

Dempsey Had Close Call In First Airship Flight

Engine Trouble Forced Descent Into Atlantic and Caught in Gulf Stream Champion's Flying Boat was Being Swept Out to Sea When Rescued

By ROBERT T. SMALL
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Miami Beach, Florida, January 22—"It was nothing at all and I wasn't worried for a moment. In fact, I didn't know we were in any particular danger till we stepped ashore."

This is Jack Dempsey's own version of the narrow escape from death he has ever had since he became champion of the world.

A fellow seaplane pilot in an emergency, out of the hands of the "old man" and his "old man's" secretary, Tedd Hayes, prisoner for more than two hours on a blinding afternoon last week. They were drifting helplessly in the northern current of the stream and making further and further from shore when a fishing boat rescued their plight. It quickly went to the rescue and, taking the disabled plane in tow, brought it and its precious passenger safely to Miami harbor.

The incident was kept a close secret, but having leaked out at last, Dempsey is trying to make as light of it as possible. Hayes who, in addition to being Dempsey's secretary, is acting as trainer and chaperon of the champion, declares that he is certain Dempsey was not worried by the experience in the broken down machine, but Hayes was frightened sick. He had consented to the flight and he felt for a time that he had robbed America and the world of its best heavyweight fighter and that at last Jack Dempsey's real battle of the century was to prove a losing one. Hayes says he knew that if Jack was to be lost he would go down with him, but he could not help but think what Jack Kearns, the manager of the outfit, would say about him after he was dead.

Hayes is still a bit scared. It has not quieted his nerves in the least to hear the stories about what has happened to others who have not caught in the gulf stream. Only a short time ago, Colonel James H. Nunnally, of Atlanta, while fishing in the stream from a speed boat, caught sight of what appeared to be a signal of distress. Hauling up his lines he ordered full speed ahead

and eventually came upon a disabled fishing boat with three men on board. They had been out for two or three days. The cause of their plight is the fact that they had been fishing in the Gulf Stream, and the fishing boats were too busy about their business to stop for them. Even the appearance of the life preserver, failed to frighten the sharks away, and not until several heavy rifle bullets were fired into them did they disappear.

Dempsey insists there were no sharks about his seaplane when it was rescued, but there might have been. Several lives have been lost in Florida waters during the last two seasons as a result of seaplane flights and the sport is becoming as popular as tennis.

The outer waters along the coast is alive with sharks, barracuda and other big fish and even a strong swimmer would have little or no chance of escape. Jack Dempsey is a fair swimmer but is by no means a water champion.

Other than that header over the ropes in the Firpo affair, Dempsey had never had an air flight until the one in which he met with ill luck, and the chances are he will never take another. Certainly he will not so long as Tedd Hayes is in charge of him and has the veto power.

"You see," explained Dempsey to the writer today, "I am an absolute novice at this flying business and when we landed on the water out there I thought it was all a part of the game. I thought it was the business of a sea plane to light on the water and then tuff off again, and I was thinking to myself that the pilot was a very kind sort of fellow, wanting to show me all the stunts of flying and everything. So I was tickled as a kid when we came down. The water was all blue about us. Have you ever been in the gulf stream? It looks like the old family washing tub after mother has put the bluing in it. I noticed that Tedd got to

budgeting about and pretty soon the pilot says something has gone wrong with the old bus and he don't think he can repair it.

"Tedd says 'Jack, what we can do is to get out of here as fast as we can and get out the hell to ring.' The pilot says 'I'm mopey, I'm around and looking very uneasy. I won't tell you the name, I wouldn't be fair. He was a good sort, and did the best he could under the circumstances.

"We were together about forty-five minutes of the time, but I wasn't for it. It was dark in the day and the pilot said it was 11:30. I was sort of a little bit mopey, but I wasn't for it. I was sort of a little bit mopey, but I wasn't for it. I was sort of a little bit mopey, but I wasn't for it.

"I wasn't the least bit shaken up." The pilot, from all accounts, did a very skillful bit of work in saving the plane. His engine went dead while he was quite high. He immediately put the craft into a nosedive, hoping to start the engine again. But it was no use, and then, without losing his nerve for an instant, he guided the plane to such a perfect landing on the water that, as Dempsey says, he did not suspect anything was wrong.

"Guess I'm not an angel yet," concluding on the water that, as Dempsey says, he did not suspect anything was wrong.

stick to the round and the resin in the future."

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