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## French 'Ace' Like Story Hero

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# FRENCH 'ACE' LIKE STORY HERO

Born in France, Has American  
Father, and Has Traveled  
World Over

(By International News Service).

New York, May 16.—Major Raoul Lufbery!

Even the mention of Captain Kidd, Tom Sawyer, Huckleberry Finn and Frank Read, Jr., fails to grip the brain of Young America and fill him with such magic as found in these three words—Major Raoul Lufbery.

Nor does the magic, the keen appreciation and the deepest of respect and admiration confine itself to our youth. Young and old alike have read and pondered of the almost superhuman doings of Major Lufbery. Many have reread and then wondered if the newspapermen had not strayed a bit from facts in order that they might give vent to their personal admiration of the American "Ace."

With seventeen enemy aeroplanes to his credit, Lufbery has been actually dragged from active service by General Pershing and commissioned as an instructor in the American general's new air army. And if Pershing's wishes are adhered to, Lufbery has made his last flight—but—and here's the rub—if Lufbery has aught to do with it, we may expect to read any day of another brilliant air victory by the "Ace."

## BEATS MOST LURID DRAMA.

Those writers of fiction, those who indulge in wildest flights of fancy and excessive use of "painting" adjectives, have yet failed to pen a life so replete with romance, so highly colored with actual experience and endless travel and with a climax—at least for the present—which even the most lurid drama has yet failed to produce.

Because of limited space the early life of Raoul may be chronicled as follows: Native of France; born of American father, now a resident of Yalesville, Ct., and French mother; spent early childhood days in the rugged hills of the Cevennes Mountain range; later lived with grandmother in small French town; on death of his mother Raoul went to live with his father and the four other children at Blois; he worked in a chocolate factory while the father remained at home to care for the other children; later, when his father obtained a lucrative position, Raoul began his nomadic career; worked his way through Algiers, Tunis, Morocco, Egypt, Constantinople, Rumania, Austria, Germany; then on a steamship plying between Hamburg and South Africa.

Accustomed to going and coming when he pleased, Raoul suddenly left the boat in South Africa and came to America, to Wallingford, Ct., to visit his father, only to find that his father had departed for Antwerp. From 1907 to 1909 Raoul worked in a silver plant at Wallingford. Raoul then went to Cuba, on his second trip around the world. He spent eighteen months in the Philippines in Uncle Sam's service.

## FIRST FLYING LESSONS

When next heard from, Raoul was in Ceylon, but tiring of tea fields he spent a few months in hunting tigers in Bombay, India. Thence to Calcutta went the wanderer. He was making his way through Asia, having reached French Indo-China, when the great war started. There fate again shuffled the cards, dealing so that Raoul met Aviator Pourpe, who was giving flying exhibitions throughout the Orient.

From the moment that he first saw Pourpe fly he was no longer a wanderer; he was an aviator. Pourpe taught him to fly and the two became chums—firm and lasting friends. Following a fall, in which both experienced a miraculous escape from death, they went to Paris. That was in August, 1914.

No sooner had the echoes of the thundering of the German guns been heard in Paris than Pourpe enlisted as a flier. Raoul immediately enlisted as his machinist. Pourpe was killed after a few flights and Lufbery, seeking vengeance for his chum's death, enlisted in the Foreign Legion and later joined the Lafayette Escadrille, soon after Lieutenant Thaw and others had organized it.

## MEDALS FOR BRAVERY.

Raoul has been decorated with four military medals for aerial bravery and early last September was already credited with having brought down his twelfth enemy plane. Once he engaged four enemy planes. He brought down one and chased the other three. During that battle he also rescued a comrade who was in distress and fighting overwhelming odds.

Lufbery accompanied the ill-fated Kliffin Rockwell, who was killed September 23. When Raoul learned of the fate of his flying partner he ordered his gasoline tank refilled and again soared heavenward to avenge his comrade's death. The Boches had departed hastily. They knew Lufbery. That he knew no fear is splendidly shown in a recent letter to his father, in which appears the following line:

"I love best to wait behind a cloud and watch the Boche bird come on."

And his dad, sixty-four, clear of eye and strong of limb, is proudly waiting for the return of his famous son, whom he has not seen since the latter left France at the age of seventeen, fifteen years ago.