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It was a wonderful sensation and did not bother me at all. I think however that my pilot was very good to me and did not try any fancy stunts, like they so often do when they have novices up. I was in the air nearly an hour and reached about 8000 feet and covered over 60 miles. It really seems wonderful to think these things are possible.

I hope you will excuse a short letter which however conveys a great deal of love and the hope that you will have as happy a time as possible.

Please remember me to Percy whom I had intended writing but may not manage it for a little while yet.

Very much love  
your devoted son  
Ibfc

In the Field  
Saturday  
9th Dec

Dearest Mother  
Just a few lines to wish you and Percy a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I fear this will not reach you in time but my Christmas letter writing was rather stopped by a rearrangement of the billeting areas which our Corps asked me to undertake for them. It has necessitated my being away over night several times lately and I have covered over 30 miles a day in the saddle for the last few days and have come back



could find some quiet place where you would not need to fear Zeppelins or raids.

Stobh lunch today in the most beautiful Chateau show yet seen in France. One of the towers in the house dates back to the 13th century and it has been in the family all that time. The Countess still lives there with two of her daughters, unmarried while the sons are all in the Army. The grounds are sadly cut up and the trees spoiled but they are still allowed to keep one horse and have live water which of course the government will not let them use.

I do not know whether Sarah told you that I had my first flight over the Hun lines about 10 days ago

and through on nearly every occasion as bad weather seems to have set in, in real earnest now although up to date it has really been very nice. I remember last November in Belgium was one of our worst months while we have had a particularly nice month here <sup>this year</sup>. The mud is not nearly as bad in this part of the world and I hear we may expect more cold and less wet weather in this part of the world even if we are further south.

Sarah sent me one of your recent letters to her and I fear you miss her very sorely and are so lonely at times. I often wish your health would permit of your coming across; it would mean so much to both of you and I feel sure you