

# AERO SHOT FROM SHIP

## Navy Machine Starts Its Flight From a Speeding Cruiser.

### SUCCESS AFTER 3 YEARS' TESTS

Catapult Device, Made at Washington Yard, Marks Epoch in Marine Aeronautics When Capt. Mustin and His Fliers Are Projected Into the Air From North Carolina's Deck.

Pensacola, Fla., Nov. 6.—An aeroplane was successfully launched from a moving warship in Pensacola Bay yesterday, when Capt. H. C. Mustin, in an aeroplane, was shot out with a catapult operated by compressed air from the cruiser North Carolina, which was moving at 5 knots an hour, according to an announcement at the navy aviation station here today. This was said to be the first time the feat has been accomplished in the American navy. Rear Admiral Benson witnessed the demonstration.

#### Starts From a Runway.

The aeroplane was sent out from a 51-foot runway at a speed of 53 miles an hour, and it sailed high over the bay without touching the water. The demonstration was greeted with enthusiasm by the navy officers who witnessed it.

Officers stated the test showed that flying machines can be launched from cruisers, dreadnoughts and other fighting vessels while in motion. It was stated that in foreign navies at present the machines can be started at sea only from mother ships equipped with platforms, which interfere with gunfire.

Dispatches to the Navy Department yesterday stated that the aeroplane was shot into the air from the North Carolina while the ship was in motion, a new feat in aviation, by means of a device upon which navy airmen have been at work three years.

"This represents the culmination of experiments which started in 1912," the department announced. "The launching device or catapult was first suggested and tried out by Capt. W. I. Chambers, in charge of naval aviation.

#### Made at Washington Yard.

"It was made and tested at the Washington navy yard, but was experimental and rather crudely built, simply to demonstrate the principle. Two successful flights were made from this device and a new and improved design was then made and a launching device built and shipped to the Pensacola aeronautic station.

"There it was installed on a coal barge and completely tested with successful flights by different aviators before being installed on the warship."

The device consists of a track extending along the ship's after deck upon which is a car. An aeroplane lands on the device from the air and is secured to the car. On launching the car is driven down the track until it has attained high speed. Then it is brought to a sudden stop and the aeroplane, released from its moorings, soars into air, having been shot over the cruiser's stern at a speed of 50 miles an hour.