

## OBITUARY

## GENERAL ALESSANDRO GUIDONI

1880—1928

Lieutenant-General Alessandro Guidoni, who met his death in a parachute descent on April 27th at Monte Celio, belonged to that select group of aeronautical chiefs who added to great technical competence keenness, courage and enthusiasm. He was born at Turin on July 15th, 1880. In December, 1903, he was appointed engineer in the Italian Navy, captain in March, 1907, and major in October, 1916.

His career later took a rapid rise. Promoted lieutenant-colonel in September, 1923, he passed a few days later into the Aeronautical Engineers with the rank of colonel, where an examining Commission, in view of his exceptional knowledge, immediately judged him worthy of promotion to major-general in October, 1923, and two months later to Lieutenant-General, Chief of Aeronautical Engineers, and Director in Chief of Aeronautical Engineering and Construction.

He was a pioneer of aviation and an ardent student of naval aeronautics, continuing throughout his career an intense experimental and practical activity. To Guidoni the Italians owe the first researches of a scientific character which were carried out at Spezia in 1909, the first Italian trials of the application of floats to aeroplanes, also those made at Spezia from 1910 to 1911. He was the head of aeronautical construction and reparation at Venice in 1912-1913, and in 1914 held a similar post at Taranto. In 1916 and 1917 he was head of the construction and repair department at the Sant' Andrea Aeroport at Venice. In 1918 he was inspector of aeronautics and head of the Research Office at Rome. From 1920 to 1923 he was Aeronautical Attaché at Washington, and until the end of last year Air Attaché at the Italian Embassy in London.

Among the missions he accomplished may be noted the following:—In 1918, Technical Delegate for Italian Aeronautics on the Inter-Allied Committee at Paris, Italian Delegate for the editing of the International Convention for Aeronautical Navigation (I.C.A.N.), and after that a member of the International Commission for Aeronautical Control at Berlin; in 1921 he was a member of the Aeronautical Commission to the Disarmament Conference at Washington.

General Guidoni obtained his pilot's certificate for aeroplane flying in August, 1911, for seaplane flying in 1912, and was instructor to the first seaplane squadron at Venice. During 1913-1914 he was an experimental pilot. In 1915 he commanded the squadron carried by Elba. As officer, engineer, aviator and student, General Guidoni was always distinguished by his strong personality. Many Italian and foreign orders were awarded him. From 1926 he was A.D.C. to the King of Italy. General Guidoni was made an Honorary Fellow of the

Society on the occasion of his appointment as Director of Aircraft Construction. He was a man who willingly gave of his knowledge to others, and only as recently as January last an authoritative article on "Seaplanes" was published in the Journal.

During the time General Guidoni filled the post of Air Attaché in London he gained many firm friends in British aviation. Designers, constructors and pilots recognised in him not only a man of outstanding technical ability and personal courage, but a man of infinite charm and sweetness of character. He was a man, indeed, who made many friends and no enemies. His death has left a deep impression of personal loss on all those who knew him, and has left a gap which it will be difficult to fill.