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Editorial of the Day

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Editorial of the Day

MAJOR LUFBERY.

(New York Sun.)

One by one the strong young eagles fall. First it was Guynemer, next Richthofen; now it is Lufbery.

Of all the heroes of the air Raoul Lufbery, a man of American and French blood, French birth and American bringing up, was the most picturesque, taking his life as a whole. He was an adventurer in the clean sense of the word; a wanderer who wanted to see everything from Connecticut to Tibet, and who was glad to do any work, from waiting on table to bombing a city, that would permit him to allay the itch of his spirit.

How great a pursuit aviator Lufbery was is shown by his record while in the French service, before his transfer to the American flying squad. After Guynemer's death only five Frenchmen had more enemy planes to their credit than the man from Wallingford. He had then brought down sixteen German fliers, four more than Navarre:

Probably his death came as he fearlessly expected. His adventurer's soul must have been satisfied in the two years, from Verdun to Toul, that Lufbery spent in the glorious tournaments of the clouds. Two nations will mourn him: France, to fight for which he gave up his American citizenship; and America, which was glad to take him back when she herself saw the cause of France in the light that Lufbery had seen it.