

Smithtown's Honor Roll.

UNVEILING CEREMONY.

WELCOME TO CORPORAL RAY HALLIDAY.

Wednesday night last saw a very large audience in Smithtown Hall, the occasion being the unveiling of the local honour board, and the welcoming home of Cpl. Ray Halliday.

Mr. Dan. Duncan acted as chairman during the first function and read apologies from Messrs. George Briggs, E. C. Hollow, W. D. Barron, V. T. Thorne, and Revs. Chambers and Butler. Mr. Duncan also mentioned that a wedding also precluded the attendance of several citizens.

The stage was beautifully decorated, and clever Miss Pettingell (better known perhaps as Miss Tottie Brown) opened a concert programme with an excellent piano-forte solo. Other contributors were Misses Paterson, Dolly Simon, and Angela Hagan, Messrs. J. R. Garland, W. Davie, Ted McDonald, and C. B. Bailey, most securing enthusiastic encores. Mrs. C. A. Lane and Miss Kathleen Carey were accompanists.

With the chairman on the platform were Shire President Lancaster, Councillors Saul and Kilsane, Rev. Harris-Walker, Archdeacon E. Knox, Rev. Father O'Regan, Messrs. M. J. Clancy, A. Taylor, D. Neal, and R. L. Morris (the two latter being joint secretaries), T. A. Wilson, Returned Soldiers Gorman, P. Reilly, Ogilvie, Elyard, Parnell, McLady, Batchelor, Bradley and the guest of the evening Cpl. Ray Halliday, accompanied by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Halliday, and Miss Halliday, and Mrs. R. E. Saul.

The Rev. Archdeacon Knox made an excellent speech, and appealed for practical help from the community, as individuals, in assisting the soldiers to resume the ordinary functions and comforts of civilian life. He reckoned repatriation lay with the people as much as with the Government. Practical demonstrations of appreciation were wanted.

The Rev. Father O'Regan said he was pleased to honor the men who left Australia's shores to protect Australian homes, and he emphasised the necessity of insuring that their sacrifices were never forgotten and always

necessity of insuring that their sacrifices were never forgotten and always properly appreciated—and in practical fashion as regarded the returned men.

Mrs. R. E. Saul, mother of the first Smithtown boy to enlist, Sergt. Saul (who saw over four years' service) then unveiled the Board "to the honor and glory of those that fought for us." The crowd stood silently while Miss L. Knauer sang "Australia's National Song."

The names on the Board are as follows: ... Ptes. A. Irwin, J. Mooney, T. McCann, A. Whalan, Andrew Whalan, J. Glasson, C. McLady, L. Plummer, V. E. Plummer, C. Chambers, F. McKiernan, C. Grace, R. Martin, P. Reilly, A. Millard, J. Parnell, J. Workman, Ray Martin, McCusker (killed), W. White, S. Plummer, Tpr. R. Cott, Tpr. W. Ward (killed), Dvr. H. Quilky, Dvr. A. Glanville, Q.M.S. R. Saul, Midshipman C. Baldwin, Cpl. R. Halliday, Gnr. C. Jackson.

Cr. R. E. Saul thanked the Committee for conferring the honor of unveiling the Board on Mrs. Saul. He was proud of the 29 names before them—it was a fair proportion for Smithtown. The speaker briefly reviewed the exploits of Australian soldiers, and said he'd been told on the best authority that the winning of the war could be attributed to them.

The Rev. Harris-Walker paid a fine tribute to the soldiers, and added a word about the necessity of a White Australia.

Shire President Lancaster referred to the honorable death of those who fell, and promised that he would do his utmost to see that the Shire employed returned men where possible.

Mr. M. Clancy spoke in high appreciation of the soldiers, but reckoned the Government a rotten stick to depend on for repatriation administration. He hoped the people would do their part.

Cr. J. P. Kilsane spoke at some length, telling how he had ever contradicted maligners of the Macleay agent recruiting; and emphasising the honor reflected on the river by the heroes who enlisted from here. Passing on, he told of Pte. McCusker's noble death, sadly resulting from trying to save a wounded comrade. He closed with a reference to repatriation, remarking that the Local Committees acted as advisory boards to the Department.

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Mr T. A. Wilson then took charge, and said the welcome home to Cpl Halliday would be proceeded with. He outlined the youthful soldier's campaigning in Sinai and Palestine since 1915, and then called for volunteers to say a few words, no special speakers having been arranged for.

Cr. Kissano filled the breach instantly, though received with a long-drawn sigh and amused ripple of laughter. He welcomed Cpl. Halliday in hearty and earnest fashion, and paid a high tribute to the parents (Mr and Mrs. C. Halliday), congratulating them on having the honor to sit with such a gallant son.

Cr. R. E. Saul was also received with an appreciative smile, but he took

A. Taylor, assisted by a strong feminine committee, had all arrangements complete.

it as being hostile to someone, for he sternly insisted that it was the duty of every man to say a word in recognition of a noble boy returned from the front. "Not because you want to clear away the seats and dance are we going to discard a boy who went to the front and spilt his blood for freedom. I resent the laughter of some of the audience to-night, though I am not in a temper. Sixty thousand Australians died abroad and some were brought home to die. Think of that, and think of what you have got to laugh about." He concluded with a hearty welcome to a brave lad.

Shire President Lancaster and Mr. M. Clancy spoke words of welcome; as also did Archdeacon Knox.

On behalf of Smithtown residents Mr. Wilson handed the soldier a handsome gold watch; and Cpl. Halliday briefly expressed his thanks for the gift and the fine reception. He also added a word for Smithtown Women Workers for comforts sent him while abroad.

Pte. J. Parnell expressed the returned men's appreciation of the tribute extended in the erection of the Honor Board.

Mr. Wilson presented Pte. McLady with a pipe which followed him round the world, having been posted him while in France by the Women Workers.

Misses Pettingell and Kath. Carey played splendid music for the cheery dance that lasted long past midnight.

Messrs. Gordon, Rowe, S. Neal, R. L. Morris, Don. Duncan, Wilson, and A. Taylor, assisted by a strong femin-