

RUSSIAN OFFICERS INSPECT KELLY FIELD

The Advanced Flying School at Kelly Field, Texas, was inspected on December 22nd, last, by four Russian officers. They were very much interested in our methods of training.

It was interesting to note that all these officers were rather youthful. The senior, a Brigade Commander in the Russian Air Force, was only 39 years of age. They were very cordial and told the following about their flying training:

Their course consists of two years, the first of which is devoted solely to ground training. The students complete their pilot training in the second year and graduate, with an average of only 65 hours, as qualified pilots of single-engined airplanes. In order to pilot multi-motored airplanes, they must serve as co-pilot in a tactical unit for two or three years.

Another interesting item was the rates of pay received by the Russian Air Force. The average pilot receives 50% more than a line army officer. Then a pilot of a fast airplane receives 25% more than the average pilot, while an instructor receives 50% more than the average pilot and takes two months' leave a year with all expenses paid.

They wondered why we didn't teach our students to do aerobatics close to the ground. They further stated that they used women pilots, and when there was any new difficult job to be done they had a woman do it first, in order to stimulate the men to do better.