



NINE PERISH WHEN 'PLANE HITS AIRSHIP

No Survivors of Mimic At-
tack in Austrian Army
Manœuvres.

CRASH TAKES PLACE 1,300 FEET IN AIR

Horrors of Real Aerial Warfare
Most Vividly Illustrated—
Crowd Sees Accident.

Vienna, June 20.—Nine terribly burned and mutilated bodies, the splintered fragments of an aeroplane and the charred remnants of a big dirigible balloon are the mute records of one of the most tragic, certainly the most sensational, of disasters which has occurred since men learned to fly.

The catastrophe, which resulted in the death of all concerned, followed a mimic attack by the aeroplane on the dirigible at a great height during the Austrian army manœuvres, and it serves to show, more than any previous accidents to flying machines have done, the horrors that would be likely to attend aerial warfare.

The dirigible military balloon Koertling left Fischamend, a market town eleven miles from Vienna, at 8 o'clock this morning. She was manned by Captain Johann Hauswirth, in command; Lieutenant Ernest Hofstetter, Lieutenant Bruer, Lieutenant Haldinger, Corporal Hadima, Corporal Weber and Engineer Kammerer.

At the elapse of half an hour a military aeroplane of the biplane type, with Lieutenant Flatz and Lieutenant Hooga aboard, started in pursuit. It was the intention of Captain Hauswirth to take photographs of the movements of the troops below and then to join in the manœuvres. At the same time he was to keep out of range of any of the mosquito craft which might seek to attack him.

Witnessed by Big Crowd.

The news had gone abroad that something in the nature of a sham aerial fight would take place, and at Koenigsburg, the scene of the engagement, a big crowd had gathered. Very quickly the smaller but much speedier craft overtook the big airship, and then the spectators witnessed a thrilling sight.

As might a wasp, bent on attacking some clumsy enemy, the aeroplane circled several times around the balloon, now darting close to her, and then away, always apparently steering off just in time to avoid an accidental collision.

Meanwhile the balloon continued to rise until it was about 1,300 feet from the ground. The aeroplane, at a still greater height, manœuvred until it appeared to be nearly over the airship. Then it began its descent. It was the evident intention of the pilot of the aeroplane to take up a position directly above the dirigible, within striking distance, but owing either to a fatal miscalculation of the distance separating the two craft or of speed the nose of the biplane struck the envelope of the airship and ripped it wide open.

Wife of Victim Near By.

A tremendous explosion followed. The balloon burst into flames, which enveloped the biplane, and in a moment the wreckage began to drop, crashing at length like lead to the slope of a hill. Almost at the same moment the wife of Lieutenant Hofstetter, who had been married only a month, arrived in a motor car.

The envelope of the balloon was still burning when it struck the ground. Lieutenant Flatz, when extricated from the wreckage of the aeroplane, showed faint signs of life; his body quivered and he seemed to be making an effort to raise himself, but almost immediately expired. All the other aviators were killed on the spot.

Military officers who witnessed the disaster said that the manœuvres had

Continued on page 3, column 2

NINE KILLED IN AIRSHIP COLLISION

Continued from page 1

been undertaken with instructions to carry out as far as possible actual war conditions, in which an aeroplane was attacking a dirigible, the latter trying to repel the assault. The occupants of both craft had been ordered to conduct themselves as they would in an actual combat.

According to some experts the catastrophe seemingly was caused by the aeroplane being caught in the eddies from the balloon. They attribute the accident to a series of whirlwinds, caused by the airship's propeller, which drew in the smaller machine.

Archduke Charles Francis and several officials of the ministr arrived soon on the scene, and an aide-de-camp of the Emperor also proceeded there to seek information for his majesty and express the Emperor's sympathy.

TYPE OF DIRIGIBLE AIRSHIP DESTROYED YESTERDAY IN A COLLISION WITH AN AEROPLANE IN AUSTRIA.

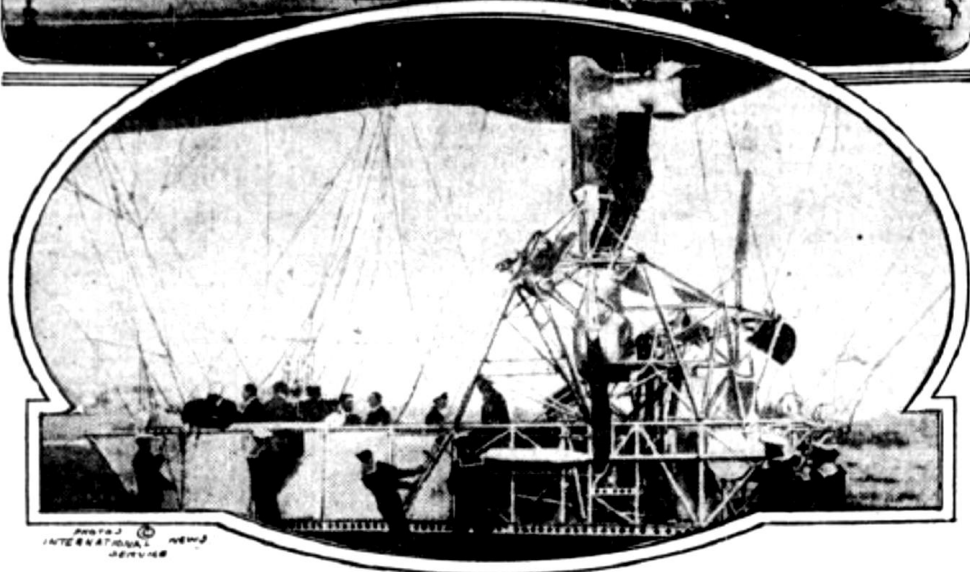
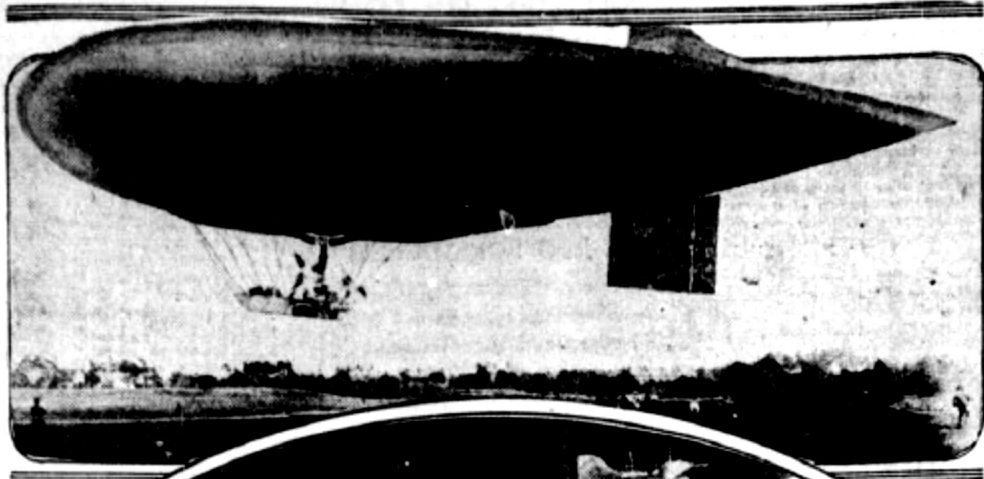


PHOTO BY
INTERNATIONAL NEWS
SERVICE

TYPE OF MAMMOTH MOTOR CARRIED BY DESTROYED AUSTRIAN DIRIGIBLE.