

## Aircraft with Machine-Guns

tactical disadvantage. So, making a quick turn, and diving to increase the speed of his machine, he attempted to avoid the encounter and swing away upon his opponent's flank; and, had the weapon of the Frenchman been a rifle or revolver, the German would certainly have escaped. But as it was, opening fire promptly with his machine-gun, the passenger in Paulhan's craft, having for the moment a broadside view of his enemy's machine, riddled it with bullets and sent it crashing to earth. A stray shot from the German, fired just before he was put out of action, pierced the petrol-tank of Paulhan's machine; but the aviator, flying back towards his own lines, was able to land safely near a French battery.

In another instance, which revealed the effectiveness of machine-gun fire, a German biplane was passing above the lines of the Allies when a French craft rose unexpectedly to meet it. The French pilot steered his machine straight at his antagonist; while his passenger, opening fire with a machine-gun, was able not only to puncture the German's petrol-tank but to shoot dead his passenger. The German pilot began to plane earthward; but suddenly, owing to a leakage of petrol, the aeroplane burst into flames, and he was burnt to death before he could escape from the blazing craft.

It was suggested, prior to the war, that one aviator—finding himself in a hopeless position during a combat—might turn and deliberately charge his foe, with the idea of wrecking both