

Her Majesty was also presented with the Medal of Honour by the French Red Cross, at the British Embassy, where various ladies engaged in the ex-Service men's relief work were presented, amongst them Mme. Foch, Mme. Lyautey, and Mme. Joffre, wives of the late Marshals of France.

Valour and Mercy moved hand in hand on the following day. The King paid a visit to the Arc de Triomphe and laid a wreath on the grave of the Unknown Soldier and inscribed his name in the Book of Memory; the Queen spent the morning at the British Hertford Hospital at Levallois-Perret. Her Majesty was received by the Chairman, the head physician Dr. Charles Flaudin and the Matron, and on her arrival was presented with a bouquet of lovely mauve orchids by the hospital's youngest probationer. Boy Scouts and Girl Guides dipped colours on the Queen's arrival.

Sitting on golden chairs in the exquisite gardens of the Chateau Bagatelle, bowers of roses, where exquisitely gowned *tout Paris* offered the homage of the women of France.

The sublime splendour of the Opera House, the stupendous acclamation of the King and Queen as they appeared, magnificent Orders, blazing jewels on the brow of a lovely Queen, whose entrancing smile was even more brilliant than jewels. To part was impossible, and later the enthusiastic Parisiennes called their Majesties to the balcony of the Palais d'Orsay, and bid them a tumultuous farewell.

On leaving French soil the King sent a touching message of thanks to President Lebrun for their reception in France, which concluded "The Queen and I bid 'au revoir' to the people of France and thank them from our hearts."



THE QUEEN PLACING A FLANDERS POPPY FROM HER BOUQUET ON THE AUSTRALIAN MEMORIAL AFTER IT HAD BEEN UNVEILED BY THE KING.

Conducted by officials she visited the wards and inaugurated the new Coronation Ward, which is decorated in pale blue and white, and which consists of four rooms with one bed in each. In the maternity ward the Queen found four British babies, born recently, one of them named "Elizabeth." Her Majesty talked with every patient in the hospital during her visit.

Before leaving for Versailles she had won all hearts young and old.

Brilliant beyond description were the banquets and receptions. How clearly in the Hall of Mirrors at Versailles were reflected seventeenth-century scenes of glory, the marvellous vista of terrace, of garden and water, fountains sparkling whilst the band played music of the seventeenth century.

The trip along the Seine to the Hôtel de Ville, Naval launches on either side. The Reception of the Lord Mayor of Paris M. le Provost de Launay—the signing of the Golden Book.

To which the President replied:—

"I shall be glad to become the interpreter to the Government of the Republic and to the people of the sentiments of your Majesties kindly expressed at the end of the unforgettable days which Paris and all France owe to your august visit."

THE KING'S TRIBUTE TO AUSTRALIAN GALLANTRY.

On July 22nd, the King stood with the Queen and President Lebrun, beside him, when on hallowed ground at Villers-Bretonneux he unveiled the Australian War Memorial—ground hallowed for all time by the heroism of Australia's soldiers. The ceremony was deeply impressive. At the close of the religious service the King laid a wreath of Flanders poppies at the foot of the memorial. The Queen stepped forward alone and placed a single poppy on the wreath of the King.

After touching ceremonies, from high in the topmost platform of the tower came the mournful wail of bugles—in lamentation for Australia's dead—the "Last Post" and then "Reveille" rang out.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)