

SEVENTH INTERIM REPORT OF NO. 1 NEUROLOGICAL HOSPITAL, RCAMC., CASF.

This report consists primarily of the following letter received from Lt.-Col. C.E. Cross, Officer Commanding:-

"HACKWOOD PARK, Basingstoke,  
Hants, England, Nov.30th/40.

"To our Canadian Confreres, professional and extra-professional:-  
We extend compliments of the Christmas and New Year's Season, Happy days, 100% Canadian Cheer.

"It is Saturday; 35 weeks ago tonight (viz. March 30) we, Officers of the Neurological Hospital, were guests of yours at the Faculty Club. Saturdays have significance in our brief history. Some are:-

"June 8th: The Unit left Ottawa by early morning train.

" 22nd: First day of our residence in England.

Sept.7th: Access to Hackwood Hours obtained.

" 28th: First patients admitted to wards.

"Whereas our pre-receptive estimate of available beds was 85, we have today 5 officers and 86 other ranks. By crowding the personnel we now quote 101 available.

"Early in the month we recalled all but two of our Nursing Sisters from Taplow. These two were sent to join the new Montreal Hospital Unit - the No. 1 Canadian General. That Hospital had hardly set up when it was called upon to receive over 100 casualties from Coventry.

"Early in the month also we had to supply 4 orderlies as escort for mental patients going to Canada. These proceeded thither on the 13th. We had replacements for them only 2 weeks later. They rejoin us on return.

"Our external associations include further consultations made by our chiefs at other hospitals and further fraternal touches with Professor Wilson and his ensemble.

"In addition numerous cases have been taken to Oxford for electroencephalograms. Ventriculography is being done here. Lt.-Col. Russel was guest at Lord Camrose's shooting-party and made successful gestures, coming home with 4 brace for the Unit's delectation.

"Major Botterell is spending a further month at Manchester. Professor Jefferson made special re-appeal at the end of his stipulated first month. His letter ends: 'He is doing most useful work and we are gaining greatly from his presence, and just love having him around'. Mr. Geoffrey Jefferson's clinic at the Manchester Royal Infirmary may be considered as England's highest neurosurgical set-up.

"With regard to actual unit items: Privilege leaves have been granted to the men - seven days after 3 months' service.



"On the 11th instant the Last Post, two minutes' silence, and Reveille were observed at 11 A.M., but every soldier and officer stood at attention at his duty station.

"Weekly concerts are tendered personnel and patients by the Canadian Legion War Services.

"The men were brought from their tents into the main building, displacing the nurses from their large mess-room to that of the Officers, and the recreation room to the men's mess-room. Frost and continued rain made their lot 'not so hot'.

"The huts for the men's barracks, kitchen and recreation facilities were begun on the 18th of November, 1940. We were fortunate in securing a Canadian Field Company of Engineers for this, as civilian contract is so much slower.

"On November 19th, 1940, the Broadcast officials of the Correspondents' Corps came to us and recorded on disks some messages from patients, a concert by the men and greetings from the nurses and officers to those at home. These will be re-broadcast in Canada in 3 corresponding issues.

"Among distinguished visitors have been Bishop Wells (Church of England) and Bishop Nelligan (Roman Catholic) who are Honorary Colonels, being Chief Chaplain Officers of the C.A.S.F., one of each sect.

"We had also Mr. E. Bourgon Bickersteth, Warden of Hart House, Toronto, attached to the 7th Corps as Emissary of General McNaughton under a scheme for providing advanced educational studies to the Forces through manuals issued by the Canadian Legion. The scheme has affiliations with Queen's University, looking to qualification for degrees.

"Again, Sir Harold Gillies, English plastic surgeon, has been a guest and has witnessed one of Col. Cone's interventions. Several of our Officers have returned the compliment at his clinic.

"Finally, Brigadier C. B. Topp, formerly our area O.C. in Ottawa, has visited us on several occasions. Once he was principal guest at a special Mess Banquet and following same attended with us a special dance given by the Unit at the Wheatsheaf Inn, about four miles away. This formed our second social function and proved a marked success. Guests from many outside units came and particularly the friends from the Orthopaedic Clinic of Professor Philip Wilson.

"Among data touching the Officer personnel, Arthur Childe's majority was finally promulgated on the 26th of November.

"Lt.-Col. Russel was advised by cable of his becoming a grandfather for the first time, early in the month. Both these events were celebrated with ample gusto and gustatory quench and eloquence.



"Our anaesthetist, Captain Boddington, after several weeks of mild gastric complaint, was x-rayed and found to be harbouring a duodenal ulcer. He was admitted to the 15th General Hospital for treatment, improved somewhat, but was ultimately boarded and will be sent back to Canada. This was the first break in our placid sequences and it has made a sad comma in the chronicle of the happy and congenial group that had become so mutually bound.

"We have taken on strength as substitute anaesthetist, Captain E. H. Ainslie, R.C.A.M.C., formerly of Toronto too.

"The American Hospital in Britain group made five of us officers guests at their elaborate Thanksgiving party in the Inn, where they are living. Speeches of great good fellowship flowed twixt hosts and guests and between guests and guests. There were representatives also of the English medical and surgical professions present.

"During the month a mechanical respirator (Drinker Apparatus) was secured from the Nuffield Foundation. Its immediate use was expected in a case of ascending paralysis where the intercostals and auxiliary muscles of respiration showed the affection. The case, however, progressed towards recovery sufficiently promptly that the respirator was never put into service.

"Efforts are being made looking to the provision of Vocational Therapy. It is hoped to be highly effective in diverting the neurotic and an aid in treatment and re-establishment of manhood. The Canadian Red Cross Society has signified its willingness to study and cope with the matter.

"I have asked Captain Hanson to prepare an outline of the Hospital's present laboratory efficiency. Also, Captain Humphreys has consented to draw up a short digest of the surgical outstandings that we have to offer. These I enclose to complete our monthly offering.

"We shall have passed our first anniversary before you can receive our December text, as the No. 1 Neurological Hospital was born on January the fifth, last.

"No further hints as to our other disposition have reached us.

I will be answering Dr. Penfield's letter very soon.

Yours with unabated gratitude for interest in us and anxiety to serve.

"Most sincerely for the Unit".

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Numerous other letters have been received from the personnel of the Unit, acknowledging receipt of Christmas parcels and extending greetings.

The report of Captain Hanson, referred to in Lt.-Col. Cross's letter, indicates that extensive laboratory examinations are being carried out in the hospital, and that very complete facilities are available. Captain Humphreys' report described some of the clinical problems which have faced the Unit.

Accompanying Lt.-Col. Cross's report were photographs of a pheasant referred to in a previous report. This bird had suffered concussion during an air raid, and because of the symptoms it showed a post-mortem study was made of its brain.

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