AIR TANK STOLEN FROM AMERICAN

Germans' Latest War Device Resembles Invention of Capt. Batson

KAISER TRIED TO BUY IT

Lufbery's Fate Recalls Efforts of Army Man to Have U. S. Adopt Machine

> By a Staff Carrenantent Savannah, Ga., May 14

The German "air tank" which downed Major Racul Lufbery, American ace, en May 19, after a sensational battle over the American lines in Dicardy is not a new aerial development, and evidently is modeled much after an invention of

A gigantic flying boat, which accord-States army retired, a Spanish-American

The Batson flying ship was badly damaged in a week in November 1915, just before its final trial was to have been made. Captain Batson was convinced that this was the work of the secret agents of a foreign Government, who probably were the same persons who broke open the safe at the plant a short while before in an eitemat to find important confidential purity relating to the construction of certain Batson's "air yacht." as he called it, weighed 5000 pounds, and had additional lifting capacity of 8000 pounds. It bore out the claims of its inventors. It here out the claims of its inventor and builder in this respect on its initial flight, when it rose from the safer its seconds after its motors were stated and flew at an amazing speed for a

The Batson machine was equipped with twelve-wing planes, ope pair having a spread of thirty-nine and a half feet, and a sixth pair with a spread of the feet and a sixth pair with a spread of the fe

chine could be brought safely to a landing. Three Emerson engines, of the sixtylinder type, furnished 350 horsepower each, driving the propellers at 1500 each, driving the propellers at 1500 each horsepower in excess of that of the new feedback of 100 miles and hour, despite its great size and weight

Cabin Twenty-seven Feet Long Batson's machine was equipped with Uncle of Defeated Candidate cabin twenty-seven feet long. Here the Congrestivity India Device H a cabin twenty-seven feet long. Here the steering apparatus and the engines were installed. This cabin could be fitted with armor plates and onade safe from machine-gun fire with little difficulty. There was ample from for heavy gurs should the machine be used for war pursuit and the safe for the fremeeral ration, has wired Municipal Judge ful semilier. It

gasoline supply was kept minimizing the should danger of an explosion of the gasoline State.

for globe-circling figure. Batson prought with him from Massachusetts, where he had been conducting experiments, a model of his invention, which of itself was a machine of considerable propor-

was a machine of considerable proportions. This model was a success in every way, and performed all the feats that the inventor claimed for it, proving his theory would work out in practice.

The first Batson machine, built at Dutch Island Ga, near this city, cost close to \$100,000, Much more had been spent in building and equipping the plant. The inventor put all of his own savings into the project, and his wife, who had as much confidence in the mawho had as much confidence in the ma-chine as Batson himself, converted her property into cash and likewise risked all on the success or failure of the project.

Many Mysterious Mishaps The Batson flying ship was completed about six months. The initial tests in about six months. The initial tests more than realized the inventor's hopes

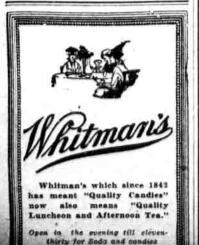
Then things began to happen to the Batson machine and plant

Costly motors, built after the inventor's own ideas, were ruined by yandals. Trouble arose in the company's affairs. Workmen on whom he relied, and in whom he had been compelled to place the utmost confidence, left him for no apparent reason. Then one night while the machine, which had been built after so many years of patient and tedious effort, was resting at its moorings in the Wilmington river, it was damaged

the Wilmington river, it was damaged almost beyond repair only a few hours before it was to have attempted its first long-distance flight, from Dutch Island to Jacksonville, Fla.

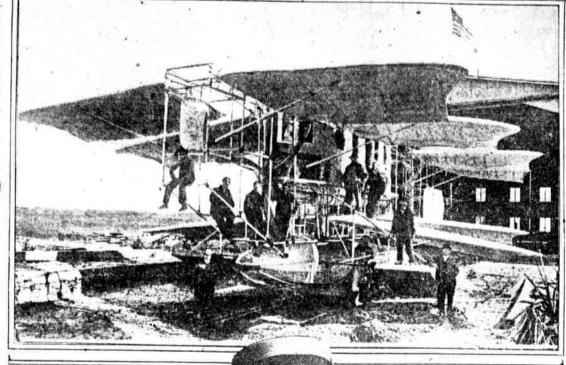
A short time before this disaster Captain Batson experienced great difficulty in having patent rights granted on his invention in Germany. While litigation was in progress there, parties representing themselves to be agents of the German Government offered him a large sum of money for his original drawings and designs. He refused the offer and refused to consider any other offer and refused to consider any other

proposal of the kind. Not yet losing hope. Captain Batson hurriedly began the construction of a



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GIGANTIC FLYING MACHINE NOT NEW THING IN U. S.



Major Lufbery was not

radically different in design from the great flying boat designed by an American army officer five year-ago. This bout and its inventor, the

late Captain Matthew A. Batson.

are shown above

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Ladies' Phoenix \$1.35

WHEEL

The Physicians' Supply Co. of Phila.

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CHAIRS

been made when proceedings were be gun in the Greegia courts by other in

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feet, and a sixth pair with a spread of thirty feet. The wings were peculiarly designed for the purpose of guiding the air qurrents inwardly toward the body of the machine and banking them under the base portion of the wings.

Any wing or set of wings or all twelve could have their angle of incidence changed at the will of the pilot while the machine was in full flight, thus eliminating the dangers of collapsing wings. Any three sets of wings could be jut out of commission cuttrely and still the machine could be brought safely to a landing.

Three Emersoit engines, of the six-tious States.

COL. GUFFEY SENDS GREETING

Congratulates Judge Bonniwell

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Manufacturers Told to State Needs to Food Admin-

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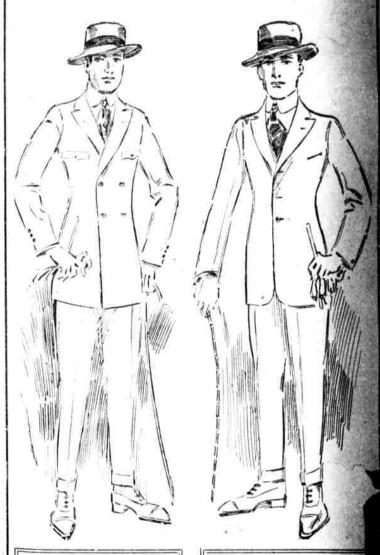
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