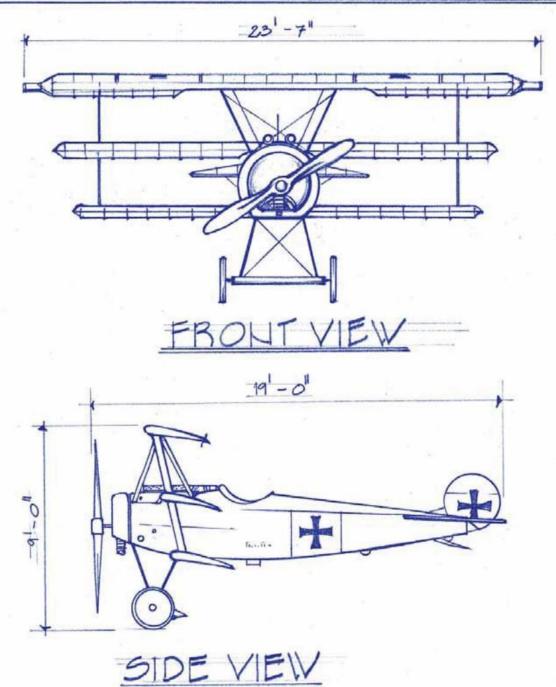
GERMAN FOKKER DR-ITRIPLANE



AIRPLANE

The Battle of Tannenberg in 1914 was an important victory for the Germans. They stopped the Russian army from advancing into German-controlled territory. Prior to the outbreak of fighting, both sides sent airplanes to gather details about their enemy. The Russian commander made a costly mistake by ignoring the warnings provided by his pilots. After tremendous losses at Tannenberg, the Russians did not make the same mistake again. Airplane missions were an important source of information for both sides throughout the war.

Estimated Casualty Statistics for the Battle of Tannenberg Allied Powers: 267,000 Central Powers: 80,000

Excerpt #9

I turned from this extraordinary spectacle in midair to witness another which in all my life at the front I have never seen equaled in horror and awfulness. The picture of it has haunted my dreams during many nights since...I saw that a general fight was on between the remaining ten Fokkers and the eight Spads...Like a flash {Lieutenant} White zoomed up...and made a direct plunge for the enemy machine...without firing a shot the heroic White rammed the Fokker head on while the two machines were approaching each other at the rate of 230 miles per hour! It was a horrible yet thrilling sight...Wings went through wings and at first glance both the Fokker and the Spad seemed to disintegrate. Fragments filled the air for a moment, then the two broken fusilages, bound together by the terrific collision fell swiftly down and landed in one hap on the bank of the Meuse [River]!

- Eddie Rickenbacker, Fighting the Flying Circus, 1919