

# FLYING IS FUN - - - -

by Tony Mellor-Ellis



The First World War was not all blood, gore and the nastiness of the trenches. There was always time for a bit of fun. Lamprooning the RFC itself was great fun and brought some much-needed humour to a serious situation. It was not all doom and gloom, as the following twelve postcards illustrate...

*This first card needs no explanation: smoking in the wrong areas could create serious problems. Of course anyone joining the RFC had to be prepared to travel. Hangars full of inflammables were a constant worry to commanding officers. Posted in Birmingham on 24 September 1917, to Mrs E. Derry, Cannock House, Chase Terrace, Nr Walsall, Staffordshire.*

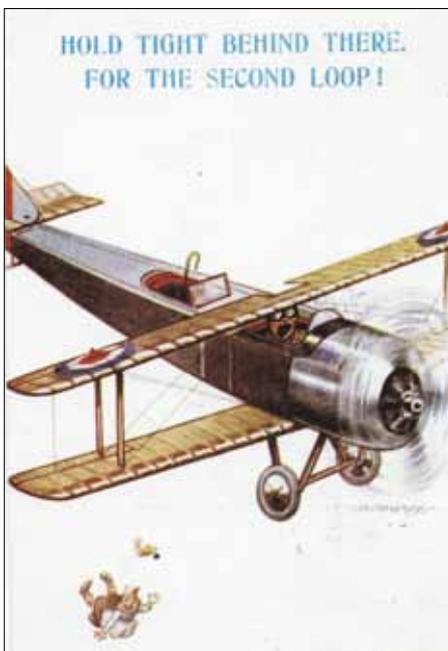
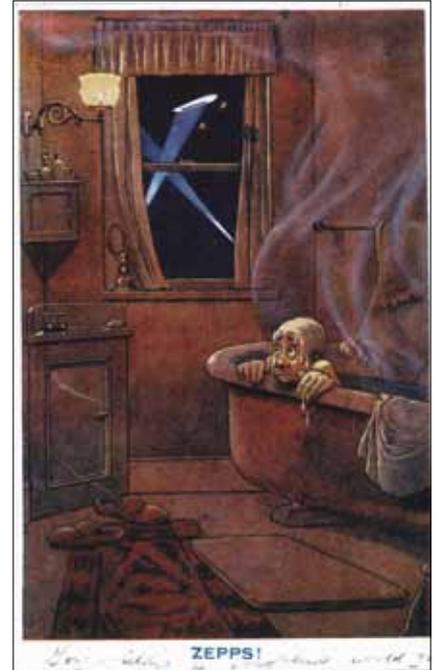


*An example of pensive humour. Everyone wanted the war to end as soon as possible. The idea of passenger airlines was eventually taken up by Imperial Airways. Sent from Farnborough on 9 December 1917, to Mrs Kirkham, 'Glenside', Riverside Avenue, Llandudno.*



*Obviously a recruiting-time crisis for the RFC. Perhaps this was the result of 'Bloody April'? This was sent to Miss M. Ringer, Grayrigg Cottage, Kents Bank Rd, Grange over Sands. The stamp has been removed together with the date of posting.*

*Zeppelin raids were no joke, but this card shows there was some humour in the situation. The message scrawled on the front reads 'You wouldn't be afraid would you?' The propaganda message might be 'Keep Calm and Carry on Laughing'. Posted from Tooting SW17 at 8.45pm on 29 July 1918 to Miss N. Matthews, 51 Cottages Road, Deal, Kent.*



*A communication problem. Evidently Gosport tubes had not yet been invented! This card was sent to Master W. Branson, Bagworth Road, Barlestone, Nr Nuneaton. The stamp was not franked, hence no dates.*

*It was proved later that it was much harder to land an aircraft than a horse! This postcard was never used.*

