

DISTRICT FALLEN HONOURED

MORE THAN 500 WITNESS UNVEILING CEREMONY

It is estimated that there were more than five hundred people present in the Laggan Hall (henceforth to be known as Laggan Memorial Hall) when the Shire President (Cr. J. A. Walton) unveiled a Memorial Tablet on Monday night.

The tablet commemorates those district men who paid the supreme sacrifice whilst serving with the Australian Forces during World War II. The proceedings were marked by the reverent silence observed by the large crowd, which lent an appropriate solemnity to the occasion.

THE hall, which has been considerably enlarged and completely renovated, is now, we think, the most commodious in the district.

The new brick front entrance porch (which has been erected as a memorial to the district's fallen) gives the hall a most imposing appearance.

This has added to the length of the hall by 15 feet, whilst the rear end of the hall has been extended by 21 feet by incorporating a cross section, which provides a spacious ladies' retiring room and gives accommodation for an additional 30 persons in the supper room, which can now comfortably accommodate 130 persons at a sitting.

Mr. S. A. Cullen, who was master of ceremonies on Monday night, said that the residents of Laggan, Redbank and Redground had come together to work as one unit as a soldiers' welfare committee. The Memorial was therefore a memorial to the men from those centres. Their job, however, did not end with the establishment of the memorial. The big job was to look after the men who had been on service. In this connection he appealed for a spirit of tolerance and helpfulness.

The Memorial he asked every-

one to respect as such.

The fact that the people of the district had decided to provide a local memorial did not mean that they were opposed to a district memorial. As far as the Memorial structure was concerned, it was free of debt, but the Hall Committee had incurred a debt in making major additions to the hall. Posterity would have to look after that.

The Memorial Tablet, which the Shire President would unveil, was only a temporary one. Something more fitting and more elaborate would be installed as soon as the requisite materials were available.

Rev. Canon Nell said the people of Laggan, Redbank and Redground were to be congratulated, firstly, on extending the hall and providing a very fine Memorial and, secondly, upon the number of men which the district provided for the services.

He considered it fitting that the local hall, where everyone met on occasions, should provide the Memorial.

When I came in here tonight, said Rev. Fr. McKenna, I felt that here was something enduring as a monument to those who have served. It is more than a palatial amusement place, he said; it registers the

place, he said; it registers the appreciation of intelligence of those who have done something for this Continent. It represented an outward sign of the gratitude of men, women and children, who had lived in peace in security guaranteed to them by those who went out and fought and died. It was, too, an evidence of civic progress and an estimable lead to other communities.

But, he said, if you think you have done enough you have missed the significance of your task. This must be merely an outward sign of your determination to see that these men never want for the ordinary needs of pleasure. You are the State, the Government, and what happens to the ex-servicemen in the future is your responsibility. They deserve the best at your hands. Let your resolve

be that there will not be an ex-serviceman without a job. They have been through terrible times, while we have languished. Our sacred duty will not be discharged until we make this a great country for heroes to live in.

Mr. A. A. McIntosh (Chairman of the Welfare Committee) told the gathering that the committee had been formed three years ago with the primary object of fittingly recognising the good work of servicemen when they came home on leave. It had not always been possible to accord a public welcome, unfortunately, but all had been accorded recognition.

In canvassing for subscriptions towards the cost of the Memorial Entrance not one man or woman able to do so had failed to contribute.

Here Mr. McIntosh expressed the committee's appreciation of the valued service in an advisory capacity, given voluntarily by Mr. J. A. Walton. Working to his plan, Messrs. Chas. Willis and his son and Mr. Walter Poll had done a tradesmanlike job.

The committee was indebted, too, to others who had worked in a voluntary capacity.

Sergt. McLennan, when invited to address the gathering, said that in his 20 years as a police officer he had never been associated with such a law-abiding community. The orderliness of that night's gathering was something of which Laggan might feel proud. As a police officer, he said in conclusion, I've a duty to perform, but if you play the game with me I will play the game with you.

Before calling on the Shire

with you.

Before calling on the Shire President to unveil the Memorial Tablet, the Chairman (Mr. S. A. Cullen) apologised for the absence of Mr. J. J. Cunningham (who had received sad news and had gone to Sydney), Mr. Greg. McIntosh (who was an inmate of the District Hospital) and the Rev. W. Tredinnick (who was recuperating after having undergone an operation).

The place, the day and the occasion, said Cr. Walton, should fill us all with a deep sense of patriotic emotion and responsibility. This ceremony registers the feelings of the people towards those who have demonstrated their preparedness to give their lives, if necessary, as the price for our liberty. We will never forget them. This monument is a lasting tribute. With a feeling of gratitude in our hearts let us fulfill the promises made to those men when they went away. Now that they have returned let us ensure their security for the future. We cannot fully repay them for the sacrifices they have made, and may we honour for all time those who have paid the supreme sacrifice in the cause of our liberty.

When the Union Jack was removed from the tablet the following names were revealed:

LES ARNALL
ROSS BARD
LES CARTWRIGHT
K. CHAMBERS
ALLAN LAVERTY
BERT SKELLY
CLYDE SKELLY
LES STEWART

The gathering here observed three minutes' silence, which was broken by the sounding of the Last Post by Mr. Dudley Wilkinson, who was a prisoner

of war in Japanese hands for more than three years.

Mr. Lund (President of the Crookwell Sub-branch of the R.S.L.) congratulated the people of the districts concerned on being the first in the district to erect a memorial to those who served in the second World War. We will always remember those who paid the supreme sacrifice, but in doing so, he said, we must not forget those who have returned. In this connection he was confident that the people of Laggan, Redbank and Redground would do their part.

Thus concluded one of the most memorable events in the history of Laggan.

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Dancing was resumed to excellent music supplied by the Acme Orchestra.

Catering for the large crowd was in the hands of Mrs. Reub Gay, of Crookwell, who, with the assistance of her competent staff, did an excellent job.

Door takings totalled more than £90.

Addresses and announcements were amplified through a public address system installed and supervised by Mr. W. Leney, of Crookwell.