

# **AEROBATICS**

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Aerobatics by H. Barber

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**H. BARBER**

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By

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(Author of "*The Aeroplane Speaks*")



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## PREFACE

Before the commencement of the war it was a generally accepted theory that a first-class pilot of an aëroplane could not be produced under a minimum of a year. Under present conditions the average young man can learn to handle an aeroplane and put it through all the known tricks of looping, rolling, nose-dive spins, side-slips, etc., after a period of instruction of approximately no more than from twenty to thirty hours of actual flying.\* That is a most extraordinary advance and it is in but slight part due to the improvements in engines and aëroplanes. Rather, it is almost entirely due to (1) the knowledge we now have as to how to execute aërial manoeuvres or "aerobatics"; (2) the improved methods of acquiring such knowledge, and (3) the confidence which we now know a pupil may have in attempting feats which, in the past, were looked upon as dangerous and as mere circus tricks.

This book is an attempt to explain in simple form, and for the benefit of novices, the general rules calculated to turn a raw pupil into an expert pilot in the shortest possible time and with the greatest possible degree of safety to himself and his aëreplane. Written during short periods of leave and at odd moments when off duty, I have not had the time to amplify it as fully as I should have liked; however, all it contains is based upon the hard lessons of practical experience and I feel that the rest to be learned can only be acquired in actual practice. If what I have written assists the pupil to approach his work in the air with intelligence and confidence, then half his battle is won before he begins and this little work has not been in vain.

Various technical subjects such as the theory of flight, meteorology, aëro-engines, aërial navigation, etc., have an important bearing upon the subject of aerobatics. The prospective aviator should have a sound if elementary

\*I do not suggest that practise in formation flying, aerial fighting, 'cross country' flying, etc. can be included within the twenty to thirty hours.