



The Ross Ranger II being readied for its first flight by Wally Wiberg at Denton, Texas, April 22.

THE SHORT NIMBUS

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IN THE history of soaring we have seen all types, high wing, shoulder wing, mid-wing, "fanny wing," and now a true low wing - the Short Nimbus - the first almost since Dr. Klemperer's Schwarzer Tüfel.

From 60-ton flying boats to two-seater sailplanes is a far cry, and yet the latest product of Messrs. Short Brothers, of Rochester, is precisely that—a two-seater, high-performance, wooden sailplane. The origin of the Short Nimbus can be traced to the formation, some while ago, by the firm's design staff, of a club to be devoted to the art of gliding. Interested in both the flying and design aspects of sailplaning, this band of enthusiasts set out to design and construct a tandem two-seater which could be used by the more-experienced members of the club for instructing the beginners. As the project progressed and construction was started, Short's gave valuable assistance by completing the prototype.

TECHNICAL DATA

DIMENSIONS—Span, 62 ft. (18.9 m.); length, 26 ft. 10 ins. (8.2 m.); height, 5 ft. 5 ins. (1.65 m.); root chord, 6 ft. (1.83 m.); projected tip chord, 2 ft. (.61 m.); root incidence, 4 degrees; tip incidence, 2 degrees; tailplane span, 12 ft. (3.66 m.); aileron span, 15 ft. 9 ins. (4.8 m.).

AREAS—Gross wing, 240 sq. ft. (22.3 m²); total aileron, 44 sq. ft. (4.09 m²); gross fin, 4 sq. ft. (.37 m²); rudder, 12.4 sq. ft. (1.15 m²); tailplane and elevators, 36 sq. ft. (3.34 m²); total air brake, 2.5 sq. ft. (.23 m²).

WEIGHTS—Mainplanes, less centre-section but with all control runs and air brakes, 345 lb. (156.5 kg.); ail-

erons 32 lb. (14.5 kg.); tailplane and elevator, 41 lb. (18.6 kg.); rudder, 9 lb. (4.1 kg.). Fuselage, including centre-section, fin and landing gear, less wheel, 303 lb. (137.5 kg.); wheel, tyre and axle, 16 lb. (7.3 kg.); seats, including cushions and safety harness, 31 lb. (14.1 kg.); canopy, 23 lb. (10.4 kg.); empty weight, 800 lb. (363 kg.); pilot and passenger, 400 lb. (182 kg.); all-up weight, 1,200 lb. (545 kg.).

PERFORMANCE—Best gliding angle, 1 in 25.8 at 37.6 m.p.h. (60.5 km.p.h.); minimum sinking speed, 2.3 ft. p.s. (.7 metres p.s.), at 38 m.p.h. (61 km.p.h.); stalling speed, 35 m.p.h. (56 km.p.h.); Maximum permissible diving speed, 130 m.p.h. (209 km.p.h.).

