

INTRODUCTION

which is very great indeed. Amidst a great battle situations may arise which test his capacity to the full, and upon his handling of the case may depend the lives of thousands of men and the fate of an entire Sector.

Therefore it may be interesting to take a peep at how he is trained, how he copes with events on the Front, and how he lives and works—and plays. However, it must be borne in mind that air work is of such a magnitude that it is impossible to review it individually and yet collectively, and that this book necessarily deals in small quantities.

Just latterly, the Army and Navy sides of aviation, in the shape of the Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Naval Air Service, have been merged together into a Third Service—the Royal Air Force. Speaking of the new organisation, it suffices to say that the very intimacy and company of the men, who have made the traditions attaching to their old services, engenders that which guarantees the future of the new one—a passionate esprit-de-corps.

C. G. HOARE.

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