

May 2, 18. CAPT. NORMAN HALL  
IN GERMAN HANDS  
AFTER AIR BATTLE

Seen Falling Behind Enemy's Lines  
While Americans Fought Foe in  
Spectacular Combat.

(SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE HERALD.)

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY,  
Tuesday.

Captain James Norman Hall, one of the crack American fliers, is presumably a prisoner in German hands. In a fight this morning over the Toul sector, ten miles inside the German lines, he was forced to descend after he and two other Americans had given battle to four German fliers.

Captain Hall's companions do not believe that he is dead, but think the aeroplane was disabled and that he descended safely, though this is only speculation.

There has been increased activity on the part of the German fliers over the American sector and the conduct of those most recently engaged by the Americans convinces the latter that the Germans have brought some of their crack men to give battle to the Americans, who up to date have bested the Germans in practically every contest.

Captain Hall is the second man the Americans have lost in a week. The first was Lieutenant Chapman, of Waterloo, Ia., whose machine descended in flames. Captain Hall is not only an expert flier, but is also a well-known author.

With two companions he went over the German lines near Saint-Mihiel, saw three Germans and engaged them at once. With the six aviators paired off in a spectacular battle, a fourth German swooped down from the clouds, giving the enemy the advantage. The Germans had the altitude but the Americans gained it after a furious exchange with rapid-fire guns, and dare-devil manoeuvring on the part of all the fliers.

Finally a German from a very high altitude "vrilled" and Hall went down after him. The German came around quickly and Hall tried to get the advantage but was handicapped by the firing of the fourth German. Hall "vrilled," but a companion says his machine righted, showing that the American was not badly wounded, if at all. However, he descended quickly and was lost to sight. He dropped about ten miles inside the German lines. Two German machines are thought to have been accounted for, but there is nothing official. The other two Americans, with odds still against them, got back safely.

Captain Hall is the author of "Kitchener's Mob" and of stories of adventure. He is about thirty years old and a native of Colfax, Ia. He has been an aviator for more than a year and is one of the popular men among the American fliers.

Only two days ago I talked with Captain Hall as he started on a flight across the German lines. He said:—

"Flying is like roulette—you will win for a long time, but the odds are against you. However, that's the least of our troubles. One good thing about it is that we're either dead or as good as ever. There's no half-way business about it."

The day before, he had brought down a German flier over enemy territory and he was going out hoping to add to his string.

DON MARTIN.

FRENCH GENERAL HONORS  
TWO AMERICAN FLIERS.

(SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE HERALD.)

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY,  
Wednesday.

Lieutenant A. J. Coyle and Lieutenant Stewart B. Bird, American aviators, have been decorated by a general commanding a French corps for their conduct during a battle with German aeroplanes two weeks ago.

Lieutenant Coyle was the pilot and Lieutenant Bird the observer of an observation machine which drove off three German aeroplanes and went on with its work of making observations over an enemy position. This is the first team of aviators to be decorated by the French government.

DON MARTIN.