

# Unique Memorial Unveiled At Yamba

**A UNIQUE** tablet was unveiled at the Yamba War Memorial on Sunday, in honour of those who paid the supreme sacrifice during the Second World War.

Bearing the inscription, "They died that these may live," the design on the tablet is the imprint of the feet and hands of a son of one of the fallen, representing the youth of Yamba.

Although most of the intended ceremony had to be cut short, due to non-attendance, it was still most impressive for those who witnessed the unveiling. It was deeply regretted that of the 27 ex-servicemen who paid their respects to the fallen, only four were members of the Clarence Heads sub-branch at Yamba, the remainder being visitors to the town.

## CHILDREN UNVEIL TABLET

At 11 a.m. two minutes' silence was observed. The Australian Ensign enshrouded the tablet. During the recitation of the Dedication by Capt. J. A. Grant, little Stanley McDermid and little Roberta Chidgey hoisted the Ensign to half-mast, unveiling the tablet. After the words, "Lest We Forget," the Ensign was hoisted to full mast, when the National Anthem was sung.

The address was given by Capt. Grant. He stated that after the 1914-18 war, the citizens of Yamba contributed towards a memorial to those who enlisted from Yamba. The names of the Diggers were placed on the memorial.

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in June, 1946, a local sub-branch of the R.S.L. was formed. One of the first duties they felt they owed their comrades who enlisted in World War Two was to organise some means where their names could be added to the list of the old Diggers.

## NOT TO BLAME

A function was arranged to raise money, and the sub-branch donated an additional cement block to receive those names. That block, said Capt. Grant, had been set up for nearly two years, but the four sides were still blank. The local R.S.L. had done everything in its power to foster the scheme. The citizens of Yamba were not to blame for the neglect, but a proper organised body should be established to see that the work was done.

The special tablet was evolved by the sub-branch to honour the five Yamba boys who paid the supreme sacrifice. As Stanley McDermid was the only son of a fallen comrade; it was decided that he should have the honour to represent the youth of Yamba, for whom the sacrifice was made.

The co-operation of his mother, now Mrs. Jim McDonald, of Iluka, who gave every assistance in making it possible for Stanley's imprints to be made on the

cement block, was greatly appreciated. Capt. Grant thanked Mr. Rutledge, of the Pilot Station, for

Rutledge, of the Pilot Station, for the painstaking way he attended to the cementing, and to Stanley's uncle, Mr. Len McDermid, and Messrs. Harry and Ned Cox, and others, of the Pilot Station, for making the simple ceremony possible.

Yamba could boast of having a memorial unique throughout the world.

#### REPRESENTED YOUTH

Little Roberta Chidgey, who assisted Stanley with the unveiling, also lost her father during the war. Although not one of the five from Yamba, he had been very well known in the Clarence district. As Stanley represented the boyhood of Yamba, Roberta represented the girlhood.

Captain Grant, concluding his address, clasped the children as he said: "We all know that those who fell in battle 'died that these may live.'"

#### KNEW THEM ALL

Mr. C. G. Wingfield, M.L.A., was introduced by Captain Grant. He commented on the unique form of the tablet, just unveiled by the two youngest children of the Yamba district who had lost their fathers in the recent war.

He had known all the five boys who did not return. He hoped that the two children would enjoy many years to come and that the memory of the occasion would be a proud one.

Captain Grant thanked the visiting ex-servicemen. Their attendance was deeply appreciated.

Among those citizens present were Mrs. McDermid, the mother of the late Pte. McDermid, his widow and relatives, including his brother, Mr. Len McDermid, also an ex-serviceman.

Mrs. Chidgey and her two other children were in attendance.

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The lettering on the tablet was carried out by Captain Grant. Mr. Rutledge did the cement work. Stanley's feet and hand imprints were obtained at the Pilot Station. At the same time the tablet was affixed to the war memorial. Mr. Rutledge set up the flagstaff, which was on loan to the sub-branch from the Maritime Service Board.

Mr. H. Cox and Mr. H. Apps donated cement towards the memorial, and Mr. Ned Cox arranged the necessary transport. The Pilot Station boatmen performed the work, assisted by Mr. Len McDermid in their spare time.