

BAMAWM SOLDIERS' MEMORIAL.

UNVEILING CEREMONY.

A large gathering of residents of Bamawm and the surrounding districts assembled at the Bamawm hall on Wednesday evening last to assist in the unveiling of the soldiers' memorial.

The memorial to fallen soldiers is situated immediately to the south of the hall, in a neatly picketed enclosure, which will be suitably planted later. It was prepared too late for this season's planting. The pedestal of the memorial is a solid block of granite, highly polished, and the main shaft is a monolith of the same material, surmounted by a marble sundial. The whole structure reaches to a height of about eight feet from the ground surface, and is enclosed by a low concrete wall. The intervening space is filled with well-prepared soil in which will be planted suitable floral mementoes. On the west face of the monument appears the inscription, "In memory of all who made the supreme sacrifice in the great war, 1914-1919. Lost we forget."

On the west side are inscribed the names of the fallen heroes of Bamawm district:—E. C. W. Archibald, J. H. C. Chappel, T. M'Connell, C. M. Hewlett, H. O. Irish, E. E. Jenkins, H. Jones, C. Martin, T. A. M'Donald, J. M'Intyre, A. M'Kinley, T. Quinney, A. Walker.

Near the memorial was placed a wagon, as a stage, on which were seats for the speakers. These were occupied by Mr. Hewlett (chairman), Brigadier-General Brand, C.M.G., D.S.O., State Commandant, who performed the unveiling ceremony, Major Rankin, D.S.O. and Bar, and Crs. W. S. C. Ham (shire president), J. G. Rankin, and W. Dunstone, representatives of that district in the Shire of Rochester.

The chairman expressed his regret at the proceedings taking place so much after schedule time, but it was not the fault of the committee. The chauffeur who piloted Brigadier-General Brand from Bendigo was not well acquainted with the district, and brought their visitor all round the country en route. The speaker was happy to be present on the occasion, "Happy" might seem a strange word to employ at such a solemn ceremony, but he did not regard the function as a sad one, for they had gained their first objective in establishing the memorial, which was paid for. He welcomed Brigadier-General Brand heartily, and appreciated his kindness in devoting some of the little leisure time allowed him from his multifarious duties in attending at Bamawm that day. As the hour was so late, and darkness setting in, he requested the speakers, with the exception of their illustrious visitor, to be as brief as possible.

Cr. Ham (shire president) said that he had much pleasure, on behalf of the people of the shire, in welcoming Brigadier-General Brand, and he knew that all present would be glad to meet so distinguished a soldier.

Major Rankin welcomed Brigadier-General Brand, who was a distinguished

General Brand, who was a distinguished and successful officer who had endeared himself to the soldiers under his command.

Brigadier-General Brand, who was received with loud cheers, said that he welcomed the opportunity of assisting them in doing honor to the brave men who had made the supreme sacrifice. They could not do too much to do honor to the memory of those men who gave their lives for the great cause of justice and liberty. Different methods were adopted in various places for giving expression to this sentiment of honor to the fallen brave. They took, amongst others, the forms of memorial halls, fountains, parks, and monuments, but they were unanimous in recognising their responsibility for looking after the welfare of the dependents of the fallen soldiers. On the memorial before him there were only 13 names out of the many thousand soldiers who left our shores to fight in our names and interests—to keep our country free from the invasion of the enemy. It is often asked, "Who won the war?" Some say Lloyd George; others say it was our navy and submarines; and still others that it was the women workers of the Empire. He would not himself say that the A.I.F. won the war, but he would state emphatically that where the hardest blows were being delivered our Australian lads were always to be found to the fore. Of the 140 miles front held by the Allies during the perilous and now historic 100 days preceding the armistice, when the great advance of the enemy was checked, the Hindenburg line was broken, and the foe hopelessly defeated, the A.I.F. held 12 miles in the thickest part of the fight. They had with them the English, Irish, Scotch, and American troops. The A.I.F. might have had some equals, but they had no superiors. Under the name of "Diggers" they did great things, of which they had heard and read. Here the speaker interpolated some humorous aspects of the "Digger" temperament. Of course they were all highly amenable to discipline. They never swore or spoke in anything but terms of great respect for their officers. (Laughter.) The A.I.F. was variously interpreted as the Australian Imperial Forces, Always in Front, Admired in France, etc. They were a united body, who took no notice of differences in creeds or politics. They tried to live up to ideals for which so many of them laid down their lives. At a function similar to that of the present, at which he lately attended, prominent persons of all shades of religious and political beliefs joined in harmony to do honor to the fallen soldiers. The speaker offered his sincere sympathy to the relatives and friends of fallen soldiers, of whom they should be proud. On the various overseas battlefields were to be seen great numbers of wooden crosses erected to the memory of our boys who laid down their lives there, and he considered these crosses a greater tribute to their memory than the highest decorations, for we were told that "greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends." They gave their

his life for his friends." They gave their lives for us. (Applause.)

The Brigadier-General then unveiled the memorial, while the choir sang the anthem, "What are These?"

The chairman here apologised for the absence of Mr. W. C. Hill, M.H.R., who was unavoidably detained elsewhere.

Cr. Rankin expressed his pleasure at being present, and proposed a vote of thanks to the gallant soldier who came all the way from Melbourne to that day's ceremony. He had sacrificed much time and leisure for the purpose.

Cr. Dunstone seconded the motion, and said that to any one who knew our shire roads, the wonder was not that their visitor was late, but that he had arrived at all. (Laughter.)

The vote was carried with vigorous acclamation.

Private W. M. Chapman here ascended the stage and was invested with the 1914-15 star. Brigadier-General Brand said that the soldier was one of his brigade in France, where they acted as an advance guard. The star would cost the Government 2/11, while the greatly-coveted V.C. decoration cost but 1/11. It was not their intrinsic value, however, that counted, but the things they stood for.

He hoped the recipient would hand his decoration down as a heirloom to his children, for the Diggers' stock should be perpetuated.