

AERIAL TORPEDO IS A SUCCESS

With Such an Apparatus the Steamer Berlin Might Have Been Saved.

The British steamer Berlin not long ago went down within 250 yards of the Dutch coast, and many lives were lost because no rocket apparatus was able to throw a rope to the wreck, the distance was too great. A new apparatus was tried at Messrs. Armstrong-Whitworth's gun range at Silloth, Cumberland, recently, which succeeded in carrying a rope a distance of 380 yards, 130 yards further than would have sufficed to reach the Berlin. And the apparatus not only carried lines this distance on each of four successive "shots," but carried them in one course, without any deviation due to wind, laying them as neatly side by side across the sands as though some surveyor's chainman had placed them there. It is an achievement in life-line carrying that should put the old-fashioned rockets of our lifeboat men quite into the shade.

The Working Principle.

The apparatus, which is the invention of a Swedish military man, Colonel Unge, was carried to the firing trials on two plain boxes, each no bigger than a Fleetwood fishbox and not nearly so heavy. In the one box, neatly coiled, was the rope to be carried through the air, in the other the apparatus for carrying it. The principle of the apparatus is briefly this: A "torpedo" launched into the air drags after itself the rope in whatever direction it is launched. This aerial torpedo is very nearly the shape of an ordinary gun shell—cylindrical with a conical nose. But it is not a projectile (using the word in its stricter sense of a thing thrown) as a gunshot is. It is not thrown at all; it propels itself. Now, will be explained later.

The torpedo is launched from a slide, which is merely a metal groove some three feet long, open at one end, and blocked at the other. The nearest likeness to it of a homely sort is the hollow groove for pens on an inkstand. Imagine one of these three feet long made of metal, with one end free, the other not. This groove is set at an incline (to give altitude in directing a torpedo) and is placed with its higher end pointing in the direction wanted. In the lower end of the groove is placed the torpedo, nozzle first. An electric spark is conveyed to the torpedo. It immediately generates motion and rushes up the groove. At the higher end of the groove is a collar, very like a dog collar, to which is attached the life-line on a swivel. This collar slips over the sharp nose of the torpedo, but is caught by a rim projecting from the back end. The collar is caught, and away go torpedo, collar, and rope through the air together.

The Propelling Force.

Now as to how the torpedo generates its own motion. It is filled with a patent combustible powder, compressed till it is very hard. When the electric spark reaches this powder its combustion is not sudden, as is the powder of a gun charge or a Chinese cracker; it consumes gradually, as does the powder in a squib. In combustion it generates gas in immense quantities. This rushes out with great force through vents at the base of the torpedo (at the point where the percussion cap would be in an ordinary cartridge) and the resistance of the atmosphere propels the torpedo forward. As the torpedo generates its own propelling force there is no recoil on the back of the launching tube. Without some guiding force the torpedo, of course, would not go straight through the air. It would turn over and over lengthways, as a stick does if thrown up, and the force in its tail created by the escaping gas would drive it first forward then back, now upwards, now downwards, as it turned over. To obviate this there is an ingenious little contrivance. It is a turbine within the torpedo. The gas before reaching its outlets at the back must pass over the blades of this turbine, and the result is that the whole torpedo is given a rotary motion. In the case of a shot

fired from a gun the rifling in the barrel gives this rotary motion with the torpedo it is the internal turbine that imparts it. By this motion the torpedo is kept true on its course, whatever that course may have been at the launching. Colonel Unge told me (says our representative), that many people who had heard of his torpedo, were under the impression that the turbine propelled it on the airship principle. This, he said, was quite wrong. The turbine did no more than impart the rotary motion necessary to keep the torpedo to its true course and prevent its turning over. The torpedo, by the way, rotates within the collar, to which the rope is attached. The collar is loose-fitting and is smeared with grease. The rope therefore does not rotate, as it would do if the collar were tight. Were the rope to rotate to any extent it would, of course, unwrap and probably snap very soon. As a safeguard against damage through any slight rotation there may be, a plated rope is used instead of the ordinary twisted rope.

"Firing" the Torpedo.

The torpedoes can be made any size. They could be made large enough, Colonel Unge told me, to carry a line 500 yards or more against a wind, but as the distance stipulated by the board of trade life-lines committee is only 300 yards, he has attempted no more than meeting their requirements. Yesterday's torpedoes, which carried ropes a distance of 380 yards, were 19 inches long by 4 inches in diameter, tapering to a point from about 4 inches from the end. Each weighed, when fully charged, 22 pounds. The ignition, it may be added, takes place at the nozzle and may be affected either by means of a portable electric battery (as was done yesterday) or by an ordinary fuse. The torpedoes can be used and recharged over again. The four found yesterday were buried in the sand after use were chemically intact, though very hot. The "firing" was rather a thrilling affair. The torpedoes rushed from the slide with a great roar, belching forth great clouds of smoke and fire in their wake. It would be a good sight at night. The roaring and the fire, however, lasted for only about one-third of the journey, and for the other two-thirds each torpedo could be seen black against the sky with the rope trailing behind. In their flight of 380 yards they rose to a height of 150 yards as near as one could guess. In spite of a fairly stiff breeze blowing from the north, the torpedoes went perfectly straight, landing in the sands within a few yards of one another. The ropes, however, blew slightly to one side, and at the finish lay in parallel arcs on the sand.

At a luncheon afterwards Captain Thoms, chairman of the committee, spoke highly of the invention, and said the board of trade ought to take it up. Unlike the present rocket it could be used either from shore to ship, or from ship to shore, and, unlike the rocket again, it could be aimed with accuracy notwithstanding wind. He hoped to see it part of the equipment of every ship.

THE DEATH AVENUE OF NEW YORK CITY

525 Killed in It Last Year and Many Hundreds Maimed.

In the city of New York, the metropolis of western civilization, with more than four million inhabitants, a steam railroad is operated for miles through crowded streets and on the street level.

For miles, from St. John's Park (freight station) on the lower west side of New York through one crowded street after another, crossing at grade important busy thoroughfares like Canal, Christopher, Fourteenth, Twenty-third and Forty-second streets through the densely populated region of the upper west side to the head of Manhattan Island, runs this private public highway owned by the same New York Central Railway Company of watered stock and shady financial history.

In popular speech the street it thus traverses has earned another and more fearful name. It is called Death avenue.

Most of the street crossings are wholly unguarded; a few are watched by infirm or superannuated flagmen.

One of these trains has killed more people than any other train in the world. Kindly note that it is a passenger train not operated to carry passengers. It is operated to hold one of the franchises that produce millions and enable the watered stocks to reap dividends.

Since 1897 the validity of that franchise has been more than doubtful, but no public officer has moved to test the question.

So terrible have been the Death avenue casualties, especially among children, that many parents in that neighborhood have refused to allow their children to go to school because of these tracks, and up and down these tracks all day in the heart of the metropolis thunder the flying trains—franchise savers and freight trains.

To Oct. 24, 1908, the number of persons recorded as having been killed by the New York Central Railroad Company in Death avenue was 525. This is not a complete total. Also, the maimed numbered hundreds; nobody knows how many.

Against this frightful slaughterhouse the people of the region traversed have carried on for 25 years a pathetically fruitless agitation. How they have been defeated you can read about the vast and sinister control that the railroad companies exercise over legislative bodies.—From an article in Hampton's Magazine.

The length of the island of Manhattan—from the State to the Harlem River—varies from eight miles to the east to twelve miles on the west. The average width is one mile. Fifth avenue is the central dividing line between the eastern and western sections.

LISTENING TO A CLASSIC WALTZ

The Romance of the Air That Is the Most Famous of Its Kind.

It was a gay scene—in the drives, the smart carriages with their high-arched horses, the motors and the bicycles; the brilliant costumes of the ladies; the pomp and circumstance of the military personages. The music of the white-robed women's bands in the restaurants houses had died away. Suddenly, above the rustling of the leaves and the diapason of distant conversation, the faint tremolo of a military band came to our ears. It was the ethereal introduction of "An der Schoenen Blauen Donau." With a flash I came out of my dreamy enjoyment to a recollection of the supreme fact that I was in Vienna, and that the Blue Danube was rolling by not half a mile away.

We had gone to the great Danube that morning, and found it neither beautiful nor blue. It was in flood, the melting snows of a late spring having swollen it to huge dimensions, and it ran a way in a red stream, the velocity of which seemed to make the landscape roll with it. We had stood on a plunging Serbian corn boat, which turning at its moorings as the moving plain of water swirled by it. Not beautiful nor blue was the Danube at Vienna that day. No! It was mighty and magnificent, and the memory of its impressive greatness comes back whenever I hear the waltz. From that Serbian corn boat, the angry red waters swept past, we saw, in imagination, the panorama of the great river's life, from its humble beginning "in a gentleman's name," as the poet says, to tell us near the Black Forest, to its shattered exit into the Black Sea. We saw the increasing momentum and velocity of the great river, taking tribute from many mountains and many nations, bursting in anger through the Iron Gates, passing the great city of Budapest, in its striding against man's bridges, vainly making history by dividing states and peoples, and delimiting nationalities before its plunge into the great salt inland sea.

The Famous Waltz.

With that memory of the river in its angry and tumultuous mood, I tried to reconcile the introduction of the Strauss waltz, as we sat in the Prater. The band was soothed, the mystery of the sparkling footsteps of the water was the pixies and gnomes who guard the source of the great river. The introduction, like the waltz, was in imagination, to the short, rapid movement in three-four time, which, in its turn, died down to a few staccato notes played pianissimo. Then there came the waltz proper, the clangor of a fine military orchestra, came the first movement of the glorious waltz. And then a smile of sweet contentment spread over the faces of the well-dressed, pleasure-loving crowd.

Pat citizens wagged their heads to the waltz, young ladies drummed with their small feet, as if they were dancing, their toes and longed to be whirling in their daughters now experiencing the waltz, the young ladies drummed with their small feet, as if they were dancing, their toes and longed to be whirling in their daughters now experiencing the waltz, the young ladies drummed with their small feet, as if they were dancing, their toes and longed to be whirling in their daughters now experiencing the waltz.

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MRS. MORSE AS ANGEL OF TOMBS

Wife of the Indicted Ice King Gave Up All to Help Him and Others.

Life in the Tombs, New York City's widely-known and usually crowded jail, has been brighter of late for its many inmates because of the sympathetic influence of a handsome, cheery-faced woman, who for some months has been visiting the prison.

She was cheery of face for a purpose; she was heavy of heart for a reason. With these was her husband, the indicted ice king, who had been in jail, bringing cheer and the comforts of life not found within prison walls. Her sympathetic nature was touched by the plight of other prisoners without influential or wealthy friends.

In every way possible Mrs. Morse strove to make their unhappy lot as bearable as possible. She secured a number of additional privileges for them; she brought flowers and books, dainties for the sick and substantial for the well; she visited the lonely ones and cheered the despondent. In time she became known as "The Good Angel of the Tombs."

So far as known, Mrs. Morse is the only woman who came from a millionaire's mansion to the volunteer duties of a Tombs' angel.

Since her husband's release on bail last month, pending his appeal to a higher court, Mrs. Morse has devoted herself to his comfort and welfare, but the good influence of her former daily visits to the prison continues.

She secured, it is said, extra privileges for the prisoners in the way of more opportunities for outdoor exer-

LAND OF LOVE IN SOUTH SEAS

The Polynesian Woman Gives Her Life for Love.

From the hour of their discovery the tropical islands of the Pacific have given the world more romance than any other land. The women of Tahiti, New Zealand, Samoa, Tonga and Hawaii are sisters. These women of the south seas are fair to look upon and speak a common language. In Honolulu their word of welcome is still "aloha" love to you, as it is "talofa" in Apia, Samoa, which has exactly the same sound and meaning. The Polynesian woman gives her life to love. Her hair is long, straight, and flowing, ever garlanded with flowers of the brightest hue. This is so today, even in over-civilized Hawaii and in French Tahiti.

Many have met these gentle, loving children of the tropics, and have become their many yet meet them and yield to their charms never again to return to the land of their nativity.

The Hawaiian woman has never looked upon the white race as her superior. She calls her white friends, with whom she has grown up at the public school, by their Christian names, whether they be bankers or preachers, and they are ever respectful to her. Like all the Polynesian women, she makes a good wife. Should her husband weary of her, if she truly loves him, she is apt even in this prosaic day to go to a native witch doctor, and seek to conjure back the love of the man she adores. Failing in this she is quite willing to die, in which event the natives declare she has been "kahuna."

One young Hawaiian girl loved a "haole" (white) lad, but, as his parents would not listen to such a thing as a mixed marriage, the girl went away to another island.

From there she sent word to her lover that she would die on a certain date, and to the day and hour kept her word. Her parents and family, grieving, surrounded her in perfect knowledge that she was actually dying of love.

The last of the really royal princesses was said to have died of love for Hawaii. Brought up to believe that she would be queen and reign over her people, the Princess Kalanikali was hurried from the throne, and a white man's republic was instituted. Kalanikali died of a broken heart and was buried with royal honors, for one and all, white and dark, loved the beautiful young princess, and her father was a "haole" of distinction.

From an article in the New Idea Woman's Magazine.

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ORIENTAL WISDOM

Witty and Wise Sayings of the Natives of India.

Indian conversation abounds in striking similes, phrases, and proverbial sayings, both witty and wise. Some of these are peculiar to the country, whilst others are sarcastic hits at different classes of society.

The native shopkeeper, or Bunia, who is usually a money-lender and very extortionate in the matter of interest, is treated with great severity. One proverb says, "A Bunia's heart is as small as a coriander-seed." Another affirms that "A Bunia cheats his friends, but a swindler cheats strangers"; while in one part of the Punjab they say, "Crow, money-lender, and dog are never to be trusted, though asleep." Another class who come in for some very pungent sarcasm are the Mahomedan priests, or mullahs, who are noted for their avaricious nature.

Peasants and Proverbs.

Other sayings well illustrate the varied characteristics of the different castes and professions. Of the "Juts," who are the ordinary cultivators of the soil, they say, "A Jut's baby has a plough-handle for a plaything"; while of another class of agriculturists, the Gujars, who are generally looked upon as a lazy fellow, they say, "A desert is better than a Gujar," and "The dog, the monkey, and the Gujar change their minds at every step." Another class who are sarcastically treated in proverbial lore is that of the Dholi, or washerman. Washing in the east, as elsewhere, entails a considerable amount of rough treatment, which is sooner or later, destructive to one's linen. Hence they say, "The Dholi cries for his wages, the master for his clothes." There are also a great many proverbs and allusions. For example: "A careless too late won't make up for the loss of one drop," which reminds one of our saying, "A stitch in time, etc. Again, "Bitten by a snake among the Crusaders as the Old Man of the Mountains. According to Fitzgerald's introduction to Omar, it is yet disputed whether the word assassin, which they have left in the languages of modern Europe as their dark memorial, is derived from the hashish, or opiate of the Persians, who had long murdered in obscurity, but rose to an evil eminence under the guidance of his strong and evil will."

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