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Harold E. Morehouse Flying Pioneers Biographies Collection - Diehl, William C.

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Elbridge engine, and two monoplanes, one with an 8 cylinder Ashmussen 60 h.p. horizontally opposed air-cooled engine and the other with a 40 h.p. Hall-Scott engine. With ~~this equipment~~ these planes Diehl and Frederick C. Hild, a Long Island aviator, formed a partnership to promote a flying school. They decided their chances of success would be better in the Middle West, so they shipped everything to Chicago and opened their school there in the spring of 1915.

This venture was not a success, ~~however~~ so the equipment was moved back to Long Island that fall, and they established the Eastern School of Aviation at Sheepshead Bay, Long Island, in the spring of 1916 with both Diehl and Hild as instructors. The school was quite a success and a ~~number of~~ ^{few} number of students were taught to fly. Later that year an announcement was made of their new Eastern tandem tractor biplane, using an 8 cylinder 120 h.p. Maximotor. This plane was designed to government specifications and was offered to the Army Signal Corps for military service. ~~at that time~~

Diehl remained with the Eastern school until the war clouds thickened in 1917, when he volunteered his services to the government as an instructor. Up to this time he had not obtained his pilot license, and since that was a requirement ~~in the instruction service~~ for Army affiliation he went to the Atlantic Coast Aeronautical Station at Newport News, Virginia, where he took about two and one-half hours dual flying time on a Curtiss JN-4. Diehl obtained pilot license No. 877, dated October 17, 1917 and was accepted as a civilian flight ~~instructor~~ ^{instructor} service, starting with the Aviation Section of the Signal Corps, at Mineola, Long Island. From there he was sent south to the winter school at Gerstner Field, Lake Charles, Louisiana, and in the spring of 1918 was sent to Chanute Field at Rantoul, Illinois. While stationed there Diehl flew to the Cleveland War Exposition during a Liberty Loan Drive, where he visited the new Glenn Martin airplane factory, and meeting ~~Glenn L. Martin~~ ^{Glenn L. Martin} and visiting with Mr. Glenn L. Martin. Diehl served ~~in the Signal Corps~~ ^{in the Signal Corps} as an instructor about one year, then after ~~leaving the Service~~ ^{leaving the Service} he the Armistice bought a government surplus English Myro 504-K trainer with a LeRhône rotary engine, and started barnstorming in the New York area.

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