

## *A FLYING OFFICER*

The friends I visited have been there for four years, and in that time have developed an almost unbelievable garden. It contains almost every kind of flower and vegetable that I ever heard of, and in addition has peach, pear, cherry and apple trees, all bearing fruit; and strawberries, raspberries, logan berries, and gooseberries. The loganberries are a cross between blackberries and raspberries and they are said to grow better than rhubarb. The berries are large and slightly tarter than raspberries. It almost made me laugh to think of our efforts for years and years to get a decent peach off our one tree, when theirs is bearing a large crop after only three years. They did not raise it from seed however. Besides all this, they have about thirty chickens and eight or nine rabbits. Their table always had their own lettuce, and salads on it, and the first night I was with them they had a fine vegetable marrow.

My batman here is a constant source of worry. He does the ordinary things, such as boots, belt, buttons, etc., pretty well, but he has an insatiable habit of searching through all my belongings, especially on Mondays, in order to send my clothes to the wash. Last week he sent nearly everything I own, including my winter underwear and a suit of pajamas I had never worn. When I came here first, he unpacked all my stuff, and spread it all over and about my tent, with a sort of decorative effect. I usually prefer to have my belongings, not in immediate use, packed up in my kit bag, and it took him several days to see this and to learn that I did not want him to drag all my family skeletons out into public view. He is a very useful chap, and I don't know what I shall do when the war is over. Even three days in Bath without him made me feel lost.

The life agrees with me, and I am enjoying it. I hardly know how I shall ever be able to settle down again after the war.

Our programme at U—— is as follows. Early morning flying when detailed, breakfast at 7.30 a.m. followed by a parade at the sheds at 8.20. Flying takes place all morning weather permitting, but during the forenoon an hour is spent at machine guns, an hour at artillery observation, and half an