

# AIRISMS FROM THE FOUR WINDS

## England-Australia Flight

CAPT. F. R. MATTHEWS, who set out from Croydon on September 16 in a D.H. "Puss Moth" with the object of beating Bert Hinkler's time for a solo flight to Australia, has—at the time of writing—obtained a day's lead. Having reached Belgrade in the evening of the first day, Matthews was held up by bad weather the next morning and could not reach Sofia, as originally planned. He resumed the flight on September 18, however, and landed at Sofia in the morning, then proceeded to Constantinople, arriving there in the evening. The journey was hampered by bad visibility and storms. He was off again early next morning for Aleppo, and reached Ramadi on September 20. Flying by night via Baghdad, Matthews made rapid progress down the Persian Gulf, arriving at Jask at 2 a.m. on September 22. He set out again two hours later for Karachi, but had to make a forced landing on the Persian Gulf, and did not reach Karachi until the evening. He was thus nearly a day ahead of Bert Hinkler, but was several hours behind Miss Amy Johnson's time. On September 23 he left Karachi, and arrived at Allahabad in the evening and Calcutta on September 24.

## The Master of Sempill's Scandinavian Tour

THE Master of Sempill, who has been touring the coasts of Sweden, Norway, and Finland in his "Puss Moth" seaplane, concluded his successful programme on September 22 with a magnificent flight home over the North Sea from Stavanger to the Scottish coast. The Master of Sempill, who flew solo, made landfall at Cruden Bay, after 3 hrs. 30 min. flying, then turned south for Aberdeen, where he arrived 15 minutes later.

## Croydon-Kenya Flight

MR. KENNETH SHENSTONE and Mr. Pat Fairbairn (of Australia), two Cambridge undergraduates, left Croydon on September 17 in a D.H. "Moth" in an attempt to fly to Kenya and back. They reached Marseilles that evening having stopped at Paris and Lyons for fuel. Next day they flew to Naples.

## The Canadian-Atlantic Attempt

CAPT. ERROL BOYD (ex R.A.F.) and Lt. H. P. Connor, who are attempting a flight from Canada to Croydon (via Newfoundland) in the Bellanca monoplane *Miss Columbia*, flew from Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, to Harbour Grace, Newfoundland, on September 23.

## The Prince of Wales

THE Prince of Wales, travelling incognito, flew from Berck to Le Bourget, on September 19, in his private aeroplane, piloted by Flight-Lieut. Fielden and accompanied by Gen. Trotter. The Prince flew back to London on September 24.

## French Flight to Persia

Two French airmen, Goulette and Lalouette, left Le Bourget, on September 19, for Teheran, arriving at Bucharest the same evening. They reached Aleppo the next day, and arrived at Teheran on September 21.

## Belgian Air Squadron's Visit to England

NEXT week five machines of the Belgian Military Air Corps will pay a flying visit to England, where they will be the guests of the R.A.F. for a week. They will be accompanied by Gen. Gillieaux, G.O.C., Belgian Military Air Corps, first flying to Manston aerodrome on Monday, September 29.

After an official reception they will visit the R.A.F. School of Technical Training and No. 9 (Bomber) Squadron, both of which are stationed at Manston. Tuesday will be spent at Bircham Newton, near King's Lynn, where they will see No. 35 and No. 207 day-bomber squadrons. On Wednesday, a visit will be paid to the Royal Air Force Practice Camp at Catfoss (Yorkshire), and they will fly down to Cranwell (Lincolnshire), where they will visit the Royal Air Force College. Then, next day, the visitors will see No. 2 Flying Training School at work at Digby (Lincolnshire), and in

the afternoon will fly south to Upavon (Wiltshire), and the following day will see there Nos. 3 and 17 fighter squadrons equipped with the latest and fastest fighting aircraft in the R.A.F., the Bristol "Bulldog." They will then fly to Eastchurch and will visit No. 33 (Bomber) Squadron, which is equipped with the Hawker "Hart." On Saturday they will fly back to Belgium.

## Australian Pilot Killed

MR. DAVID SMITH, the young Australian pilot who, in company with Lieut. Shiers, attempted a flight from Australia to England in a Ryan monoplane early this year, was killed in a flying accident on September 17 at Sydney. He had just started on a flight—according to some reports in a "Tiger Moth" monoplane—when his engine suddenly stopped at an altitude of about 150 ft. Smith either jumped or fell out of his machine, which was stated to be travelling at about 180 m.p.h., for his body was picked up in a garden 50 ft. away from where the machine crashed in a street.

## Airman Hook Fund

IT has been decided to close the Airman Hook Memorial Fund, which was opened to help the dependants of Mr. Eric Hook, who lost his life in the Burmese jungle while trying to fly to Australia with Mr. James Matthews last July. The fund has realised £1,652 12s. 2d. Mr. Hook left his wife and two children—Noni, aged 4½, and Helen, aged 2½—unprovided for. An appeal was made on behalf of the family through *The Daily Mail* by the Rev. Charles J. Barry, of Emmanuel Church, West Wickham, Kent, and among the contributors was Miss Amy Johnson, who sent £100.

Mr. Matthews, who escaped disaster, arrived back in England on September 15.

## Unnecessary Air "Stunts"

ALTHOUGH it was only a little while back that the German pilot Hundertmark met with a terrible death while attempting the rather senseless "stunt" of changing 'planes in mid air, a similar performance was repeated at Stuttgart on September 18, and another disaster resulted, with the loss of four lives. Fritz Schindler, in a Flamingo biplane, after several unsuccessful attempts to grasp a ladder lowered from a Klemm monoplane flying above, eventually got a hold, and was about to climb up the ladder when the latter caught in the lower machine. The two machines crashed to the ground together, Schindler being thrown off and falling on to a house. One of the pilots jumped with his parachute, but this got entangled with the falling machines, and he and two other occupants of the 'planes were killed. There is, we fear, little hope that even this appalling accident will have much effect in stopping these unnecessary and senseless stunts.



TO THE "FATHER OF AVIATION": The memorial to M. Clement Ader, who in 1899 was the inventor of the first aeroplane to rise from the ground, was unveiled on September 21 at Muret (his native town) by M. Laurent Eynac, the French Minister for Air. The monument was designed by the sculptor Landowski.