 56 flights in the *Shenandoah*, but in 1925 she was hit by a squall over Chicago and broke in two. Rosendahl and six of the men free ballooned to safety, but 14 of the 24 aboard were killed. Now the Zeppelin *Los Angeles*, just received from Germany, was commissioned. And continuing his airship duty, Rosendahl went aboard her as executive officer in '26.



4—Rosendahl soon became C. O. of the *Los Angeles*. And he remained in that position until she was de-commissioned. Then for one year following the retirement of the *Los Angeles*, Rosendahl was with the Bureau of Aeronautics, Navy Department. He was then sent to Germany as observer of the trials of the *Graf Zeppelin* and he made the first trans-Atlantic hop aboard her.



5—When Rosendahl returned home, he was transferred to the *Akron* as head officer during test flights. When tests were completed, Rosendahl was ordered to duty on the *U.S.S. Portland*. This was a lucky transfer, for while he was at sea the *Akron* crashed, killing all but four of the crew. Also during his sea duty, the *Macon* crashed off the California coast.



6—In '34 Rosendahl returned as commandant of the Lakehurst station. He is one of the foremost lighter-than-air authorities and was among those on the first flight of the *Hindenburg*, which was later destroyed at Lakehurst. In '38 he was again sent to sea. But Rosendahl, our leading dirigible expert, is ready—if the Navy builds another Leviathan of the skies!