ROTOGRAVURE SECTION

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COMMANDER JOHN H. TOWERS, U. S. N., director of the first American overseas flight, getting ready to start. The young airman started his navy career in the submarine service, where he showed exceptional skill in mechanics. He was the second naval officer to receive training in the Curtiss aviation school at Hammondsport, N. Y., and has been known among flyers for several years as the man who fell 2,000 feet into the gulf at Vera Cruz and got away with it. During the early days of the war Commander Towers was naval aviation attache at the United States embassy in London.

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