

THE QUEEN VISITS FREE FRENCH CONVALESCENT HOME

Her Majesty the Queen visited this afternoon the Convalescent Home near London which is maintained for the Free French Forces in this country and run by the British Red Cross Society under the auspices of the "French in Great Britain Fund".

Her Majesty was received by the Marchioness of Crewe, Chairman of the Fund, The Hon. Mrs. E.F. Lawson, County President of the Red Cross, General de Gaulle, Patron of the Fund, Vice-Admiral Muselier, President of the Fund, Lord Cottesloe, and members of the Committee, including Mrs. C.M.G. Michaelis.

The Home is used primarily by members of the Free French Naval Forces and of the Free French Merchant Service, and is continually filled by men who have been on duty in all parts of the world taking their part in the struggle against the common enemy.

Her Majesty was conducted through the wards by the Matron of the Home and Red Cross officials and often stopped to chat in their native tongue with the patients, some of whose stories were thrilling.

Many of the men are convalescent after suffering from long exposure after the sinking of their ships and the Registrar himself, formerly a French Army Liaison Officer attached to the B.E.F., was badly wounded and burned during the evacuation from Dunkirk.

The Home is a splendid example of Anglo-French co-operation; British and French doctors and nurses work side by side. But, with the steady increase in numbers of the Free French Forces, the capacity of the Home is taxed and there is an urgent need for further facilities.