

DIVING AMONG SEA KILLERS

★

# POPULAR MECHANICS

MAGAZINE

WRITTEN SO YOU CAN UNDERSTAND IT

SEE PAGE 506

KING  
OF THE  
MONEY  
DRIVERS

APRIL  
25 CENTS



February, 1932



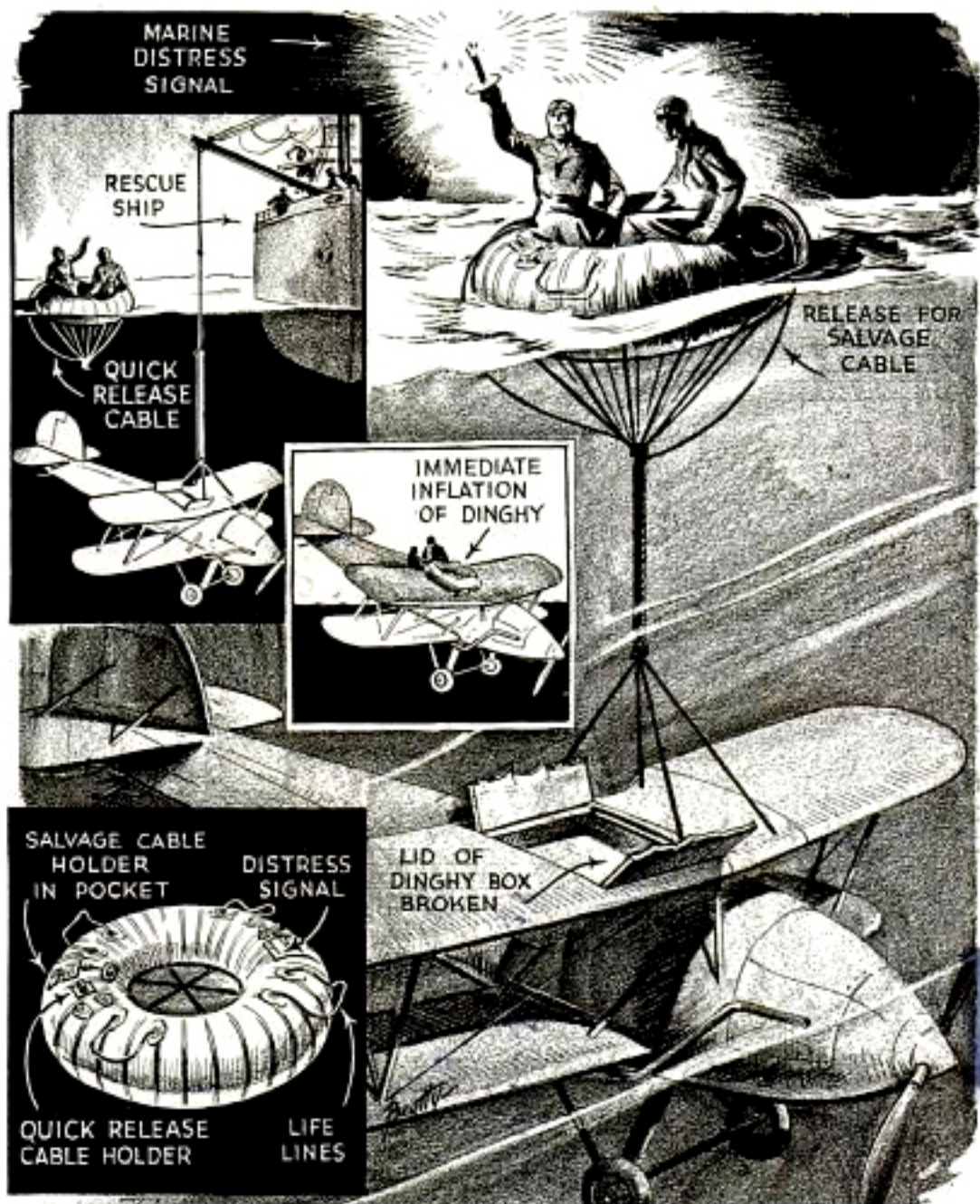
The Life Raft Is Encased in Streamlined Metal and Mounted on the Top Wing

## LIFE RAFT FOR PLANES AT SEA RIDES ON TOP WING

Seagoing pursuit planes may be equipped in the future with a new safety device, a streamlined metal container holding a collapsible life raft. An officer of the army air corps, stationed in Hawaii, has invented the apparatus, which is now being tested. The container is carried on top of the upper wing in the center of the plane, where it is immediately available in case of a fall into the sea.



# Doughnut Boat on Plane Saves Flyer in Sea



*Self-inflating "doughnut" boat of rubberized fabric which keeps flyer afloat if plane comes down in water and also supports the plane so it can be salvaged*

Successful tests have been made in England recently with flotation gear for airplanes intended to save the flyer in case his ship is forced into the sea and also to serve as a buoyant support for the plane

so it can be salvaged. Various types of gear have been tried, one consisting of atmospheric bags faced within the fuselage, air being stored in them at atmospheric pressure. There are also buoyant inflat-

able bags which may be filled in an emergency with carbon-dioxide gas released from a cylinder by automatic or manual means. The third type is known as the Youngman dinghy and is a big doughnut of rubberized fabric with a "floor" in the center. The deflated tube is stored in a compartment in the top of the wing together with a cylinder of carbon-dioxide gas and cables which link it to the plane. The dinghy may be inflated manually or by actuators which release the gas when the ship is slightly submerged, causing the dinghy to burst open the lid of its compartment and escape. The passengers enter the dinghy which supports their weight and the weight of the submerged plane. If a ship is near, the cable leading from the dinghy to the plane can be attached to the ship's derrick and a release cable can be operated to cut the dinghy adrift, allowing flyers and plane to be saved separately.