

FIRST EXPERIENCES

The system of instruction was clearly set forth in programmes of work posted up in the lobbies of the college. I was staggered by the list of subjects with which I was confronted; they ranged from rigging down through fitting, meteorology, photography, military law, bomb dropping, wireless, artillery, coöperation, theory of flight, Morse code to astronomy, etc! Previous to this I had had no idea that a pilot needed to know much except actual piloting, and yet all this was apparently going to be crammed into a few short weeks! I anticipated "some" work!

The dinner bell cut short my reflections at this point and I moved over toward the mess.

The hall was used as a dining room and all the officers used to wait in a crowd at the foot of the staircase leading to it, for the commandant, or if he was not present, the adjutant, to precede them in to dinner. At this time of the day, when work was over and the long summer evening to come, high spirits were the order. I have seen one or two humorous things happen at the bottom of this staircase, the chief one of which was when the commandant, who was very strict about discipline,