

R. 101. -- The unveiling of a memorial to the victims of the great airship disaster brings back memories of those tragic happenings of three years ago.

England and France.

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Picture -- Three years ago, Britain's great airship R.101 set off from Cardington on what was to be an epoch-making voyage. Few people forgot the horror which surged over the country and the world when news of the catastrophic disaster flashed along the wires whose humming seemed a dirge. I remember it struck me just as the Titanic disaster had done, some seventeen years before. The late War had caused France and England to share many griefs and here was another. The sympathy of France was sincere and spontaneous, Beauvais a place of pilgrimage. At the moment the entente was a thing of tremendous meaning, searing for above its political significance. Mourning, illustrious Frenchmen walked side by side with British mourners. The French Army saluted the scorched dead as they lay coffined in the village square. Their return to Cardington was a climax in tragic pathos. Famous they went, but immortal they returned.

R. 101.

Picture --

This monument will preserve the memory of that immortality so long as stone endures.

Carved on an almost immutable page are the names of all those who perished in the disaster.

Our Prime Minister lays a wreath to their memory while Monsieur Daladier, the French Prime Minister pays a tribute in the eloquent tongue of ~~his~~ his country. "This tribute", he declared "Voices the feelings of the whole French nation". Lord Tyrrel, British Ambassador is present, the Air Chiefs, of the two countries, Lord Londonderry and Monsieur Pierre Cot, together with many other high officials of the two Governments, eminent soldiers and aviators. All share the common grief.

(NATURAL SOUND)

One of the most impressive moments of a very moving ceremony is the air salute to the dead.

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