

# 'THE OLYMPIA' Flight Tested by PHILLIP WILLS, C.B.E.

Span: 15.00 metres.

Empty weight: 160 kgs.

Gliding angle: 1: 25.5 at 69 kms./hour.

Minimum sinking speed: 0.71 m./sec. at 59.4 kms./hour.

Wing loading: 17.000 kgs. per sq. metre.

Aspect ratio: 15.00.

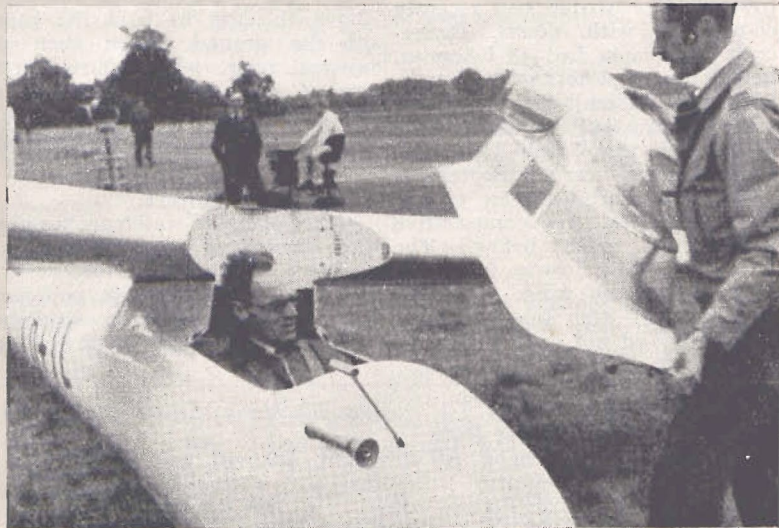
"Meise" is German for "titmouse," but I can't trace any common qualities. It was the design selected from all entrants as the standard machine to be used at the Olympic Games which were cancelled by the outbreak of war. The Olympia is, in my view, one of the finest pieces of balanced aerodynamic poetry which has yet been created by man.

At 55 kilometres an hour (35 miles an hour) the controls are uniform, finger-light, highly responsive, and yet completely stable. The machine possesses almost perfect neutral stability. In a turn of any degree of steepness one can take one's hand off the stick, and she stays exactly in the turn until you take her out. I have heard on reliable authority that once a loop has been started, she will complete it very prettily

with hands off the stick. Chasing very mild hill-lift on the 200 feet Gitter slope, she seemed to wriggle in and out of the small serrations of the hill almost on the thought-power of the pilot alone. On paper, the performance is not quite so good as the "Mu 13",

but, unless practice enables one to cope with the latter machine more than I should think likely, I should back the "Olympia" against the "Mu 13," except possibly in light-wind thermal-catching off winch launches, where a very low flying speed is helpful.

*(Continued on page 23)*



*Philip Wills about to test the "Olympia."*

## THE "OLYMPIA"—*continued from*

The "Olympia" gives one an extraordinary feeling of clean crispness. The stall is clean and crisp also (as I found when, in pure ham, I attempted to land it uphill with insufficient speed for the last-minute change of attitude, and broke the skid). But the recovery is smooth and quite normal.