

HIS IDEALS AND TRAINING

hair, made a frightful mess of it each time. All this and a trip to Cox & Co., my bankers, took most of the day.

I shall probably have more to say about flying, and less about London, in my next Sunday's letter.

Central Flying School, 19 Sept., 1917. To H. M. M. Many thanks for your letter of 20th August. It helped to make up a large Canadian mail which was very welcome. Your letter confirms rumours that have filtered over here from the Aviation School at Camp Borden. It seems that both the type of machine and the speed at which men are rushed through is responsible for many fatal accidents. Things are different here. We are fortunate at this school, which is one of the largest and best in England. It is an honour to have been chosen for it. Here, Scout pilots are trained, and having been the original scout squadron prior to the war, it has a reputation to maintain.

Although remarkably free from serious accidents, we do smash up a good many machines. In order to cope with this it is almost a small industrial community as well as a flying school. The repair and assembling sheds and the engine shops would shame the average Canadian manufacturing town. About 100 machines are kept in flying condition, and about a quarter as many are in dry dock.

The mess is first class and the facilities for recreation and athletics rival a good country club. We have squash courts, football and baseball fields, excellent golf links, and tennis courts that equal those of the best club in Toronto. The man power problem is acute over here, and every position that can be filled by women is so filled. All the cooks, waiters, clerks, etc., are girls, and all the mechanical transport vehicles, except the heaviest lorries, are also driven by girls. Having so many women in the lines would seem to create rather a problem for those in charge of discipline, but it works out remarkably well. There has been no trouble so far and various small social events have been arranged with success.

About the middle of August we held a sports day, followed in the evening by a large dance. This was well patronized, not only by the officers but by the other ranks too. It seems almost