

Chaplain's Wounded Soldiers' Fund, etc.

By Major E. Bertram Hooper, (Chaplain)

I acknowledge with sincere thanks the following amounts since my statement of last week :—

Soldiers' Relief Society, Dauphin, Manitoba	-	-	£5	4	2
Granville Officer-Patients' Mess, per Capt. Cooper	-	-	2	10	0

Since my last letter we have been through another air raid, which caused very considerable damage to our hospital, causing the death of two of our men and injury to several others. I deplore the loss of life and the suffering caused by this dastardly attack upon our hospitals, and I offer my tenderest sympathy to the bereaved and the sufferers.

The removal of our hospital to a less dangerous locality will be a relief to the great majority of our patients, as well as to their friends at home. At the moment of writing I am in absolute ignorance as to where the hospital will be established, and (what is to me more serious) whether I shall still be its Padre in its new home. It would be a real grief to me to be removed from the Granville Canadian Special Hospital. I have spent 16 months of the happiest period of my life here.

To the Officer Commanding I owe most heartfelt appreciation of his constant kindness to me, and his generous consideration and support in all that I have tried to do for the good of the patients. The entire staff—officers and personnel—have been good to me. As for the patients, they have been always true lads and sons to me. I cannot express in words all that I feel in my heart. I have been so very happy because my whole heart and soul have been in my work, and because the patients, personnel, and officers have all made me rejoice daily in my relationship to them as The Padre.

May God bless you all is my constant prayer. My prayer for myself is, that I may still be attached to this hospital, when the removal is completed, as Chaplain, Padre, and Friend.

Wherever I am, I shall continue such service as I am able to render by means of my Wounded Soldiers' Fund. The song The Immortal Kitchener is doing well, and my Fund will soon receive a substantial increase. This will in no way be affected by the removal of our hospital from here. I am truly sorry to have to leave Ramsgate and Broadstairs. I have received much kindness, especially in Broadstairs, where I have made my home, I hate to go, but will always remember the many friends I and my family have made here, and the happiness of the days spent in this beautiful part of Kent.

So far as the Granville Canadian Special Hospital is concerned, I hope that my "Good-bye" may only prove to be but *Au revoir*, and that to the end of the war I may be, as now,

THE PADRE.