

- 2597 -

ST PAUL'S.

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother attended a service at St Paul's Cathedral in connection with the Festival of "the Friends of St Paul's and Commemoration of Benefactors." At this time, the famous ~~London~~ Cathedral is urgently in need of funds for Restoration and repair. Her Majesty was greeted at the West Door by the Dean and Chapter --- and, during the service, we are reminded of the part that is played by St Paul's, on all our great national occasions. Still as yesterday to all but the youngest, is the memory of the Service of Thanksgiving, at the Jubilee Celebrations of King George V and Queen Mary.

During the war --- at the height of the savage onslaught upon our city by Hitler's Air Force --- St Paul's stood, miraculously, amid the chaos of fire and destruction.

St Paul's was not destroyed; but a bomb through the roof left evidence of one of its many narrow escapes.

And, with victory ours --- another service of Thanksgiving.

King George VI and Queen Elizabeth attended a service here, on their Silver Wedding Anniversary.

And --- coming right up to date --- St Paul's Cathedral was one of the chosen destinations, when famous British athletes took part in a run through London, to call attention to the "Save Our Churches" Fund. Daily, the work on the most urgent repairs is carried on; but the available money is not enough to enable the problem to be tackled on a sufficient scale. In this London Cathedral --- many famous men throughout the centuries of our history, have been laid to rest; and --- as well as the memory of our fellow-countrymen --- we have here, also, the Roll of Honour of twenty-eight thousand Americans who died on wartime operations from Britain. This Cathedral --- in the heart of the City of London --- has been a landmark ever since London has been a city. In it, Queen Elizabeth ^{the 1st} gave thanks for the defeat of the Spanish Armada.

This is St Paul's --- as it looks to-day from the spot where those pictures of the blitz were taken. But --- though it survived the savage onset of total warfare --- the normal dilapidations of peacetime can wreck our London Cathedral, as surely as fire and bombardment --- unless the help so sorely needed is generously given.