

### Over 30 Killed When Dirigible Explodes in Air

Largest Airship in U. S. Bursts  
Into Flame When It Hits  
High Tension  
Wires.

(Continued From Page One.)  
known to have carried many officers and men as passengers, however, in addition to its operating crew. As she rose from the field, its commander leaned out to signal that he had 40 persons aboard. It is believed he did not include one civilian on the ship and that it actually carried 45.

#### Officials Withhold Comment Pending Definite Reports

Washington, Feb. 21.—Disaster today at the Hampton Roads army base to the army's Italian-built airship, Roma, largest craft of its type in the world, cast gloom over the War and Navy departments as the long list of officers and men who were burned to death in the ship came in. Pending full official reports, however, Secretary Weeks and air service officials had no comment to make.

Immediately on receipt of the news, Major General Patrick, chief of the air service, left for the scene by airplane.

Unofficial reports indicated that failure of rudder controls had caused the Roma to become unmanageable and plunge earthward, where she struck high tension electric wires.

#### Shortage of Helium

When the navy rigid, British-built airship ZR-2 came to a tragic end through explosion in the air during a trial trip in England, evidence of the cause of the smash had to be sought in the wreckage for there were no survivors who could tell what happened. In that case, it has since been ascertained, the buckling of a portion of the framework resulted in destruction of the ship by explosion in air.

Navy officials laid emphasis, in talking of the Roma's destruction, on the point that had it been possible to develop a sufficient supply of helium, the new, noninflammable gas first produced during the war, to fill her great bag, today's accident almost certainly would have been far less terrible. There would have been no fire after the crash at least, it was said, and it was the terrible heat of the blazing hydrogen which apparently brought death to more than 30 men. But so far, only sufficient helium has been produced to inflate the naval blimp C-7, a mere pigmy ship of the air beside the Roma.

**Motors Were Replaced.**  
During the Roma's trip in December from Langley field to Washington, to be christened, and formally commissioned in the army air fleet, she developed trouble with her original Italian motors, but otherwise functioned perfectly. The ship fought an increasing head wind all the way and reached Bolling field with only three of her six motors running. She had so little power as she approached the landing place, where scores of distinguished guests awaited her, that her commander was compelled to jockey his monster craft over the low hill that surrounded the field with utmost cunning to bring her in at all.

Because of the motor troubles the scheduled initial flight of the Roma over Washington with Secretaries Weeks and Denby and the Italian ambassador in her cabins, as well as senators and members of the house, was postponed. The ship went back to Langley running before the wind and barely reaching the hangar before a coast gale broke. She remained in the shed for many weeks to have her motors replaced by Liberty engines of greater power and more certainty of performance. The flight, which proved her last, was one of those made to test her new propelling plant and it had been expected she would show greatly improved speed and maneuver ability.

**No Big Airships.**  
Destruction of the Roma leaves both the army and navy without airships larger than the navy blimps. There is not now in the United States a rigid or semi-rigid craft even faintly resembling the German zeppelins that harried London time after time during the world war. The Z. R. 1 is under construction by the navy, however, and recent arrangements were made with the cooperation of the allied governments that the zeppelin plant in Germany should build for the navy a zeppelin of the L type which proved successful during the war.

The Z. R. 1 was described today as strictly a reproduction of the best German air ships, only slight modifications in plan having been made by the Navy department. The policy of the department in planning the ship is understood to have been to attempt no improvement until the tried and proven practice of the German airship builders had been duplicated successfully and then to advance in speed and size by slow strides, and with emphasis laid in every succeeding device on safety and structure development.

Whatever may have been the cause of the wreck, either of the Z. R. 2 or the Roma, it is certain that flying officers of the army and navy do not regard these tragic accidents as offering any reasonable ground for the abandonment of the attempt to produce for the American military service, ships of size and kind, particularly for employment in coast defense operations.

**Purchased from Italy.**  
The airship Roma was an Italian built craft purchased by the United States government from Italy early in 1921 for \$200,000. She was, it was believed, the largest semi-rigid air craft in the world, the cost of which duplicated, it was said by War de-

#### Three Omahans Granted Employers' Compensation

Lincoln, Feb. 21.—(Special)—Compensation awards announced today by Frank A. Kennedy, state compensation commissioner, follow: A. Cammarata, employe of V. P. Chiodo, Omaha; fractured right foot; received \$1,545 in lump sum in addition to \$15 a week for 22 weeks.

#### Plan Forming of Farm Bloc at Legislature Next Year

Lincoln, Feb. 21.—(Special)—Formation of a farm bloc at the Nebraska legislative session next year will be one of the aims of the Nebraska Farm Bureau federation, it was announced today by J. N. Norton, president, upon his return from the national congress at Washington, D. C.

The federation's plan is to conduct a referendum in a short time with its 27,000 members to get their expressions of national and state policies. The results of these referendums will be presented to political parties at conventions and to candidates.

#### Dahlman Names Omahans for National River Congress

Washington, Feb. 21.—(Special Telegram)—It was announced today that Senator Hitchcock, R. B. Howell, W. J. Coad and Congressman J. J. Neff had been named by Mayor Dahlman to represent Omaha at the national harbors and rivers congress which meets in this city March 1 and 2.

#### Ak Arrest of School Body

Springfield, Ill., Feb. 21.—A petition for a writ of mandamus directing Sheriff Peters of Cook county to arrest members of the Chicago school board, who were recently pardoned by Governor Small, was asked of the supreme court today by Attorney General Brundage.

W. R. Graham, employe of Swift & Co., 281 for bruised hand which became infected.  
Ralph Stone, employe of the city of Omaha; injured spine in fall from stepladder; awarded \$15 a week until disability ended, with hospital and medical bill added.

### Three Big Specials in Soap

**Diamond "C" Soap**  
For all cleaning and scrubbing uses. Special 10 bars for—

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**Golden Rod Washing Powder**  
A real help at cleaning time; large package—

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**Wool Soap Flakes**  
For all fine fabrics. Special per package—

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Fifth Floor—West.

**House Furnishings**  
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**Clothes Lines**  
Heavy twisted cotton line; 100-foot hanks. Special **89c**

**Scrubbing Mops**  
Complete with heavy cloth and mop stick. Special **39c**

**Floor Brushes**  
14-inch size, made of best fiber bristles complete with long handle. Special **98c**

**Kitchen Towel Racks**  
Hardwood rack with 10 folding arms. Special **98c**

**Galvanized Pails**  
14-quart size, extra heavy and will stand hard usage. A good pail for spring house-cleaning. Special **49c**

**Kitchen Step Ladder**  
A strong 3-foot ladder finished in light or dark wood. Specially priced **1.79**

**Columbia Dry Cells**  
Bell batteries; fresh stock. Special **39c**

**Rubber Heels**  
New live rubber; men's and women's sizes; special **8c** per pair

#### Sale of Wall Paper

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### Wednesday at 3.95

Second Floor—South

## Wednesday—Striking Values in Bed Spreads

# 3<sup>98</sup> and 1<sup>98</sup>

### Fine Marseilles Bed Spreads

500 satin finished Marseilles Spreads, double bed size, in assorted designs, hemmed ends. These were purchased to sell for 6.50.

### Special Wednesday 3.98

## Full Size Crochet Bed Spreads

500 Spreads in full bed size, with hemmed ends, assorted patterns. 3.00 values.

### Special Wednesday 1.98

Main Floor—West

## Women's \$5-\$6 Low Shoes

At the Unheard Price of **1.50** Pair

200 pairs of black and brown low shoes grouped on tables and priced for a quick disposal. Sizes 3½ to 6.



### Infants' First Step Shoes

Broken lots from our regular stocks. 1.50 and 2.00 values, per pair, **1.00**

Third Floor—East

### Women's Japanese Quilted Slippers

In blue, old rose, purple and black. Regular price, 59c; per pair, **39c**

Third Floor—East

#### Disabled O. T. C. Officers Get Privileges of Regulars

Washington, Feb. 21.—The Bureau bill giving disabled emergency officers of the American expeditionary forces the same retirement privileges as regular army officers was passed today by the senate, 50 to 14, and transmitted to the house.



## "Glory" For All

A Washington Day Reminder

THE "ordinary man" may obtain more encouragement from the life of George Washington than from that of any other public figure.

### "A Well Rounded Man"

That is true for the reason that Washington was the best representative we have of the well rounded man. He was not "brilliant" like Jefferson or Franklin or any of the other distinguished men of his time. Indeed, it was charged, though not now believed, that he was not the actual author of his own public papers—notably the imperishable "Farewell Address."

### "Flame of Remembrance"

It is impossible to attribute the Washington influence entirely to the exalted positions he held, to his work as a civil magistrate or to his victories as a soldier. These were notable, but great as they were, they could not light for him that "flame of remembrance" that is burning even today upon the hearthstone of every American heart.

### Character

The Washington influence is due to the fact that he was a thoroughly well-rounded man—a simple man if you please. He was not so "brilliant" that he must go searching the depths for truths that lie upon the very surface of things. He was, however, possessed of that strength of character and that good common sense so that often he acted as an inspiration to Hamilton and Jefferson and others of the great men of his time.

### The Really Successful

Washington's career explains why the common, ordinary folk are the really successful ones. They are the ones who get the most out of life and give the most to it because they are thoroughly normal neither rising above nor falling below the standard.

### Study His Career

Washington lives today for the reason that the ordinary man is able to feel him and to understand him. It would be difficult for some of us to rise to the heights of Jefferson, Hamilton or Franklin. But all of us may study the career of Washington and follow in his footsteps along the paths that lead to the development of level heads and faithful hearts—and that's "glory enough for us all."

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