

**[British Red Cross Society card featuring The Queen's message following the outbreak of war in September 1939) encouraging people to volunteer their services].**

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*Greetings*  
*and*  
*Good Wishes*  
*for*  
*Christmas*  
*and the*  
*New Year*

From

*Margery Preaten*

1940



(By Courtesy of Fox Photos, Ltd.)

Her Majesty the Queen at the Prisoners of War Department inspecting parcels

#### THE QUEEN'S MESSAGE

I have heard from many quarters of the splendid work that is being done by those who are voluntarily giving their services through the British Red Cross and the Order of St. John both at home and abroad. The example that they are setting is a real inspiration and encouragement to all of us in these dark days which dark and sad though they be, are brightened by the abundant evidence of the willing response that our country-women are making to every call upon their services. ♦ As yet, our task has only just begun; sacrifices and hardships must inevitably lie ahead of us, and much exacting work. Yet the spirit with which our troubles are being faced is such that we need feel no anxiety for the future. To all who are contributing, in every sphere and grade of voluntary work, to the maintenance of that spirit, I send my best wishes and heartfelt gratitude.

I pray that God may have you in His keeping.

ELIZABETH R.

September, 1939

