

MR. VIC PHILLIPS:

Regarding formation of the Aero Club of B.C. where Mr. Phillips learned to fly under BILLY STARK, Mr. Phillips says it all began in the Summer of 1915 at Ye Olde English Billiard Parlour in Vancouver, where Billy Stark, Jack Schultz and W.E. Burns decided to start a flying school. Each member was to contribute \$100.00 with which to buy a plane. Twenty-seven people agreed but only 12 started it off by contributions.

The trainee pilots lived in the old jockey clubhouse at MINORU PARK but it was soon found that the runway was too short. The school was transferred to the Milligan farm at Terra Nova, where a $\frac{3}{4}$ mile runway, 75-100 feet wide was made, using the Municipal Roadsweeper. There was a hangar at one end of the runway.. They all lived in the Milligan House until November, 1915, when Billy Stark had a pontoon fitted to the plane, by Hoffar Bros. Boat Works, on Georgia Street.

They moved again, to a building belonging to the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club, where ten of them practised flying off Dead Man's Island. One of the trainees crashed the plane into the end of the island.

Meanwhile, the British Army Service Corps were in Vancouver recruiting transport drivers, motor cycle riders, etc. for service in Europe. Mr. Phillips was accepted as a driver. He left Vancouver on Christmas night, 1915, and by March of the following year was in France as an ambulance driver,

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later becoming General Porter's motor-cycle dispatch rider.

He applied for flying duties with the RFC and joined them in July of 1916. As an observer-gunner, he was wounded on September 3rd, 1916, lost a leg, and was removed to DOVER HOUSE, ROEHAMPTON. There he met King George V. He speaks highly of his treatment by the British.

The original group of Stark's pupils included MORTON SEYMOUR, PHIL SMITH, GERRY ERIKSON AND CHARLIE RAYNOR. MORTON SEYMOUR ended up as a judge in St. Catherine's, Ontario.

Mr. Phillips speaks highly of BILLY STARK. Pupils sat on wing in order to learn, then did hops along runway. Being a 'PUSHER', the airplane would take off after a 200 yards run and had to be held down. Early in his training, Mr. Phillips did take-off and circled the field and was told off by Mr. Stark.