

"Raphael"

RYDER-CHESHIRE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE

For the Relief of Suffering
DEHRA DUN., U.P., INDIA



GROUP CAPTAIN LEONARD CHESHIRE, V.C., VISITS AUSTRALIA

Founders—

GROUP CAPTAIN LEONARD CHESHIRE, V.C., D.S.O., D.F.C.

Mrs. SUE RYDER CHESHIRE, O.B.E.

Vol. 1, No. 5—June, 1966—Price 10c.

The Ryder-Cheshire Foundation (Victoria)

Office-Bearers, Melbourne

Chairman:

The Hon. Sir Arthur Dean, LL.M.

Vice-Chairman

Mr. Philip H. N. Opas, Q.C., LL.M.

Hon. Treasurer:

Mr. D. A. Sinclair, B.Com., B.Educ.,
21 Moorwatha Street,
Macleod.

Hon. Secretary:

Mrs. A. A. Lord, M.B.E.,
"Homeden",
48 Lansell Road,
Toorak. Phone: 24-5283

Committee:

Mr. S. H. Collie, Mr. G. W. Duxbury, Mr.
J. L. Price, Mr. A. A. Lord, Dame Mary
Daly, D.B.E., Mrs. W. M. Calanchini, Mrs.
P. Dance, Mrs. G. H. Lavery.

Hon. Australasian Liaison and Victorian Adoptions Officer:

Miss Josephine Collins,
Flat 8c, 587 Toorak Road,
Toorak. Phone: 24-7682.

Hon. Editor Newsletter:

Miss Nona Sheehan,
1 Verdant Avenue,
Toorak.

Sub-Committee:

Chairman: Mr. Bill Galbraith.
Hon. Secretaries:
Mrs. Coralie Mansbridge.
Miss Anne Watson.
Hon. Treasurer:
Mr. Joe Quigley.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS

Annual Subscriptions, \$2 (£1), and donations (however small) made out to the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation (Victoria), should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer as above.

ADOPTION MONEY

\$100 (£50) p.a. to support a mentally handicapped child or leprosy patient, \$70 (£35) p.a. to support a destitute child should be made out to the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation and sent to the Hon. Australasian Liaison and Victorian Adoption Officer.

HONORARY SECRETARY SINCE 1959

Mrs. A. A. Lord, M.B.E., whose compassion, sympathy and understanding of the needs of others has stimulated the growth of the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation (Victoria).

In 1959 Group Captain Leonard Cheshire, V.C., and his wife visited Australia. After they returned to England, Mr. P. H. N. Opas, Q.C., acting chairman of a small group of people who had pledged themselves to help the Cheshire Homes, asked Mrs. Lord to be their Honorary Secretary.

Her outstanding organizing ability and tremendous work for charity were well known.

Mrs. Lord told me that when Mr. Opas asked for her help she felt that she could not possibly undertake any more charitable work.

But compassion for the needs of the incurably sick, and the fact that the Acting Chairman (the Chairman having transferred to Sydney) was prepared to hobble to a meeting with a broken leg, compelled her to accept this additional work.

The first amount of money sent to help support "Raphael" was £200. Since then she has driven herself relentlessly and swept others along with her. In the twelve months 1964/65 The Ryder-Cheshire Foundation (Victoria), under the chairmanship of the Hon. Sir Arthur Dean, maintained "Raphael" for three months at £800, and sent £1000 (\$2000) to build Victoria Cottage (four



MRS. A. A. LORD, M.B.E.

rooms, each with its own verandah, which provides four separate homes for leprosy couples).

"Raphael" at present comprises a Leprosy Colony housing 120, a unit for 65 mentally handicapped children, and a home for 35 destitute children.

It is the dream and hope of the Cheshires to provide a home for 600 incurable and destitute people. It is also the aim of the Foundation. In April of this year Group Captain Cheshire again visited us.

Group Captain Cheshire, V.C. visits Victoria

The third visit of Group Captain Cheshire, V.C., to Australia increased public awareness of the needs of the chronic sick, leprosy patients, destitute, and mentally retarded children at "Raphael."

The response from all sections of the community who came in contact with him was remarkable.

As Commander of the famous Dam Buster Squadron Cheshire's deeds are legend, and now his work for the chronic sick is no less great.

Group Captain Cheshire flew into Melbourne on 17th April. He was greeted at the Airport by the Hon. Sir Arthur Dean, LL.M., Chairman of the Ryder-Cheshire Foundation (Victoria), Mr. S. H. Collie, other members of the Committee, and representatives of the press, radio and television. Ansett-A.N.A. extended their hospitality for a Press Conference.

Next day he was Guest Speaker at Wesley Church P.S.A. That evening Mr. and Mrs. O. Jorgensen, who had met Group Captain Cheshire in England, invited members of the Victorian Foundation to meet him at a buffet supper at their home. It was a very happy occasion, and the first time many of those working for the Foundation had met the Co-Founder of the Ryder-Cheshire Mission for Relief of Suffering.

During the following week Group Captain Cheshire spoke on "India, Its Problem our Concern" and "Relief of Suffering" at Melbourne Junior Chamber of Commerce and The Lions Club of Melbourne. He fitted in radio and press interviews between other appointments, and also addressed 150 prisoners at Pentridge and thanked them for their work for "Raphael".

A small reception was arranged by the Melbourne Sub-Committee to give "Sponsors" (those people who have "adopted" patients) an opportunity to meet him. He was able to give them first hand information of their patients. Next day he drove to Ballarat.

BALLARAT

On arrival in Ballarat Group Captain Cheshire was interviewed on television at BTV6. He was then taken to Ballarat College, and was met by the Head Master, Mr. David Dyer, and Senior House Master, Mr. Alan Scott. The boys of the College have adopted five children at "Raphael". In the afternoon an address was given to representatives of all the Ballarat Secondary Schools.

In the evening he addressed a public meeting in the Wendouree Municipal Hall. The film, "Share Thy Bread", was also shown. \$300 was subscribed that evening.

Group Captain Cheshire stayed at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Hurley at Carngham. On Friday morning he visited the Sacred Heart Convent, and Rev. Mother Bonaventure presented a cheque for \$100 towards an adoption.

COLERAINE—\$2000 RAISED IN SIX MONTHS

Mr. Holford M. Wettenhall, with whom Group Captain Cheshire stayed at Coleraine, writes:

"In October, 1965, a group of thirty-nine Apex Clubs was offered the challenge of raising two thousand dollars in twelve months to equip a hospital ward at "Raphael". Then at the end of six months Group Captain Cheshire came to Australia; all clubs were informed of this, and on the night of 22nd April at Coleraine the Group Captain was presented with a cheque for two thousand dollars from Zone One (Western District) Apex Clubs".

Following a Civic Reception, he attended an Apex Dinner before addressing a Public Meeting. The Zone One President, Mr. Peter Cram, presented the cheque for two thousand dollars.

"I would like to thank, on behalf of the Coleraine Committee, all the Apexians who helped with this scheme.

"We were indeed privileged to have Group Captain Cheshire with us, and were very pleased he met his wartime friend and bomb aimer, Mr. Keith Astbury".

On the way back to Melbourne he spoke to representatives of Geelong schools at Geelong West Technical School. The Geelong school children have been con. helpful.



BEAUMARIS R.S.L. ON ANZAC EVE

It is coincidental that each time Group Captain Cheshire has been here for Anzac Day he has taken part in the ceremonies. On Anzac Eve he was guest speaker at the Commemoration Service at Beaumaris R.S.L. A large contingent of returned men marched and Group Captain Cheshire took the salute and inspected the ranks. Mr. T. V. Shaw, President of the Beaumaris Sub-Branch, announced that the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Beaumaris R.S.L., has undertaken to adopt four mentally retarded children at "Raphael".

At the impressive Anzac Day march to the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne, Group Captain Cheshire, V.C., led the R.A.F. Contingent.



AT MOE—A NEW GROUP IS FORMED

Sponsored by Moe Apex Club, a public meeting attended by 470 people was addressed by Group Captain Cheshire. That night a Support Group was formed, and the following have accepted office: President, Rev. E. E. Horth; Vice-President, Dr. Aldous; Secretary, Mr. J. T. Synan; Treasurer, Mr. R. Garratt.

At the public meeting \$68.75 was donated, and since then money has been coming in—the largest being \$100 for the adoption of a mentally handicapped or leprosy patient.

Leonard v.
State of Victoria

Inspiring address by

Group Captain Cheshire, V.C.

In the distinguished presence of His Excellency Sir Rohan Delacombe, Governor of Victoria, and Lady Delacombe, Group Captain Cheshire gave an illustrated address at the Kew Civic Hall on 20th April. Twelve hundred people were present, and the R.A.A.F. Central Band, under the leadership of Squadron Leader L. M. Hicks, gave a concert programme in his honour. He was introduced by Sir Arthur Dean, who said, "Since the war he has assumed responsibility for the establishment of these homes to alleviate suffering in so many parts of the world. It is a remarkable achievement that he has done so much."

During his talk Group Captain Cheshire said: "Well, my own field, my own small field, lies among the chronic sick. Those who are never likely to get better, but yet, who do have, or could have a useful life, if they were given help and the opportunity. I think that for the layman, somebody like myself, who is not qualified in social service, or in medicine, or in nursing, this is one field in which we can actually do something.

If one takes, for example, just one class amongst all of them, among the chronically sick lepers. I think that leprosy is something of which we all know something. . . . "Perhaps in a few words I can describe to you what their basic problem is, and, possibly, we, even from so far afield, can do something. First, leprosy is a disease that is not easy to communicate. Unfortunately, people think it is easy to communicate, but it is not. It is communicated only by prolonged, close, fairly intimate contact. At least so, by and large, the medical profession thinks".

It is, unfortunately, a disease that creeps on you very slowly. There is nothing in its onset that makes you want to go to a doctor. There's no pain. There's nothing very visible. In fact, there's everything to stop you going to the doctor, because once you go to the doctor you admit to the world that you have leprosy, and your inclination is to hide it. To hope somehow that you're wrong. That it will disappear.

And so the leprosy sufferer grows up with his disease, until the time comes that the doctor can't do very much about it. He can, in fact, arrest it, under certain circumstances, but the treatment is likely to last up to three years, and even though the disease is arrested the effects of the disease still remain.

And the principal effect of the disease is that your hands go rigid, you lose all movement in them . . . and secondly, that you lose all sense of touch. Now the effects of that are obvious. If you're a housewife, you're cooking, you pick up the saucepan, it's hot, you don't know it, so you burn yourself. You haven't the protection

that pain gives us. If you're a man and you're working in the field, or you're a carpenter or something like that, you have a rough handle, you cut yourself, again you don't know it. And so, gradually your hands and your feet suffer damage, which turn into ulcers, and, if you're not properly treated, eventually you'll begin to lose your fingers and your feet.

And all of that could be prevented if only the person in question were told about it, and were given the right means of protecting himself—given a wooden handle for the saucepan, and so on and so forth. But over and above that, far worse than what the disease does, I think, is what society does, because, unfortunately, society in most countries (I don't want to generalise), is afraid of the leper. He doesn't want him. Admittedly he wants to help him, we all want to help him, but society doesn't want the leper next door to itself. Take him away! Put him in a colony, outside the town. It wouldn't be right for him to be near me and my children. Take him away somewhere, then we'll help him.

Well, that of course is the one thing that the leper doesn't want. He wants to feel like all of us, that he has a right to move about the world, that he can come and go. He doesn't want to be a source of infection, but he doesn't want to be pushed away and isolated. And so, gradually his morale begins to drop. He sees no hope and no future.

In India there are three million leprosy sufferers, in one stage or another, and so you can imagine the problem that the doctors and specialists face. And one must admit that the way they handle the problem is most inspiring. . . . But when they take a patient and they arrest his disease, they have to say, "That's one case finished."

But of course it isn't one case finished. It's one case finished medically, but now his problem is a human one, a social one. And that I feel is where we come into it. We can't do very much to help the doctor and the specialists in their field, except I suppose by raising money, and that of course we do. But there is a lot that we can do to help that leprosy sufferer after he's been through his treatment.

In Dehra Dun, in Northern India, which is the site of our international home, "Raphael", we have started to build a little leprosy colony. In the town there, there was a colony of lepers. They were in what was called the "Dip". "The Dip" is a sort of a quarry. It was an old quarry. It was given to these leprosy sufferers by the Municipality for the reason that you can walk right past it and not notice it. It's underground.

They were forbidden to come into the city, except two days a week, when they were allowed to bathe. . . .

Obviously, living under those conditions is not much of a life. None the less, I don't think that anybody could go into that "Dip", as it's called, and see their tiny little houses, so small, so modest, and yet so tidily kept, so clean; almost spick and span, without feeling very humble. That people like this, who have really been driven so low, geographically speaking, as well as mentally speaking, but take such care to look after themselves, and to keep their little village, if that's the right word, so clean, one could not possibly go there without wanting to try and do something for them. . . .

As I said, they are just a few of the three million. And those three million are still only a few of all those in India who are in need of some form of help. And one looks at them, and one inevitably wonders, well what hope have I of doing anything about that. One of the problems, I think, is that if you live in a country like that, or even if you stay there for a while, you take it all for granted. You sort of build up around yourself an immunity to them, you don't really notice them. I think that you get into an attitude of mind where you say, "Well, it's hopeless! . . ."

Last year, when I went around to the fifteen or sixteen towns in which we have homes, I showed the film of "Raphael", Dehra Dun, and another film of similar homes in India. And I was quite astonished at the effect on the Indians. I'd began to think: "Well, what's the point in showing an Indian what he sees every day of his life?" But the effect was quite different. They nearly always said: "We see this nearly every day of our lives, and perhaps we take no notice, but now, suddenly, on the screen, it's come to life. We are seeing him as a person, and somehow it makes all the difference." . . .

And there, I think, lies the key to it. That so long as we look on it as one vast problem we will never be moved to do anything. But from the moment that we see it, not as a problem, but just as **one person**, never mind the three million others; **just one person**, and we say to ourselves: "Can we do something for him?". Which obviously we can, because it's within the means of anybody to do something just for one person. Then we have started.

And I also find that if one does go and do something for somebody, it has the extraordinary effect on the people who live there. At "Raphael", in Dehra Dun, we have four Australian nurses, two from Melbourne, they are young girls, they are nice looking girls, nicely dressed, they lead a normal life; but they've decided to give two years free to this work, and out they've come. And those who live in Dehra Dun look at them and they say: "Why should this girl, with all the life she has ahead of her, come out here

and help us?" and the moment they begin to say that they then say: "Well, we must do something too". And I'm sure you will agree in your own lives and all around you with the power of the example of one person, or one small group.

You will have heard, perhaps, going back to the war, of those days on Dunkirk Beach, when at one moment, so I believe, there was the beginnings of panic, and a small unit of the Guard lined up, and they drilled. And the very fact that they drilled, under the bombs and under the shells, made everybody pull themselves together. And so it will be the world over, but if one can identify oneself with somebody else's problem and make a start, however small, then the movement is begun.

In the Air Force we used to have a saying, "Get one foot in the door, and somehow you'll get the rest of your body in." I don't know that our motives were always the right ones, but anyway the principle is right. And that I feel is what is up to us to do, now in Asia. We must not be afraid of doing something merely because it seems such a small drop in the ocean.

And from my own testimony, for what it's worth, I know that, proportionately to the degree that we do that, those out there will respond, and receive the encouragement they need to face up to that huge problem. And if only that movement can grow, then I really think that the future holds greater hope. There will not be this feeling in some countries, that they have so little and the rest of us have so much. . . .

Thank you for the help that we've received from Australia and, above all, from Victoria, which has carried the main burden of maintaining "Raphael" with its three hundred patients, as it is today, over these last few years. I thank most warmly His Excellency and Lady Delacombe for their great kindness and the honour for their presence here with us this evening. I thank Sir Arthur, our chairman, and all his committee, and all those hard workers who raise our money."

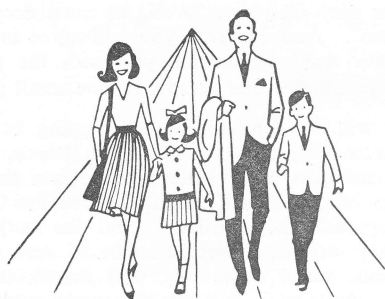
☆

P.S. 6th page
LXS

MELBOURNE

Before attending Melbourne Rotary Club Luncheon on Wednesday, 27th April, Group Captain Cheshire paid an informal visit to Red Cross Headquarters and conveyed to them his appreciation of their interest in the work of the Foundation and their assistance at the Kew City Hall on the night of the Public Meeting.

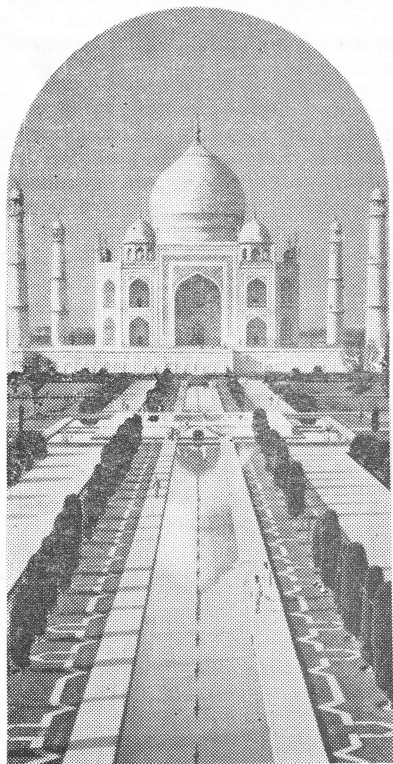
On the eve of his departure from Melbourne Group Captain Cheshire and members of the Victorian Executive were entertained by Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Lord at "Homeden". Next morning Group Captain Cheshire flew home via Adelaide and Perth after an arduous but, we hope, a happy and rewarding mission.



**EVERYONE'S HEADING
FOR**

India

THE COLOURFUL EXCITING NEW HOLIDAY LAND!



TO SEE THE
TAJ MAHAL
AT AGRA

Dream... mirage... or reality?
Here, an ageless masterpiece
in gleaming white marble, is
the greatest love story ever
told... the world's most
magnificent tribute to woman.

FLY THERE BY
AIR-INDIA

The airline that treats you like a Maharajah
In association with BOAC and Qantas

ADELAIDE

The organizing committee, press and old friends from World War II met Group Captain Cheshire at the Adelaide Airport on Thursday, 28th April, 1966.

Attended by 500 members and 100 guests, the Commonwealth Club arranged a luncheon in the Adelaide Town Hall. Press, radio and TV interviews were fitted into the afternoon, with an official call on the Lord Mayor. In the evening a dinner was held by the organizing committee, which included representatives from Rotary, Lions, Apex and the Air Force Association. Mr. Tom Duffy was convenor.

On Friday the Group Captain was guest speaker at a Ministerial Luncheon at Parliament House. He met Mr. Huntley Shannon, M.P., the father of Dave Shannon, the famous Australian pilot, who is an old friend.

In the afternoon the Air Force Association drove the Group Captain to Clare, where a public meeting was attended by 300 people. A Support Group was formed, with Dr. J. Wallace as President, and a Committee of six. This is the first official Ryder-Cheshire Group in South Australia.

On Saturday the President of Indian Aid, Mr. Gaylord Templer and Mrs. Templer, entertained at dinner members and others interested in India.

A large crowd farewelled Group Captain Cheshire at the Adelaide Airport on Sunday morning. His visit has aroused interest throughout the State.

"RAPHAEL"

Named after the archangel of healing, is situated in Northern India. It is here that the Cheshire's hope and dream of providing a home for 600 incurable and destitute people.

At present "Raphael" comprises a leprosy colony for 120 people, a unit for 65 mentally handicapped children, a home for 35 destitute children, and the first 40-bed ward of a hospital for the chronic sick.

It has been costing Victoria \$1600 per month to maintain "Raphael" for three months each year. Due to rising costs of living and an increase in the number of patients, the amount is now \$2500 per month.

HOW WE CAN HELP

By your generous donations, whether large or small (see Page 2).

A pensioner sent \$10, saying she wished it it could be more.

A lady is adopting a little girl the same age as her own daughter, and her little daughter is contributing from her pocket money.

Another donated \$2 (£1) per week for 52 weeks for an adoption.

Earlier in the year a donor from Bunyip sent £6/10/- from the penny jar for the year and Christmas Table Bowls.

One of the forms at the C. of E. Girls' Grammar School raised \$14 by having a stall and a rummy party at lunch time.

Many clubs, schools and groups of neighbours have adopted patients, and money may be sent in instalments if desired.

THE MELBOURNE SUB-COMMITTEE

Apart from raising money from theatre nights and social functions, this group is happy to provide films and speakers for your church, school, or group functions or meeting. Phone 24-7682.

A PATRON OF "RAPHAEL"

The Hon. Secretary, Mrs. A. A. Lord, had the honor of meeting Mrs. Vijaya Pandit in Melbourne.

Mrs. Pandit, sister of the late Indian Prime Minister, Mr. Nehru, is a former President of the United Nations General Assembly, a member of Parliament in India, a former Indian Ambassador to Moscow and Washington, and High Commissioner in London.

Mrs. Pandit spoke affectionately of "Leonard and Sue". She said she was delighted to meet a representative of "Raphael" International Centre, of which she is a patron.

She asked after the Australian girls doing work there, and she intends to visit them. Mrs. Pandit will be making her home at Dehra Dun.

* * * *

In a letter received from Mrs. Ava Dhar, Secretary Administrator at "Raphael", at Dehra Dun, she asked us to send this "apology" for her seeming neglect of "sponsors" in Victoria and New South Wales.

Dear Friends,

Since 1960 I have been corresponding with people in your country, and slowly a bond has grown. I have also had the privilege and pleasure of looking after the helpers from your land. The past year has brought us all much closer since you have been kind enough to help and sponsor our unfortunate ones and children in need.

It has been a very difficult year for us—with the growth and expansion of the work in all directions, the starting of the Hospital, and finding enough funds to meet the requirements of more than 250 souls, so that they may all be well and happy. And there has been the war and its aftermath. We have come through safely, it is true, but it has affected our lives very closely. And the end is not yet over.

Please understand and know that you are all very much in our thoughts and prayers.

We were all very sorry to hear of her illness, and glad to know that she is better.



NEAT CLOTHING AT "RAPHAEL" HELPS MORALE OF PATIENTS

Word has been received from India that the ten tea chests and three cartons of clothing sent at the end of January have arrived at "Raphael".

Thanking Mrs. J. Arundel for her work in this connection, Group Captain Cheshire said:

"Never have I seen the leprosy patients looking so neat and tidy. Thank you very much for the clothing. Perhaps even more important than the warmth they provide is what they have done for their morale." He passed on the appreciation of all at Dehra Dun.

Clean Clothing (except hats, shoes and foundation garments), also buttons, zippers, wool, needles and cotton. Freight free Victorian Railways, addressed to Mrs. J. Arundell, Ryder-Cheshire Foundation, Ormond Railway Station.

It is the aim of the Foundation to send twelve tea chests in January and twelve in June. Readers will be glad to know that twelve tea chests are ready to be sent in June, and Mrs. Arundel has started on those to be sent in January.

ANNUAL MEETING

Supporters of "Raphael" and their friends are invited to

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE RYDER-CHESHIRE FOUNDATION (VICTORIA)

at

E.S.U. ROOMS, TOORAK ROAD WEST South Yarra (opp. Christ Church)

at 8 p.m. on MONDAY 27th JUNE.

The Hon. Sir Arthur Dean, LL.M. will be in the Chair.

Films will be shown, and a tape recording by Group Captain Cheshire, V.C.

Coffee will be served.

PLEASE ENCLOSE THIS COUPON WITH YOUR SUBSCRIPTION OR DONATION

NAME

ADDRESS

.....

AMOUNT

Cash
Cheque
Postal Note