

Church of England Honor Roll

UNVEILING CEREMONY BY
BISHOP OF NEWCASTLE.

On Wednesday afternoon last a large number of Church of England adherents, and members of other denominations foregathered at St. Matthew's Church, Wingham, to witness the unveiling of the Honor Rolls, which are set in niches on either side of the Lych gate. There are 139 names of town and district soldiers inscribed on four white marble slabs. The rank of every soldier (so far as can be ascertained) is placed after the particular name, and a Greek Cross of gold is prefixed to the names of those who have fallen. The structure is built of bricks, set in cement, this part of the work having been carried out with tradesmanship ability by Mr. Wilson, who came up from Newcastle on Mr. Chamber's invitation to do the job. Mr. Harry Hardy has been entrusted with the wood-work and roofing, but owing to boat delays this part could not be completed in time for Wednesday's ceremony. The inscriptions on the marble slabs were entrusted to Mr. Tom L. Dudgeon, of Taree, and, needless to say, the work has been carried out with singular ability and neatness.

The timber of the roof is specially selected tallowwood, and is of dignified dimensions and well finished workmanship. Slate will be used for the roof, with a lead capping. Four slabs of marble are built into the upper part of the brick piers of the gate, under the protection of the roof and on these, in four columns of leaded letters, the names of "the boys" are inscribed. The design and plans for the whole construction have been worked out by Mr. James T. Chambers, (Killabakh sawmills, whose wide experience in architecture and building has been most generously placed at the service of the Church Committee. The cost of the work, about £100, is being defrayed by donations which are being contributed from all parts of the parish.

The monument on Wednesday was garlanded with wreaths of flowers, and the Union Jack and Commonwealth flags shaded the names from public gaze till later on removed by the Bishop.

Among the distinguished visitors present were: His Lordship the Bishop, Canon Phillips, (Taree), Captain-Chaplain Gribble, and Ald. E. Mc

ain-Chaplain Gribble, and Ald. E. Mc C. S. Hill (Mayor of Wingham).

Proceedings commenced in misty rain, by the Rev. H. Kitley (Rector of St. Matthew's, Wingham), announcing the hymn "Oh Lord, our help in ages past," the male portion of the assemblage standing bareheaded and remaining so till the conclusion of the ceremony. Then followed the Lord's Prayer.

Mr. Kitley, in introducing the Bishop, said every effort had been made to have the monument as complete as possible, and he thought there would not be found many mistakes. In the event of any names having been omitted, space had been left for their inclusion later on, but if there was any mistakes made as regards names he hoped these would be overlooked, as it would spoil the whole monument to attempt to alter them. He said the idea of the Lych gate had been started amongst a few willing and enthusiastic workers, among whom was Mr. J. T. Chambers, of Killabakh, an architect of wide experience, who drew the plans, and put everything into shape, so that the monument was now completed to such an extent to give all those present an idea of what a fine memorial it would be. They should regard Mr. Chamber's work with deep gratitude. The cost would be about £100, half of which was already in the Bank, and he hoped that many had come prepared that day to assist to free the monument from debt before it was finally completed. The donations had been given quite voluntarily. [Donations aggregating £19/10/ were handed in during the afternoon.]

The Mayor (Ald. E. McC. S. Hill) said it was pleasing after what the boys had gone through to be able to come to the Church and see such a fine monument to perpetuate their bravery. The Church should never lose sight of the boys whose names were inscribed on the tablets; and each and everyone of them should be in Church every Sunday. They should be brought under the influence of the Church, honored and watched till the time came for them to be gathered home. He hoped that all the soldiers would devote their lives to the service of Christ as well as they had done for King and Country.

Mr. J. T. Bird said he was pleased to see such a good attendance, particularly of other denominations. That was the right spirit—we should all live as one people. He paid tribute to the work of Rev. H. Kitley and Mr. Chambers

of Rev. H. Kitley and Mr. Chambers in connection with the monument.

The Bishop said he was pleased at the duty that had been cast upon him that day. We could never repay the debt we owed to our soldiers, who had gone forth to defend our rights and liberties. His Lordship went on to picture the trials of the men who had enlisted. They had fought under discomforts with a courage that was inspiring, and the sacrifices they had made should not soon be forgotten. The men had set a new standard of life for the community and for themselves. They had taught us that after all sacrifice is the best thing in life.

It was fitting that the monument to perpetuate their deeds should be erected under the shadow of the parish Church, and he trusted that all would do honor to the brave boys and continue to honor them to their dying day.

The hymn "Let Saints on Earth" was sung, after which the Bishop pronounced the Benediction, and this part of the programme ended.

An adjournment was then made to a marque in the Church grounds where afternoon tea was served by the members of the Women's Guild.