

FIVE STAR WEEKLY

Section of
MEDFORD  TRIBUNE

Sunday, Apr. 19, 1936

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Thrilling Moments in FLYING HISTORY

fourth of a series by ALFRED OWLES

BLERIOT SPANS THE ENGLISH CHANNEL

By 1909, the Wright Brothers' invention, the airplane, had accomplished many feats, but it remained for Louis Bleriot, a daring French pilot and builder, to startle the world with a flight from Calais to Dover. Sunday, July 25, Bleriot took off, both legs bandaged because of serious burns. He soon passed a destroyer stationed to render him aid, the incident Artist Owles depicts, and in 37 minutes landed in England with only minor damage. He won a newspaper prize of £1000 for the feat—and the acclaim of the world. His tiny monoplane was powered with a 25-horsepower motor.