

## Preface

use made of aeroplanes in destructive raids ; although it is not yet possible, owing to a dearth of suitable machines and an inability to drop bombs accurately, to effect damage that has military significance on any fortified position. But in attacking airship stations, or ammunition and supply depôts, which are peculiarly vulnerable, and in raids which may be judged more by their disconcerting influence than the actual damage done, aviators have achieved results which, apart from their spectacular interest, have had a definite effect on operations. And this success has been human more than mechanical. Airmen have triumphed, by their own personal daring, over the limitations of their craft.

Large airships have proved disappointing because, when compared with the aeroplane, they are in a far cruder stage of development. They have not yet been given a weapon, commensurate with their bulk, with which to repel attack. They have the size of a battleship, offering a large target, without the battleship's armour or guns. The Zeppelin has been unable to rise high enough to escape gunfire from the ground. In making a bomb raid by day she courts destruction ; and at night she cannot see to drop her bombs with accuracy. The Zeppelin, as used in this war, has all the