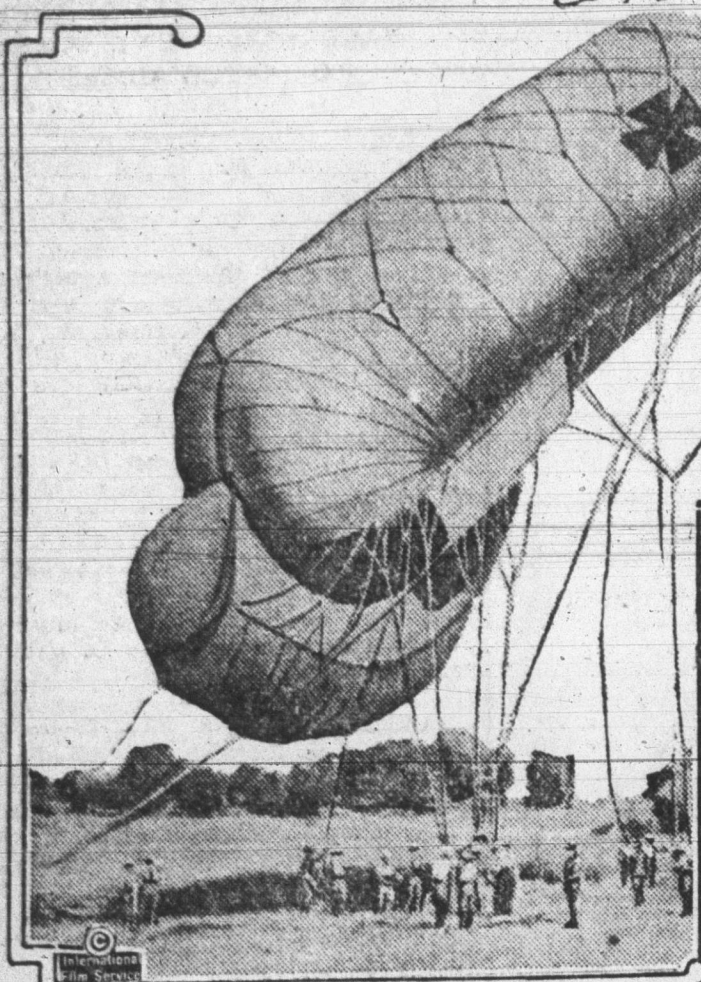


# Lieut. Frank Luke: American Air Hero



A GERMAN OBSERVATION BALLOON GOING UP

L. L. Arizona, not to say Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Nevada and Southern California—it would be safer to include Wyoming, Montana and Idaho also—is feeling a certain sort of grim satisfaction these days. For Frank Luke, Sr., of Phoenix has got the Congressional Medal of Honor posthumously awarded to Lieut. Frank Luke, Jr. Oh, yes, it was presented with proper ceremonies at the Arizona state capitol in Phoenix by Brig. Gen. H. R. Hickok, Governor Campbell and other dignitaries. But the main thing is that the medal was awarded and is now where it belongs. And the fighting men of this western country are mixed in their feelings—divided between grief that they can no longer wish their pet flyer "Happy Landings" and pride that he so well represented them that he was the first flying officer to get the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Moreover, the mystery of Luke's fate that for many months kept all the fighting men of this western country on the lookout for news of him is now solved. And these western fighting men are now doubly proud that their air hero "died with his boots on"—that his grand finale was fittingly glorious and as heroic as was his whole meteoric career.

Eighteen Hun planes and balloons in seventeen days is part of Luke's official record. "And balloons!" Yes, balloons. Don't make the mistake of thinking lightly of an aviator destroying a balloon. Regulars, marines, national guards, national army, doughboys, artillerymen, engineers—all have their heroes. But don't overlook the airman when apportioning honors. And if there is any war business more dangerous than combating enemy airplanes it is destroying enemy observation balloons. The quality of the job is indicated by the German practice of crediting two victories every pilot who strafed a balloon. And maybe this is why strafing balloons was the chosen business and specialty of Frank Luke.

Here's a glimpse of what Lieut. Frank Luke's comrades think of his work: The other day J. Loy Maloney returned to the Chicago Tribune staff. He had a pair of R. M. A. wings and three gold overseas service chevrons, and his pilot book shows 350 hours in the air, 150 of which were over the lines. He was with the famed 94th aero squadron—Eddie Rickenbacker's own. He was pressed for "news" of his exploits.

"Well, I didn't do a darn thing, but I can tell you a story about a hero—a real hero, the bravest man in the war," said Maloney.

"His name was Frank Luke, Jr., he lived in Phoenix, Ariz., before the war and he was probably the most brilliant flyer we had."

"He would fly over our balloon officers and drop a note telling them he would knock down a blimp at a certain time—and at that time down would come the bag."

"On Luke's last trip up he made the most sensational flight in history. He had dropped a note saying two German balloons would be crashed. They were, and then his air went bad and he had to pump by hand, which means handling the stick, the gas and all the guns with one hand. He saw two Fokkers knock down an American scout, so he went up and knocked down the boches. On his way back he saw seven Frenchmen trying to get a huge German triplane. Luke got the ship, but shrapnel stopped his motor."

"Down he went. Below was Germany and German troops. That 20 year old kid dove the ship over the marching columns of boche troops and turned his machine gun loose on them, knowing he would be a prisoner."

"But he killed eight men, then set his ship down on the ground and whipped out his automatic. He hit three boches when they came up to capture him—and they bumped him off."

"When he died he had eighteen victories to his credit and was keeping Rick humping."

This is the judgment of a trained newspaper man, used to getting facts, appreciating their value, and sizing up men.

Perhaps nobody is better able to tell the truth about Luke than the man who commanded his squadron in the fighting in which he took so brilliant a part. That man, Harold E. Hartney, now a lieutenant colonel and chief of gunnery in the air service, describes his first impression of him as that of "a youth keen and aquiline, blue-eyed and fair, with a strong jaw and hair brushed back from a broad, high forehead."

Luke was 20 years old when he entered the service. He was trained at the University of

Texas, at Rockwell Field, at Issoudun and at Cazaux, in France; joined the 27th aero squadron near Chateau-Thierry late in July, 1918; had an insatiable appetite for flying, defied all rules of formation and safety in the air.

"If any layman or landsman reading the history of Luke's career is inclined to fancy that balloon strafing is an easy trick, no experienced pilot shares that illusion," says Colonel Hartney. "In reality it is the most dangerous exploit any man in any branch of the service can undertake. The concentration of anti-aircraft fire from the ground makes it much more hazardous than other fighting. On every occasion of such attempts Luke's machine was literally riddled with bullets and twice he was compelled to abandon his airplane and break in a new one."

"Here is a sample of the work Luke did: September 15, 1918, the enemy succeeded in getting another balloon up at Boivinville, and a second at Bois d'Hingry. Luke had been watching like a hawk this area, and the moment a balloon ascended he spotted it and returned to his own aerodrome with data and an appeal to be allowed to destroy it."

"Before Luke went out on that afternoon, therefore, new tactics were decided upon. Three friendly escorting patrols of five machines were to dart to Luke's rescue, timed to arrive at the objective 60 seconds after Luke. Our balloons were advised by courier that at 5:05 that afternoon Luke would shoot down the Boivinville balloon and asked to be on the lookout. Almost to the second Luke was perceived diving homeward, with a formation of five enemy Fokkers sitting on his tail and a burning balloon falling in the background. He managed to dodge the fire of the enemy and landed on his own side of the line and not far from the most advanced American troops. Those on the ground thought that he was lost. He had, in fact, landed to get his own bearings and those of the second balloon, which he had seen at a distance."

"Without getting out of his machine, without even stopping his motor, careful only of hidden shell holes which might smash his undercarriage, he took off skillfully from ground which was never intended as a taking-off place for airplanes and made straight for the balloon at Bois d'Hingry."

"Without escort and with no companion, at exactly 20 minutes after shooting down his first balloon, the second fell actually under the noses of the enemy formations near by."

"Later observing north of Verdun and east of the Meuse an attempt to send up another balloon,

LUKE AT WORK



## PASSING OF A HERO

January 3, 1919.  
From: Graves Registration Office, Neufchateau, Area No. 1.

To: Chief Air Service, A. E. F.

Subject: Grave, Unknown American Aviator.

1. Units of this service have located the grave of an unknown aviator, killed on Sunday, September 28, 1918, in the village of Murvaux (Meuse).

2. From the inspection of the grave and interview held with inhabitants of the town the following information was learned in regard to the heroism of this aviator. Any assistance you can furnish us that will enable us to properly identify this body will be greatly appreciated. The following might assist you in gaining for us this information. Reported as having light hair, young, of medium height and heavy stature. Reported by the inhabitants that previous to being killed this man placed, and dropped hand bombs, killed eleven German soldiers and wounded a number of others. He was wounded himself in the shoulder, and evidently had to make a forced landing, and upon landing opened fire with his automatic and fought until he was killed. It is also reported that the Germans took his shoes, leggings, and money, leaving his grave unmarked.

CHESTER E. STATEN,  
Capt. of Infantry, G. R. S. Officer.

## AFFIDAVIT

The undersigned, living in the town of Murvaux, department of the Meuse, certify to have seen, on the 29th day of September, 1918, toward evening, an American aviator, followed by an escadrille of Germans, in the direction of Linzy, near Dun (Meuse), descend suddenly and vertically toward the earth, then straighten out close to the ground, and flew in the direction of the Briere Farm, near Douleux, where he found a German captive balloon, which he burned. Following this he flew toward Milly (Meuse), where he found another balloon which he also burned, in spite of an incessant fire directed against his machine. There he was apparently wounded by a shot fired from rapid-fire cannon. From there he came back over Murvaux, and still with his machine gun killed six German soldiers and wounded many more.

Following this he landed and got out of his machine, undoubtedly to quench his thirst at a nearby stream. He had gone some fifty yards, when, seeing the Germans come toward him, still had the strength to draw his revolver to defend himself, and a moment after fell dead, following a serious wound received in the chest.

Certify equally to have seen the German commandant of the village refuse to have straw placed in the cart carrying the dead aviator to the village cemetery. This same officer drove away some women bringing a sheet to serve as a shroud for the hero, and said, kicking the body: "Get that out of my way as quick as possible."

The next day the Germans took away the airplane, and the inhabitants also saw another American aviator fly very low over the town, apparently looking for the disappeared aviator.

Signatures of the following inhabitants:  
Perton, Rene Colin, Auguste Cuny, Henry Gustave, Eugene Collin, Odile Patoche, Richard Victor, Valentin Garra, Gustave Garra, Leon Henry, Corlae Delbart, Gabriel Bidet, Camille Philip.

The undersigned themselves placed the body of the aviator on the wagon and conducted it to the cemetery.

CORTLAE DELBART, VOLMER NICHOLAS.  
Seen for legalization of signatures placed above:  
Murvaux, January 15, 1919. THE MAYOR,  
(Seal of Murvaux.) Auguste Garra.

he hurried back to his squadron and begged to be ordered to go out in the dusk of the evening, surprise and destroy it.

"It was found that his machine was not in condition for this flight. Luke got another airplane, and, though he was unfamiliar with this machine and uncertain of the reliability of its motor, he determined to risk it for night flying."

"With express instructions not to attempt to go down on the balloon until 7:50, Luke left his home field at Rembercourt, accompanied by Wehner. As before, and precisely at 7:50 in the dusk of the evening, his comrades on the aerodrome watched the balloon fall in flames, giving Luke his third official victory of the day."

"I have all the details of his meteoric career. For his glorious work on September 29, 1918, the day of his death, he was awarded the medal. He started out to destroy three Hun observation balloons. When nearly overhead he was attacked by ten enemy machines. He engaged all of them single-handed and crashed two of the ten. Then he dropped out of control, as it seemed, but most likely only pretending to be so. When he reached the level of the balloons he shot them down one after another in flames—all three of them. The anti-aircraft guns were very busy about the second balloon. After that he disappeared."

The Americans made every effort to solve the mystery of Luke's disappearance. The report of Captain Staten and the affidavit of citizens of Murvaux given herewith, show the situation of one stage of the proceedings.

The remains of the intrepid air fighter were buried close by in a grave marked as that of an "Unknown American aviator." It was stripped, as the Germans thought, of everything that would identify it, but they overlooked a wrist watch, which was found later and sent to the identification bureau at Paris.

Then Captain F. W. Zinn of the air service went to Murvaux and made an investigation which seemed to prove conclusively that the body was that of Lieutenant Luke.

## IN WHITE CLOTHES

Color That Every Woman Can Wear to Splendid Advantage.

Wholesomeness of Snowy Gown Affords Most Pleasing Effect and It Is Decidedly Fashionable.

Every woman can wear white. To some women it is more becoming than others, to be sure. But there is something about the immaculately white frock, the white suit or the white coat or hat that is so wondrously attractive, that the white get-up is a joy even when worn by the woman who might possibly appear more robust or more youthful or more distinguished or more something else in some other color scheme. Every woman ought to wear white some time just for the joyous effect it has on those with whom she comes in contact.

But now white has suddenly become amazingly fashionable.

It was not one of those fashions that was predicted very generally, but suddenly at the resorts where women of wealth usually contrive to set the fashions that the rest of the world shall follow, these women began wearing white and then more whites. Not only white frocks and white hat were ordered from dressmakers and milliners, but there were hurry orders for white coats and wraps, white woolen suits, and white everything else.

Now wearing white is not easy, especially for the woman who dresses on a moderate allowance. But there is this much about it: even the woman who is free to send her white things to the cleaners after every wearing, and who has ten frocks to the average woman's one, and who has a maid whose only duty is to aid her in matters of dress—even this woman does not always wear white as it should be

## EXQUISITE HAT FOR SUMMER



A lovely floppy, black peanut straw with blue ribbon wound in and out; a wreath of cornflowers of brilliant hue add to the decoration.

letting the bottom edge appear below the soft satin sash in the front. The back of the waist repeats the lace also, and the two side panels of the lace join the waist line under the sash at the back. One does not hem the chiffon draperies this summer, as the selva is esteemed as a trimming.

## FOR THE VERY SMALL CHILD

Creepers of Tan Cotton; Special China; Pretty Little Felt Slippers for the Tots.

For every little girl or boy there are creepers made of tan cotton, and on them are fastened little cut-outs of Mother Goose characters—the Queen and Knave of Hearts, on one, the sheep and Little Bo-Peep on another.

China for little children just out of the baby class is specialized in nowadays. It comes in many patterns, and with all sorts of decorations, from animals to alphabets. There really is some that is especially attractive made with the letters of the alphabet. In the course of a meal the child could have each letter before him.

Pretty little felt slippers may be made like kittens' heads of soft wool of some sort—perhaps felt would be best. After the slipper is made eyes are painted on just over the toe line. A nose and mouth complete this part of the picture. Then there are porky little felt ears perched in just the right position. Other animals could be made.

Mother Goose scrim is a delight in the nursery for warm weather curtains. It is simply an ordinary cream scrim, with Mother Goose characters cut from chintz and applied on the scrim. The Mother Goose chintz might be used as side curtains, with the scrim over the glass, to produce an unusually harmonious effect.

## WHAT THEY WEAR IN PARIS

Detachable Waistcoat Is a Precious Possession; Plays a Most Important Part in Dress.

A special correspondent writes: The detachable waistcoat is a precious possession. In Paris it is made to play a most important role in the world of dress. We have long directoire waistcoats made of satin, brocade or silk finished linen and smart little plastron waistcoats embroidered in silks and wools, the latter showing subtle combinations of unexpected colors. Now that materials are so expensive it is impossible to have more than one or two outdoor costumes in the year, but of decorative plastrons we can have many; and if we think out effective color schemes, in which waistcoat and hat are happily wedded, the result will be more than agreeable. One sees many fine embroideries cleverly mingled with braidings on these straight plastrons, and sometimes the material used for the background is suede cloth in some pale neutral tint, with the brightest silks and wools to supply in the embroideries the necessary splash of color.

## ANY MATERIAL FOR SKIRTS

Silk or Satin, Gingham or Crash, Cotton Gabardine or Organdie—Just So It Is Stylish.

The short skirt at present, is of every conceivable material. It may be silk or satin, gingham or crash. The material doesn't matter so long as it is smart and stylish. Crepe is one of the popular materials for sport skirts of all kinds. It is practical at the same time that it is effective.

With both the crepe and gabardine skirt we see many of the tight underskirts, short as a sports skirt is and with the overskirt coming almost to the bottom of the underskirt.

Buttons are one of the most effective methods of trimming, and belts are growing narrower all of the time.

## Trimming on Child's Dress.

Strips of ribbon over the shoulder ending in embroidered flowers on the skirt were a unique distinguishing feature of a child's dress recently seen.



White rajah embroidered in white silk with much tucked vest of net and val lace. Great tassels of silk make a simple finish.

worn and there are other women not so blessed by fate who wear white irreproachably. It is all a matter of daintiness, is it not? You know the woman who can go through the entire day in the city in a white suit and look as fresh at the end of the day as at the outset; and then there are other women who seem doomed to be bemirched by soft coal or wagon grease the first thing.

## LACE ON FROCKS AND HATS

Soft Colored Decorations One of the Season's Favorites; Chiffon Draperies Not Hemmed.

A really lovely summer hat of lavender organdie which could be successfully worn with any sort of dress has row after row of narrow valenciennes lace placed around crown and along the brim and tinted of the exact shade as the organdie which makes the hat. The lace is put on with sufficient fullness to make it frilly and therefore to produce a very soft, puffed effect.

We shall see many of these tinted, lace-trimmed frocks and hats as summer advances; therefore, if one likes to be a bit ahead of the procession, by all means procure the soft-colored laces now. Undeniably this is a lace season anyway. The beautiful Margot laces are combined with georgettes delightfully. This lace is very fine and rich, and comes in various widths from narrow bandings to flouncings wide enough for skirts.

A lavender chiffon frock which has been greatly admired has panels of this creamy lace placed at both sides of the back, and the sleeves reveal it falling from the elbow to the hem of the skirt in a deep loop. The front of the waist is a jacket effect made by placing the lace over the chiffon and