

HOW YANK AVIATORS GET CREDIT FOR WINS

One or More Written Confirmations Needed to Establish Victory

American aviators who force enemy airplanes or balloons to land or fall within the American lines or who destroy them in enemy territory as a result of aerial combat are to be credited with wins, according to Bulletin 76, G.H.Q. However, enemy airplanes forced to land on enemy territory as the result of combat, and which make normal landings, will not be considered as having been brought down, and will, therefore, not count as wins.

In order that official credit may be given to American aviators for German craft brought down, one or more written confirmations, in addition to the reports of the combatants themselves, must be made to the proper authority.

The persons who may submit such confirmations are: Pilots or observers who were observers of the combat; pilots or observers who saw on the ground, at the point stated by those who claimed the victory, debris from the enemy aircraft brought down; balloon observers who witnessed the fact; observers at anti-aircraft observation posts; and ground observers of any sort. In addition, the declarations of enemy prisoners may be submitted.

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The bulletin further provides that enemy aircraft brought down and confirmed should be credited to every one who has contributed to the result. Thus the pilot of a monoplane machine gets the credit for his victory; both the pilot and the observer of a biplane machine get credit; and in airplanes that carry more than two in the crew, the pilots and such observers and machine gunners as took actual part in the combat that brought down the enemy plane get credit.

The names of the officers and men of the Air Service entitled to official credit are to be furnished G.H.Q. twice a month.