

## HIS IDEALS AND TRAINING

ations visited the Quartermaster at Christ Church and were issued a flying kit, the value of which is from \$150 to \$200. It forms quite an imposing array and consists of a yellow leather coat to one's boot tops, with a high collar and lined with fleecy wool; a yellow leather flying cap covering head, face and neck, except eyes and nose (the inside is lovely and soft, and lined with sealskin); a learner's helmet made of leather and padded with rubber and never used; sealskin gauntlets to the elbows; leather thigh boots lined with sheepskin and with red rubber soles; a large pair of rubber overshoes with cloth tops, the latter to be worn over the sheepskin high boots to keep them dry before a flight. None of these wonderful things are worn in the summer, but the coat makes an excellent bath robe and a fine extra blanket on cold nights. We also received a camp kit which cost us about \$40—folding bed, pillow, rubber sheet, bath and wash stand and a folding chair.

Being an officer now, I no longer have to clean my boots or belt. My batman is a youngish large chap of extreme deafness, and as far as I can make out far from lofty intelligence. Most batmen are like this. However if he succeeds in getting me out of bed each morning at 4 a.m., in time for early flying, he will be doing something to help along the war.

The Training Camp, 15 July, 1917. My second flight took place the evening following the day of the first, and in the same machine. It was also a "Joy ride," but this time we climbed to 3000 feet, and came down in a spiral of rather small radius. It was very thrilling, and was done I think in order to test my nerves. We came down very quickly, and the sudden change from low to high pressure made me quite deaf for a few minutes after landing.

During the past week I have done three and one half hours actual flying, and I am enjoying it very much indeed. I cannot help feeling that it would be great fun to fly around over the islands in Lake Joseph. Flying over cities does not appeal to me much. Out here we are far from the habitation of man, and, but for the hutted military camps, there are no houses in sight.