

## THE WAR.

### Thanks to His Majesty

The warm thanks of the nation to His Majesty the King for his visit of appreciation and inspection of men in all the Services defending our liberties—in North Africa, Malta, and the Middle East—are expressed far and wide.

That his presence evoked enthusiasm and thunderous applause wherever he appeared goes without words; and the honours he awarded, so well deserved, were naturally an inspiration to men of all conditions and nations, though it is a recognised fact that duteous deeds of valour, many of which are never known, spring from the soul, for which no reward is comparable.

His Majesty may rest assured that our country seemed empty without him, and that his people welcome him home with sincerest pleasure.

### Flying Nun Conducts Aviation Class.

Women are doing amazing things in this war, and we have only to watch corps of splendid girls, physically perfect, marching on duty in uniforms of the utmost neatness, to realise that intellectually they can attain the highest ever!

But who would believe that a flying nun would be found conducting an aviation course?

Yet here is Sister Mary Aquinas, holder of a pilot's licence, conducting an aviation class at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. Her pupils, who are also nuns, will conduct preflight classes for students elsewhere.

Associated Press photo shows Sister Mary Aquinas (centre) explaining the intricacies of a

plane motor to two of her pupils—Sister Mary Diricol (left) and Sister Mary Pius, teachers at the Catholic Central High School, Steubenville, U.S.A.

### Colonel James Eastwood, R.A.M.C.

"Humanely glorious! Men will weep for him."

We have wondered why we hear so little of the heroic work of members of the medical profession in this war, whose skill is saving many precious lives and mitigating mutilation. It was therefore with appreciation that we read in a recent issue of the *Evening Standard* the report of the devoted service of Colonel James Eastwood, R.A.M.C., chief consultant surgeon to the Eighth Army medical services in the Middle East, by Mr. Peter Duffield, from Alexandria, when reporting his irreparable loss by death after two years' work saving the lives of his fellow men.

It is written:—

"On the day he died of a painful heart disease which only himself knew about he performed 17 operations in

his desert hospital and visited every patient in the building. "Colonel Jimmy's" last desert assignment was close behind the Mareth Line. There he carried out dozens of operations in forward areas—sometimes under shelling, bombing and machine-gun fire. Once a bomb fell ten yards from his operating tent, and the Colonel did not flinch.

"One day a patient with one leg amputated lay in bed wondering why 'Colonel Jimmy' had not visited him. The matron arrived at the boy's bedside. 'He died two days ago,' she told him.

### HIS LAST GAME.

"The Colonel turned up early as usual to see his patients on the day of his death. He worked solidly throughout the day, although he felt tired at lunch-time, and performed 17 operations. At dusk he accepted an invitation from two other doctors to play tennis. But he only played a few strokes before he lay down beside the court. The

other doctors asked him what was wrong, but Colonel 'Jimmy' was already dead.

"In Alexandria last night, from one of the doctor's most intimate friends, I learned the secret of the Colonel's life. 'He was incredibly brave and an incorrigible worker. He knew the state of his heart, but he told no one.'

"It was not until the post-mortem that the doctors at his own hospital knew he suffered from extreme heart disease.

### MEMORIAL CHAPEL.

"He never smoked, and he was known as the doctor who could stand longer than anyone else living with one drink in his hand.

"Fifty men on crutches went to Colonel 'Jimmy's' funeral—"scrounging" transport—to say good-bye to the man they adored, and whom they all knew had given his life for them.

"Yesterday a new chapel, just built at his hospital, was dedicated in his memory—an astonishing tribute to one of the Middle East's greatest doctor-soldiers."

Such evidence of valour and devotion is not unique, maybe, but it is well it should be placed on record, so that we may realise the sublime altitude to which human effort may attain.

### They made War on Nineteen Hospital Ships.

Mr. A. V. Alexander, First Lord of the Admiralty, has circulated what he termed an unhappily long list of Axis attacks on hospital ships. All the ships were marked in accordance with the Geneva Convention.

Ships were bombed, shelled and machine-gunned.

From obituary lists, our devoted Army nurses have paid the last debt of duty to their patients—a noble death.



Photo.]

[Associated Press Photo.]

SISTER MARY AQUINAS CONDUCTING AN AVIATION CLASS.

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