

How the Olympic Sailplane CAME ABOUT

Very little has been known here about details involving the drawing up of specifications for the Olympic sailplane and how the final design known as "MEISE" was chosen.

In the March issue of the British publication "AERONAUTICS" appeared an article authored by B. S. Shenstone, British representative of the Technical Committee for the Olympic Sailplane, which I thought would be of interest to the readers of "SOARING," especially as some of them are engaged in the construction of the ship.

ALEXIS DAWYDOFF.

THE 1940 Olympic games, which were scheduled to take place in Japan, were for the first time to feature gliding and soaring on the program of the events. Olympic games are games and contests between men and not machines. When sailing was introduced into the Olympics, the Monotype and other boats developed as one-design class. Gliding was to be on the same basis and a suitable design had to be adopted.

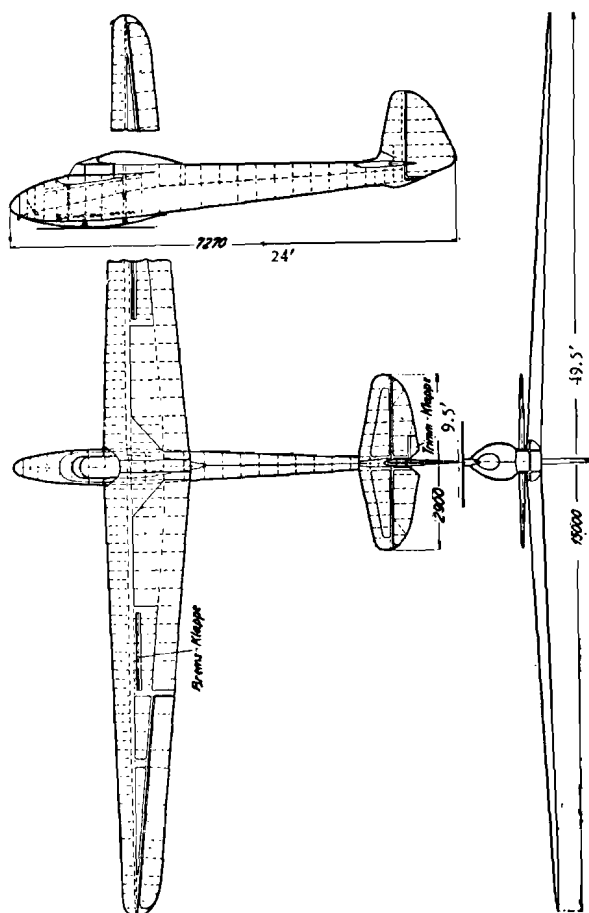
The International Olympic Committee asked the F.A.I. to arrange for the selection of a suitable design and also to arrange details of the competitions.

In turn the F.A.I. passed the buck to the I.S.T.U.S., which was concerned with the technical development of sailplanes. The I.S.T.U.S. was asked to lay down the strength and other technical requirements and to choose a design. As a result a Technical Committee for the Olympic Sailplane was formed consisting of 7 members representing the following countries:

Dr. W. Georgii, Chairman (Germany)
Dr. van der Maas (Holland)
Mr. Cartier (France)
Mr. Stepniewski (Poland)
Mr. Simone (Italy)
Mr. Shenstone (England)

There was also a Jap floating around, Professor Sato of Tokyo University, but he was not on the committee. Probably not sufficiently Aryan. The committee had the following jobs to do: First it had to formulate specifications and decide on the essential strength requirements. These would be sent to all interested persons or institutions throughout the world. Any person who desired, could then draw up a design and submit it to the committee accompanied by complete drawings, strength

and aerodynamic calculations. Suitable designs could be built for the final tests which were to include flight tests. The winning design would be then declared The



The "Meise" Olympic Sailplane