

STARTLING FLIGHTS.

GUILLAUX AT NEWCASTLE.

PLAYS A JOKE ON THE CROWD.

THRILLING FEATS IN THE AIR.

NEWCASTLE, Saturday Afternoon.

A crowd of upwards 10,000 persons on the Newcastle Show Ground, at Broadmeadow this afternoon, witnessed the sight of a life-time, when the French aviator, M. Guillaux gave his first public exhibition in Australia. The conditions were ideal, there being a clear sky and light breeze.

Guillaux gave two exhibitions, each flight being startlingly brilliant. The first exhibition began shortly after 3 p.m. A run from the west end of the ground to the centre brought a cheer from the crowd, and the aeroplane, with its masterful pilot, rose gracefully into the air, circling right over the grand stand and back over the centre of the ground and then rising.

Still rising, he got into position for his fancy work. This was sensational. He looped the loop twice, falling vertically for several hundred feet to within a few feet from the ground, just clear of the crowd on the falling. The machine momentarily paused and shot along at right angles over the people's head, and then began another gloriously graceful ascent, circling the ground a couple of times.

Guillaux had a joke with the crowd in the grand stand enclosure. Like a mighty hawk sweeping down on a brood of chickens, he swept headlong at the crowd, clearing their heads by a few feet as he passed. He looped round and waved his hand, and the breathless crowd saw his jump and broke into hearty laughter. Then the airman sailed high over the ground and executed all manner of somersaults, front, back, and sidelong, down from the skies. Once more he swept over the ground at a terrific rate, clearing the crowd by a few feet. Then he went for a sea voyage. Rising a few hundred feet over the ground, he set a course for the city and the ocean. As he disappeared from view, he rose till he reached an altitude of 1000 feet, and sweeping over the city, went two miles out to sea. Returning, he hovered over the suburbs, and came once more into view of the waiting thousands on the ground, looking no larger than a chicken hawk as he came over the ground. Again he did some more startling aerial tumbling, and then with the grace of a bird landed in front of the grand stand, cheered by the wildly enthusiastic crowd.

The Mayoress, Mrs. J. Reid, decorated the aviator with the French colors, and handed him a wreath of French flowers, the hands meanwhile playing the Marseillaise and God Save the King. The second exhibition was begun at 4.30 p.m. and was similar to the first one excepting that the aviator didn't fly away from his patrons as on the first occasion, nor did he loop the loop, but did some very pretty recovering and landing instead.