

# Happy End To Flood Ordeal

Charlie Dine's home, set in an orchard, had never been flooded in the twenty-seven years he had lived there.

But when storms lashed the South East last week, the water came down the hill and flooded his house for the first time, and brought with it a three-hour ordeal for 69-year-old Charlie.

For Charlie is crippled. He was in bed when the water swamped his home in Apple-garth Orchard, Beltring, East Peckham, on Sunday, and could not get to his wheelchair... and as the house was in an out of the way situation, he was almost forgotten.

But for Charlie the ordeal had a happy ending, for he is now being looked after at The Close, Bridge, where he was taken after being saved by the Army.

He was finally rescued when the Army got to his house. The water was four feet deep by then.

"The water had been in the house for two or three hours by then," Charlie told a reporter. "They had evacuated everybody else in the area, but

I was left till last, being out in the orchard. They practically forgot me.

I've seen floods before, but there's never been one like that."

## SAVINGS RECOVERED

He was taken to a rest centre at Paddock Wood, before being transferred to Bridge.

When he arrived there he realised that his life savings were still in the house.

When frogmen went to recover them, the water was six feet deep.

Now Charlie and his savings are re-united and, says superintendent of The Close Mr. H. Urwin: "Charlie has settled down and is very happy in his new home."



Flood victim Mr. Charlie Dine has settled down happily in his new home at The Close.

## The Close dinner

Candle-lit tables and festive fare added to the gaiety of the evening when a company of over 100 assembled at the Abbot's Barton Hotel, Canterbury, on Friday for the annual dinner given to the staff of The Close, Bridge.

Mr. Edward J. Mount, chairman of the Canterbury Group Hospital Management Committee, proposing the toast of the guests, particularly welcomed Miss E. Haigh, the new matron of Kent and Canterbury Hospital.

Replying, Cllr. Dr. R. A. C. McIntosh, chairman of Bridge-Blean Rural District Council, congratulated the staff on their fine work.

Appreciation was also expressed by Mr. Alan Barson, secretary of the Hospital Management Committee, who said the staff were doing vital work often under difficult conditions.

The superintendent of The Close, Mr. H. K. Urwin, thanked Canon Colin E. H. Perry, chairman of the Bridge Group of the League of Friends of Canterbury Hospitals, and other voluntary organisations for their help.

He thought a special word of thanks was also due to those husbands whose co-operation made it possible for married women to return to the hospital service.

After paying his own tribute to the loyalty of the staff, he said he was particularly proud of the fact that after the recent snow there was a 100 per cent. attendance of staff, many of them having walked from Aylesham, Sturry, Barham and Bishopsbourne.

The dinner was followed by a dance and buffet.