

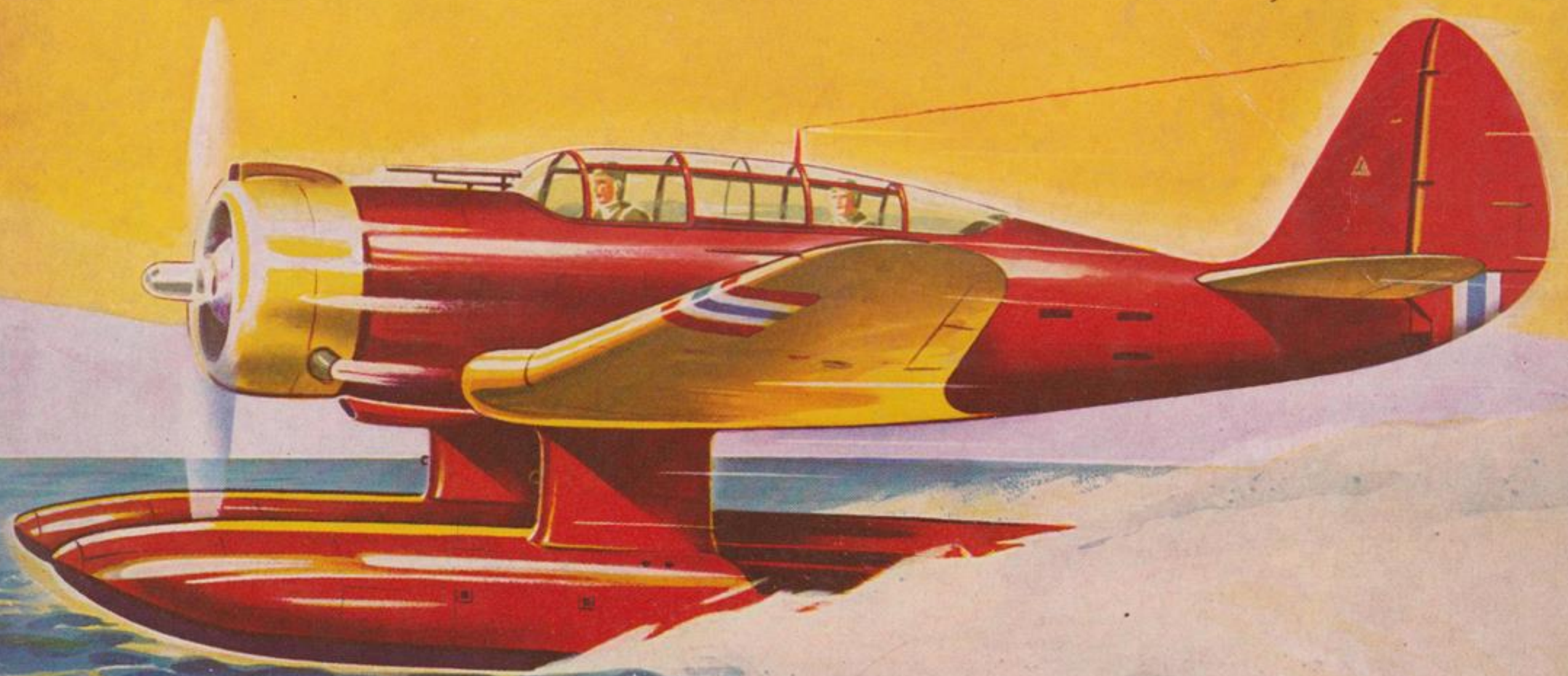
# FLYING ACES

FACT  
MODEL  
BUILDING  
FICTION

15¢

JUNE

FROM MODEL BUILDERS TO LUFTWAFFE  
by CHARLES YERKOW



Schomburg

NORTHROPS FOR  
THE NORSEMEN

"SMOKE GETS IN YOUR SKIES" • DIRIGIBLE FEATURE • "BEHIND FACTORY DOORS"  
COFFIN KIRK AND TANK • ERIC TRENT AND MORT CRABB • PHINEAS LAFF FEST  
MODELS: "STALL-PROOF GASSY" • PUSHER GLIDER • "IT'S THE FINISH THAT COUNTS"

Benson turned to the phone. "Wait till I call the police. That sedan should be found as quickly as possible. And they may have discovered something helpful when they searched Lareau's body."

He made the call, sat down again, gazing into space for a moment. "It's been kept a carefully guarded secret, but I'm going to tell you the whole thing. After what you two did at the Canal and in Alaska, I know it will be safe. And you may know something that will fit in."

"Our first report of these 'ghost planes' came in about a month ago. One of our Neutrality Patrol destroyers caught a message in straight German code sent by the captain of a U-boat. He was flashing an SOS and a message to Kiel that he was being attacked by German planes of the former 129th Squadron. If you remember, the 129th was a Stuka outfit, and it was totally destroyed during the mass air-raids on England in September of 1940."

Trent nodded. "That was when the Nazis lost about two hundred ships a day, until they found day-raids were too costly."

"Especially for Stukas," said Benson. "Well, here was a puzzle: A German sub commander reporting that he was attacked by not only Nazi machines, but planes that didn't exist. We thought it was a trick—until the destroyer found a huge oil slick at the spot where the sub had radioed. Then a Portuguese freighter which was secretly bringing some French and Dutch refugees to America, along with whatever jewels and money they'd been able to save, was sunk in mid-Atlantic by French and Dutch planes. One of the Dutch ships had the stork-and-bomb insignia of a famous ace named Vroom."

"We learned this from a survivor who was found half-conscious on some floating wreckage after one of our Patrol vessels caught their SOS. Since then, there have been a dozen rumors and several confirmed stories of a 'ghost squadron'—the pilots all supposed to have been killed in the European war. The last case, until tonight, was that of a British ship captain whose vessel was attacked by English planes two hundred miles east of Bermuda. I've been thinking it was some Nazi trick, but that doesn't add up, in spite of what Lareau said about the *Bearn* and parachutists. The Germans certainly weren't in any condition to be dropping 'chutist forces onto Martinique. Our Navy could get them out of there, anyway, though it would mean open war."

**B**ENSON stopped as the telephone rang. He answered it, gave a start. "Commander Webb? But that's impossible—unless it was stolen."

He listened for a few minutes. Just as he put down the phone, there was a muffled sound outside the French doors opening onto the enclosed side-porch. Trent wheeled, but before he could reach for his gun one of the

## Northrop's New N-3PB

by Frank Mackay



**T**HIS camouflaged Northrop N-3PB patrol bomber seaplane was ordered in quantity by the Norwegian Air Force. According to reports, this machine, along with the remainder of the craft on order, will be delivered to Canada where a group of Norwegians is training to battle with the RAF against Hitler's Luftwaffe.

The N-3PB carries a crew of three and is claimed to be one of the heaviest armed single-engined planes in the world. It mounts a total of six guns, one of them a cannon firing 20 mm. explosive shells. Also, 2,000 pounds of bombs may be carried on wing racks. Power is supplied by a Wright Cyclone engine, giving a top speed in excess of 230 m.p.h. at an undisclosed altitude. The maximum fuel load of 270 gallons

of gasoline—1,620 pounds—gives the ship a cruising range of approximately 1,000 miles.

The fuselage is of all-metal construction, having Alclad metal sheet covering transverse bulkheads and longitudinal stringers. The vertical fin is integral with the fuselage and is of metal structure. The rudder is built up of metal and is fabric covered, with a trim tab on the lower section of the trailing edge.

The full-cantilever low-wing is in three sections, with the center panel integral with the fuselage. Trailing edge flaps are mounted on the inner portions and balanced fabric covered ailerons of the Frise type on the outer. There is a marked dihedral angle from the wing root to the tip. Wing construction is entirely of metal.

leaded-glass doors burst open and a man sprang inside.

It was the driver of the gray sedan, and there was a .45 automatic in his hand.

"Webb!" Benson cried incredulously. "Have you lost your mind?"

"I'm sorry, Captain," the other man said thickly. Trent saw that his lips were trembling. "But these men—you'll all have to come with me."

Benson started to lunge for the gun, but Trent seized his arm.

"No need of that, Captain. I think the commander will abandon his little murder-plan when he knows the police have him spotted."

Webb turned on him with a snarl. "That's a lie! They never followed me—"

"You fool!" snapped Benson. "Trent took your number and I had the police look it up. They've already broadcast a pickup description of you."

Webb's face went white, then he crumpled, staggered to the nearest chair. The .45 dropped from his grasp, thudded to the rug.

"It's the end," he whispered. "Poor Jeanne—she'll know everything now."

Trent bent to retrieve the .45. Webb, his hands shaking, opened a cigarette case. There was only one cigarette in it.

"Benson—try to help Jeanne—make it as easy as you can—" he thrust the cigarette to his lips, bit down hard. There was a faint crunching sound. Trent tried to snatch the cigarette away, but it was too late. A horrible grimace distorted Webb's lips and he stiffened convulsively. Then he slid to the floor and an awed silence filled the room.

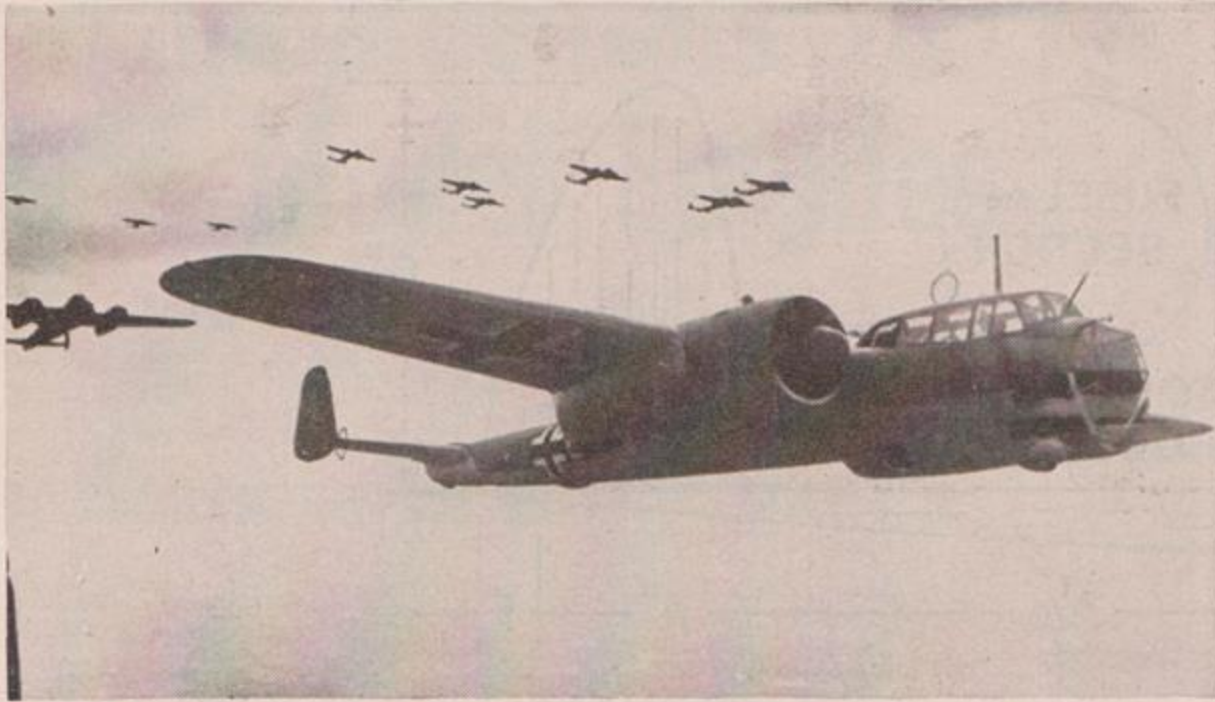
For a while, no one moved. They all bowed their heads silently. Benson finally got up and turned.

## CHAPTER II

### THE INVISIBLE EMPIRE

"I'LL GET a doctor," Benson said hoarsely. He turned to the phone, but Trent, on his knees beside the commander, shook his head.

"It won't do any good. He had a  
(Continued on page 58)



German fighter bombers en route to participation in the battle of Sedan (Acme)



How the latest Northrop fighter N-3 will appear. It mounts five machine guns, one cannon and carries 2000 lbs. of bombs. Its high speed is 306 m.p.h.

# AIRPLANE

## How Front Line Flying Experience is Modifying The Design and Use of War Planes.

pierce their wings or have one of their engines blown clear off and still be able to reach their home base intact! This has happened many times in the present war.

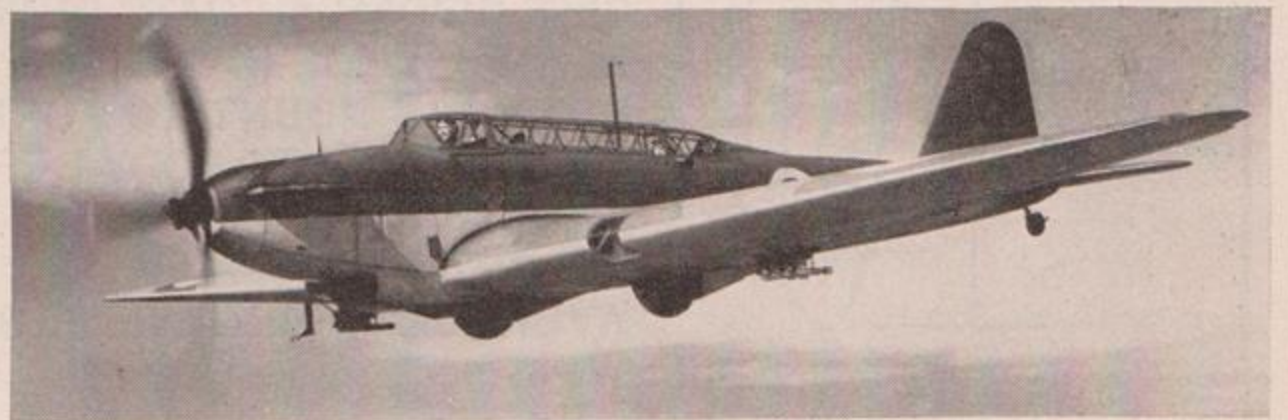
Though the airplane must be employed by warlike means to change the destinies of peoples at the moment its potentialities in a peaceful world are manifold, the airplane, as such, will shorten distances greatly, will give a person greater opportunities of seeing the world, and will have a most important role in changing the habitudes of people. It is true that the airplane, because of the distance it can cover in a short period of time, has made the presence of so many small countries scattered throughout Europe impractical. Of course no one knows what the future may bring, but if Europe finally becomes just Germany and Russia, this geographical change will be ideal for the airplane, for it will be able to go from one end of the continent to the other without having to go through so much "red tape" as when the land was divided into so many small countries. However, the airplane was destined to bring these countries together at some date in the future by mutual agreement of the people. Hitler could have accomplished this by peaceful means, though it would

have taken considerably longer than by his forceful methods, and it probably would have been concluded after his time. But since it has been war and not peace we will have to look at the airplane as a weapon to exterminate the evil instead of one creating greater welfare throughout the world.

**The Italian Piaggio P. XIR. C 40, 2000 h.p. and 270 m.p.h. high speed**

**A Fairey "Battle" on way to bombing practise over the sea (Acme)**

Getting down to the basic facts, it has been the engineer who has created the airplane, has thought out the means by which it flies, has put strength into its structure and has devised means for producing them in great quantities. The exploits of Hitler and his equally notorious partner, Musso-  
*(Continued on page 62)*



The North American AT-6 advanced trainer with retractable landing gear and radial engine. The crew is enclosed in this type



Twenty-five fully equipped troops line up before boarding the new stratoliner for a flight (Acme)