

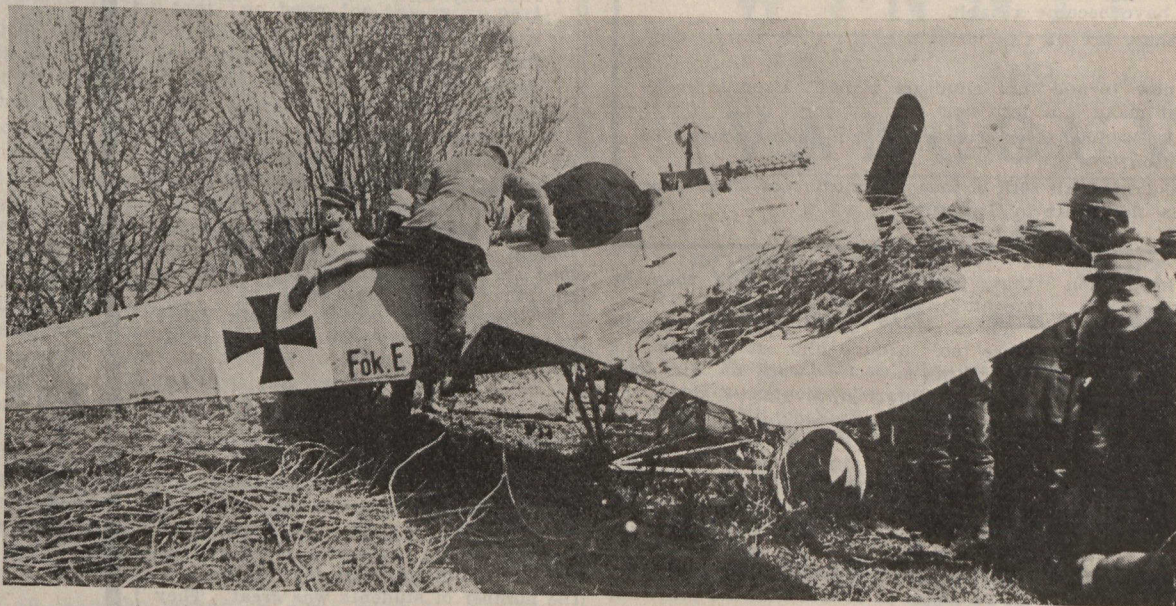
TWO BROKEN GERMAN PINIONS!



This picture provides at least one answer to Germany's boast of air-supremacy. While British coast-defence guns have been bringing down an occasional Zeppelin the elements themselves have been demonstrating that they are far from docile under Count Zeppelin's claims. This mass of tangled debris was once a full-fledged bomb-dropper. Returning from one of its excursions it is supposed to have been blown out of its course. At all events it collapsed off the Norwegian coast. The photograph shows one section of the envelope. A propeller may be seen sticking out of the water at the right hand side. Three sight-seers have rowed out with a boatman to view the remains.

A MODERN German war thinker stated with the usual placid German cocksureness that whereas at one time Germans were all in the air regarding their doctrines of world politics, they now have their supremacy in the air—in the triumph of German air-craft. When he wrote that statement he was thinking most about the Zeppelin, then in course of evolution, though he had no idea just what the Zeppelin would be likely to do in case of war. He knows now, and if he still eulogizes the Zeppelin he must also have come to the conclusion that they are a costly craft to operate when you stand a chance of losing so many while accomplishing in actual warfare—nothing. The Zeppelin is a magnificent and terrorizing failure as a war-arm, even though no Zeppelin ever came to grief, because it is the kind of war represented by a tenement woman throwing soap-suds out of a window on to the head of some one she hates below, and hitting the wrong person. So we pass up the Zeppelin, thankful that it is possible now and again to get a fresh picture of a Zeppelin wreck such as that on this page.

The Fokker is a different proposition. The Fokker is entitled to respect as a real war machine;



This German machine, captured behind our lines in France is one of the many invaluable "finds" of the kind. Already British and French air experts are scrutinizing it for data. Very often the captured maps show just what knowledge the enemy crew had been gathering. This machine, as can be seen, was brought down almost intact. The Fokker is a speedy machine and can rise from the ground quicker than any of the aeroplanes used by the Allies on the Western front. This machine carries, mounted in front of the observer, a rapid fire machine gun, which pours a deadly hail of bullets into the enemy aircraft.

is one of the best fighting air-craft in the world, and has done more to give Germany a place in the air than the stupid, bloated, bombastic Zeppelin. The Allies' airmen really respect the Fokker and the Fokker-Man, such an one as Immelman described on another page of this issue. And when a Fokker lands in an Allies' camp—it is a real prize of war.

It is not to be thought that the Zeppelin is entirely useless. It has been of some service in many instances, particularly in reconnoitring and in patrolling a given sea-area for submarines.

Great Britain herself is as a matter of fact making up her deficiency in respect to dirigible balloons, and is said to have many serviceable vessels of the sort already. Down at Folkestone in the early mornings it used to be not unusual to see strange air-craft performing strange manoeuvres last summer. These craft were in part England's answer to the Zeppelin.

But England will never take the Zepp. as seriously as the Germans have taken it. The fundamental reasoning of the German is this: that it is a fine thing and very useful to terrorize one's enemy by any and every imaginable device. In a campaign against savages this

might be worth considering, but in sending Zepps. to raid English cities the naïf Teuton is achieving little more than if he exploded a number of bombs in the middle of the North Sea or bombarded the Pole. Against savages the Zepp. might count. Not against men. In a campaign in East Africa where natives are still using blunderbusses and fig-leaves, a Zeppelin's advent in the clouds might indeed break the morale of the native defenders. And yet even that is open to question. The terror of a savage might be abated by the sight of so man "misses" in Zepp. "shooting."