

FAIL TO FIND CREW OF WRECKED AIRPLANE

Searching Parties Are Unable to Locate Bomber That Fell in West Virginia.

CHARLESTON, W. Va., Sept. 4.— Searching parties afoot and in the air today climbed or scanned from above the hills in efforts to locate two officers and three enlisted men who late yesterday fell in an army bombing plane somewhere in the rugged country south of Poe, W. Va. Up to noon no word as to their fate had come out of the southern part of the State, where Poe is situated.

The machine, piloted by Lieutenant Harry L. Speck and carrying Lieutenant Fitzpatrick and three enlisted men, said to have been Sergeant Arthur Brown of Kentucky, Corporal Alexander Hazleton, Wilmington, Del., and Private Howard of San Francisco, was traveling with two other planes from Langley Field, Virginia, to Charleston when it fell.

The three big planes were flying in formation, the ill-fated bomber leading and the others trailing as closely as the violence of the electric storm which was raging would permit.

One of the men aboard Plane No. 24 declared on reaching here that he had clearly seen each successive detail of the tragedy which fliers fear may have spelled death for all men aboard. This was Private Ryston F. Zambro, of Hagerstown, Md.

The fleet was traveling about 70 miles an hour at the time, he said.

"Plane No. 5 was directly in front of us," said Zambro, "and from our observations, we saw that the pilot was making a definite left bank with the evident intention of returning to the field in Charleston. The storm had been raging with vigor.

"After making the bank, he went into a nose dive and before he could recover, the machine was in a tail spin. For the size of the plane and her weight, her fall was comparatively slow. The plane went straight downward.

"The country in that immediate vicinity is very mountainous and we circled around with the intention of landing, but found it impossible. We glided as far down as safe flying would permit and saw that the tail of the big machine was pointing upward, indicating a nose dive clear to the ground."

The fallen airplane was known as No. 5, the others Nos. 22 and 24.

When No. 5 was seen to make a spin plane No. 24 immediately altered its course and, flying a little lower, was able to spot the fallen plane, which was in flames. Those in No. 24 observed several automobiles nearby, they reported to army headquarters. Owing to the rough character of the country neither No. 22 nor No. 24 was able to make a landing to make an investigation.

Besides its own men, Major Davenport Johnson, in command of the air service detachment here in connection with the West Virginia troubles, enlisted large forces of citizens in the vicinity of Poe in searching the territory where the men were believed to have fallen. It was estimated that more than 400 persons were out searching, and local telephone exchanges were called upon to convey information of the accident to various places in the hope of having people help in the search.

It was said at army headquarters tonight that a section of the country for twenty to thirty miles in the vicinity of Poe was searched during the day.