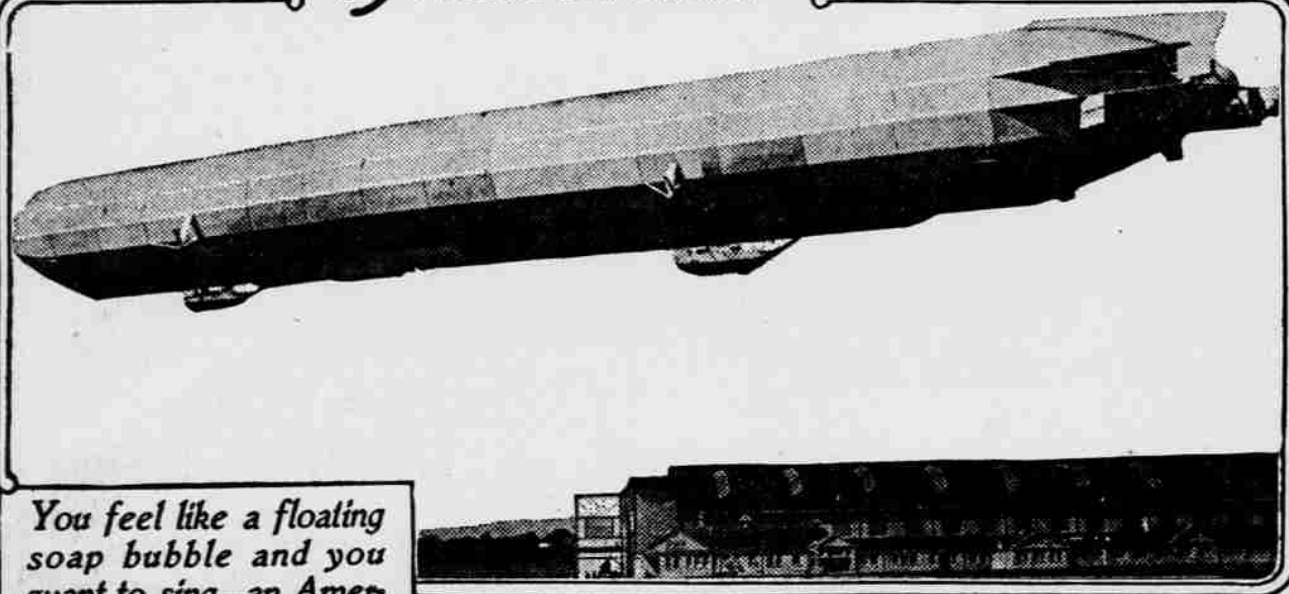


# Riding in a German Airship

By Frank L. Haller



You feel like a floating soap bubble and you want to sing—an American business man tells of his experience on a two-hour sky journey

Frank L. Haller, an Omaha business man, visited Europe last summer. He was accompanied by Mrs. Haller and their tour took them to Bad Nauheim, in Germany, last June. There they saw the Zeppelin, the great airships which Germany has used so effectively in its war against the Allies since, particularly in the raids on the English coast, and took a trip in one of them. Mr. Haller, who is the president of a large wholesale house in Omaha, has written the following interesting account of that two-hour journey through the air.

**B**AD NAUHEIM, Germany.—Ever since, as a boy, I rode with Sinbad the Sailor on the back of the roe, I have longed to fly once more. Of course, we all fly in our dreams, which science says is our inherited memory of the time when we were birds, but I never see a solid little white summer cloud sailing overhead of a hot afternoon but I wish I might tour the blue sky on it.

Now, it came about in the pleasant land of Zeppelin one day in June as I sat under my favorite bronze beech in Nauheim's lovely park that I heard just above my head the pleasant humming of a smooth running motor. Wondering what buzzing beetle made such a sound, I looked up where, just above the tree tops, cruising in majestic splendor, in full flight, flags flying and passengers waving, was the Victoria Luise, Count Zeppelin's "Flying Dutchman" of the air. As I looked, fascinated at the sight of the great airship sailing on a perfectly level keel like some great imperator of the sea, I saw the bow slowly incline upward and soar like a bird toward the zenith. Maneuvering to turn, when at the desired height, the prow was depressed, and the ship turned on a pivot, presenting the least resistance to atmosphere. It was done with remarkable neatness and dispatch.

As day after day, out of the quiet evening air that great bird beckoned me to fly, I felt the lure of adventure draw me until temptation, encouraged by many an abject surrender in my past, overcame the last resistance—one hundred marks (\$25), the cost of a two-hour flight.

Surely the days of enchantment are come again, for as I gazed upon that 100-mark note, lo, it became the magic carpet of Bagdad, ready to carry me through the air over the cities of the earth.

**A 100 Per Cent Safety Record.**  
The Victoria Luise, one of the four Zeppelins operated by the Hamburg-American Steamship company, had made nearly five hundred trips, and with its three sister ships fully 1,500 ascensions, carrying more than thirty thousand passengers, without a single accident. There must be a dozen-odd dirigibles of all kinds that have carried some fifty thousand passengers without a mishap—a record of safety of 100 per cent that challenges comparison with any form of mundane transportation.

The fatherly German government that fusses over its people as an old hen over its chickens, burdens itself and them with a thousand "verboten" (restrictions) will not allow anyone to take the slightest risk as a passenger on an airship. So after successfully quieting the last apprehension of my better half by assuring her that if she fell overboard I would jump out and rescue her, we were ready to start.

A motor car ride of 15 minutes from the Kaiserhof hotel at Frankfort brought us to the iron and concrete atrium, where we found the Victoria Luise moored with rope and tackle

### TAKEN FROM EXCHANGES

Great Britain is divided into eight munition areas.  
New Zealand has an annual death rate of less than one per cent.  
Manufacture of paper in this country consumes nearly 5,000,000 cords of wood annually.  
German scientists have found that it is possible to purify bacteria-carrying oysters by allowing pure, fresh sea water to run over them for four or five days.

to a miniature railroad extending several hundred feet outside the shed. The pilot is taking the sun with a sextant. We saw being posted reports of the velocity of the wind and condition of the atmosphere constantly received by wireless from meteorologic stations along the well charted route we were to travel. Unless the weather conditions are entirely favorable no ascension is permitted.

**Alight in Twinkle of Eye.**  
Fortunately, the weather conditions are perfect. The pilot in the forward gondola tests the steering gear, which by the way, is the same as on a yacht; the powerful gasoline engines of 145 horsepower each, one in the forward and two in the rear car, are started, to see that they are running smoothly. The wireless operator from his cabin on board sends his first message and we are invited to come on board.

We mount the aluminum ladder to the mahogany finished cabin airship, which is built into the keel of the airship instead of being suspended below as are the two cars (gondolas, they are called) which contain the engines and crew of eight. The comfortable wicker chairs in the cabin will accommodate 24 passengers. As the passengers embark enough water to counterbalance their weight is let out of the reservoirs in the keel of the ship, the engines are started and we back slowly out of the air shed. A small army of men hold onto the ropes that dangle from the ship to control it when the cables that attach it to the railroad are cast off.

When free of everything we pause just long enough for the photographer to get in his work, the captain calls out, "Cast off," the floor slants upward at anything but an alarming angle, the earth slips gently away from under you, and in the twinkling of an eye you are sailing 500 feet over the spire of the cathedral, with not the slightest feeling of fear or dizziness. Should your heart come up into your mouth, the waiter stands ready to serve liquid refreshment to wash it down again. The other woman passenger on our trip availed herself of this good excuse to take a nip of that justly celebrated German apricot "schnapps," a sort of "spirits of the air."

**"A Soap Bubble in the Air."**  
The predominant sensation of flying is buoyancy—you are a soap bubble in the air—you are swimming again on inflated bladders as when a boy in the old swimming hole—you have lost gravitation—weight is annihilated—your fear is not that you may drop to earth, but that you are never going to alight again—you have become a satellite to Mother Earth, and you don't care a darn. The air you breathe is aerated champagne—you want to talk all the time, and you do—you can hardly keep from singing. I didn't. I hummed an old song:  
Up in a balloon, boys,  
Up in a balloon;  
Up among the little stars,  
A-sailing round the moon,  
Of the vintage of '73. You remember it?

You gaze down as through a most fascinating kaleidoscope on the world and for the first time realize what a "bird's-eye view" really is. You see an entire city at once. In one glance you see what it took a thousand years to build. It looks like the blue print of an architect, only the buildings are not drawings, they are real. The river is not a crooked line, it is running water. The trees are real trees and that little man on the funny, narrow stretcher looks like a brick wall pulled out of its hole and set to one side. You see into the heart of a solid city block and find pleasant gardens and trees and a fountain in the hidden court. The ruined castle perched on a mountain peak, green with ivy and moss, with its lookout tower high above the trees, shows its loveliness

Caracas, capital of Venezuela, is to have a huge new bull ring.  
An Englishman has developed a method for growing lawn grass on such a foundation that it can be handled as a carpet or rug.  
Danes, all sons of farmers, are going from Denmark in batches of 200 to help make up the shortage of labor on English farms.  
The Croton river, which furnishes water to New York, the greater part of the water consumed in its limits, was named for an Indian chief.

on all sides at once when seen from above.

**The Rhine Like Silver.**  
The fields of green and yellow grain form the stripes of a great floral banner and the scarlet poppies, in fields of green, carpet the earth with colors that ravish the eye. Forest trees from above look like a cluster of domes on a great mosque and miles of the Rhine with its bridges and boats reflect the sun like burnished silver.

The shadow of the airship on the mountain side makes us realize that we are traveling at the rate of 40 miles an hour. The faint barking of a dog, the cheers of schoolboys out at play, the waving of handkerchiefs and hats from below all add to the pleasure of the voyage. What a race of midgets your fellow men are! How slow the toy trains wind around the hills! And for once the motor cars are not exceeding the speed limit! You write and mail airship post cards with the rubber stamp of the aerial postoffice quite plainly impressed and they go to friends at home. You may eat and drink, but not smoke, on an airship. A courteous guide points out Wiesbaden, Bad Homburg, the Rhine, names a score of villages, mountain peaks and castles as we fly overhead, and tells you when you are 500 feet, 700 feet or 1,000 feet high.

As we descend in long spirals to the green meadow which is our landing place, the engines are stopped and we hover over the men waiting until they catch the cables with their sandbag anchors to tow us to the airshed, which we enter with our own power after the airship has once more been attached to the miniature railway. We have flown 75 miles in two hours that seemed but 30 minutes. We descend the ladder, we shed our winged feet and walk the earth again with leaden shoes.

**Flowers and Gardens.**  
"Flowers are the poetry of earth, as stars are the poetry of heaven." The Reporter believes that the people of Abilene have a rare chance to grow flowers this year since the fine rains that have already fallen have placed the earth in a perfect growing humor, and prospects indicate that we are to have a seasonable spring and summer. Nothing is more beautiful than a yard of flowers, and nothing gives more pleasure to the owners and those who pass along. Every flower makes Abilene more attractive and desirable as a residential city, and it is encouraging to see the new flower gardens that have been planted this year.

As to the garden, no argument is needed to convince anybody that it is a desirable asset. Fresh vegetables not only keep down doctor bills and keep the family healthy, but they keep the grocery bill down, and the simple doing of the thing creates an interest in life that doesn't come any other way. Fortunate indeed is the person who has the opportunity to own a garden. It must be remembered, however, that "the gardener's fee do no harm to the garden."—Abilene Reporter.

**Growth of Motion Pictures.**  
The motion picture is more than fifty years old if we understand that that term any device for producing the optical illusion of moving objects. These toys were called by various names, such as thaumatrope, zootrope, stroboscope, phenakistoscope, stereoscopic cabinet, kinematograph, etc. The first exhibition of photographic motion pictures was made by Henry Hey; in Philadelphia in 1870. The pictures were made by successive careful poses, thrown on the screen in such a way that the movement of the subjects kept time with the music of an orchestra. Many other inventors worked on this problem before Edison, in 1899, produced the first modern motion picture apparatus of the type so familiar to us today.—The Christian Herald.

**Boy and Goat Buried Alive.**  
While Joseph Chubbin, five, was playing with a goat in the Stanton (Pa.) colliery timber yard the surface caved into the old workings, carrying boy and goat into the mines and burying them alive.  
Rescuers set to work immediately and attempted to lower each other with ropes into the cavity to recover the boy's body, but on account of the surface still "working," had to abandon it, fearful of being buried alive also.

### FURRED TONGUE NO PROOF

Why It is Supposed to Indicate Digestive Disturbance Never Has Been Explained.

Just why a furred tongue is supposed to be an indication of a disturbance of the digestive apparatus has never been explained. The Medical Record calls to mind "the respected (and feared) spinster in our community a good many years ago who had her own opinion about doctors. Urged to consult one of their fraternity when a little indisposed, she would repel the suggestion with scorn. 'All they do,' she would say, 'is to say, "Let's see your tongue. How's your bowels? Two dollars, please."'"

The editor says he has known physicians of the old school who could diagnose a case by looking at the tongue, just as he has known a physician who could "diagnose" a case of pneumonia in a child he had never seen before when he got ten feet away from the bed. And what is more, he could tell which side it was on and even designate the lobe affected in some cases.

Of course this is sarcasm. The editor is ridiculing the furred tongue as a symptom of trouble in the digestive apparatus.

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### ASSOCIATIONS ARE A HABIT

We Even Form Clubs Over Question of Teething Rings Vs. Thumb.

Our passion for getting up associations is a bad symptom of intellectual foolishness. Every trade and profession among us, every interest and prejudice, every aspiration, hypothesis or question about a question has a gang of club members at its back.

The fashionable mothers get up societies to determine what plays their children shall see during the holidays. I know of one woman who was not able to decide whether she should give a rubber ring or a coral to her teething child or should leave him to nature and the thumb. She accordingly formed a society. It is called the Ring and Coral association and meets twice a month. It has recently split into two organizations through the secession of the antiring and coralites. By means of these two societies any mother may today escape the mental anguish of making a decision for herself upon this teething matter.—John J. Chapman, in Atlantic Monthly.

**Hard to Answer.**  
"Philters is greatly interested in chemistry."  
"So I hear."  
"He's always busy with retorts."  
"Naturally."  
"But the kind that gives him most concern are made by Mrs. Philters when she visits his laboratory to lecture him about wasting his time and spoiling his clothes."

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