

it is really ripping, as we have got ideal quarters here, right on the coast, with mountains rising up about two hundred yards behind us covered in woods, and miles away from everybody; quite in a little world of our own, except for one or two ships from the fleet that are always lying off here when we go to "strafe" the Bulgars and their coast. By the way, I am writing this two hours after getting back from a big raid on the Bulgars. . . . Just before a certain spot we were supposed to be met by several French machines which were to escort us in; but when we got there, there were no machines to meet us, so we went off on our own, and "straffed" a certain town, and then came back.

"An air raid is really most awfully exciting, as one never knows what is going to happen next.

"The night before (last night), we were packed off to bed very early so as to get as much sleep as possible, and then at day-break this morning we were called, although for myself I didn't need much calling, as I had been awake nearly two hours before, feeling very excited. Then when we did get up, everybody was getting ready. Revolvers were loaded, goggles and glasses were given another rub up, and a thousand other things. Breakfast, and then into the plane, and in a few minutes we were on our way. After a time we saw our objective in the distance, and began to wonder what was going to greet us there; then in a few minutes we were over our objective and saw our target, then a second's pause and our first big bomb went. Then we dropped a few incendiary bombs, and in a few minutes we saw the ground burst into flame. You have no idea how pleased one feels when one sees a flash below, and knows one has got one's target, as I'm jolly glad to say we did to-day.

"Then before we knew where we were, we heard a "whizz" and a "bang," and something went past us; we then thought it was rather unhealthy, and thought we'd go a bit higher, and we did as soon as we could. Then we gave them a parting bomb, and a few shots at a Hun plane, and went off for home again. From that time, there was a written conversation between the pilot and myself until home was sighted, and what a relief it was to feel good old Mother Earth again after being up for three or four hours.

"We had a quick wash and made our report, then another breakfast, then went very quickly to sleep, and by Jove, we wanted it, too!

"I am keeping all the messages that are written when we go on a "strafe." I think they will be rather interesting when I come back. I wonder when that will be. At present I'm not very keen on getting back, as we are having quite a good time here. We seem to go and "strafe" some place or other nearly every Sunday. I don't know why Sunday."

Extract from a letter from 2nd-Lieut.——
(censored) 14th——(deleted) B.E.F.

"My dear 'Fellows,'

It was real good of you to send me that splendid Tuck Box which I have just received, and which has already, to a certain extent, been satisfactorily disposed of. Those that were lucky enough to share it with me, were all of the opinion that they wished they, too, had been "Old Dartfordians." I'm sure you and I will both agree that they have been unfortunate in not knowing the "Old School."

"I like tuck; I used to be as bad as you all are, before the war—when I was at D.G.S. I endeavoured to acquire chronic indigestion at "M——s," the same as was your wont *avant la guerre*.

"Fortunately, her doughnuts did not affect my constitution, and if you only work hard enough—and play hard enough—they won't affect yours. I don't mean to suggest that I ever did either. I didn't (I've been to America, and have acquired the George Washington spirit—a little). But it's because I didn't (perhaps), that I want you fellows to do as I suggested above.

"Personally, I prefer work mostly, nowadays.

"My outlook is this. You fellows are at school from the time you are six, until you are perhaps sixteen or eighteen years old—ten to twelve short years. In that time you will lay the foundation of your future—and that future is built on knowledge and health. You acquire the knowledge only by hard work, by meeting the people who have the knowledge you lack—by listening to what's worth while—judiciously prompting—suggesting—asking—always acquiring.