

Source 8 (LAP 1/2/13)

Extract from a letter from Sir Lawrence to his mother Mary Pattinson in which he discusses flying in bad weather.

15 Jan 1916

Another busy day in the flight with 3 out of the 4 machines unserviceable for trifling complaints which makes things very hurried. I did 80 minutes flying trying to patrol the trenches but never got there due to an enormous bank of clouds stretching up to an immense height. I got up to 8000 and there encountered a wind storm of drifting ice flakes, curious flat things which glimmer in the sun. I avoided too close acquaintance with them and tried to skirt round the cloud coming down to 5000 where I met a hail storm which drove me south away from the 'beat'. I had to get home as the clouds were blowing down further away south so came down to 2000ft and there got into various snow storms which lasted me the last 15 minutes back to the aerodrome.

Dear Sir.

26/11/15.

Another busy day in the flight with 3 out of 4 machines unserviceable from trifling complaints which makes things very hurried. I did 80 minutes flying trying to patrol the trenches but never got there owing to an enormous bank of clouds stretching up to an immense height. I got up to 8000 & there encountered a wind storm of drifting ice flakes, various flat things which glimmer in the sun. I avoided too close acquaintance with them & tried to skirt round the clouds coming down to 5000 where I met a hail storm which drove me away south from the "beat". I had to get down as the clouds were blowing down further away south so came down to 2,000ft & there got into various snow storms which lasted me the last 15 minutes back to the aerodrome.

Very many thanks for sending

Key Words

Aerodrome - a location from which aircraft flight operations take place