

Britain's armies have fought 10 campaigns and garrisoned strategic bases such as Iceland, Malta, Gibraltar, India and the Middle East. Britain's fighting forces have suffered 183,500 casualties—71 per cent. of all Empire dead and wounded.

"Britain's Navy, with never less than 600 ships at sea, has sunk 5,250,000 tons of enemy merchant shipping and convoyed 100,000 United Nations ships with losses of only one-half of one per cent. in these convoys.

"Britain's factory workers produced in 1941 twice as many finished weapons as the United States."

Great Traditions.

"In her long history Britain has fought a succession of European tyrants—among them Louis XIV, Napoleon, Wilhelm II, and Hitler. Great traditions are being carried on to-day."

War Injuries to Women.

When we were interviewing women Members of Parliament, the only one who appeared to realise the basic objections of Registered Nurses to degrading educational standards and the danger of semi-trained nurses to the economic security of our profession, was Mrs. Tate, M.P., and it is to be noted that she has the courage of her opinions—and the ability to express them.

This is fortunate in support of the demand for equal compensation for war injuries to women, as Mrs. Tate and some 84 other Members of Parliament have tabled in the House of Commons the following motion:—

"That this House is of opinion that as women are now being conscripted for work in war factories, and for fire-watching, they should be compensated at the same rate as men under the Personal Injuries (Civilians) Scheme."

That any other basis of compensation could have been advanced by those responsible for it is proof positive that our present Parliament is stale and unprofitable. It has been doddering along for seven years, and we regret to note that it proposes to take another year's power in November. We need young blood in power in time of war.

In Total War Women should be Able to Defend Themselves.

General agreement that a woman cannot be expected to use a bayonet was expressed at a Nottingham discussion group of A.T.S. officers.

One speaker thought that probably the reason why women were not trained in the use of arms was that there was some prejudice that they disliked the idea of killing.

This brought the reply that in total war women should be in a position to defend themselves.

Nurses may Choose a Painless Death.

At least 1,000 people have been killed on the Australian mainland through air raids since the outbreak of the Japanese war, said Mr. E. J. Holloway, Minister of Health, speaking at Melbourne

"Leading doctors have told me," he reports, "that nurses near the war front have been issued with little white tablets so that they could choose a painless death if ever they should be unfortunate enough to fall into the hands of our terrible Japanese foe."

Personally, we should prefer a weapon with which to annihilate the enemy rather than commit suicide, and that should be the policy of our Governments. We have to thank Dr. Edith Summerskill, M.P., for claiming the right of women to defend themselves with firearms, as she is well able to do.

Japanese Brutality.

Japanese brutality in the Netherlands East Indies, and wherever they obtain a footing, is being reported by sufferers from their horrifying cruelty.

The President of the United States has done well to inform barbarians that they will be made to suffer for their methods when war ends. Let us hope this threat will be enforced.

Hundreds of Japanese Still Free in our Midst.

Nurses who object to the freedom from internment of hundreds of Japanese nationals in this country will be interested to learn that Mr. Herbert Morrison, Home Secretary, and Minister of Home Security, has appointed Mr. F. C. Watkins, Socialist M.P. for Hackney Central, to be his Parliamentary Private Secretary, in succession to the late Mr. John Jagger, M.P. We hope he will realise the necessity to intern treacherous enemies.

The Sacred Carpet.

General de Gaulle stands out as one of the few great personalities of this war. We are not, therefore, surprised that his recent welcome in Damascus was of an enthusiastic nature. The sacred carpet, "Mahmal" was spread before his residence, and gives some indication of the extraordinary pleasure with which the people welcomed the General. He stressed the friendship between Syria and France.

Devotion to Duty.

News of a splendid example of devotion to duty on the part of Nurse Janet Jeffries, daughter of Mr. J. M'Donald, of Bathgate, who had been for two years in the General Hospital, Singapore, has been told in a letter received by her mother from a man who had just arrived in this country, informing her that Nurse Jeffries had remained in Singapore.

He stated that when the fall of Singapore was imminent, Nurse Jeffries, along with two other nurses, resolutely refused to leave with a view to being evacuated along with other British subjects, but preferred to remain at her post to tend the wounded British sailors and soldiers. The writer of the letter described them as really brave girls. This is the first news Mrs. M'Donald has had of her daughter since the fall of Singapore.

Their friends will be relieved to hear news of them.

THE NURSES' CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT.

At the Annual Meetings of the Nurses' Christian Movement, held on September 3rd, in the Livingstone Hall, most encouraging accounts were given of the progress of the work. Miss Cooper described the branch at University College Hospital, where some 30 nurses meet weekly at the Central Hospital, and there are growing branches in two sector hospitals. Miss Topping (General Secretary) and Miss F. Russell (recently appointed travelling secretary) each had a tale to tell of the wonderful spirit of expectancy which they are meeting in the hospitals. Requests for visits are pouring in almost daily, and they are finding nurses eager for help in forming branches of the Movement and glad to meet for fellowship and prayer.

Lieut.-General Sir William Dobbie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., D.S.O. (lately Governor of Malta), was the chief speaker at the afternoon session, and he expressed his long-standing admiration for the nursing profession, to which he now added deep gratitude for all the care and help he had received in his recent illness. The subject of his address was the need for a living faith in Jesus Christ for all who would serve their fellows. Christian witness, he said, must be given with assurance based on personal experience, and he himself had made a habit of bringing every problem to God in prayer, and had never found Him to fail. He believed that we could have assurance of forgiveness in the past, of constant help in the present, and assurance for the future. Therefore, he said with the Psalmist, "We will not fear."

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