

MATHOURA CELEBRATES

The monument erected to the memory of the soldiers from the Murray Shire district who fell in the Great War was unveiled in the Mathoura Memorial Gardens on Anzac Day by Cr. R. J. Adams, Deputy President of Murray Shire Council.

The crowd which attended the ceremony totalled easily 500, and in addition to practically the whole population of Mathoura there were large numbers from Deniliquin and the surrounding districts, as well as visitors from Moama and Echuca. The assemblage was fully representative of the shire.

Commencing about 2.30 p.m., 100 soldiers, from Mathoura, Deniliquin, and Echuca, preceded by the Deniliquin Municipal Band, and led by Mr. H. Hanson, marched for half a mile along Livingstone Street to the Memorial Gardens. The gardens, though small in area, are picturesque and very neatly kept, and they are a credit to the caretaker (Mr. J. B. Crane) and the R.S.S.I.L.A., who have strived to keep them as a fitting memorial.

The monument recently erected is of granite, standing about 10ft. the solid base being surmounted with

four pillars and a dome, with a rising sun on the base. It is termed the Murray Shire Memorial, and has been subscribed for by people from all over the shire. The monument was finished off with a concrete tray and fence, moulded and erected by Mr. C. Hipworth, a Mathoura Digger.

On arrival at the gardens, the Diggers took up positions near the monument, while members of the Rochester Light Horse, in charge of Captain Hicks, formed a guard of honor around the stone.

On the platform were Flight-Lieutenant Eaton, Cr. R. J. Adams (Murray Shire), Rev. Canon E. J. Rogers, Rev. Father Paul Zundolich (Moama), Rev. C. E. O. Keays, Rev. Alexander, the Mayor of Deniliquin (Ald. E. T. Matthews), Mr. D. Powell, (President, Mathoura Sub-branch R.S.S.I.L.A.), Mr. G. H. C. Juleff (President, Deniliquin Sub-branch) and Mr. F. Casey (President, Echuca Sub-branch).



FLIGHT-LIEUT. EATON, R.A.A.F.,
who attended the Anzac Day celebrations at Deniliquin and Mathoura.



● **SIR WM. BIRDWOOD,** ●
who, on behalf of the Commonwealth laid a wreath on the Cenotaph in London on Anzac Day.

The service was opened with the National Anthem, followed by Mr. Powell reading the Prayer, and the Municipal Band rendered "Nearer My God to Thee."

Then in a few sincere words, Cr. R. J. Adams performed the ceremony of unveiling the monument, which was draped with the Union Jack.

Wreaths were laid on the monument by Messrs. Cr. Adams (Murray Shire), Powell (Mathoura Sub-branch), Ald. Matthews (Municipality of Deniliquin), Mathoura Convent and Public Schools, and some private wreaths.

This was followed by the one minute's silence, broken finally by the sounding of The Last Post by Mr. Frank Wallace (Mathoura).

Speeches appropriate to the day and the occasion were then delivered by Flight-Lieutenant Eaton, Messrs. Juleff, Casey, Colonel Thornthwaite, Ald. E. T. Matthews (who specially apologised for the absence of Mr. Lawson, M.L.A., owing to Parliamentary duties), Rev. Canon Rogers, Rev. Fr. Paul Zundolovich, Rev. E. O. Keays, and Rev. W. Alexander.

In conclusion Mr. Powell thanked the Deniliquin and Echuca Diggers, the Rochester Light Horse, the speakers, and the Deniliquin Municipal Band for the parts which they had played in honouring Anzac Day in Mathoura.

The Band brought the ceremony to a close by the rendering of "Lest We Forget."

Subsequently a large number of visitors were entertained at afternoon tea in the Shire Hall by the R.S.S.I.L.A. Sub-branch.

During the speech-making reference was made to the fact that the monument was not yet paid for, and also the R.S.S.I.L.A. wished to complete their work in a fitting manner by engraving on the monument the names of those men, in whose memory it was erected. And while the crowd was filing out the gates the rattle of coins in the collection box kept up a merry chorus. We trust the amount was fairly substantial, and that the Association will soon

and that the Association will soon see its way clear financially to complete the already very fine monument with the necessary names.