

## DEATH OF MISS E. A. DOWSE, Q.A.I.M.N.S.

### A CELEBRATED MILITARY NURSE.

The death is reported of Miss Elizabeth Annie Dowse, late member of the Army Nursing Service and Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service.

Miss Dowse trained at St. Mary's, Paddington, between the years 1878 and 1885.

In 1885 she joined the National Society for aid to the sick and wounded in War and went to Egypt to serve during the campaign of that year, and was one of the first nursing sisters to sail up the Nile as far as Wadi Halfa when General Gordon was besieged in Khartoum.

On July 15th, 1885, she, together with three other nursing sisters, received orders to embark in the *Bulimba* at Suez to escort invalids home to England.

In December, 1885, Miss Dowse applied for admission to the A.N.S. and early in 1886 was posted on probation to R.V. Hospital, Netley, and after the three months' probationary period was confirmed in appointment in the A.N.S.

In the year 1900 she was matron at the Intombi Hospital in Ladysmith during the siege of that garrison, and with her staff went through all the trials and difficulties of acute shortage of food and heat and the dangers of crossfiring of our own and the enemy's artillery. She was awarded the R.R.C. during this campaign and in 1902 she and nursing staff of the hospital at Ladysmith were presented with brooches as a token of appreciation of their kindness and skill in nursing wounded officers; these mementoes were given by the officers of the Imperial Light Horse, accompanied by a letter of appreciation by the Commanding Officers of that regiment.

When the A.N.S. became the Q.A.I.M.N.S. in 1902, Miss Dowse was automatically transferred to that Service in which she remained until she retired in 1911. On account of her "specially meritorious and devoted service" she was given permission to retain the badge of the Q.A.I.M.N.S.

The Great War of 1914-18 saw her re-employed and again on Active Service, and in 1916 she was matron of the ill-fated Hospital Ship *Britannic* which was torpedoed on 31.11.16 in Zea Channel, south of Greece, and while waiting in open boats to be rescued she and her nursing staff passed from one boat to another ministering to the needs of the wounded and tearing up their caps and aprons to make bandages. For these services she was awarded a Bar to her R.R.C.

Miss Dowse was later sent to France and there appointed as matron of a hospital unit which went to Taranto in Italy. In November, 1919, her service was again terminated and this time finally, after many eventful years of valuable service with the Forces of the Crown.

During her after years of retirement she was made Honorary Serving Sister of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem and received the Diploma of that Order in 1920.

To the end of her life Miss Dowse remained a bright, cheerful and interesting personality. Up to within a few weeks of her death she was able to occupy herself knitting for the troops.

### THE UNJUSTIFIABLE TREATMENT OF MISS ALICE M. BROWNLOW, S.R.N.

Miss Horsbrugh, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health, reported in the House of Commons on July 9th, in written reply to Sir Waldron Smithers (Con., Chislehurst), that the Health Minister sees no grounds for a public inquiry into the administration of Farnborough Hospital (Kent), whose matron, Miss Alice Brownlow, was recently placed on indefinite leave at a salary of £500 a year. See report under heading British College of Nurses.

## THE WAR.

### THE AIRMAN.

Let him lie still and mourn him not,  
For he has reached the goal  
Appointed in the mind of God  
To every faithful soul.  
The gates were open as he passed  
From earth's bewild'ring skies,  
While angels standing at salute  
Watched him with joyful eyes.

Close up the ranks exalted now  
By fame's uplifting breath,  
March on, no footstep can disturb  
The majesty of Death.  
Through doubts and shadows he has climbed  
To radiant hills of Truth,  
Escaping from the grasp of Time  
He dons immortal youth.

Say not his home is dark with grief  
Since Honour holds the door,  
While memory with shining feet  
Paces his childhood's floor.  
That bread which he so gladly cast  
On life's uncertain wave,  
With richer harvest shall endow  
The land he died to save.

A. M. M.

### The Land They Died to Save.

The following record of valour will be read with uplifted hearts by their colleagues, who realise that these fourteen young nurses have died in the service of our glorious country:—

SALFORD ROYAL HOSPITAL, LANCs.

June 9, 1941.

DEAR MADAM,

The following is an accurate account of the loss of life amongst the Nursing Staff due to enemy action in the early hours of June 2nd:—

One Sister, Doris Preston. In charge of the Preliminary Training School.

Three Staff Nurses, Edith Haslam, Vera Creighton, Maureen Lynch.

Six Probationers, Bridget Leonard, Rose Moffatt, Margaret Owen, Margaret Lowery, Philomena McCrossan, Helen Sheridan.

Four Preliminary Training School Candidates, Doris Tyson, Martha Stott, Elsie Okell, Dorothy Burslem.

Three injured Nurses are progressing satisfactorily, and two suffering from shock have been able to go home.

There were no casualties or injuries amongst the patients, and the remainder of the Nursing Staff behaved with great fortitude.—Yours faithfully,

ANN C. BELL,  
Lady Superintendent of Nurses.

### Total Casualties of the War

It has been officially announced in the House of Commons that the approximate number of casualties from the beginning of the war was as follows:—

	Killed.	Wounded.
Civilians ... ..	29,856	40,897
	Killed and missing.	Wounded.
Armed forces .....	37,607	25,895

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)