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Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum Archives

Arthur Raymond Brooks Collection - Diary, 1917-1918

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256

around this beautiful ~~little~~ stretch of land - this on the first day we arrived at field #7. ~~The distances we covered by the air route were displaced inside of an hour, whereas, by train the travel was half a day and more.~~

April 28, 1918.

The formation flying was a continuation of what amount of this work we had had in Texas. Three, five, six, seven, and more planes are at various ^{fixed} heights and distances from each other at all times during the manoeuvres. In "stunt formations" a series of clever "circuses", changes of direction, criss-crossing, etc, give the name its meaning. The only difficulty I experience in these first few practises is in keeping an exact position in the chain - and my worried impression is in regard to ^{the necessity of} another set of eyes, besides those ^{needed} ~~to watch my mates, to spy out~~

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