

HIS IDEALS AND TRAINING

to have done enormous damage. What a pity it could not have been instead of Halifax.

The little town, near our aerodrome, perched on a high hill, has a fine square, from which a beautiful church can be seen, and the square and streets are cobbled. The road which leads into the town from the east, enters through a short tunnel, which emerges right into the square itself. When I was last there several howitzer batteries were coming from the line for a rest, and the caterpillar tractors, which haul these huge guns, were grunting and chugging from the tunnel into the town, and through it, making for some spot further to the rear. All units, which come out of the trenches for a rest, are sent far enough back to be out of earshot of the guns. The Casino at the highest part of the town is devoted to military purposes. From it a wonderful view of the western front may be had, puffs of smoke in the distance, captive sausage observation balloons, aeroplanes and roads teeming with hundreds and hundreds of motor lorries slowly crawling along. A batch of miserable looking German prisoners were engaged in cleaning the streets. Their appearance gave the impression that they must have been reduced to sorry straits before capture, as they all looked white, pinched and sickly. I think they are pretty fairly treated by our people and certainly given enough to eat.

Speaking of food reminds me that you may be interested to know that we do pretty well in our mess. I quote from our ordinary dinner menu:—Soup, mock turtle, toast; Fish, grilled sole, mustard sauce; Entree, beefsteak, pastry, boiled potatoes, green peas; Sweets, stewed prunes, cornstarch pudding, biscuits, cheese, coffee. Does this satisfy you? It does me.

We have the correct number of machines, six in each flight, and there are three flights, A. B. and C. I am in B. flight. There are eighteen pilots, an equipment officer who is also Quartermaster, a Recording Officer (adjutant) and the Commanding Officer. So we have twenty two in our mess.

Lunch is served at one o'clock. Sometimes I have spent the afternoons walking into the nearby town. Tea is at four p.m. and now it is dark at that time. After tea we read or