

A FLYING OFFICER

left foot, which is resting on the rudder bar, in front of the joy stick, is pushed slightly forward, this with the left bank which you have previously put on the machine turns her to the left. When the turn is made you press gently on the rudder bar with the right foot to make it central again, at the same time you take off the bank by moving the joy stick slightly to the right. The whole thing soon becomes instinctive, and you do it all without thinking about it.

I have been exploring the country by road on a rented bicycle, and it has been very pleasant. Our one great drawback is remoteness. The school is six miles from the nearest railway and the same distance from even a small town. One afternoon I went nearly to Devizes on a bicycle. I expect to go all the way next time. There is a beautiful road and no bad hills. I passed quite close to the white horse cut out of chalk on the hill side. As soon as I start solo I shall fly over it and take an aerial photograph.

When we are detailed for early morning flying we do not worry about waking up at 5 a.m. in time to get to the sheds at 5.30. Part of the duties of the air mechanics, privates in the R.F.C. and technically known as "Ack Emmas," is to wake us in time for flying. In case the weather is not suitable we are not wakened at all. When we are wakened we have to sign a slip of paper to the effect that we were called. This the Ack Emma retains in case we should go off to sleep again.

London, 25th August, 1917. I persuaded the authorities to let me have a couple of days leave this week end. I shall write a longer letter when I get back to camp.

It is amusing to see the Sammies about the London streets. They cannot help looking, acting and feeling new. It is great fun taking and returning their salutes, and while they look a fine body of men, I shall be very surprised if they do not earn a worse name for discipline than our own Canadians.

I have just come into the hotel after walking up the Strand from Trafalgar Square, and there were crowds of these chaps on the streets. It has not taken the London street girls