

HIS IDEALS AND TRAINING

I had rather hoped that life with the R. F. C. might make me grow a bit thinner, but we have such splendid meals that I am beginning to despair. I have never had such good food, such variety and such tasty cooking as we are enjoying at present. It has Oxford completely beaten, although the surroundings are not as impressive. The mess is also much better, and incidentally much more expensive, than at the old camp.

30th July, 1917. On this date he opened a note book entitled "Flying Notes" and under the heading "Notes for the Fighting Pilot" placed this Foreword. The book was in his kit when it was returned to Canada by the War Office:—

I keep this note book for the purpose of collecting in it every possible bit of information I can pick up on flying and aero-fighting, and to record every incident of interest and instructive use on every flight. I shall be surprised how interesting and instructive it will soon become.

The first few notes are written with the intention of impressing upon me the importance of making myself efficient, and how effective I can be if efficient; also to give me an ideal which it is absolutely necessary I should work up to. The ideal is by no means perfect, and until I can thoroughly satisfy myself that I have reached it, I cannot hope to count myself amongst the ranks of fighting pilots who count overseas.

As a single fighting unit I have the means of doing more damage to the enemy than any other in the whole army.

At the Camp, 5 Aug., 1917. It is nine a.m. and owing to numerous "bumps" in the air and low clouds and mist, flying has been "washed out" for this morning, so I shall be able to write letters, read and have a lazy time. You never saw such weather. It has rained and blown and been misty every single day for a whole week. I have only had two flights since coming to U—, and they were over a week ago, and lasted only an hour altogether. It became monotonous sitting about waiting, so I applied for leave and proceeded to Bath last Wednesday and returned here Friday night.