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LUFBERRY GETS 16TH GERMAN AIRPLANE

Noted Aviator Joins U. S. Army
as Major After Record as
Flyer for France

By International News Service.

Paris, Dec. 6 (By Mail)—Victor Raoul Lufberry, formerly of Wallingford, Conn., has destroyed his first German aeroplane as a major in the United States Army. "Luf" already had shot down fifteen enemy machines while serving as sub-lieutenant in the French Army attached to the Lafayette escadrille.

The commissions for Lufberry, William Thaw of Pittsburg, Dudley Hill of Peekskill, Kenneth Marr of San Francisco, Robert L. Rockwell of Cincinnati and Robert Soubrian of New York have been handed to the six American aviators.

Lufberry with the others has already ordered a regular United States army uniform from his tailor in Paris and is actually an American pilot, flying and fighting under the Stars and Stripes at this time.

"Luf" really "knocked down" two enemy machines on the same day, but so far he has only been officially credited by the French observers with one—the biplane which crashed in flames inside the French lines, both the pilot and machine gunner being killed.

Lufberry brought down the other in flames in the German lines and until further investigation is made he will not be credited with that machine. This is in accordance with the rigid "scoring" rules in force in the French aviation service.

HAIL OF LEAD.

Lufberry, Marr and Rockwell were on patrol work, guarding French two-seater observation machines when the first enemy plane appeared. The German evidently failed to notice the trio of American fighting machines above him as he darted on the low-flying observation biplane. Like a shot Lufberry dived. At less than a hundred yards he pulled the wire operating his machine gun and began pouring lead into the German from above.

The German in a two-seater "rumpler" never had a chance to fire a shot at the American. Lufberry's bullets evidently punctured the enemy's gasoline tank, for in a moment the German biplane was a mass of flames and tumbling toward the earth, 6,000 feet below, turning over as it fell.

French soldiers ran to the burning wreck as it crashed and found both occupants dead. The pilot had been killed by the fall. The German machine gunner had three bullet holes in his chest.

MACHINE BURSTS INTO FLAME.

Lufberry did not descend after bagging the German two-seater. A few minutes later he spied a German single-seater veering about at his own level, 16,000 feet elevation. The American "ace" gave chase, and after some maneuvering work got his speedy little plane under the tail of the enemy albatross.

Shooting all the time, Lufberry climbed straight for the German from behind. Before he had reached a level with the enemy, the German machine burst into flames, and wobbling, began to fall. The fight had carried the American far inside the German lines, and the sight of several German single-seaters hurrying up to avenge their comrade sent Lufberry scurrying back to his own patrol.