

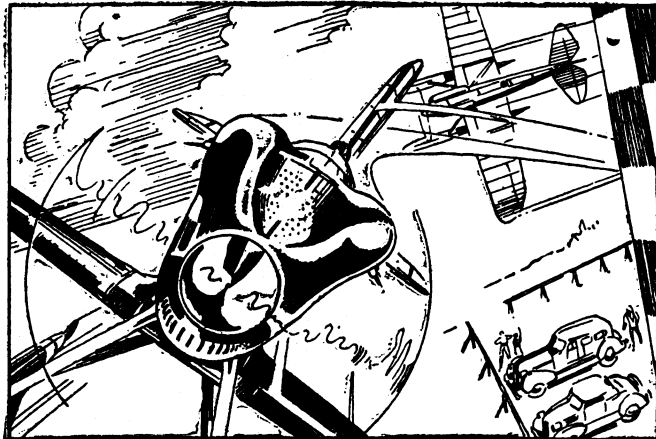
They Had What It Takes

VI—JIMMY DOOLITTLE—THE MIGHTY ATOM

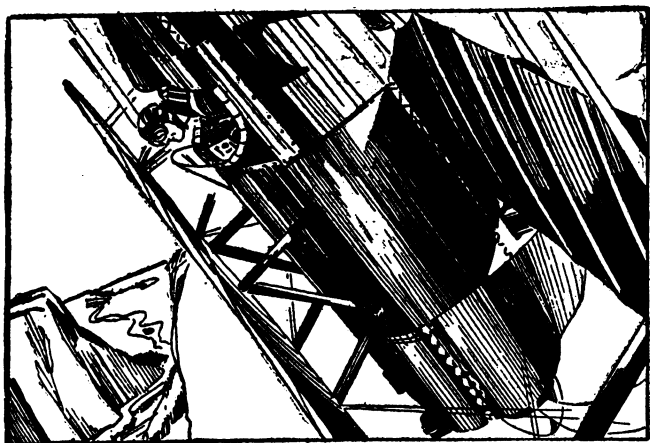
By ALDEN McWILLIAMS



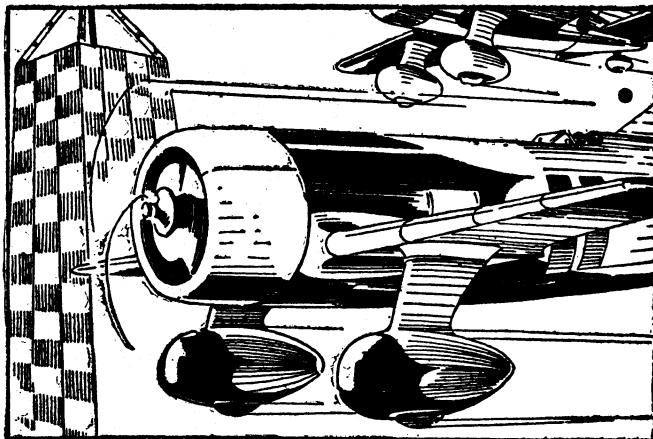
1—Shortly after his birth at Alameda, Calif., in 1896, young Jimmy Doolittle was taken to Alaska by his father. Here, as a boy, he acquired ability as a scrapper and soon took up boxing as a profession. Returning to California, he gained considerable repute as a fighter; for though small in stature, he knocked out many larger opponents.



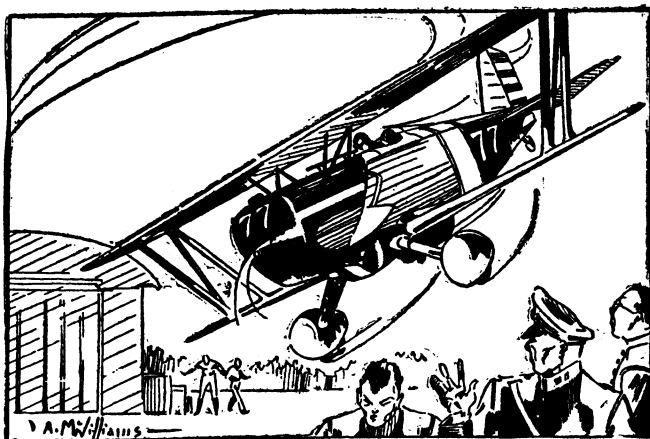
2—College then beckoned, and he attended the University of California and M.I.T. When war was declared, he joined the air service, but was kept at Rockwell Field as an instructor. Then, having achieved fame as a speedster, Lieutenant Doolittle made real air history in 1925 when he won the Schneider Cup Race by hurtling a special Curtiss at 232 m.p.h.



3—In 1928, Doolittle went to Chile, bent on winning a large order for Curtiss pursuit planes. But just before the scheduled competition, he broke both ankles in an accidental fall from a rickety balcony. Undaunted, Doolittle climbed into his ship ankle casts and all—and stunted a famous German flyer right out of the sky. Yes, he won the contract!



4—Many new triumphs followed. In 1929 he made an important contribution to aero science when he demonstrated covered-cockpit "blind" flying in an experiment for the Guggenheim Fund. In 1930 he set a transcontinental record of 11 hours. And in 1932 he chalked up a new land plane speed record when he raced a blunt-nosed Gee Bee at 294 m.p.h.



5—The following year saw Jimmy Doolittle in far-off China. Before a gathering of military officials, he put a Curtiss Hawk through every sky evolution he knew—and won another handsome contract. Returning home, he piloted a Vultee transport across the nation in 11 hrs. 59 min. This was an amazing record for a passenger-type ship.



6—Jimmy—now Major James H. Doolittle—holds the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Oak Leaf Cluster. Though renowned as king of the stunts, planned science and not recklessness is the secret of this diminutive ace's success. And if nominations were in order to name America's most expert flyer, Jimmy would be the man to beat.