

Lying-in-State in Westminster Hall. ("Times" Photo.)

R 101

Funeral of Victims

THE coffins containing the bodies of 47 of the victims of R 101 were brought from Beauvais on Tuesday, October 7. At the ceremonies at Beauvais, the King and Queen were represented by Lord Tyrrell. M. Tardieu attended in person. France observed the day as one of national mourning. A special train conveyed the bodies to Boulogne, and was saluted at the stations which it passed en route.

Two destroyers, H.M.S. *Tempest* and *Tribune*, awaited the coffins at Boulogne, but the *Tribune* damaged her propeller and the *Tempest* brought all the bodies across to Dover. From there they were taken by train to Victoria, which was reached at a very early hour on Wednesday morning. A large crowd, including the Prime Minister, was waiting at Victoria to see the train arrive. R.A.F. tenders then conveyed the bodies to the Westminster Mortuary in Horseferry Road, which was suitably lighted and decorated.

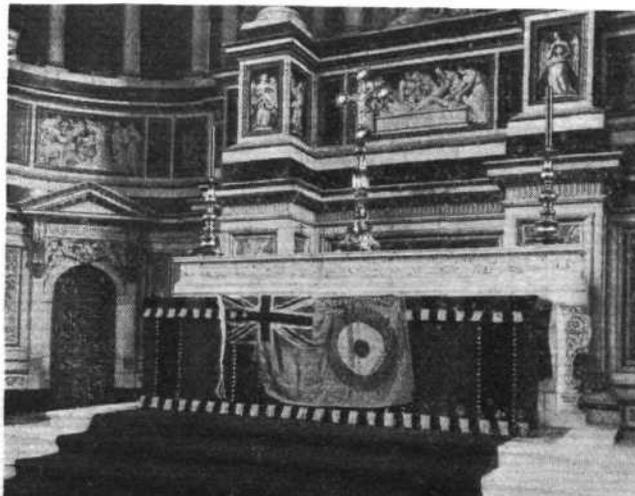
On Wednesday, Rigger S. Church died from his injuries in the hospital at Beauvais, and his body was brought over and laid beside the rest. A formal inquest was held by the Westminster Coroner in order that a burial order might be issued.

On Friday, the 48 coffins, each covered by a Union Jack, lay in state in Westminster Hall from 8 a.m. till after

midnight. Enormous crowds filed through the hall all day to pay their tribute to the dead. In the afternoon the queue awaiting entry to the hall was half a mile long. The ceremony had been timed to end at 10 p.m., but at that hour so many people were still waiting that the time was postponed until 12.30 a.m.

On the same day a memorial service was held at St. Paul's, commencing at noon. The King was represented by the Prince of Wales. The Lord Mayor attended in official robes. M. Laurent Eynac, French Air Minister; General Italo

Balbo, Italian Air Minister; and M. Lippens, Belgian Minister of Communications, were among those present. Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, Mr. Baldwin, the members of the Cabinet, three of the survivors (Messrs. Leech, Bell, and Binks), the relatives of the dead, a detachment of the Royal Air Force, foreign Ambassadors and representatives, and many other distinguished people, besides as many of the public as could be accommodated, were in the Cathedral. The pennant of the airship, which had not been reached by the flames, was displayed on the altar cloth. The service was conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of London. The central band of the Royal Air Force played Mendelssohn's *Dead March* and other solemn pieces



Pennant of R 101 on the Altar of St. Paul's. ("Times" Photo.)