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ELEVENTH INTERIM REPORT OF THE NO. 1 NEUROLOGICAL HOSPITAL, RCAMC, CASF

The present report is based upon a letter received recently from Lieut-Col. C.E. Cross, O.C. of the Hospital. The letter has been somewhat abbreviated for this mimeographed bulletin, but the original is on file in the Montreal Neurological Institute.

Hackwood Park,
Basingstoke, Hants, England

May 31st, 1941

Temporary changes in the staff of No. 1 Neurological Hospital have been made during May. Major Botterell continued his replacement service for Professor Cairns at Oxford with distinction, and has since returned to our Unit. Major Ryan of No. 5 General Hospital has rejoined his Unit after spending some time at No. 1 Neurological Hospital. Captain Ainslie, anaesthetist, was absent a week, taking a specialized training with Professor Macintosh at the Royal Infirmary in Oxford. He was replaced by Captain Stuart Gordon at No. 1 General Hospital. Captain H. F. Franks, of a field unit (Cdn. Corps Troops Supply Column) was sent here for a month under a Headquarters scheme of interchange of Medical Officers between the staffs of hospitals and units in the field. We were however, unable to dispense with any member of our personnel to replace him. Captain Franks has had neuro-psychiatric experience, and has fitted himself very profitably into the medical routine. On May 18, 1941, Captain J. R. Dunbar joined the unit as padre. On May 26th, 1941, authority was published for the promotion of Captain Ainslie to the rank of Major.

Two Nursing Sisters (Zeagman and Cleland) arrived in England recently from Toronto, and after five days leave joined the unit and assumed duty. During the month, 3 Nursing Sisters (Grimes, Scott and Shanks) were released from service, to allow them to return to Canada to be married. With the recent loss of Nursing Sister Ogilvy, four nurses in all have left the unit and only two substitutes have been obtained. In response to an invitation from Canada House, one Nursing Sister represented the unit's sorority at an event of considerable distinction. It was the opening by Her Majesty, the Queen, of a large First Aid Centre that the Queen had organized in London. N/S Shanks was chosen for this honour.

Lieut-Col. Russel had a recurrence of his "cold" and was required to rest in bed for some days during the first week in May. Captain McCormick had a minor motorcycle accident, and was several days in No. 15 General Hospital, with a penetrating wound through the muscles near his knee. N/S King and Smith were for several days invalided, due to German Measles, and general malaise. All of the above have recovered and are back on duty.

Special headlines in the bulletin should be given to an appropriate celebration of the 7th of May, which Lieut-Col. Cone admitted to be his birthday. A dignified seance in his honour was attended by all Nursing and Officer personnel. Pro-Cone-ic toasts were elevated and a candle-light birthday cake presented to the hero. The 27th instant also should be chronicled. News of the sinking of the "Bismarck" on Captain Hanson's birthday made the Mess and impromptu glee club. Toasts were a bit mingled between happy handings and total submersions.

During the month also came news of the bestowal of the "GENERAL DUMMER CHAIR" upon Captain Humphreys for outstanding achievement and service. This is the recognized symbol of preferment, honoris causa, of the General Dummer Academy of Boston, to its graduates of distinction.

There has been an almost indefinite extension of the arrangements made by Headquarters, of the Cdn. Dental Corps, for the extra-graduate training of their dental surgeons here in facio-maxillary surgery. This is done by Captain G. Franklin, attached dental officer at this hospital. He is enabled to do this through his prolonged association over here with Sir Harold Gillies.

The Commanding Officer has made four trips to Medical Headquarters in regard to innovations to be incorporated in the general construction programme and on intra-unit re-adjustments. He has had the opportunity, too, of representing the unit at various homes of influence and on inspections of other hospitalization centres. Lieut-Col. Russel, Lieut-Col. Conc and the O. C. paid a visit to the 5th General Hospital during the month to look over their set-up for suggestions in regard to the construction of the new huts for the Neurological Hospital. Later in the month, Lieut-Col. Conc, accompanied by Sir Harold Gillies, the plastic surgery expert, made a visit in consultation to No.5 General Hospital. Lieut-Col. Russel and Major Hyland attended a special committee session of the British Neurological Society at Taplow on May 27th. B Brigadier Hertzberg of the Royal Canadian Engineers was a guest at lunch with the unit after reviewing his construction Company employed here. Prof. Cole of the American Hospital in Britain was a guest at one of the weekly formal messes. Mr. J. B. Bickersteth, headmaster of Hart House, Toronto, in charge of educational privileges for the whole Cdn. Army, spent a day with the hospital, and Mrs. (Dr.) Richardson, wife of our Captain Richardson, who is doing M.O. work in a big munitions plant at a distance, spent a week-end at this station. At Lieut-Col. Russel's special request, Captain Turner, from the E.M.S. was sent to confer as regards to giving special education to a very promising patient (British Army Soldier), who has sustained a transverse lesion of the cord, but who has talent in accountancy and in singing. Mr. Geoffrey Jefferson, British neuro-surgeon, visited the hospital on May 18th, and was very complimentary in regard to the layout of the new ward and service huts. Major Paul Millette, and his brother, Lieut. Millette, brothers-in-law of Captain Stewart, were formal mess guests on May 20th. The Major is in the Intelligence Services at Corps Hdq., and his brother has only recently arrived in England.

A game of softball was played with No.15 General Hospital, and was won by No.1 Neurological Hospital. A return fixture of tennis was as easily won by the 15th General Hospital players. An exhibition game of softball to assist in the programme of War Weapons Week in Basingstoke was played there by a picked pair of teams on the 23rd inst., the N.C.O.'s beating the privates. Continuation of the series in the unit's inter-group schedule, as noted last month, has shown Lieut-Col. Russel's nine to be pre-eminent to date.

There has been compiled a plan for further extension of this organization to a 600-bed unit. This will be so added to if the further entry of Canadian troops warrants it. To cope with the almost immediate increase in patients, incident to new wards, we are getting nursing orderlies and clerks, etc., attached gradually to the unit. The organization

seems slowly but surely resolving itself into a base unit ponderance and to be supplying such a need. Whether a mobile section will ever need to go forward is yet uncertain. The progress of the buildings goes on rapidly. No promise is made, however, that they will be ready for occupation before July 15th, as there is a delay in securing accessory boiler units for heating and hot water. Whether the swimming-pool can be saved for it's original use, or must be converted into a reservoir for water storage, is undecided as yet.

Chiefs and juniors and non-medicals and Nurses enthusiastically add their individual messages of affection and good wishes to the proven friends of help and interest in Canada's Montreal and Toronto.
