

A FLYING OFFICER

called because our engines bear the same name. His chief accomplishment is yelping in order to get into our hut on cold nights. In reading the squadron orders yesterday I came across a paragraph forbidding pilots from conveying dogs to England in aeroplanes. There is a law prohibiting the bringing of dogs into the United Kingdom.

To add to the comfort of the mess, besides dogs, we have a fairly good piano and a gramophone. Every time any one goes on leave he brings back a few records, and the collection is now quite large.

The change from the school to here has been for the worse, as far as batmen go. I shall never be able to get another like old Brown. My present man is named Hazeldene, and just now he is languishing in the guard room as a result of having been found drunk yesterday.

The hours for actual flying are of necessity short, on account of the shortness of day light. Consequently we get lots of time for exercise, most of which consists in kicking a rugby ball around the aerodrome. It is about the best way of keeping warm these cold days.

Our tenders frequently run to St. Omer and even as far as Boulogne, so when not flying there are chances of seeing these places. It does seem funny to be able to go from practically the trenches to Boulogne (within sight of England) almost any time we want to. We, in the R.F.C., are about the only people who can do this.

When artillery horses are in need of a rest they are sent back from the front line. We have two or three at the squadron, and I shall probably get some riding if I can pluck up courage enough to try.

It is bound to be muddy here before the winter is over, at present everything is dry. In preparation for later we have "duck-boards" or wooden slat-walks laid down between all the huts, the mess, the hangars, etc. On a dark night it is rather a problem to keep on these boards. This reminds me that my little pocket flash lamp is almost indispensable out here.

All the heavy labour in this part of France is now being done by Chinese coolies brought specially from China for this