

### **Source 5 (LAP 1/2/9)**


Extract from a letter from Sir Lawrence Pattinson to his mother Mary Pattinson in which he discusses seeing the 'fire balls' which are now being used by the enemy.

23 Oct 1915

I had a most interesting day today I had my first reconnaissance this morning early. It is the most interesting job but a bit on the thrilling side. The Huns have a new frightfulness in the form of sort of fire balls in the form of roman candles which they shoot up in bursts of about 7 or 8 at a time. They come up straight for a bit and then open out fanwise like this [see sketch]. They are extraordinary things as you can see them coming all the way and even dodge them. One lot they put up I saw coming almost dead at me slantingly and I just swung the machine off and avoided them. It is very exciting work altogether. You mustn't think that there really any awful risk in it as it is simply the ordinary business of war and for some reason we have the most amazing luck.

No. 1 Squadron  
R.F.C.  
23/10/15.

Dear Mother,

I had a most interesting day today  
I went for my first reconnaissance this  
morning early. It is a most interesting job  
but a bit on the thrilling side. The Huns  
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that there is really any awful risk in it as  
it is simply the ordinary business of war & for  
some reason we have the most amazing luck.  
I saw no less than 4 Huns today.

## Key Words

Reconnaissance - a mission to obtain information by visual observation

Huns - a derogatory term used by British officers in the First World War to describe the German armed forces