

## NERANG'S TRIBUTE

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### DEDICATION OF OBELISK

The attendance last Saturday at the Commemoration of Anzac Day organised by the Nerang Sub-Branch of the R.S.L. of which Mr. Pat Birmingham is president and Mr. W. Ryan hon secretary, was much greater than last year and in the 50 odd Diggers who paraded were included 16 members of the Surfers Paradise Sub-Branch who had been invited to attend the commemoration also about 12 from the Southport Sub-Branch who are invariably represented at any of the Nerang R.S.L. functions. The procession which was headed by the Nerang South Coast Band of 25 members (Mr. G. Panitz, conductor) was in charge of Drum Major C. Stephens who acted as Marshal. There were about 60 school children in the assemblage representing Ner-

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ang and Gilston Schools and over 100 residents of Nerang and district. On arrival at the Memorial Hall the procession formed into a square.

Mr. P. Birmingham presided and expressed pleasure at such a large and representative gathering at the 38th Anzac Day Commemoration Service and then asked the State Member who was accompanied by Mrs. Gaven to address the assemblage.

Mr. Eric J. Gaven said that that day in all parts of the Commonwealth and in many places in the British Empire gatherings had assembled to pay homage to the men and women who during the World Wars 1 and 2 had done great service in preserving to us the freedom which we today still enjoy.

preserving to us the freedom which we today still enjoy. Today he said, we bow our heads in sorrow for those who gave their all and those who had returned but were maimed or ill in hospital as the result of the service they had given. We raised our heads with pride at the memory of the heroic deeds of the immortal Anzacs who by their gallantry on the shores of Gallipoli had brought Australia into nationhood. When World War No. 1 was in progress all looked on it as a war to end war but war No. 2 soon followed and we are still as far off peace as ever as they had the fighting in Korea. He hoped that in the talks now going on that wiser counsels would prevail and that peace we all desired may once again prevail throughout the world.

The hymn 'Nearer My God to Thee' was sung after which Cr. W. Birmingham (Albert Shire) read the roll call of the nineteen soldiers who had fallen in World Wars 1 and 2. He also made reference to the fact that since last Anzac Day Mr. D. Ross of Numinbah had presented to the R.S.L. an obelisk of Numinbah stone as a cenotaph in front of the hall which completed Nerang's Memorial to all those from the district who had paid the supreme sacrifice.

The Chairman after thanking Mr. D. Ross who with his brother-in-law Mr. H. Hogarth had cut out the obelisk from Numinbah stone and to which the R.S.L. Auxiliary had added the bronze tablet "To the Fallen," called on Rev. R. Everitt to dedicate the cenotaph.

#### OBELISK DEDICATED

Rev. R. Everitt said that the obelisk had been given by Messrs. Don Ross and H. Hogarth as a memorial to "Those who Served" and on behalf of the R.S.L. he

Those who served him on behalf of the R.S.L. he thanked them for the idea and gift. It commemorates service not death. True service is he said, undying it goes on. The purpose of the stone is to remind the living, and those to come that there is in the community a tradition of service which does not count the cost but only the need of the community. No group of people, in any circumstance whatever can exist without the service of its members. The consideration ought not be what will it cost me? but how much can I give and in what way can I best serve? There is, nowadays, a tendency to over emphasise the glamour and romance of certain forms of service but those who adventure life and limb are very properly accorded their own niche in the hall of remembrance. But for every man fighting in the line of battle there are many who must support him in supplying reinforcements, stores, etc., and then further back are those who have to maintain the necessary organisation of the fighting forces. They suffer the monotony of war without its supporting sense of high adventure and behind them again are others engaged in the civil defence organisation. All these have served their country in time of need while those at home also have carried added burdens that others might be relieved for service at the front. All of these have served with a pure heart in the best interests of peace and security for the community. We can continue to serve by keeping alive the traditions of pure and wholehearted service and think not first of gain for oneself. In a democracy the emphasis is placed on the value of the individual. That is quite right but let the individual know and

keep his place which is in a

keep his place which is in a community. In dedicating the memorial, given by Mr. Don Ross and Mr. Hogarth to those who served he called on all to dedicate themselves to service and to maintain their rightful place in life, helping each and helping all to peace and security.

Rev. Everitt then offered a short prayer of dedication which was followed by the Lords Prayer.

After the dedication many floral tokens were placed at the base of the obelisk including poppy wreaths from the Sub-Branch R.S.L., Albert Shire Council, Gilston C.W.A., the Nerang and Gilston State Schools and many family tributes.

Mr. E. Conville one of the Surfers Paradise representatives moving the first resolution conveyed greetings from the Surfers Paradise Sub-Branch of the R.S.L. and expressed appreciation of the invitation extended to be present at the Nerang commemoration service and said he hoped that this interchange of visitors between the two sub-Branches would be continued. He apologised for the absence of his president Mr. J. Laws who was in indifferent health. Proceeding he referred to the history of the two world wars and said that all looked upon England as the Home Land and whenever her safety was threatened they would flock to her assistance as had been evidenced in World Wars 1 and 2. He hoped that the observance of Anzac Day would continue as present in Queensland and not to be allowed to develop into a holiday as in some of the other States. Such a gathering as being held that day would install in the minds of the children who were the men of tomorrow the spirit of Anzac, that spirit of loyalty to the throne and Empire. He then

throne and Empire. He then read the resolution.

Cr. S. H. Bigg (Albert Shire Council) seconded the resolution and stressed the fact that the Anzacs 38 years ago on Gallipoli gave Australia a tradition of which they were all proud. The Australian nationhood was founded on the tradition of Anzac and the spirit of loyalty and sacrifice should ever be revered.

The hymn Abide with Me was then sung then One Minute's silence was observed after which Conductor George Panitz sounded the Last Post which was followed by Mr. John Reid playing a Lament on the bag pipes and Mr. Panitz then sounded the reveille and proceedings closed with all joining in the National Anthem.

The Women's Auxilliary entertained the Returned personnel and visitors at a very appetising lunch in the Memorial Hall where Mr. W. Birmingham presided at the close of which Mr. Jim Boulton, a foundation member of the Sub-Branch unveiled a lifelike photograph of the late Mr. Charlie Strong also a foundation member who had passed away since last Anzac Day and the photograph has been hung on the

wall of the hall which he assisted in the erection. A stood in silence for a minute as a mark of respect for departed member.

The president welcomed the visitors and thank them for assisting in making the annual commemoration one worthy of the occasion. He also thanked the Women's Auxilliary for the very nice repast they had provided. He thanked Mr. George Panitz and the New South Coast Band for their great assistance and all who had taken part in the proceedings. He thanked Mr. J. W. Morgan for his great assistance in connection with

J. W. Morgan for his great assistance in connection with the transporting of seats, etc. for the gathering.

Responses were forthcoming from Mr. R. J. Gave M.L.A., Mr. J. Gwynne, Surf Paradise vice-president and Mrs. W. Ryan who said it gave the Auxilliary great pleasure to assist the Sub-Branch as it was only a small way of showing their appreciation of what the soldiers had done for them and the community generally.