

ABOVE THE BATTLE

were set forth, and in fact I came to the conclusion that if the officers strictly obeyed all those orders that the Royal Flying Corps must be peopled by extremely pious and elderly aviators! (Experience has taught me what extraordinary conclusions a man *can* make.) These orders, however, were very wise when one remembers the type of officer which the Royal Flying Corps was fortunate enough to secure.

Flying naturally draws to it the youthful side of the army and a side which is often (thank heaven) tinged with reckless impetuosity. Herding together three or four hundred officers of this type, free from regimental trammels, and then working them extremely hard, was not unlikely to cause many an exuberance of healthy animal spirits, off, or for the matter of that, on duty. Any lack of complete discipline, even though a breakage of same was only thoughtless, would have greatly endangered the efficiency of the school, which had a severe task set in front of it in teaching these youths the large number of highly technical subjects which are so necessary for a modern war pilot to be conversant with.