

MAY 24, 1917.

FLIGHT

clouds, was able to reach the enemy's rear lines east of Gorizia without being observed, and bombed his encampments, returning safely."

Rome, May 19th.

"Aerial activity continued to be intense. Our squadrons dropped bombs on encampments east of Canale and in the Gargaro valley, returning safely to their bases. Two enemy machines were brought down."

"Italian seaplanes successfully dropped bombs on the military organizations on the Isle of Lagosta on Thursday, and returned undamaged to their base."

Rome, May 20th.

"An enemy machine was brought down in an air fight above Feltre."

Serbian.

Salonica, May 19th.

"Our airmen bombarded the enemy camps at Kravitza and near Staravina."

Salonica, May 19th.

"Our aviators forced an enemy aeroplane to fall headlong, and dropped 24 bombs on enemy bivouacs near Konopishte and Mreznitz; good results were observed."

Salonica, May 19th.

"Our aviators dropped 54 bombs in the region of Konopishte and Rozden."

German.

Berlin, May 19th.

"In aerial battles and by our anti-aircraft guns 18 enemy aeroplanes and one captive balloon were brought down on May 19th."

"Lieut. Baron von Richthofen conquered his twenty-second and Lieut. Gontermann his twentieth opponent."

Berlin, May 19th.

"Fifteen enemy aeroplanes were brought down yesterday."

Berlin, May 19th.

"On May 17th the enemy lost 14 aeroplanes in aerial encounters and three aeroplanes which were shot down to the earth by our anti-aircraft fire. A French airplane was compelled to make a forced descent behind our lines."

Berlin, May 19th.

"In aerial fighting six enemy aeroplanes fell behind the German lines, whilst another made a forced landing."

Berlin, May 19th.

"With unfavourable weather the aerial activity has been small during the past few days. We shot down 10 enemy aeroplanes yesterday."

Austrian.

Vienna, May 16th.

"In the region of Fajti Hrib the enemy in the morning again fruitlessly attacked, but his thrust was not repeated, as our artillery fire, effectively supported by our airmen, kept the Italian attacking columns to their trenches."

"Two Italian Nieuport aeroplanes were brought down by our airmen."

Vienna, May 19th.

"Our aviators shot down in an air fight two enemy aeroplanes, and a third was brought down by rifle fire near Vertoba."

FATAL ACCIDENTS.

WHILE flying in Ayrshire on May 1st a machine crashed to the ground owing to the engine stopping and burst into flames. The passenger, 2nd Lieut. James Stevenson, R.F.C., was fatally injured.

At the inquest on May 3rd on Flight-Sergt. W. E. M. Stedolph, R.F.C., the evidence showed that his machine, after descending normally from 2,500 ft. to 150 ft., suddenly turned and nose-dived to the ground. A verdict of "Accidental Death" was returned.

An inquest was held in the Lincoln district on May 5th on 2nd Lieut. R. G. Turner, R.F.C., who was fatally injured in an accident on the previous day. According to the evidence the machine commenced to turn without enough bank on. It then turned in a spinning nose-dive, and although deceased twice righted the machine it dived a third time and crashed to the ground. A verdict of "Accidental Death" was returned.

At an inquest on May 14th on Mr. W. Rowland Ding, who was killed at Roundhay on May 12th, the evidence showed that, after climbing to a height of 1,500 ft., the machine banked very considerably and looped the loop twice; then the wings on one side of the machine collapsed. It was stated that the machine was a new one and had been examined by the firm's inspectors earlier in the day. A verdict of "Accidental Death" was returned.

At the inquest on May 13th on Lieut. W. F. Smith, A.I.F., attd. R.F.C., who was fatally injured at Houslow two days

previously, it was stated that he started off for practice on a fighting machine. He had got up a certain amount of flying speed, but he pulled off before he really got sufficient. He evidently realised his mistake and tried to correct it by putting the nose of the machine down. Next he banked sharply to the left at a height of 40 ft., and at the same time tried to turn and climb. The result was that, although not having a full engine, the machine side-slipped, nose-dived and crashed to the ground. A verdict of "Accidental Death" was returned.

Evidence was given at the inquest on May 17th on Flight-Lieut. L. Morgan, R.N.A.S., and Prob. Flight-Officer R. Seed, who were killed at Edmonton on May 15th, by a brother officer who was flying at the same time. He said he noticed the other machine suddenly appear to collapse and then nose-dive to the ground. A verdict of "Accidental Death" was returned in each case.

While flying on Saturday Lieut. G. A. Nicholson met with a fatal accident through the machine suddenly nose-diving to earth and bursting into flames. Although he was extricated promptly from the smashed aeroplane, life was found to be extinct.

While flying a biplane on Saturday night 2nd Lieut. C. L. Beaumont and Capt. J. F. St. J. Annesley, R.A.M.C., were killed.

Whilst flying between two South Coast towns an aeroplane crashed to the ground. The pilot was killed and the observer injured.