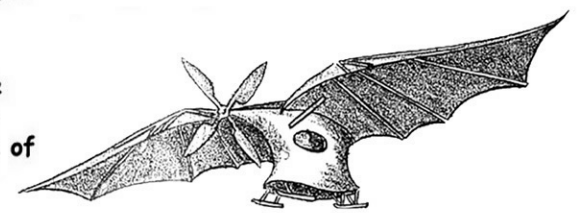


**CLEMENT ADER'S 1890 EOLE**  
(NAMED AFTER THE GREEK GOD OF THE WINDS)

"I have resolved the problem after much work, fatigue, and money"...

It has been sometimes claimed that Frenchman, Clement Ader made the first "heavier-than-air" flight. If an uncontrolled hop of about 165 feet can be called "flight"..



Frenchman, Clement Ader, was attempting to fly in a powered aircraft, and seemed dedicated to trying to emulate the birds. The appearance of his Eole was bat-like, with a steam driven propeller which resembled feathers. It was reported to have skimmed the ground at a height of around 8 inches for a distance of 165 feet with Ader being totally enclosed within the Eole.

It was powered by a steam engine complete with a high pressure boiler and condenser. Far from being a practical flying machine, it can lay claim to be the first manned craft to take off from level ground.

To fund further experiments, Ader turned to the French Ministry of War, which was eager to explore any "secret weapon" that might give France an edge over its neighbor Germany. Armed with the first EVER military budget for airplane development, Ader built a twin-engined aircraft, the Avion III. But when tested in front of military observers in October 1897, it failed to get off the ground. Funding was cut off, and Ader's experiments came to an end. While imaginative and daring, Ader's experiments did little to open new paths to controlled and sustained powered flights.