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Editorial.

'The Living Symbol of our Steadfastness.'

IN MOST INCLEMENT WEATHER, under dreary autumnal rain, The Queen unveiled the National Memorial to her father, His late Majesty King George VI, in Carlton Gardens, overlooking the Mall, on Friday, October 21st, 1955.

The Queen, in touching devotion to her father's memory, recalled that he had unveiled the statue to King George V close to the Houses of Parliament eight years ago.

She then said: "I did not think then that in so short a time I should be called upon to take his place. But it is with pride that I unveil this noble statue today.

"Like his father he expected to support the Throne rather than to fill it, but the unsparing devotion which he gave to his duties as Duke of York enabled him to assume with resolution the burden of sovereignty.

"The pledge which he then gave, to uphold the honour of the realm and to promote the happiness of his peoples, was the guiding principle of his life."

Referring to the war years, Her Majesty went on: "He never wavered in his faith that, with God's help, the cause of freedom would prevail. When London became the target he, like so many other gallant Londoners, stayed in his capital and saw the bombs fall on his home.

"There are many who remember to this day the comfort which he and my mother, during their visits to areas which had been bombed, gave to those who had suffered.

"The friendliness and simplicity which so endeared him to his peoples during the trials of war were the fruit of a lifelong interest in his fellow men, and of a human sympathy which was one of my father's most lovable qualities."

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"It was this unassuming humanity, this respect for the 'homespun dignity of man' which enabled my father to preserve, in a changing world, that affection and respect for the Crown by which our free commonwealth of nations is united.

"In his broadcasts and visits to the Empire and to Commonwealth countries he made himself the friend of his peoples all over the world. As the first British sovereign to enter the United States of America he made a signal contribution to Anglo-American understanding."

Trafalgar Day was aptly chosen for the unveiling of the Memorial because the late King was always concerned for the welfare of his Services, whom he visited



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