

Flyer's Life Is in Balance After Mishap

Capt. Place, Brainerd, Victim of Freak Mis- hap, Kin in Duluth.

Unconscious since Tuesday afternoon when his airplane plunged 150 feet at Kelley Field, Texas, Capt. Fred Place of Brainerd, last night was reported to be in a critical condition with little hope held for his recovery. Earlier in the day, Mrs. Louis Zurovsky, 1124 East Sixth street, his sister-in-law, received a wire from Mrs. Place indicating that while Captain Place's injuries were grave, physicians entertained hopes for his life.

Captain Place, who has been chief instructor of aerial photography at the flying field near San Antonio for the last three months, was the victim of one of the most unusual mishaps in the annals of aviators, according to veteran army flyers.

The accident occurred when Captain Place was attempting to take off from the field in a Dehaviland plane. After a height of 150 feet had been gained, the plane encountered a strong current of air from the propeller of another aircraft, causing Place's machine to fall out of control.

Before he could recover control of the plane, it tilted to one side, falling swiftly to the ground. The right wing struck the ground first with a terrific crash. Lieut. S. A. Hunt, who occupied the rear cockpit, miraculously escaped with slight bruises.

Captain Place was removed to the army hospital at Fort Sam Houston. He was in the aerial photography service overseas during the war. His parents live in Brainerd.