



## That Kind Canadian Nurse

WE met a retired Canadian lady who had nursed British servicemen during the war at the Neurological Hospital, Basingstoke. Among them was Sam McLeary of Paisley, badly shell-shocked on the beach at Dunkirk. Unable to speak he'd been brought in with German prisoners, and was believed to be German, much to his distress. By patiently pointing to the letters of the alphabet, the nurse discovered his name, and put him in touch with his family.

Our efforts to find him have proved fruitless, but perhaps a reader could supply information to Mrs C. Binder, P.O. Box 496, Longboat Key, Florida 33548.—**John Grant, 76 Stanely Road, Paisley.**

● I walked the West Highland Way from Milngavie to Fort William. The warm weather was matched by the hospitality of 81-year-old Mrs Napier, Kinlochleven. Nothing was too much trouble during my short stay for bed and breakfast. — **John Anderson, 55 Kingston Road, Bishopton.**

● I only needed four screws for my hedge trimmer but had to buy the complete blade. It's disgraceful you can't get parts which would only cost a few pence.—**Miss C. Rodger, Prestonpans.**

● When I wrote to the SSEB in Galashiels about interference on TV and radio from an overhead power line, the fault was traced and repaired by lunchtime the next day.—**Lennox Blyth, Image Row, Duns.**

● Sorry to read of the disappointed Glasgow girl with good Highers turned down here. The problem is Highers don't go as far as English "A" levels. Study here carries on from "A" level standard. Please don't think Liverpool has an anti-Scottish bias. — **D. Holmes, Academic Secretary, University of Liverpool.**

● I go to the Dalmuir Community Centre twice a week for a couple of hours. We're well looked after by three or four teenagers and the helpful supervisor.—**A. B., Clydebank.**

● Thanks to the shopkeepers in Moffat for their help with fund raising for our young amateur boxing club.—**Peter Kerr, Moffat.**

● After climbing Ben Nevis with three friends, we wanted a cup of tea at the restaurant at the bottom. We didn't even get past the door—no muddy shoes, no rucksacks. I couldn't believe it. We couldn't even use the toilets. — **Christie McDonald, 62 Queens Rd., Comrie.**

● My niece was married on March 17. My sister in New Jersey, USA said she'd make her a white garter for the wedding. It arrived by air mail on Monday, September 3, post dated Feb!—**Mrs Jane McDonald, 17b Niddrie Mill Cres., Edinburgh.**

● My thanks to the young lady who handed in my grand-daughter's handbag which she left on the Edinburgh train. — **Mrs C. Wilson, 1 Earls Row, Kelty.**



Ottawa

24<sup>th</sup> April 1940

Dear Miss Hamman:-

Thank you  
for your notes, the  
news of the place, Mrs  
Johnson's picture, the  
New World, Jummies  
letter and the thousand  
other kindnesses. This  
routine, presently un-  
exciting existence makes  
them all very much  
appreciated.

In spite of the  
increased tempo of  
things over there we  
have no word as to

when the sisters will  
be posted. We just  
know that ~~the~~ Cob and  
I will go ahead of the  
unit but do not know  
when. I wonder if things  
will speed up when  
parliament meets.

There have been some  
breaks that have been  
very pleasant. Last  
Monday @ K.R. and I drove  
down to Kingston to see  
an enemy alien who  
was maladjusted at camp  
and was having seizures.  
He came to Canada  
from Yugoslavia in 1927  
and has never adjusted  
well perhaps because  
of the seizures. He was  
particularly interesting  
because he could give

a good story about the way he was handled by austrian doctors follow-  
-ing a gun shot wound of the head in the last war. He would like to get back over there again where there are real doctors. They did do a good job for him and were most considerate of their wounded men if he is to be believed.

This morning I ran out with Arthur Childs and OKR to see a soldier at the Ottawa Civic Hospital. It was fun going over him seeing the traps and studying the microscopic sections of the tumor that Dr



to supply the equipment  
when we finally decide  
what is best.

The surgical instruments  
are coming in slowly. We  
have another lot to check  
tomorrow. Most of the equip-  
-ment is coming as per  
specifications but some  
has to be sent back.

I am curious to know  
how much the new operating  
table weighs and wonder  
if you would try to find  
out from Simmons and  
let me have the data. We  
have given up the idea of a  
special truck for carrying  
the mobile unit for the time  
being at least. The personnel  
of the team will be carried

in an ambulance and  
the equipment in the  
3 ton truck which is norm-  
ally a part of the establish-  
ment of every casualty  
clearing station. Until we  
know what & where, we  
are to sit tight. What will  
do in France won't be  
the working set up that  
could be used in Norway  
Will get an aeroplane yet.

Please drop me a note when  
you get the weight of the table,  
let me know how the hand  
and sore knee are getting  
along and whether your threat  
to go on a diet was just a  
threat etc etc.

Yours truly with  
best wishes,

Sr. William F. Coue

Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> 43.

Dear Miss Flanagan:-

I thought I am  
leaving for Sea Island  
Georgia for some time.  
I hope to be back by  
Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> and that if  
my Kaudenberg is not that  
I can get back to work  
at least in the lab.

In artificial  
light the jaundice  
is not noticeable now  
but in sun light  
the conjunctivae are  
still stained. But  
the nasal outlook  
distorted by the chroma-  
tic aberration is gone  
and is interesting

reading even medical  
literature again.

It seems so long  
that I've been away  
and it was such an  
unfortunate time to  
have it happen when  
Dr Penfield had so  
much on.

You and Miss  
Cameron are to be  
both scolded and  
thanked for sending  
me the lovely roses.  
I did enjoy them

With best wishes, I am,  
Sincerely,

William Cowe

The reason the "finger" was mentioned was that Dr. Penfield did I pushed the swing door into the O.R., at the same moment and Dr. Penfield's push was stronger than mine! My fingers got pushed back with the result I had a tendon injury - He asked Dr. Core to look after the treatment -

ΣC7

Sunday

June 23<sup>rd</sup> 1940

Dear Mrs Flanagan:-

It was so good of you to write and your letter made me ache sick for the old stamping grounds and something worth while to do. So take care of your hand and be patient about it. I have been trying to visualize what the trouble is and can't reach any logical conclusion except that it is a tenosynovitis or a peritonitis. The tendon sheaths as I remember them don't extend down to the point where the maximum tenderness was and for some time at least you had so much deep bone tenderness as well as pain produced by twisting movements. Please have some more X-rays taken if it is still kicking up. If it is a peritonitis they will show something. It is not knowing what it is that worries me.

It has been a month and two days since we arrived and now the men are here and still we have no hospital to work in. The unit has been put in tents out at Chursley. It is near Bramshol. The delay in getting set up seems so serious for surely we are going to have casualties and lots of them to care for shortly. Perhaps we may be sent to the

2  
east. At any rate I am glad the  
nurses did not come. They may  
not appreciate it in their anxiety to  
get going but how miserable they  
would be making time here.

The emergency medical schedule  
in force here is in practically complete  
control and perhaps it should be.  
They have all the hospitals and potential  
hospitals allocated for civilians and  
staffed by men who have been drafted  
as volunteers to do the work. And as  
they are taking care of the wounded  
army men as well. Medical officers  
from the army are assigned to  
the hospitals with a small staff of  
orderlies to see that proper records  
are kept and that the army men  
in the hospital behave themselves.

The Royal Army Medical Corps work  
therefore is largely in the field. I  
believe they are running only one  
or two hospitals in England. The  
R. C. A. M. C. is to have two hospitals  
one at Mansholt staffed by the  
Toronto Group and one at ~~Taplow~~  
(Clendon) staffed by the men from  
the west. Both these groups have  
been over here since February  
and yet their hospitals will not  
be really ready until July 15<sup>th</sup>. Their  
nurses came several days ago. The  
hospital at Taplow will be lovely. It  
was built by the Red Cross and will  
be very well equipped. We may be

able to rejoin the Road  
 DeBoco Estate near Tiplon and  
 the Chardon Hospital and set up there.  
 The men and officers will have to  
 go under canvas if we do and maybe  
 the nurses too. It does seem we  
 should be able to do better than this.  
 Changes have taken place so quickly  
 in this war that it has <sup>been</sup> hard to  
 keep up with them. Certainly the  
 organization of the army medical  
 service in the field must be  
 different than anything we  
 have ever had before. Guess the  
 U. S. Army with its light trucks  
 equipped for operating may be  
 the answer. Mobility is all important.  
 Do you remember Cushing's War  
 diary? He tells of a casualty clearing  
 station which had worked in the  
 same place behind the lines  
 for over 16 months. It seems  
 unbelievable now with the mechanized  
 attacks that such stations will ever  
 be able to settle down again for  
 more than a few hours.

The first aid kit you fixed  
 up for me has been a great joy.  
 I used it on the boat on the way  
 over - sutured a scalp laceration  
 and used the mosquito forceps  
 and the aluminium steel wire  
 sutures and the liquid adhesive

and now I am using it at  
 Queens square during some  
 animal experiments. All the  
 expendable stores are gone  
 but six cats heads have been  
 closed with the instruments  
 and the wire. All these supplies  
 at Queens Square have been  
 sent to Hayward and Heath and  
 if I had not had the things we  
 could not have done the work.

We have been putting  
 sulphamide into the brains  
 after cortical excisions to deter-  
 mine whether or not it should  
 be used in human cases. Not  
 a single animal has become  
 infected though we worked  
 with out gloves <sup>and masks + gowns</sup> so it must have  
 been of value so far as protecting  
 the wounds against infection is  
 concerned but there is quite a  
 marked reaction about it. A capsule  
 forms much like the capsule of an  
 abscess - I worked all day in the  
 laboratory making sections as  
 I have done so many days here  
 - Sundays and all. Usually I  
 stop just before it gets dark for  
 the lab can not be blacked out  
 Today Dr Russel interrupted and  
 came at 5<sup>30</sup> o'clock insisting I  
 go out to Regents Park with him  
 I had just finished some

sections on a boat I had killed  
 this morning so cleaned up  
 the desk and went along. It  
 amazes me how people can  
 be so carefree when such a  
 serious crisis is at hand. The  
 park was full - even children  
 who it seems to me should  
 not be in London were falling  
 into the water and having to be  
 dragged out. The lake was filled  
 with sail boats, canoes and skiffs  
 and every one seemed to be enjoying  
 it tremendously. There were so  
 many foreigners too - yes and  
 lots of jews and every type of  
 English man & woman. I'd  
 like to have had a movie camera  
 and a sound recording to  
 preserve the memory accurately.  
 It would have been most  
 enjoyable for me too if I thought  
 England were better prepared than  
 she is. It isn't men we need  
 now. It is tanks, planes and  
 guns - yes even revolvers. I wish  
 Canada realized this more than  
 she does and would commandeer  
 all industry for war supplies.  
 And Oh! how we wish the States  
 would wake up and do the same  
 thing.

I don't know when I will  
 get to see the unit. Dr Russell

went down to Liverpool to meet them and I pleased along here. Until we have a hospital site the equipment will be left in stores and I can not check it.

England is lovely now. It has been cool and strangely enough they need rain. It rains more of it than ever before in our oceans will give chances for a hospital and it is worth depending. Some of the E.M. Hospital locations are so beautiful they defy description. Charing Cross is out at Ashridge Road Rowlands old estate which had been bought by Bonar Law and given in trust for a college of citizenship. When the hospital took it over huts were built too. The grounds are the most beautiful I have ever seen. They can handle about 1200 patients. They carry on with their teaching out there too. The students live there and eat <sup>with</sup> and run about with their professors all day. They are most enthusiastic about it and say they are getting much more than they did in London. Their pathology laboratory and classes are held in an old wine cellar (1550) built by the monks. The ballroom with its ceiling murals is "the woman".

7.

wards. It's forgotten where  
St Barts and St Thomas are  
located but they have a summer  
set up and as I said Queens  
Square is staffing Stewards  
Heath. There is nothing doing  
in London.

I hope you can read my  
writing and that this reaches  
you without being molested.  
So much is being censored  
now days. Do sit tight and  
carry on and do your best  
to make people realize what  
a serious situation exists and  
how important it is for every  
one to do their bit even though  
it is working in a factory or  
on the farm. and please don't  
laugh at my lack of light  
heartedness and say take it  
easy. I can't.

With all good and best  
wishes,

Yours sincerely,

William Cole.

Blackwood Park.

Basingstoke

26<sup>th</sup> March 1901.

Keels.

My dear Miss Flanagan

I wrote you a short time ago and gave you all our news. Nothing much has happened since and no more very exciting cases. In fact we sent home some of our treasures particularly Johnson with complete paraplegia and terrible pressure sores - owing to his being in a plaster jacket before he came here. Never saw a worse case than he was on admission but must write and thank you for your cable to Bill & me and also for the two parcels of Cocoa all ready to make up.

They should be wonderful because I have an electric kettle that boils water in no time without any fuss or feathers. so in some of our midnight orgies they will be all to the good.

Our old friend Bill Baker. (Major.) started out for Canada a short time ago and should be home some time before you receive this. We all send many messages by him - He can tell you as much as anybody about the situation here

and what he thinks of it. Bill has just come in  
and when I asked him what I should tell you he said  
tell her "we await with a great deal of interest  
the coming events and very humbly". You may  
understand what this means. I must say I do not.  
He is a bit wrought up at present but that is affairs  
hush hush stuff. The only thing I can say - he has  
affairs gives up cigarettes and drink - I know  
you will sympathize with me from your own  
experience with him. He certainly spoils his  
disposition. I maintain I have far more to spoil  
mine than he has to affect his - but I suppose  
mine has been spoiled so often it does not make  
much difference. I must admit however there are  
many things happening that make us very  
restless. This seems a stupid letter but it  
must convey our very keen appreciation of your  
thoughts kindness  
very sincerely  
Bill Russell

22<sup>nd</sup> June 1940.

Can. Mil. Hqs.  
- Medical Services

London.

P. O. Box of Montreal.  
9 Waterloo Place  
London SW1.

My dear Miss Lamagan

I do not know whether I should write you or not. but I am always of the opinion, as you know. Still I was again terribly hurt when Bill came around bragging he had had a letter from you - and I have not received a scrap of a pen.

Bill is of course just the same - only worse - full of ideas and impatient - but the ground has been taken from under our feet so often that the plans must be changed almost daily. - However now we are getting closer to earth and hope we will have a satisfactory place to settle down this next week. - perhaps!

It was a joy to see our crowd the day before yesterday at Liverpool - Humphrey had been taken as Surgeon on another ship & had had 2 appendectomies with wonderful results - a great deal of kudos from what I can hear all the rest of the D.A.F. whom Bill has not shown up already express themselves as going to insist on coming to our hospital for any kind of disability.

It was a sad disappointment that our nurses did not come - they must be fit to be tied.

However under the circumstances it is just as well there is no use exposing them to danger until there

is a job for them to do -

There are pretty soul stirring days and we  
are fairly close to the goal. that does the  
stirring. I must catch the mail now but  
I did want to tell you how much we  
appreciate you <sup>and</sup> ~~all~~ all you have done for us  
and the Unit. Give my love to Miss Jennings  
and all the kisses.

Sincerely  
P. H. Russell.

P.S. The only thing that has saved us is Bill has got to  
work in the Lab. at Queen Square working on Cats  
& Sulphoperidine. Cutting & staining sections.  
He has just admitted he has not written to you  
yet. It is interesting to see how women's affections  
flourish on neglect. - Here I am writing and I  
get nothing. C.

Jackwood Park  
Basingstoke

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July 1840.

Wants.

My dear Miss Thackeray.

Sorry I have not sent you news of  
the suit for some time. Have been laid <sup>in bed</sup> up since  
early in January with two attacks of fever. Saturday  
last was the first seizure I have had since early in  
December. Had a day off - a few holes of golf with  
Gordon Holmes at Sandhurst.

The hospital is running along nicely - we have quite a  
number of surgical cases and many successes in desperate  
cases so you can imagine the little Colonel is in "high"  
social bombing cases with abscesses of the brain  
which have made remarkable recoveries and many  
multiple fractures of the face & skull from motor &  
motor cycle accidents - that seems to be the chief surgical  
interest at present: when the sinuses have been  
involved in the fracture & the dura torn this naturally  
has to be made safe before anything else - viz. J. Keightley  
and Franklyn<sup>orthodontist</sup> are a great help - Bill Baker (nose & throat  
who we have attacked is also. The occasional Epidural  
& sub-dural haemorrhage is a joy - a few nucleus  
pulposi<sup>or very ligaments</sup> cases are on the list - and his fame spreads  
abroad in the water. Doctors come a flocking to see.

to see and they cry out without hesitation You're  
a fighting man Billy McBees - that is the spirit.  
We have picked up cases from Bournemouth  
Lynton, Southampton, Christchurch Winchester  
and various other places. Everybody very nice  
and helpful in the British hospitals. and the results  
have been very satisfactory -

The medical side runs like silk and I personally  
have little to do. Had to go to Bristol prison to examine  
one of our <sup>Canadian</sup> "men" the other day. unfortunately could  
not be of much help. - appear in the Old Bailey,  
So to Leambridge Wells to examine a boy who  
had been damaged by one of our trucks & so on.  
We have at last got authority to put up huts for  
more patients and will eventually have 600 beds  
we got help in getting authority from Vincent  
Murray when he visited us 10 days ago. They  
should begin our road foundations today.

We hope to develop a cranio maxillary centre.  
My nephew Pat Russell - is leaving for Canada. He is in  
No. 1 Fighting Squadron. - all those in R.C.A.F. who have  
been here 6 months & have taken part in the  
Defence of London or Britain have been given the chance  
of going home for a period. He has earned it.  
The little Street had a bad cold in his head and a  
cough so that him to bed - raised the foot of the bed

made him lie on his tummy with head on head  
rest. Friars Balsam, in halation, continuous  
Luce's poultices on chest, face & back & about neck  
and no cigarettes; !!! Cured him in 2 days.

But now he has knocked off cigarettes and goes around  
like a poultice himself. This was not my doing.

He is up in London today trying to buy instruments  
which are still lacking. We have a new A.M.D. 2.  
and they are allowing him some money to spend.

It will be a busy day, and, I hope satisfactory. Curse the  
man LaBelle in Ottawa who did not get these things  
when they could have been bought and at half the  
price.

Major Robinson came over from Corps Headquarters  
and gave us some talks on Gas Defence which  
were very good and to the point last week. He is  
very busy and doing good work.

All our fellows are working in well but the  
Toronto Contingent are not wearing so well. However  
do not repeat that. - In saying that I do not refer to those  
on the medical side - they are fine and doing  
splendid work.

Hope Miss Fanning is quite recovered she spoke  
very appreciably of Mr. Naughton's Erickson's kindness  
Our nurses are all fine and seem to have many  
admirers.

~~the~~ I must say, before I got here terribly, have seen  
as the Pinguinette you inserted in your last issue  
note. You have no idea what mental effort I put into  
that effusion and music does not appeal to me  
and I do not think it would be any better if  
sung in spite of your liking for Campor concerts.  
I am sorry that my effort at broad casting was  
a flop: the censor must have thought the enemy  
might learn something to his advantage. - Had little  
or no warning and made quite a strenuous effort.  
W.V.P. got in twice. He got something the first time  
and the a.c. I think got in twice. one roll may  
have been sunk by enemy action.

Give my regards to everybody. We have 100 patents  
and a waiting list of about 25. - so you see  
it is going a bit. I am sure W.V.P. would  
join me in kindest regards to you all, & Dr. Purfield  
Sincerely  
Otis Russell