

GERMANY EXULTANT AT ZEPPELIN'S FEAT

His Epoch-Making Flight Arouses
Patriotic Enthusiasm Like
a Military Victory.

TRIUMPH FOR RIGID TYPE

Advocates of Non-Rigid and Semi-Rigid Balloons Admit They Would Have Been Destroyed at Goepingen.

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

BERLIN, June 5.—Hardly a madder patriotic enthusiasm could have been caused by a victorious battle than the delirium of joy to which Germany has given itself over this week in connection with the thirty-eight-hour, 950-mile trip of Count Zeppelin's mighty airship, Zeppelin II.

The disappointment of the Kaiser and his Berliners at being deprived of the privilege of welcoming the conqueror on Sunday night has been wholly obliterated by the airship's epoch-making flight across the country. The nation was already intoxicated with joy over its feat of remaining aloft continuously for more than a day and a half, but when it rose triumphantly from its wreckage at Göppingen Tuesday afternoon and started homeward with a patched-up prow and crippled frame, the Fatherland's exuberance attained a degree which we, in America, are accustomed to describe as "speechless."

The national ecstasy advanced still another stage when the tidings came that the airship, like a badly battered pugilist, had struggled up again from its temporary landing place at Biberach and had undertaken the final leg of its labored journey back to Friedrichshafen.

The Kaiser epitomizes the prevailing sentiment in his telegram to Count Zeppelin glorifying the indomitable power of the rigid type of airship construction. It was only a matter of a fortnight ago, as the readers of these dispatches will recall, that Count Zeppelin's enemies, the representatives of the rival non-rigid and semi-rigid types, had launched a fresh campaign of opposition against the rigid school. They had practically committed the War Department to buying no more Zeppelin balloons. Their machinations are made to look exceedingly silly by this week's events, for, by general consent, it will be a very long time before any other type of airship will even remotely approach the achievement of the Zeppelin II.

The collision with the henceforth immortal pear tree of Göppingen has, moreover, as the Kaiser's telegram emphasizes, provided classic evidence of the superiority of the rigid type over its rival systems. The non-rigid or the semi-rigid airships would have collapsed like paper bags if they had received the jolt which the Zeppelin II. encountered at Göppingen. Their constructors admit that such a disaster would simply have put such balloons out of commission.

Although it is clearly established that the wind played terrible havoc with the Zeppelin II. throughout the latter half of its great voyage, Germany hesitates to admit that its experiences have in any way demonstrated the present impracticability of the Zeppelin craft for war purposes. In fact, the more militant of the military and naval organs are already howling for the acceleration of the aerial fleet as a consequence of the thirty-eight-hour flight. Fantastic pictures are conjured up of the radius of action which a balloon like the Zeppelin II., if stationed at Metz, Cologne, or Berlin, would have.

"Think of an aerial scout," says one ecstatic commentator, "which could speed over Lyons, Paris, Toulon, Portsmouth, Dover, London, and Yarmouth before returning to its home port in Germany with maps and photographs."

"It has now been shown that a fleet of Zeppelins is absolutely indispensable for our political safety," remarks another ordinarily staid journal. "The weapon conjured up out of fable and fantasy by our enemies in France and England," observes a well-known conservative organ, "has, so to speak, been pressed into our hands by Count Zeppelin. That is a thought which may well cause blanched faces in Paris and London."

Count Zeppelin will postpone his projected flight to Berlin with his restored airship, which he told the Kaiser he was prepared to carry out the middle of July, until the end of August. His Majesty will then be back from his Summer cruise to Norway, and the Berlin school children, who the Kaiser is particularly anxious shall have a chance to acclaim Count Zeppelin, will be home from their Summer vacations.