Having built many successful aircraft, Short Brothers began to look at how these could be used if Britain went to war.
To begin with, many people didn't think planes would be any help in wartime and in 1910 an important British army officer used the words, "expensive" and "useless", when asked to describe them.

SHORT Biplane Nº 27. 8-cyl. E.N.V. Engine. 1910.