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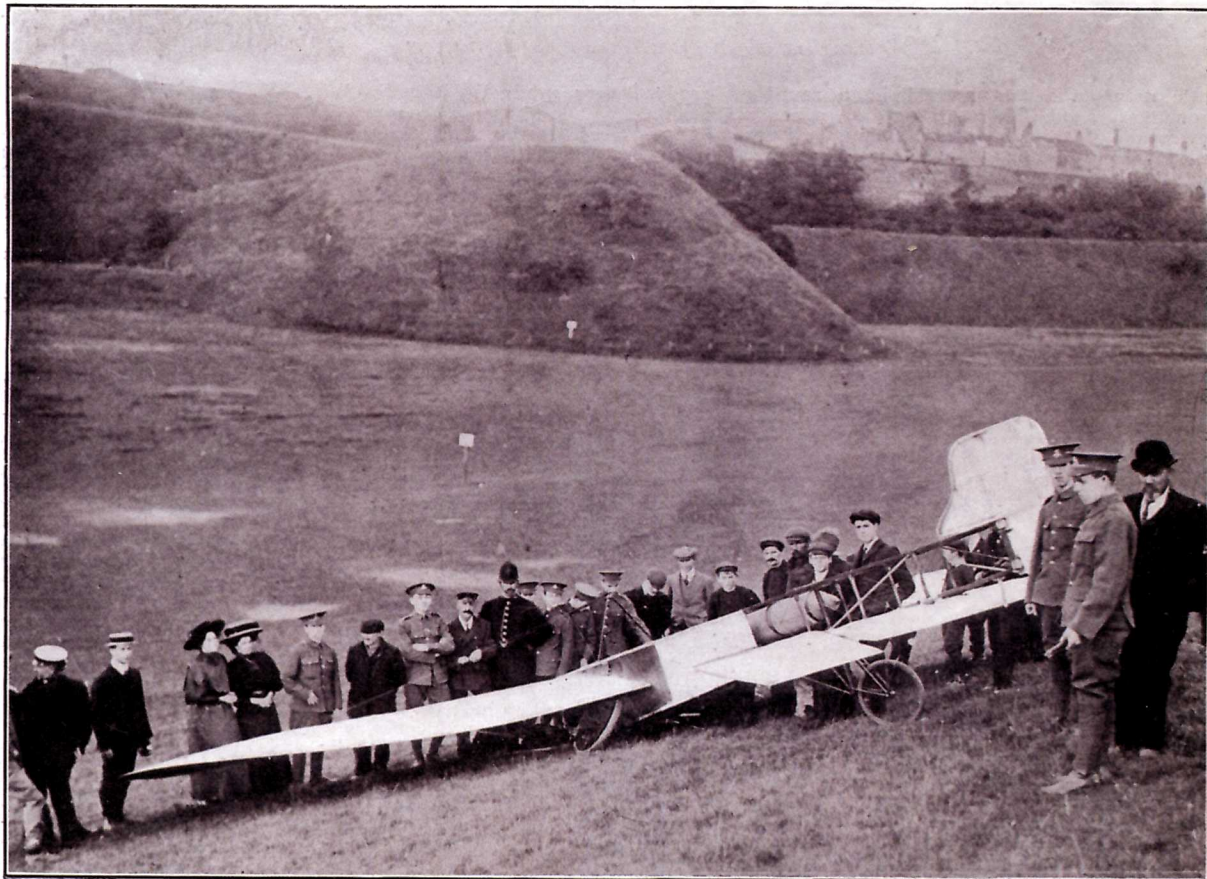
The First Cross-Channel Flight

Louis Blériot flies from Calais to Dover

THE Channel has been flown by an aeroplane. On Sunday, July 25, Louis Blériot flew from Calais to Dover on his

monoplane, and brilliantly inaugurated a new era in the history of aerial navigation.

The recognised difficulties in the way of this achievement, no less than its sudden and unexpected realisation, have deeply stirred the popular imagination, smilingly incredulous, benevolently cynical hitherto regarding the practical value of the flying machine. It needed a startling sensational feat of this nature to cause the public in these Islands to appreciate the fact that aerial locomotion has emerged from the dim realms of phantasy and has become a practical factor to be taken into serious consideration for the future of mankind. More than a century ago, on January 7, 1785, the Frenchman, Jean-Pierre Blanchard and the American, Dr. Jeffries first crossed the Channel, from Dover to Calais, in a hydrogen balloon, a feat that stands in the same relation to the short over-land voyages made before then in hot-air and hydrogen balloons, as Blériot's achievement occupies to the flights made over prepared courses by the Brothers Wright, Farman, Latham, and others. Intrinsicly, Blériot's flight is not, perhaps,



Bleriot's Cross-Channel Flight
The monoplane No. XI, shortly after the landing in the field behind Dover Castle

