

SDAY, FEBRUARY 20.

## ROYAL AIR FORCE.

### MEMORIAL SERVICE TO THE DEAD.

### THE KING PRESENT.

Stately, beautiful, and with a note of true poetic fervour was the solemn service in memory of officers and men of the Royal Air Force in Westminster Abbey yesterday. The King as Commander-in-Chief of the Force, with his son, who is an officer of the Force, led his people in a submission to Heaven which was marked by gratitude and by pride more than by mourning. The noble dead are very many. But they gave their lives grandly. The cause they fought for and scorned all danger for has triumphed. The spirit of the service was that, and it was expressed perfectly in the mystic poem of Blake, a setting of which by Sir Hubert Parry was sung as the congregation assembled:

Bring me my bow of burning gold!  
Bring me my arrows of desire!  
Bring me my spear! O clouds unfold!  
Bring me my Chariot of Fire!  
I will not cease from mental fight;  
Nor shall my sword sleep in my hand  
Till we have built Jerusalem

In England's green and pleasant land.

The service began at twelve, and was prefaced by music from the musicians of the Royal Air Force, a motet for men's voices, "Seek ye the Lord"; a melody in C major, "In Memoriam," especially written for this service; and Handel's Andante in E flat.

The King and Prince Albert arrived at the Great West Door shortly before noon. The King wore the uniform of the Commander-in-Chief, Royal Air Force, and the Prince that of the R.A.F. The King was attended by Captain Sir Charles Cust and the Earl of Cromer, and Prince Albert was attended by Major Greig. The King was met on his arrival by Mr. Winston Churchill, General Seely, Major-General Sir Frederick Sykes, Major-General Sir Godfrey Paine, and Major-General Sir William Salmond, and Bishop Ryle, the Dean, Archdeacon Carnegie, and the clergy of the Abbey Chapter.

Queen Alexandra was represented by Colonel Sir Arthur Davidson, and others who were seated in the Choir and the reserved space under the Lantern were Sir William Sutherland (representing the Prime Minister), Admiral Sims,

Dean, Archdeacon Carnegie, and the clergy of the Abbey Chapter.

Queen Alexandra was represented by Colonel Sir Arthur Davidson, and others who were seated in the Choir and the reserved space under the Lantern were Sir William Sutherland (representing the Prime Minister), Admiral Sims, United States Navy, and members of his Staff; General Biddle, United States Army, and Staff; members of the Army Council, Captain J. B. Younger, representing the First Lord of the Admiralty; Captain Marriott, for the First Sea Lord; Brigadier-General Alexander, on behalf of Lord Weir; Sir A. Robinson, Secretary, Air Ministry; representatives of American Navy and Army Aviation, Major Berkeley Levett, for Major-General Feilding, General Officer Commanding the London District; Sir George Perley, High Commissioner for Canada; and the High Commissioners for the Union of South Africa and New Zealand; the Agents-General for West Australia, Tasmania, and Victoria; the General Officer Commanding the Australian Forces in England; Admiral Sir Stanley Colville, Commander-in-Chief Portsmouth; the Marquess and Marchioness of Londonderry, the Dowager Marchioness of Londonderry, the Countess of Limerick, Lord Desborough, Lady Avebury and Lord Avebury, Lord Leigh, Lady Emmott and Miss Emmott, Lady Ashton of Hyde, Lord and Lady Armaghdale, Lady Islington, the Bishop of Bangor and Mrs. Williams, Lord Hugh Cecil, the Hon. Mrs. Seely, Mrs. Winston Churchill, the Hon. Mrs. des Graz, Lady Paine, Commander Cavendish, Captain de Burgh, on behalf of General Sir William Robertson; General Sir John Monash, Lieutenant-General Sir David Henderson, Lieutenant-General Sir R. E. W. Turner, Sir Gordon Hewart, M.P., Lady Duckham, Lady Jekyll, Major-General Sir William Brancker, Sir A. Duckham, Director-General of Aircraft Production; General Newall, Major-General Ellington, the Hon. Sir E. Kemp, Minister of Overseas Forces, Canada; Admiral Lambert, Captain Fiuzzi, Air Attaché, Italy; Brigadier-General and Mrs. Festing, Mr. Tennant, Mr. McKenna, Mrs. Lindsay Scott, Mrs. Ryle, Mrs. Wilberforce, Mr. Joynson-Hicks, M.P., Mrs. Moncrieffe, Dr. Swan, Mr. H. McAnally and Mr. Bland, of the Air Ministry, and a large number of officers, Sir Hugh Trenchard was absent, having to leave for Paris.

Of the accommodation available in the Abbey the greater portion was assigned to the parents and other near relatives of officers and airmen who have given their lives.

The service proper began with the hymn "For All the Saints," and prayer and music kept up throughout a note of proud exaltation. The Chaplain-in-Chief, Bishop Taylor Smith, in his short address struck the same key:

"Deeds of valour and acts of heroism, which fire our imagination and rouse our enthusiasm, have been of daily occurrence in this young Force. Temperate in victory, dogged in defeat, they have enhanced the untarnished reputation of British Arms for chivalry and devotion.

"'Their name liveth evermore.'

"Weep not! Many of you present here to-day mourn the loss of son, husband, or brother. Nay, rather be comforted in that they were privileged to take part in the most self-sacrificing Crusade which Britain, proud of her glorious past, has ever undertaken. What nobler cause! For it is the cause of Humanity, the cause of Christ, the cause of God."

Indeed, sorrow only came to be the predominant note at the last moment of the service, when a bugle sounded the mournful "Last Post."