

THE WAR.

The National Day of Prayer and Dedication.

By desire of the King a National Day of Prayer and Dedication was held throughout the country on Sunday, September 3rd, at which people of all denominations offered gratitude to God for the merciful progress of the War.

"Glorious Victories" of Allied Arms.

THE KING'S MESSAGE.

WITH SECOND ARMY, Sept. 6.—The King, in a message to Field-Marshal Montgomery dated August 29, which has been published to all troops of the British Second Army, declared:—

"To you and all in the allied expeditionary force I send my warmest congratulations on the glorious victories already gained in France. All my peoples will join me in thanking God for the outstanding success vouchsafed to allied arms."

The Great de Gaulle.

We have just been reading the "Life of General de Gaulle," by Philippe Barrès, as from the beginning of the war; it must be recognised that he is the greatest Frenchman who has come forth to battle, the greatest because whilst the other three leaders, Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin, had their people at their command, de Gaulle claimed the freedom and splendour of France, betrayed and enslaved. His years of struggle, poor and alone, his valiant heart his only inspiration, is the most inspiring lesson of the war. Of his ultimate success, the entry into Paris reclaimed, and the accolade of his compatriots is evidence. The wonder and glory of these things are still to be told—an inspiring record indeed.

Our King's Congratulations.

Our King realised the significance of General de Gaulle's triumph of character over circumstance, and sent congratulations which General de Gaulle acknowledged with the following expression of gratitude:—

"I am very touched by the message your Majesty sent me on the occasion of the liberation of Paris. It was thanks to the brilliant victories of the allied armies that the population and French forces were able to liberate Paris.

"This enhances those sentiments of loyal friendship for my country which your Majesty and her Majesty the Queen have never ceased to express during the past four years and for which I am deeply grateful. These sentiments are reciprocated in the hearts of the French people, more than ever before linked with the British nation by common trials and hopes. Shoulder to shoulder in war, so we shall be to-morrow in peace."

20,000 Casualties Home by Air.

Since D Day aircraft of R.A.F. Transport Command have flown more than 20,000 casualties from the battlefields of France to hospitals in England. In addition to men from the British Army, there were R.A.F., Navy, and United States Army wounded, together with wounded prisoners of war.

This reveals a considerable development in R.A.F. Transport Command's service for the air transport of wounded. Between June 14 and July 31, 10,000 casualties were flown home. The command has been able to double that figure in less than three weeks.

Hundreds of lives have been saved by the rapid air transit of wounded men, many of whom received treatment in a specialist hospital in England within a few hours of being injured on the field. The men are tended in flight by R.A.F. or W.A.A.F. nursing orderlies. Outward bound, the air-

craft carry stores of all kinds, including blood plasma and other medical requirements.

Justice must Rule.

It is natural that the news of the rapid progress of the Allies toward victory has aroused a sense of joy and gratitude throughout the lands united to smash from power German barbarians who have terrorised, persecuted, and murdered the innocent people whose homes and lands they have desecrated. Weakness in dealing with Germany when finally conquered will not be tolerated—let those who have not been in the front line of battle realise this once and for all.

The liberation of Paris and Brussels, and other great cities in France, Belgium, and Holland, aroused demonstrations of thankfulness and joy, and with stern justice at the helm, the peoples of these historic lands are uniting to restore order and liberty.

London, mighty and glorious, which in recent months has been the Third Front of War, facing death and disaster without a tremor, from a mechanical murder machine, will rise, let us hope, in its determination that never again will it tolerate a government which fails to protect its people from sudden death.

Brussels Liberated.

The British flying column liberated Brussels, and its people, whose sufferings have been heartrending, were intoxicated with joy.

With the whole army on the move, soon the battlefields of the last war were left behind. Here they passed the great cemeteries with the graves of countless thousands who fell in the first World War, dying gloriously for King and country, and for ever held in honour.

We have rejoiced greatly at the liberation of Brussels, where we have spent many happy days.

The entry to the capital, with his usual simplicity, of Field-Marshal Sir Bernard Montgomery, aroused wild demonstrations of gratitude by the populace.

It is reported that brave Queen Elisabeth, who has never left her country, locked herself in security at the Palace of Laeken when the Germans attempted to imprison her.

Those of us who were so graciously received by Queen Elisabeth in 1933, when the I.C.N. was in Congress in Brussels, will never forget her lovely rose garden. May there be many happy days in store for this gracious lady.

RACHEL WEeping.

How well they sleep with foreign earth above them,

Our Lion Hearts! while days speed after days
And haply leave behind with some who love them
Courage to breast the newly steepened ways.

One heart there is wherein will linger ever
The grip of loss, however long the years
'Ere Time, the silent-footed, halts to sever
The little link that sets us free of tears!

And there's one memory with space unmeasured
To hold each word and whisper of the past
And keep its clear, unbroken record treasured
Inviolable, the "while the light shall last."

While year on year may leave the soldier sleeping
And steal the sting of many griefs away,
His mother's love no count of Time is keeping—
Ever to her he died but yesterday!

CLARA BELASYSE MYERS.

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