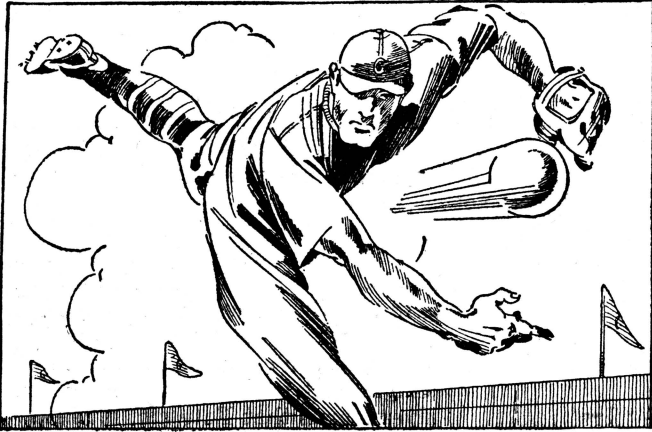


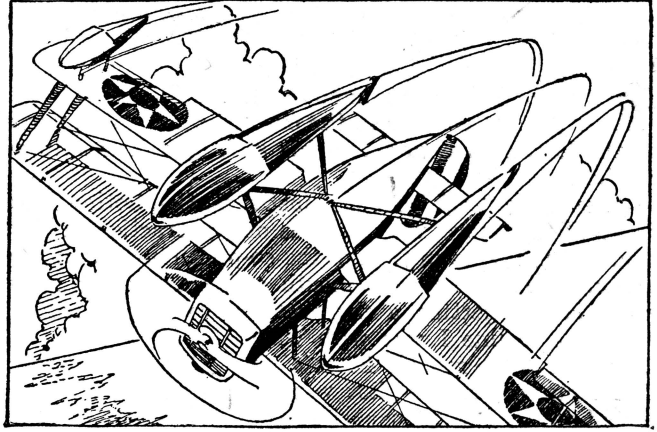
They Had What It Takes

X—MAJOR AL WILLIAMS—AEROBATIC GENIUS

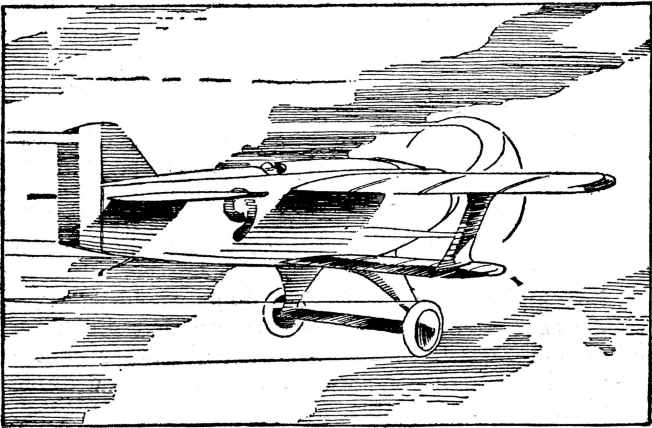
By ALDEN McWILLIAMS



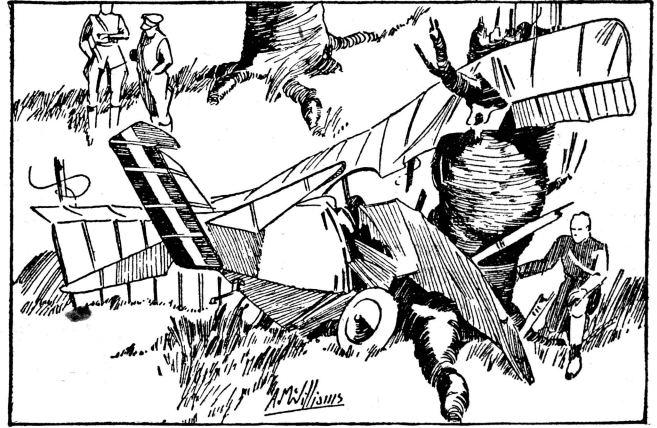
1—Alford Joseph Williams, Jr.—yep, that's his full name—was born in New York City on July 26, 1896. A well-built young fellow, he was athletically inclined from the first. In fact, after graduation from Fordham University, he joined the New York Giants ball club of the National League and held down the job of pitcher for two years.



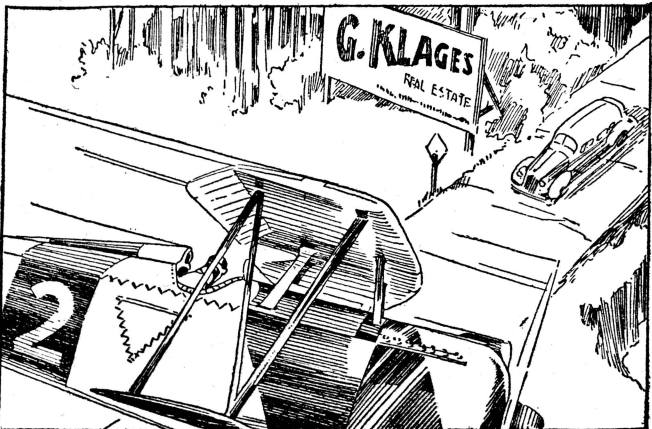
2—But Al Williams had always had a hankering for the sky. So when the United States entered the World War, he signed up with the Navy Air Service—and quickly proved himself to be an exceptionally good flyer. He first tested planes. Then the development of the science of aerobatics (aerial acrobatics) became his specialty.



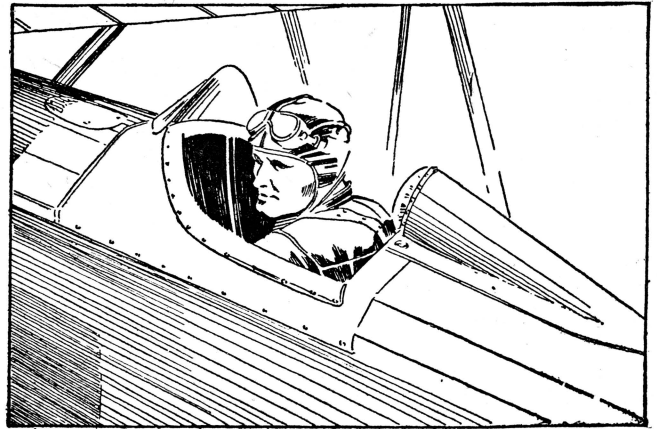
3—In 1922, Williams tried to win the Pulitzer Prize Race, but three other flyers flashed in ahead of him. Undaunted, he again went after this prize in 1923—and this time he won it with a 243-m.p.h. speed. Later that year, he chalked up a world mark of 258 m.p.h. This record stood until 1931.



4—Meanwhile, a new training plane had the experts worried. Five pilots had crashed in these jobs, so trouble-shooter Williams coaxed one into an experimental spin. It turned out to be a flat spin, and unable to pull out, Al suffered a bruising crack-up. But his test data served to correct the ship's faults.



5—Williams finally resigned from the Navy Air Service in 1926 in order to devote his full time to high-speed research and advanced aerobatics. His expert, painstaking work during these past ten years have won him renown as a leading aero consultant, and meanwhile he continues in top listing as one of our best and most active airmen.



6—Through the untiring efforts of Major Al Williams, American aviation has achieved new and more brilliant heights. Our most outstanding aerobatic genius, Williams, has been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross—and Al is no doubt hurtling his 300-m.p.h. Cyclone-powered Grumman to new honors as you read these lines.