

World's Largest Dirigible Wrecked Off Coast N. J.

U. S. Navy Dirigible Akron Dips Into Atlantic Ocean When Caught In Electric Storm Off the New Jersey Coast 25 Miles At Sea Shortly After Midnight Tuesday Morning, Carrying to An Untimely Death All of the 76 Persons On Board Except Three, One of Whom Died Soon Afterward.

New York, April 4.—In a blinding electrical storm, the Akron, mightiest dirigible ever to cruise the skies, was plummeted into the turbulent Atlantic early today about 20 miles off the New Jersey shore, and by dusk tonight hope had waned for 71 missing members of the crew.

Of the 76 men aboard the "Mistress of the Skies" as she crashed four were rescued, but one of them died before he was brought ashore. A day of searching by water and by air brought the discovery of only one body of the ill-fated crew floating on the ocean.

Rear Admiral William A. Moffett, Chief of the Navy Bureau of Aeronautics, was among those lost on the Akron. Aroused from sleep by the storm, he had been in the control room shortly before the accident.

The three Akron survivors are: Lieutenant Commander H. V. Wiley of Lakewood, N. J., executive officer and second in command, who was at the controls.

Moody E. Erwin, of Memphis, Tenn., metalmith.

Richard E. Deal of Lakehurst, N. J., boatswain's mate.

The rescued man who later died was Robert W. Copeland of Lakehurst, N. J., chief radio operator.

Twelve hours after the crash, the body of Lieutenant Commander Harold E. MacLellan of Westerly, R. I., was picked up by a Coast Guard cutter near the scene of the disaster.

Lieut. Commander David E. Cummins of Prescott, Ark., commander of the J-3, who was taken from the water unconscious after the blimp accident, died a short time later.

The body of Pasquale Bettio, chief machinist's mate on the J-3, was recovered several hours later.

The five others of the J-3 crew were rescued.

A Survivor's Story.

New York, April 4.—A shout of "Stand by!" Bells jangle in the engine room. There is confusion both there and in the control cabin. Shouts go out against the lash of the gale—and almost immediately there is a sickening crash. Then men swimming in the sea, and a great hulk of an airship bobbing, nose upward, on the waves.

Lieutenant-Commander Herbert V. Wiley, one of the three survivors of the Akron disaster, told about it dispassionately today as he sat upright in his bed at the Brooklyn Naval Hospital. Yet, the story lost nothing in the telling.

It was a narrative of 76 men trapped in a vortex of black fury, fighting what they felt in their bones was a battle against an inexorable, lashing, battering force—a fury that defied defeat.

Commander Wiley's own experience, of being swept bodily from the control cabin into the sea, where he swam for what seemed endless minutes in the black waves, hearing the voices of other swimmers all around, is epic in its dramatic content.

"We left Lakehurst," he said, "at 7:30 last night on our regular schedule. Our object was to calibrate radio direction finding stations off New England. Since calibrations could not begin until daylight and it was foggy over the sea, it was decided to cruise inland where the ground could be seen.

"We were over Philadelphia at ten past ten. We then headed south, following the Delaware river. It was expected the fog at sea would clear up in the morning. About 8:45 last night we were 20 to 30 miles south of Philadelphia when we noticed lightning ahead. In a few minutes we had a report of a thunderstorm over Washington. We headed East and Northeast, toward the ocean, flying at an altitude of about 1,600 feet. The ground was obscured by fog.

"But we knew our position quite accurately. Occasionally a gleaming group of lights indicated to us a town which helped us check with our course. The ship was in good

flying condition, but slightly heavy.

"The lightning to the South became quite extensive and also appeared in the West. At about 10:00 p. m., just as we left the Jersey Coast, the storm became general all around us. I do not think the ship was struck by lightning, for there was no indication of it, though there was plenty of lightning all around.

"We continued eastward for about one hour and I then reversed the course. When we reached the land again, I saw a group of lights and I identified the shore line. This was at about midnight, and our course was changed to southeast. About 30 minutes later the ship began to descend rapidly from 1,600 feet.

"Then I dropped the emergency ballast which had caused the ship to drop to an altitude of about 800 feet. We rose rapidly and leveled off to 1,600 feet again. We retained that standard height.

"About three minutes later the air became exceedingly turbulent and the ship was tossed about violently. I knew we were near the center of the storm, because the air was most disturbed.

"I gave the signal for all hands to go to the land station in order to have them available and not in their bunks.

"The ship took a short lurch and the rudder control wire of the upper rudder was carried away. I unclutched the upper rudder and tried to steer with the lower rudder. I was on the right side of the control car and supervised the rudder.

The captain was on the left side and supervised the elevator wheel. The elevator man reported several times that the ship was falling and I heard the report: "Eight hundred feet." By this time the bow of the ship was inclined to about 20 degrees, but even then we were falling quite rapidly.

"In the fog nothing could be seen. I asked the altitude and the answer was 300 feet. I gave the order to stand by for the crash and the signal was rung up to the engine car. Almost immediately we hit the water.

"We had, as I remember, a list to starboard. Water rushed into my window, carrying me out through another window. I tried to swim as rapidly as I could to get from under the ship, and I finally came to the surface. I could see the ship drifting away from me through the lightning flashes. The bow was pointed in the air.

"Everything was a general wreck. I saw two lights which I thought were on the stern of the ship. I also thought I could see the Barnegat lighthouse. I swam towards the ship and after about ten minutes found a board three feet square to which I clung. I saw several men in the water, but none very close—not enough that I thought I could help them. On one occasion I thought I was 50 yards from one man, but I didn't have any board at that time. When I got several hundred yards from the ship, the wind changed and the waves began to hit me.

"The captain of the ship must have heard cries of men in the water. I sighted a ship and I swam easily towards the steamer. They threw lifelines to me and hauled me on board. They had boats lowered and picked up three other men, but I did not see the boats until I was aboard the ship.

"As soon as I recovered my strength—in about an hour—I sent a message giving the names of the people on board the tanker, that is, the rescued men. The German captain was an excellent seaman and did everything he could to save our lives.

"That's my story."

Commander Wiley glanced at the reporters. One of them asked him about Admiral Moffett.

"Admiral Moffett," he said, "was asleep until midnight. But he came down to the control car during the height of the storm. For five minutes preceding the disaster I did not notice him in the control car, but he must have been around."

Commander Wiley said that about 30 seconds elapsed from the time of the "stand by" order until the crash.

When he was asked what he thought caused the disaster, he merely shook his head slowly, smiled in a tired way and asked to be excused.

Interesting Items From Smithfield

The Smithfield High School band directed by Prof. G. W. Grove, gave a splendid concert at the Sanders Theatre last Sunday afternoon which was enjoyed by a large crowd of people. The Theatre was filled to overflowing and those present gave unstinted praise to Prof. Grove and the well trained boys composing the band, which is made up as follows: Trumpets—Linwood Perkins, Roger Smith, Lacy Coats, Thel Ragsdale, Buck Marrow, W. A. Gregory, Rudolph Howell, Hubert Woodall, Carl Pugh and Nathan Lassiter. Clarinets—Robert McLemore, Eric Cotter, Harold Kirkpatrick, Ryland Gregory and Paul Johnson. Trombones—Cullen Hooks, James Coats, Nait Edgerton and Marvin Duke. Saxophones—Edwin Perkins, Glen Grier, Max Johnson and Pope Lyon. Alto Horns—Bill Hood and Alex Zaidy. Baritone—Ben Grimes and James Smith. Drums and Bass—Joe D. Talton, Zeke Creech, Kenneth Smith, Chas. Parrih and Jennings Jordan.

On last Monday, Smithfield held its first primary to name candidates for offices of mayor and town commissioners. As announced last week, the Democrats had five candidates for mayor, and 15 candidates for the 7 places on the board of town commissioners.

The Republicans did not put out any candidates in the primary, and it is not expected that they will have any candidates in the election in May. This being the case, quite a number of Republicans who desired to have a voice in the naming of the town officials, participated in the Democratic primary Monday, while others preferred to sit on the fence and see the fun.

William B. Wellons led in the race for mayor, with 290 votes. Everett S. Stevens came next with 269 votes. J. D. Underwood received 136 votes, Ed. S. Edmundson and L. E. Watson, Jr., 37. There will be a second primary on April 17th.

The 15 candidates for the seven places on the board of town commissioners were reported to have agreed before the primary that the seven receiving the highest vote would be the nominees. When the count was over it was found that four members of the old board had won, as follows: Clifton Beasley, W. T. Holland, W. J. Huntley and Walter Grantham. The three new members of the board are, Hugh M. Austin, Don W. Peterson and Dr. W. J. Massey.

Of the old board, Will D. Hood did not run, and W. M. Gaskin and W. G. Glass were defeated.

The contest in the second primary will be between Everett S. Stevens and William B. Wellons for the mayoralty nomination, and it is expected to be a hot race.

Sale of Beer Legalized For North Carolina

Legislature Makes It Legal To Sell Beverages After Midnight April 30th.—Several Hundred Special Charter Districts Wiped Out by Act.

Raleigh, April 4.—Several hundred special charter dry districts, including those around a number of colleges, some churches, the city of High Point and other places, which went on the water wagon before the whole state went dry in 1908, were wiped out shortly after 12 o'clock today when the senate accepted the house amendments to the Francis bill legalizing in this state the sale of light wines and beer after midnight April 30. The bill was ordered enrolled by Lieutenant Governor Graham when Senator Francis had successfully moved without opposition to accept the house amendments; repeal all local statutes in conflict with provisions of this general act; raise the age of minors to whom beer may be sold to 18, instead of 16 years as originally provided in the bill; and enlarge the scope of the mediums in which beer, porter and light wines may be advertised.

Cotton growers in one community of Bertie County have pooled their orders for 400 bushels of certified planting seed and will attempt to have only one variety of cotton planted in the community.

Wheat planted after last year's tobacco crop in Person county is showing the effects of the tobacco fertilization and gives indication of a good crop.

Proceedings County Recorder's Court

State vs. Alton Bryant, white farmer, aged 23, for assault. Guilty. Road sentence of 30 days, to be suspended upon payment of \$10 fine and cost. Appeal.

State vs. Alton Lee, white farmer, aged 22, for assault with deadly weapon. Guilty, and given road sentence of 60 days, to be suspended upon payment of \$25 fine and cost.

State vs. Mark Collins, white farmer, aged 23, and Will Eason, white farmer, aged 19, for larceny of chickens, value less than \$20. Both guilty and each given 6 months on roads. Both appeal, bond of each placed at \$300.00.

State vs. John Eatman, colored laborer, aged 26, and Elizabeth Eatman, colored, aged 19, for larceny of shoes and dress, value less than \$20. John Eatman not guilty and discharged. Elizabeth Eatman guilty, and given jail sentence of 30 days to be suspended upon payment of cost. Appeal, bond \$50.

State vs. J. M. Stone, white laborer, aged 22, for assault with deadly weapon and reckless driving. Guilty. Continue prayer for judgment upon payment of \$25.00 fine and cost. Appeal.

Tuesday, April 4th.

State vs. Tate Atkinson, colored, for fornication and adultery. Not guilty and discharged.

State vs. John F. Moye, white, for assault with deadly weapon. Prosecution adjudged frivolous and malicious and prosecuting witness E. J. Woodard taxed with cost.

State vs. John Guin, white farmer, aged 31, for dynamiting in Neuse river. (Violation of game and fish laws). Guilty. Road sentence of 90 days, to be suspended upon payment of \$100.00 fine and cost. Notice of appeal, bond placed at \$200.00.

State vs. Morgan Defee, white laborer, aged 27, for careless and reckless driving. Guilty and given 60 days road sentence, to be suspended upon payment of \$25.00 fine and cost. Appeal. Bond placed at \$200.00.

State vs. Son Beasley, white farmer, aged 23, for assault with car and hit and run driver. Probable cause found and defendant bound to Superior Court under \$200 bond.

State vs. Sonny Beasley, white farmer, aged 23, for assault with deadly weapon. Guilty and given 90 days on roads. Appeal, bond fixed at \$200.00.

State vs. Wright McLamb, white farmer, for violation of prohibition law. Guilty of possession one quart of whiskey. Road sentence of twelve months to be suspended upon payment of cost and on further condition that defendant does not drink, possess, or transport whiskey or in any way violate the prohibition law again during next 5 years.

State vs. Roy Barbour, white laborer, aged 31; Valie McLamb, white laborer, aged 22; and Lee Stone, white laborer, aged 23, for larceny of chickens, value less than \$20.00. All defendants guilty, and each defendant given 6 months on roads, but each takes appeal under \$300.00 bond. These same defendants were in two other chicken stealing cases and were sentenced to an additional 6 months on the roads in each case, or 18 months each in all. They all appealed in each case.

State vs. D. H. Blue, colored laborer, aged 41, for carrying concealed weapon and interfering with officer in discharge of duty, violation of prohibition law by possession of whiskey. Guilty on all counts and given 6 months on roads. Notice of appeal. Sentence to be suspended upon payment of \$100.00 fine and cost. Appeal withdrawn.

State vs. Duncan McLamb, colored laborer, aged 36, for carrying concealed weapon and violation of prohibition law (possession and transporting of whiskey), assault with deadly weapon with intent to kill. Probable cause found as to assault with deadly weapon with intent to kill, and defendant is bound to Superior court on that charge. Defendant guilty of carrying concealed weapon and violation of prohibition law. Defendant given 6 months on roads.

Nicholas Roosevelt Quits As Envoy

Budapest, Hungary, April 3.—The resignation of Nicholas Roosevelt as United States Minister to Hungary has been accepted by President Roosevelt, it was announced. Mr. Roosevelt will leave for America May 1, making a brief tour of Europe before going to New York.

Roosevelt Offers Plan To Refinance Farm Mortgages

Smithfield Policeman Stages Gun Battle

Smithfield, April 5.—Policeman E. A. Johnson became mixed up in a small sized gun battle while in the performance of his official duties here Saturday afternoon, but he came out victorious. He had been requested by the Dunn police department to lookout for three negroes who were said to be headed this way on a car and who were wanted in Dunn in connection with a wreck.

Policeman Johnson went out on South Third street, and taking his stand at a point near the Free Will Baptist church and soon sighted the car and stopped it. He then arrested the three negroes who had two pistols on their car, singlehanded, and proceeded to put handcuffs on them, but before the job could be completed one of the negroes grabbed one of their pistols from the seat of the car and fired, while one of the other negroes held on to the one who had the pistol, and begged him not to shoot. The shot missed the policeman who returned the fire by emptying two chambers of his pistol. One of the bullets from the policeman's gun lodged in the arm of the negro with the gun and the other shot went wild. There was said to have been a half gallon of whiskey on the car which was broken by the negroes during the skirmish. The negroes gave their names and addresses as, Walter McLean of Hoke County, N. C.; Duncan McLean and D. H. Blue, of Baltimore, Md.

They were all taken to jail and locked up, but were given a hearing before Mayor J. D. Underwood Saturday night. Blue and McLean were bound over to the Recorder's Court, Blue under a \$500.00 bond and Duncan McLean \$1,000.00 bond, and Walter McLean was held under a \$200.00 bond as a material witness. Being unable to give the required bonds the three were remanded to jail. The wounded man was taken to the Johnston County Hospital Sunday afternoon where the bullet was extracted from his arm.

They were reported to have run into a hearse or an ambulance near Dunn, and then hurried away without waiting for any adjustment of the damage.

Policeman Johnson said the gun was aimed at him, and that the actions of the other negro who held on to the one with the pistol, and begged him not to shoot, might have diverted the course of the bullet and thus saved his life.

Pays \$7.50 For Land In Heart of Oil Field

Oklahoma City, April 3.—For \$7.50 T. G. Thompson obtained a tract of land in the heart of the Oklahoma City oil field. The tract is 18 inches wide and 140 feet long. Thompson "discovered" the property, which had been "lost" for 15 years, and he paid \$7.50 for a tax deed to it.

Kiwanians Enjoy Spelling Match

The members of the Selma Kiwanis Club enjoyed an old fashioned spelling match at their weekly meeting on Thursday evening. Program Chairman Charles Seales was the teacher and gave the words from the old Blue Back Speller. Kiwanians Harper and Lowry were selected captains and chose sides. "Chaufeur" was given Prof. Tuttle, who left out one of the "u's," then Charlie Jacobs made a stab at it and missed, also George Brietz, who started it with "sho," next, said the teacher, Lowry then spelled it correctly. Matt Wall sat down on "Awkward." Parson Crain and Lowry were spelled down on "seive" by Parson Singleton. The sides soon dwindled down to two on Harper's side, John Jeffreys and Harper, and one on Lowry's side, Parson Singleton, John soon took his seat, which left only Harper and Singleton standing. Mr. Harper missed "antidestabishmentarianism," thus declaring Lowry's side winner. Mr. Harper said it wasn't fair, for Parson Singleton took two trials on the word "kodak." It was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Under Plan Farmers May Borrow On Real Estate Up to 50 Per Cent of Property Based On "Normal Values"—Where Prior Mortgage Exceeds 50 Per Cent of "Normal Value" Government Cannot Help Unless Mortgagee Agrees To Decrease His Claim To Where It Does Not Exceed 50 Per Cent of "Normal Value".

Washington, April 3.—The first step for a farmer seeking mortgage refinancing under the administration bill presented to Congress today by President Roosevelt will be to determine if one of the 4,000 farm loan associations exists in his locality.

If one of these organizations, which now have an aggregate membership of 400,000 farmers, is available he will make his application for refinancing through it; otherwise he may apply directly to one of the 12 district federal land banks. The application must be made within two years. A maximum of \$2,000,000,000 is available.

The banks are located at Springfield, Mass.; Baltimore, Columbus, S. C.; Louisville, New Orleans, St. Louis, St. Paul, Omaha, Wichita, Kan.; Houston, Tex.; Berkeley, Cal., and Spokane.

If there is an association nearby, it will send an appraiser to view his property. The appraisal will be made on the basis of the "normal value" of the farm—as distinguished from present distressed values or high "boom time" value.

How Value Is Determined

The normal value basis contemplates ascertainment of the normal earning power of the farm based on an average of farm commodity prices over a long period of time in the locality.

The association's appraisal then is forwarded to the land bank in the district and a check made by its representatives. The bank is then ready to purchase for cash or by an exchange on the farm at a price not exceeding the unpaid principal or 50 per cent of the "normal value" of the land plus 20 per cent of the value of the improvements—barns, dwellings, stationary machines and others.

In many cases outstanding mortgages represent a larger sum than 50 per cent of the "normal value." Unless the holder of the mortgage is willing to scale down his claim to that amount, the land bank will not agree to refinance. If he does agree, the new land bank mortgage will be for the amount the old mortgage holder accepted with interest at 4 1-2 per cent and amortization at about 1 per cent a year, depending on the duration of the loan.

Amortization payments need not begin for five years, and interest payments during that time also can be deferred. The loans can be for varying periods from 1 to 40 years. The shorter the period the higher the annual amortization payment.

Must Subscribe to Stock

In case the loan is made through a farm loan association, the farmer is required to subscribe for its capital stock in an amount equal to 5 per cent of his loan. He makes payments for this stock with his interest payments over the period of the mortgage contract.

If the loan is made directly from a land bank, the interest rate will be from one-half to 1 per cent higher. In loans of this type, the farmer must agree, however, that if there are 10 or more farmers with aggregate loans in excess of \$20,000 in his locality, he will be willing to join an association formed from them, receiving a reduction in the interest rate to 4 1-2 per cent for five years. During that period their amortization payments of 1 per cent a year may be postponed.

Farmers may also obtain special loans directly from the farm loans commissioner on the security of first or second mortgages on land, chattels or crops. The maximum amount will be \$5,000 and shall not be more than 75 per cent of the normal value of the property pledged as security.

Brick brooders designed for the Catawba County Home farm by the farm agent has reduced the cost of brooding chicks at this farm and is assuring the inmates of a bountiful supply of poultry.