

AIRMEN IN THANET

DESCENTS AT MARGATE, RAMSGATE AND BIRCHINGTON

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Aeroplanes are becoming quite as common at Margate as taxicabs or motor char-a-bangs, and Margate people are suffering from what has been, not inappropriately, dubbed "Aeroplanitis." Since a flying machine hovered over the town on Friday and Saturday last, and one descended on Monday at Hartsdown, people have turned out in considerable numbers to watch the coming of the airships, which, alas, on Tuesday and Wednesday came not.

The visiting airmen have come from Eastchurch, Sheppey, and are connected with the Royal Navy Flying School.

Lieutenant Spencer Grey, R.N., with Mr. Fred L. Brown as a passenger, made a splendid aeroplane flight from Eastchurch to Ramsgate on Saturday. Starting soon after six o'clock he passed over Margate, and reaching the cliffs at Ramsgate turned the bi-plane with great ease and grace. He passed over Ramsgate and found easy landing in the fields of St. Lawrence College. After an hour's rest Lieutenant Grey set out on his return journey.

On Monday morning at 6.45 Captain Sampson R. N., after a fine flight from Eastchurch, hovered over the west end of Margate for a few minutes, and then made a graceful descent on to land adjacent to Mrs. Hatfield's at Hartsdown. Mr. Hatfield welcomed the aerial visitor and took him to the house for breakfast. Forty minutes later Captain Sampson, with a passenger who had been staying at the Queen's Highcliffe Hotel, took his departure, and rising to a great height was soon lost to view in the Western sky.

In the meantime Lieutenant A. Longmore R.N., who has been awarded the £???? Royal Aero Club prize in the Navy section of the Mortimer Singer Competition, and who is attached to H.M.S. ???? landed close to Quex Park, Birchington. An accident had happened to the sparking plug, which necessitated an enforced stay of some hours. Whilst his mechanic, a bluejacket, who accompanied him, was sent to make good the defects, Mr. G. C. Boulting and other Margate people, who had journeyed out to Birchington in a taxicab, drove Lieutenant Longmore into Birchington, where he breakfasted at the New Inn.

It was rumoured that not one, but some half-dozen flying machines would reach Margate about 7 o'clock on Thursday morning from Eastchurch, and people turned out in their hundreds to witness their arrival, only to be disappointed.