

AIRISMS FROM THE FOUR WINDS

The Atlantic Flight Mystery

VERY little hope is now entertained of the safety of Capt. W. R. Hinchliffe and the Hon. Elsie Mackay, who left Cranwell, Lincolnshire, on March 13, in a Stinson monoplane (Wright "Whirlwind" engine) for an unknown destination. Certain details suggest that they attempted to cross the Atlantic, but the evidence is very slender. The machine was reported seen 170 miles off the west coast of Ireland on the same afternoon, and the Atlantic crossing had been mentioned as one intention of Capt. Hinchliffe's, but mystery pervaded the entire venture, and ended in a climax, when it was not certain at first as to whether his companion was Miss Mackay or Mr. G. Sinclair. The latter revealed himself after remaining low for a few days, and thus left no doubt in this direction. It seems that Miss Mackay financed the flight, including the purchase of the machine, and that much of the mystery was instigated by her in order to spare her parents, Lord and Lady Inchcape, from anxiety. Capt. Hinchliffe was the former Imperial Airways pilot, and had been flying for many years. Miss Mackay learned to fly at Stag Lane a few years ago.

R.A.F. African Flight

AIR VICE-MARSHAL WEBB-BOWEN's machine crashed at Ndola, on March 16, in the course of the R.A.F. service flight from Cairo to Cape Town and back. The machine was badly damaged, but no one was injured. Two mechanics were left behind to take charge whilst the other three machines continued south, and reached Bulawayo on March 19.

Great African Survey Flight

SIR ALAN COBHAM cabled to Rolls-Royce, Ltd., as follows:—"Arrived Durban. Congratulations and thanks on superb performance of the two Rolls-Royce Condor engines fitted in our Short metal flying boat. Engines have just completed 150 hrs. without overhaul on flight through Central Africa, and despite the varying climatic conditions such as heat of the Sudan and thin atmosphere of high altitude lakes, have run without falter. Since we left Rochester we are all confident and happy in the reliability of the Condors for the return flight home via the West Coast.—COBHAM."

South African Aviation

AN African Airways Company is expected to be registered in a few days with, possibly, Sir Alan Cobham, on the board of directors. Three D.H. "Moths" of special design will probably be used for transporting gold from Rhodesia to the Rand, and the pilots will be armed. A Rand-Durban air service is also suggested in which Sir Alan Cobham will co-operate with Major Miller, who is forming the African Airways Company. In November next a bi-weekly service between Johannesburg and Cape Town will be opened. The flight will take nine hours, with one stop. It will serve passengers landing from liners at Cape Town on Monday mornings and convey them to Johannesburg by 5 p.m. The Union Castle Line will co-operate and the machine used will be a three-engined biplane piloted exclusively by Lieut.-Col. Henderson. Fares will be £15 each way single and £27 10s. return. A public company may result from a success of the line. Sir Alan Cobham is at present making a rapid air tour of Rhodesia in a D.H. "Moth."

Flight-Lieut. Kinkead

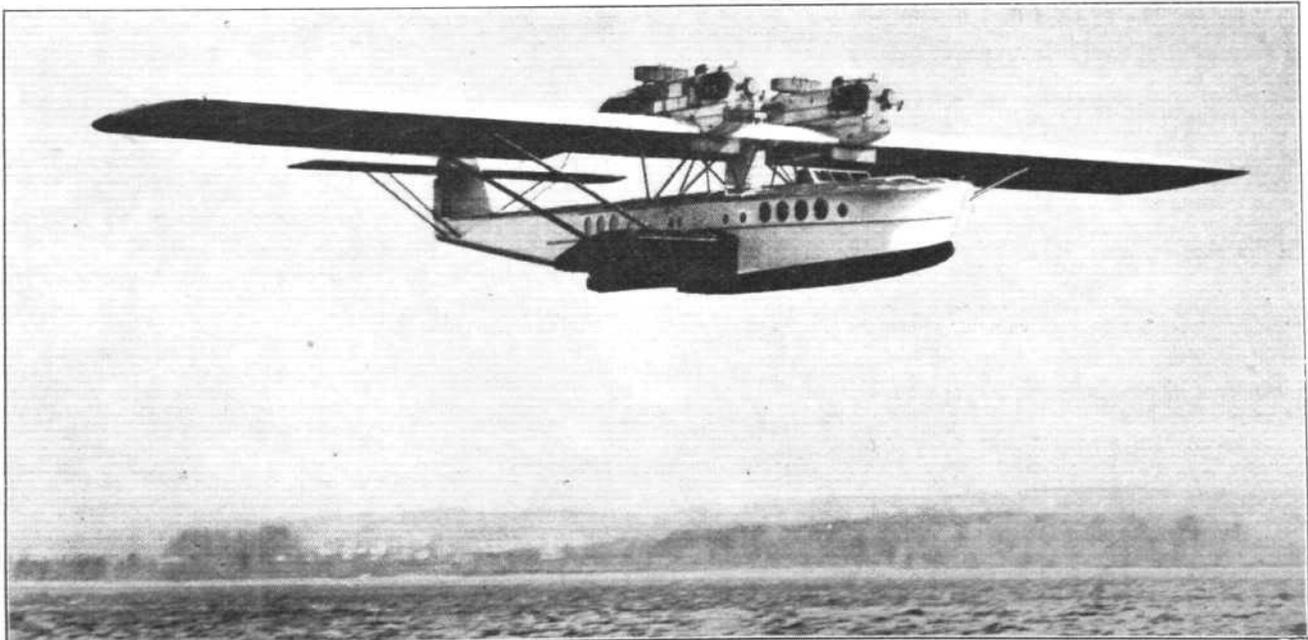
THE inquest on Flight-Lieut. S. M. Kinkead was opened on March 14, at Calshot, and an official Court of Inquiry began its sitting at Calshot the day before. It was suggested at the inquest that he might have been poisoned by fumes. It was said that he was not drowned. Tests are being made to ascertain the true cause of death if possible. Flight-Lieut. Kinkead was buried with full military honours at Fawley, on March 16. Representatives of the Air Ministry, Royal Air Force, and of the Army and Navy were present.

Second Attempt upon Speed Record

DURING a lecture on high-speed aircraft at the Royal United Service Institute on March 16, given by Major J. S. Buchanan, the chairman, Air Vice-Marshal Sir John Higgins, hinted that another attempt to secure the world's speed record would soon be made.

Antarctic Air Expedition

COMMANDER BYRD, who flew the Atlantic last year, has invited Dr. L. D. Livingstone, an experienced Canadian explorer, and Inspector Joy, of the Royal Canadian Mounted



A NEW DORNIER SUPER-WAL: Our picture shows a new all-metal Super-Wal flying-boat, fitted with four British Napier "Lion" engines, which recently carried out successful flying tests over Lake Constance. In addition to 20 passengers, this machine carries a crew of three, and with a full load of 12 tons it has a top speed of 125 m.p.h.; it has a cruising speed of over 105 m.p.h.