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## An Electric Ripper and Igniter for Destroying Zeppelins

**T**HE English aeroplane aviators are reported using a new and fearful death-dealing device with which to destroy Zeppelins, those much dreaded monsters of the air so favored by the Teutonic Allies.

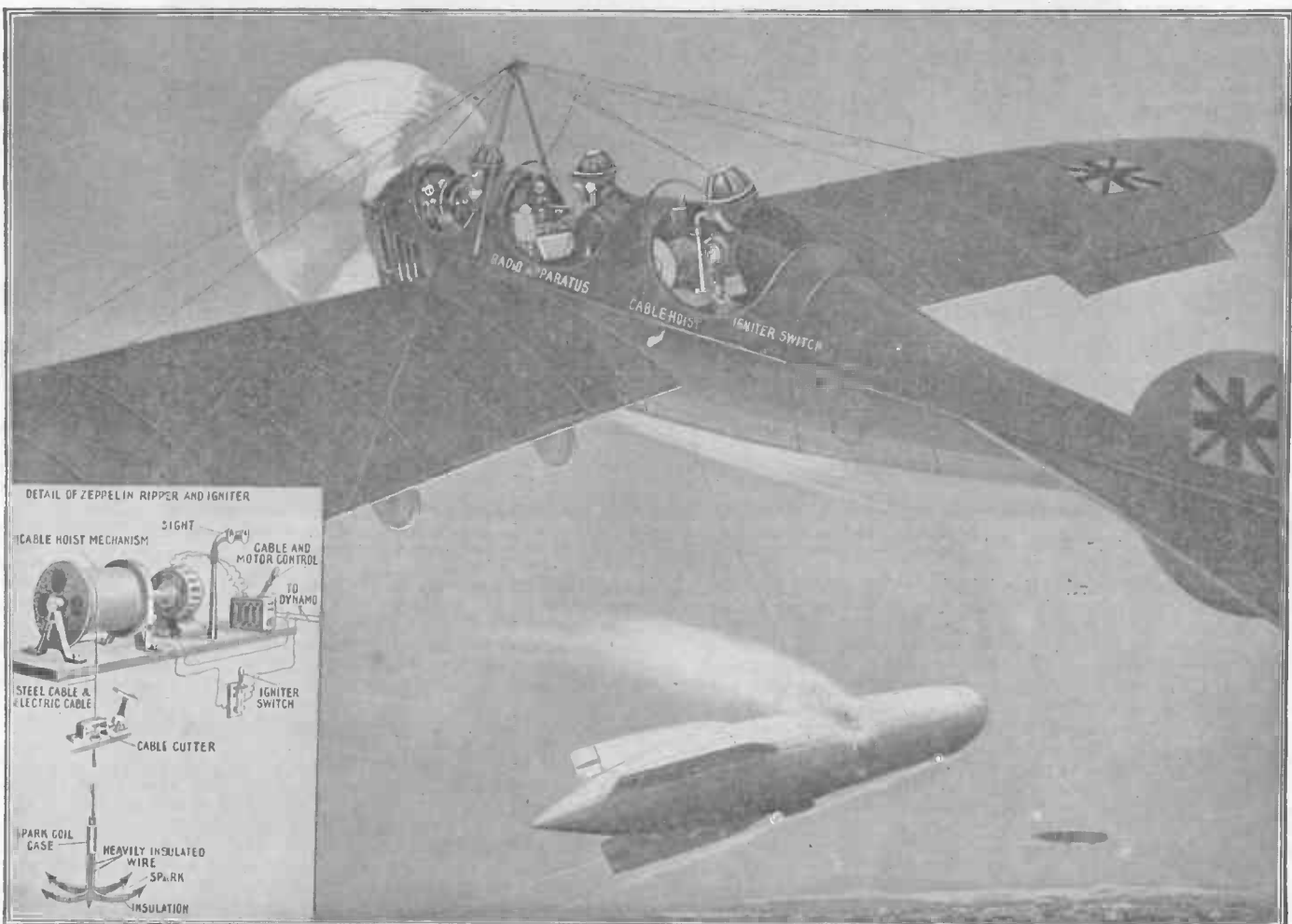
The accompanying illustration is a portrayal of such an attack on a Zeppelin by an enemy aeroplane fitted with this new electrically operated contrivance.

The attacking battle-plane carries, besides the aviator and radio operator, an operator

proper switches, which cause the hook to rise or descend a sufficient amount to enable it to catch into the massive gas bag constituting the Zeppelin. As soon as the hook catches and begins to rip open the gas bag the officer in the aeroplane throws in the igniter switch which sends an electric current instantaneously down the supporting cable attached to the ripper hook and this current, passing thru an intensifying or spark coil mounted on the hook, produces a powerful spark several inches long between

In this particular case, wherein the electrical ripper and igniter described proved successful, the English aviators had sufficient notice ahead of time, so that they could rise to a sufficient height in order to make a swooping attack on the dirigible.

The exploding device, resembling that shown in the accompanying illustration was, after several trials, drawn successfully across the envelope, ripping it open, so that the liberated gas could be fired by the spark.



The Allies' Military Experts Have Devised a New Thriller in the Drama of War. This Comprises an Electric Ripping and Igniting Device for Destroying Zeppelins, and Which Can Be Manipulated From a Battle-plane In the Manner Shown.

who has charge of the electrical mechanism by which the double-pronged *ripping* anchor is lowered or raised to any desired level, as the 'plane soars thru the air above its prey.

At the psychological moment the officer in charge of the dependent *ripper* operates the

the insulated prongs, which ignites the gas. This spells the beginning of the end for the air-cruiser. And it is said that one of the most powerful and mastodonic Zeppelin craft ever launched by the Austro-German forces was recently dispatched earthward in England by this means.

Such an invention would seem practical if used by expert military aviators, as the aeroplane can sail circles around the fastest Zeppelin. Moreover, it is a record of actual fact that once a Zeppelin is aflame there is practically not one chance in ten thousand of its recovering.