

THE WAR.

The King Inspects His Troops.

The King, accompanied by the Queen and Princess Elizabeth, has spent two days inspecting troops. It was the King's seventh such inspection in recent weeks, says the *Times*: but it was the first time the Princess has made a full-length tour with her parents. Scottish troops and armoured and infantry units were among those visited.

New developments in the battle organisation of the R.A.M.C. were particularly interesting to the King and Queen, who went into the tents of one of the new advanced surgical units which are set up close to the battlefield to deal with cases needing instant operation.

The King and Queen, and the Princess rode in jeeps and half-track scout cars to watch troops training. They saw flame-throwers, anti-tank guns, mortars, self-propelled artillery, and many other of the Army's newest weapons. They also watched troops scrambling down high scaffolding as a rehearsal for disembarkation from big invasion ships into landing craft.

The Gallant Work of Our Sisters at the Front.

The *Evening Standard*, which is most sympathetic in reporting the gallant work of our Sisters at the front, recently announced that 102 Army Nursing Sisters have been killed under fire; 44 are missing in Malaya; 14 are prisoners at Hong-Kong. "Wherever the Army goes—we go—in peace and in war," Dame Katharine Jones, Matron-in-Chief, told the reporter.

Many are the records of individual heroism under fire which reach this dignified woman in grey and scarlet with the pips and crown of an Army Brigadier on her shoulders.

Off Beachhead.

Most recent is in a letter from the Sister-in-Charge of the hospital ship "St. David," sunk by an air attack off the Anzio beachhead two months ago.

A young married Sister, the letter says, behaved with outstanding coolness and courage.

"She was splendid, helping her own patients and handing out life-jackets to others passing through the ward." There were casualties among the nurses in the "St. David."

What Dame Katharine called "the beachhead nurses" are serving in casualty clearing stations, usually in tents dug in close to the lines.

They wear battledress and live like front-line soldiers.

"They are standing it well," said their chief.

Nursing Sisters followed the Eighth Army from Tobruk to Tunisia, from Tunis to Sicily, from Sicily to Italy.

In remote places, far from the battle fronts, nursing Sisters are showing courage and endurance of the same high quality as those under fire.

In the Wilds.

From the Principal Matron in East Africa has come to Dame Katharine a report of six Sisters, who made a 15-day trek in a lorry to care for a detachment of British soldiers in the wilds of Abyssinia:—

"We have Sisters in Madagascar, Seychelles, Mauritius," Dame Katharine told me, "besides India, Ceylon, Egypt, Irak, Persia, East and West Africa."

We have no doubt that His Majesty will have designed a very special decoration for these "soldiers of the King" when their services are no longer needed on active duty. Those who return not—will be honoured in the homeland.

An International Memorial.

We have in mind an International Memorial—let us hope it may materialise. It would stand for ever.

To Aid the Allies.

Dr. Wellington Koo, the Chinese Ambassador, spoke of the gracious gesture on the part of Queen Mary's (Roehampton) Hospital in offering to share its knowledge with the Allies of Great Britain, when presiding at the opening ceremony of the new extension to the Limb Fitting Centre last month.

The gesture of the governors, Dr. Koo felt sure, would go far to help in fostering international good will, understanding and mutual assistance in the post-war world.

In the course of his speech he paid tribute to the work done at Roehampton since 1915. "The unfailing support and co-operation of the Ministry of Pensions," said the Ambassador, "inspired me deeply as a striking example of what could be achieved by close co-operation between authority and private endeavour in the promotion of a humanitarian cause."

The Minister (Sir Walter Womersley), replying to Dr. Koo, said that it was the suggestion of Lady Falmouth that the facilities of Roehampton should be thrown open to the United Nations. He stressed the points of the Governors' offer to the Allies which was published in Bulletin No. 3.

The Minister specially thanked the Artificial Limb Manufacturers for training facilities which they were prepared to give to the Allies in their factories. He emphasised that full credit must always be given to the contractors who are responsible for the design and manufacture of the various types of limbs and the many fittings that adapt them to their different uses. The Minister concluded by thanking the contractors and workers for their co-operation and help.

Those of us who have studied the coming of this war feel strongly that we owe reparation to China, for failing to support her heroic resistance to the barbarism of Japan, for so many years before we were made to suffer the terrible penalties exacted at Hong-Kong and Singapore, and where prisoners are still suffering for our indifference.

The Royal Canadian Naval Nursing Service.

The Royal Canadian Naval Nursing Service was organised in December, 1941, and has as Matron-in-Chief Miss Marjorie Gordon Russell, A.R.R.C., the first nurse to serve in this distinguished capacity. Miss Russell was trained at the School of Nursing of the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, and has had considerable experience in administration and supervision, while holding responsible positions both on the staff of her own hospital and the Montreal General Hospital, we learn from the *Canadian Nurse*.

As there are no Canadian Naval Hospital Ships up to the present, Nursing Sisters serve in shore establishments only.

Qualifications for a Nursing Sister are that she shall be a British subject, a graduate of a School of Nursing accredited by the Canadian Nurses' Association, be registered in a Provincial Association. She must be under 35 years of age and passed as medically fit. The number wishing to serve far exceeds the demand, there being enrolled at present some 230 out of 10 times that number of applications.

The uniform of the Nursing Service is navy blue with gold lace, and maroon distinction cloth, denoting the rank and service on the shoulder straps.

One Nursing Sister, Miss Agnes Wilkie, lost her life in the sinking of the *Caribou* by torpedo attack, in spite of the valiant effort of Sister Margaret Brooke (dietitian), who, for her deed of value, was subsequently awarded the O.B.E.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)