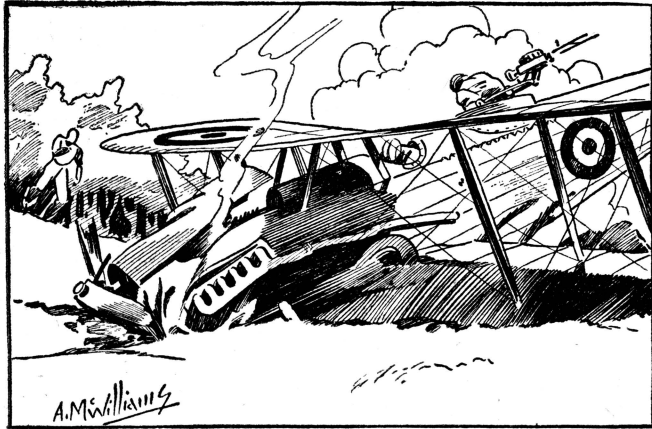


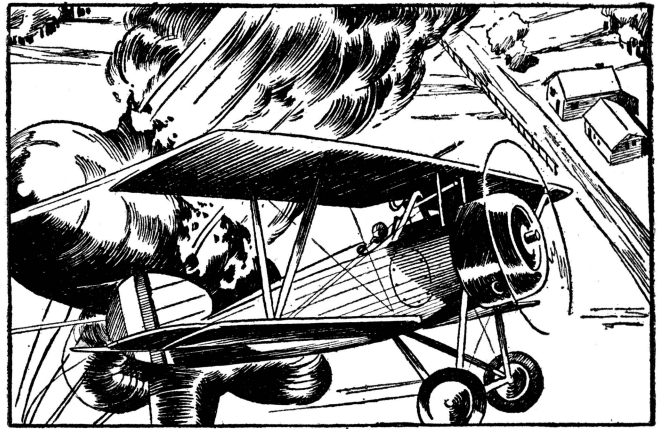
They Had What It Takes

XXXVI—BILLY BISHOP—GREATEST CANUCK ACE

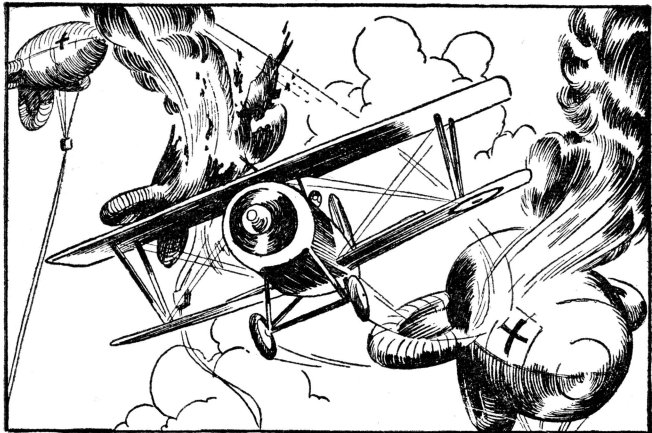
By ALDEN McWILLIAMS



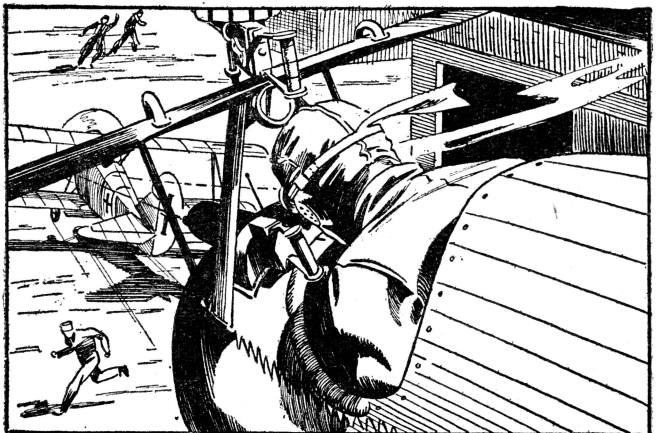
1—Born in Owen Sound, Ont., in 1894, William A. Bishop entered the Royal Military College in 1912. In 1914 he enlisted in the 4th Canadian Rifles, and in 1915, he transferred to the Flying Corps and spent four months in France as an observer. Injured when his pilot made a poor landing, Bishop returned to England, then he took pilot training.



2—On March 31, 1917, Bishop was ordered to destroy a particular German observation balloon five miles behind the enemy lines. While engaged in that duty he was attacked by an enemy scout, which he forced down in short order. He then destroyed the balloon with incendiary bullets. For this job "Billy" Bishop received his first decoration—the Military Cross.



3—He attacked three balloons on April 24, just three weeks later, sending two down in flames. Next day, Bishop received his notice of having been awarded the Military Cross—and he celebrated by bringing down another plane. And on the 30th "Billy" engaged in nine fights, bringing down one plane and forcing two others to land in damaged condition.



4—Bishop returned to France in May, after being on leave in England, and on June 2 he carried out a long-cherished plan of attacking a German airdrome. Passing over an enemy field, he saw seven machines preparing to take-off. Bishop dived, raked the drome with bullets. He destroyed two planes on the ground and got another in the air.



5—Air Marshal Bishop advocates wooden military airplanes and definitely believes that they are superior to metal craft. For years he has argued that spruce ships are easier to build, need less expert repair, and have all the desirable qualities of the metal jobs. And he is now active in putting over a new R.C.A.F. wooden bomber.



6—Canada is rightfully proud of her Air Marshal, who was the fourth greatest Ace produced by the First World War, having a record of 72 confirmed victories. And at the present Bishop is still fighting—this time to rebuild the Royal Canadian Air Force to help England stave off the threat of Germany's formidable sky horde.