

AEROPLANE DID FLY OVER RIGAUD

**Affidavits Were Secured by In-
spector Rioux, of Enemy
Alien Staff**

HAD TWO PASSENGERS

**Reputable Citizens Swear They
Saw It—Six Austrians Found
Employed at Rigaud Ex-
plosives Factory**

The first really definite confirmation of the recent reports as to the advent of aeroplanes flying at various places in the Montreal district was brought to Montreal yesterday afternoon by Mr. G. H. Rioux, assistant to Mr. C. G. Ogden, K.C., Registrar of Enemy Aliens. In his report to the Registrar, Mr. Rioux presented affidavits from reputable citizens of both Rigaud and St. Andre, testifying that they had seen an aeroplane last Sunday. These affidavits, made by prominent citizens of both places, were so explicit and tallied so exactly that there can no longer be any doubt that Rigaud was visited by an aeroplane on Sunday night.

As soon as the reports were published in the Montreal papers that aeroplanes had been seen in the vicinity of Rigaud, Mr. Ogden sent Rioux out to investigate. The officer visited Rigaud, and followed the track of the aeroplane thence to St. Andre, which is only 28 miles from the border. He took affidavits from citizens who had seen the air craft, and in this way secured an authoritative account of its movements, and even a description of the machine itself.

In his report to Mr. Ogden, Inspector Rioux stated that the aeroplane had been seen by a number of people at Rigaud last Sunday, between nine and half-past ten in the evening. It was flying at a height of about 700 feet, and was clearly visible, carrying a strong light. The machine was described as apparently an ordinary bi-plane, with two men in it, the pilot and a passenger, and a number of those who made the affidavits swore they had clearly distinguished the machine and observed the two men in it. The machine hovered for some time over Rigaud, and then disappeared in the direction of St. Andre, Que.

FLEW ACROSS BORDER.

Mr. Rioux followed the trail to this place and found numerous citizens who had also seen the biplane. These persons also made affidavits that they had seen the aeroplane, describing it in the same manner as had those at Rigaud. According to this evidence, the last seen of the air vessel it was travelling rapidly at a height of about 700 feet in a southeasterly direction, toward the American boundary.

What adds to the significance of this aerial incursion is the fact that the powder works of the Curtis's & Harvey Explosive Company are located at Rigaud, and the aeroplane was hovering over this plant for some time. What has not been explained is the fact that the aeroplane was carrying a powerful light, an unusual thing for any aeroplane at night, since it would naturally be guided by the ground lights, and a light on the craft would prevent the occupants from seeing those on the earth. In addition to this, any airship coming with hostile intent would certainly not advertise its presence with a glaring light. The whole proceeding adds to the aerial mystery, which is not only exciting the people around Montreal, but engaging the active attention of the military and other authorities.

AUSTRIANS AT POWDER WORKS.

While at Rigaud Inspector Rioux visited the plant of the Curtis's & Harvey Explosive Co. there. He found six Austrians employed at the works, who were not naturalized British subjects. These men, it was stated in Rioux's report, had been working at the explosive plant for over three months past. Mr. Rioux registered each of these enemy aliens and left them there under surveillance. They were still permitted to continue in their employment, that being considered a matter for the company to consider, since there was no complaint against any of them.

They will, however, have to report to the authorities in the same manner as other registered enemy aliens.

Another case of an enemy alien had been reported, that a German citizen was working at the explosives factory. This was investigated by Mr. Rioux, who found that the man in question was a person of German birth, named Bailey. It transpired that he had been born in Berlin, but had gone to New York when only 7 years old, and had been brought up an American there, and had become a naturalized American citizen.

Mr. Rioux's reports will be forwarded to Ottawa for consideration by Col. A. P. Sherwood, who is in charge of the enemy alien work.

Inspector Rioux will leave for Chateauguay today, to look into reports that that place had recently been visited by an aeroplane, and that a German citizen there had vanished under mysterious circumstances.

MILITARY ARE ACTIVE.

As to this and further reports from Noyan Junction that an aeroplane had been seen there, nothing is officially known. Lt.-Col. G. E. Burns, Intelligence Officer at the Divisional Headquarters, stated last night that no official report had been made as to these alleged occurrences. Mr. C. G. Ogden, the Registrar of Enemy Aliens, also declared he had heard nothing of them, although if a German citizen had left Chateauguay without authority it should have been reported to him.

The officers of the Military Intelligence Department are hard at work

scouring the country for evidence regarding the numerous reports of aircraft, but it was stated last night that so far nothing authentic had been discovered.