

This Bird Man Has Had Lively Career



CHARLES K. HAMILTON

HAMILTON HELPED CAPTURE A TOWN FOR INSURGENTS

General Madero Presented
Him with a Watch and
General Diaz Sent
Him to Jail

Hamilton Entitled to Fall
Only 20 Times, Has Ex-
ceeded His Share

When Charles K. Hamilton flew over some of the Mexican cities a couple of months ago, saw the plans of all the Federal fortifications, the strength of the troops, etc., and then published them all in the El Paso newspapers, he hadn't the slightest idea that he was furnishing priceless information to the Insurrectos, whose headquarters are at El Paso. Of course not.

That's why General Francisco Madero, leader of the revolutionists, sent Hamilton a beautiful gold watch. And that's why the noted aviator was clapped into jail when he foolishly ventured over the border a short time afterward.

Hamilton, who is a daily visitor at the Aerodrome, tells with glee of his experiences in Mexico. He saw a great deal of the guerilla warfare in that country and his sympathies are all with the Insurrectos.

His trick in giving the revolutionists all the necessary information about their opponents was probably the first actual use of an aeroplane in warfare. It has a very important result. It disclosed the unsuspected weakness of the Federal troops in one of the towns, and led to the immediate storming and capture of the town by the Insurrectos.

Hamilton probably holds the world's record for height, distance, and number of falls. He has had 27 tumbles in all, five of them very serious, and the others all too high to be pleasant. One fine November day he tumbled 800 feet into the Hudson river. That time he was hanging onto a kite that was being towed by a tugboat.

Another time he was up in a dirigible and it burst. Hamilton and the framework of the dirigible hit the ground simultaneously.

Another time when up in a dirigible, it caught fire. Again he was let down to the ground with all the grace and deliberation of a bullet.

His worst fall of all occurred several months ago at Sacramento, Cal., where his Wright flyer crashed to earth from a distance of 300 feet. It gave Hamilton the worst fall of his career. His wife saw it from the grandstand.

Hamilton said that this accident was due to the tremendous power of his motor. He turned it on full strength too suddenly, he says. The engine developed a theoretical speed of 120 miles an hour,—that is, it blew back the wind at that rate. This awful gale, combined with the natural wind, actually blew the tail completely off the Wright flyer.

This threw a great strain on the forward plane, which snapped, and the machine came to the ground with a fearful crash.

"Only about one out of 20 falls are fatal," said Hamilton to a Farmer reporter. "It really isn't so unsafe.

"No, a fall doesn't take the nerve out of you," he said, in response to a question. "providing you know what was the cause of the accident. Of course if your aeroplane behaves in a mysterious manner, and keeps you guessing, and if you never can find out the reason for your fall, then you are scared.

"But if you know what your trouble was—then you simply make your mind up not to do it again. You then keep on flying—until you tumble again."