

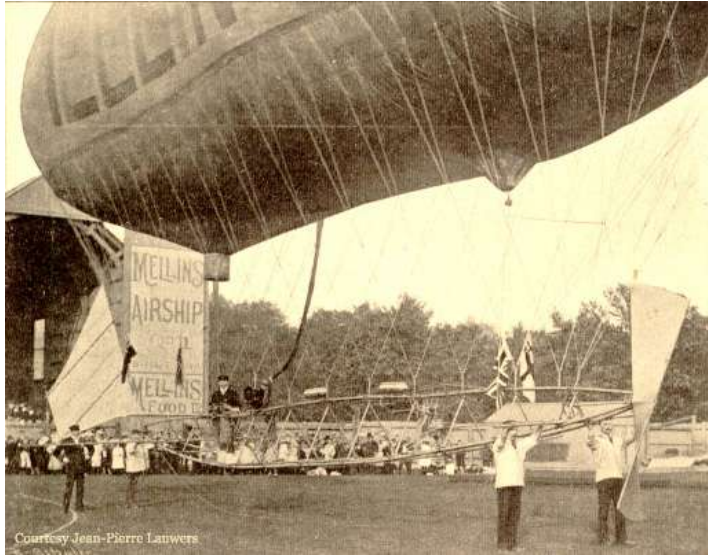
Stanley Spencer's Airship N^o 1 Makes First Powered Flight in Great Britain

Shortly after 4 PM on September 22, 1902, Stanley Spencer took off from the Crystal Palace in London. He was aboard his 75 foot (22.86 m) long airship. The airship was fitted with wings, but derived most of its lift from a gas filled hull. It was powered by a 30 hp Simms gasoline engine that drove a pine wood propeller.



*Spencer aboard one of his airships
Photo courtesy of avstop.com*

The flight lasted three hours, heading northwest, landing about 30 miles from its departure point. Spencer's first powered airship is sometimes referred to as the Mellin airship as it carried advertising for the Mellin Food Company.

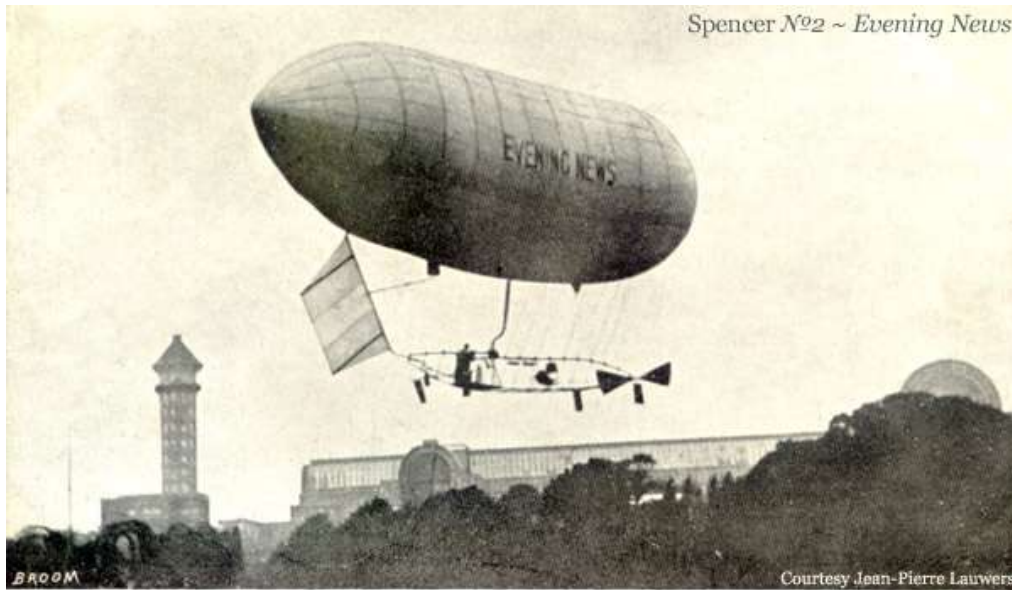


The first English Airship

Crystal Palace.
Courtesy Jean-Pierre Lauwers

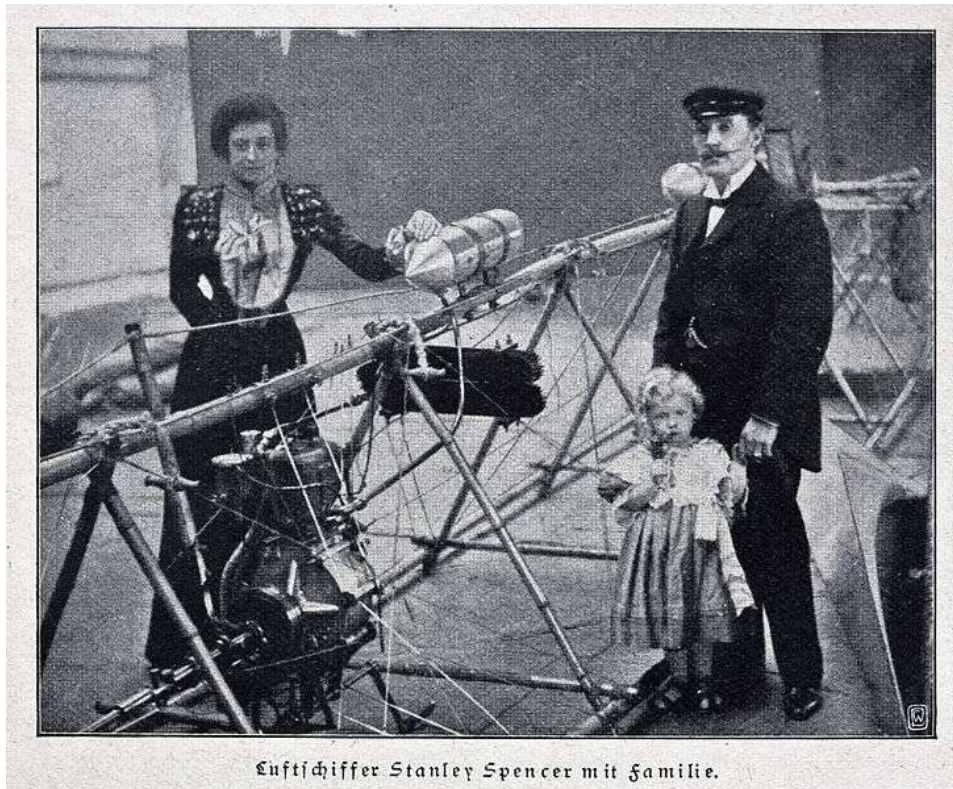
Spencer's Mellin Airship

Photos courtesy of earlyaeroplanes.com



Mr. STANLEY SPENCER'S AIR SHIP. Starting on his Voyage to St. Paul's, and sailing around everything... St Paul's excepted!! Compliments S.W.

*Spencer's Airship N° 2, The Evening News – 1903
Photo courtesy of earlyaeroplanes.com*



*Stanley Spencer standing with his wife and daughter
by the keel of his airship.
Picture is in the public domain*