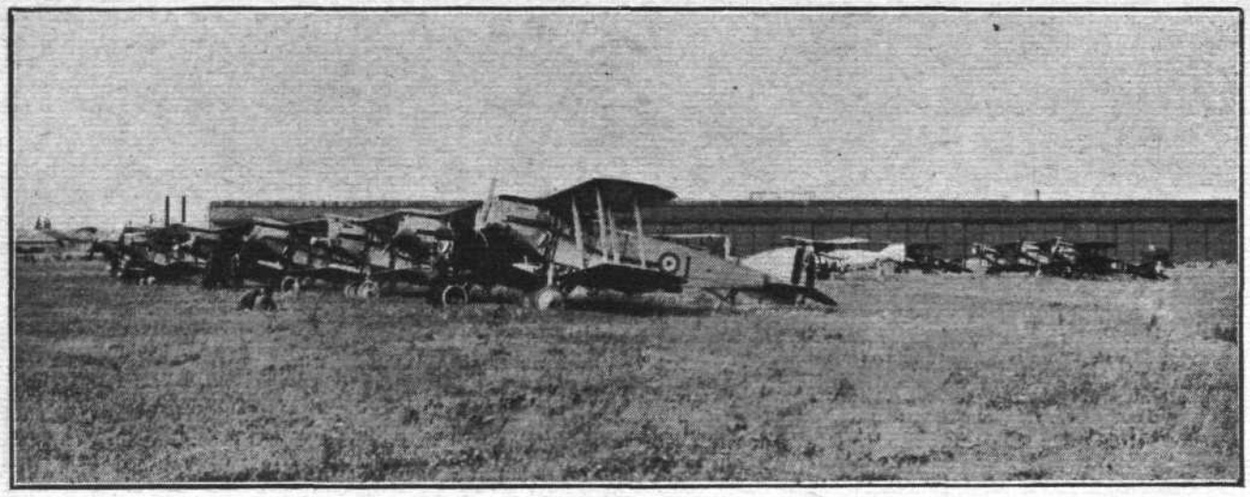

FOR THE AIR LEAGUE CHALLENGE CUP RACE ON BANK HOLIDAY: The Service Bristol Fighters (all 275 h.p. Rolls-Royce engines) lined up for the League Cup at Croydon before the start.

child's play to fly such a fast machine around a course for over one hour.

Longton crossed the finishing line at 4.27.7 and made an absolutely perfect three-point landing, the machine running but a very small distance after touching. He had put up a plucky fight, but was obviously out-distanced.

The wait for the result of the race for the Air League Challenge Cup proved a long one, and as the machines had been started at two minutes interval their order of arrival meant nothing. Ultimately it was announced that only three of the competitors had properly rounded the turning points, the others either going inside, or else so far outside that their numbers could not be identified. Of the three the best time was made by Flight Lieut. H. S. Shield, M.C., of R.A.F., Eastchurch, who thus secured the cup until next year. Second was Air Commodore H. C. T. Dowding, C.M.G., of Northolt, and third Flight Lieut. E. B. Rice, of Halton.

The presentation of the cups and prizes was somewhat delayed, owing to the impossibility of finding Larry Carter. Ultimately Mr. D. Longden, of the Gloucestershire Aircraft Company, had to officiate as "Ersatz," and the Derby Cup and £100 prize, presented by the Royal Aero Club, were duly presented by General Brancker. The second prize of £25, presented by Trust Houses, Ltd., was won by Longton, and the cup presented by the Royal Aero Club, and £100 presented by the Anglo-American Oil Company, was won by Hamersley as first in the handicap. The Royal Aero Club's second and third prizes of £50 and £25 were won by Perry and Woodhouse respectively. Raynham had the bad luck of having his engine cut out entirely on several occasions, and thus lost his chance of a place in the handicap.

A race like the Aerial Derby is a gruelling test for machine, engine and equipment, and it is of interest to note that the Napier "Lion" ran without a hitch the whole time. Incidentally it might be mentioned that this is the fifth Aerial Derby in succession which has been won by machines fitted with Smith's instruments and whose engine was fitted with K.L.G. plugs. Shell motor spirit and lubricating oil were used by the winner, and Shell spirit by the machines obtaining second and third place.

The Air League Challenge Cup for R.A.F. units: In this the 100 mile course was only disclosed one hour before the start. A quiet "snap" of Squadron Leader S. W. M. Green, D.S.O., M.C., plotting his course a few minutes after the receipt of his map.