

HONOUR ROLL AT COURELA

UNVEILED BY MR. BERT JOHNSON
(EX-R.A.A.F.)

ADDRESS BY MR. DON ALLEN

A handsome honour roll and memorial "to perpetuate the memory of the men and women of the district who served for King and country" in the 1939-45 war, was unveiled in the Courela hall on Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock.

A large attendance from surrounding areas were present. The hall was comfortably filled. The unveiling was performed by Mr. Bert Johnson (president of the Wirrulla R.S.L.). Mr. W. L. Schulz was chairman. An address was given by the president of the Streaky Bay branch of the R.S.L. (Mr. Don Allen). After the ceremony vocal items were rendered by several people, and the successful function concluded with a lavish afternoon tea provided by ladies of the district.

The roll carried the names of 36 men and women of the Courela district, who had enlisted for war service. Appropriately captioned photographs of Norman Thompson and Ben Hamant, who had paid the supreme sacrifice, hung each side of the roll.

Following the National Anthem and "Song of Australia," Mr. Schulz issued a cordial welcome to all, and introduced Mr. Allen, who briefly outlined the growth of the British Empire. "England had built up a tradition for freedom," he said. She had built up her territorial holdings until she had become the greatest power in the world. Her policy had always been one of protection to smaller countries against aggressive powers, however. Peoples of the Empire had always enjoyed absolute freedom, and when that freedom was threatened, their response to the call to arms was complete. They fought for the protection of this freedom and not for glory or riches. Mr. Allen said that this gesture of the Courela people in paying their tribute, was appreciated by all returned men, as were the letters and comforts so regularly received by service people from home folk during the war. In conclusion, the speaker expressed the hope that it would be the last honour roll ever to be unveiled in the Courela hall.

No more appropriate person than Mr. Bert Johnson could have been selected to unveil the memorial, Mr. Schulz said. "In addition to serving with distinction in the air force, Bert's people—the John-

son's and the Walkers—were two of the district's oldest settlers who had 'blazed the trail' in the pioneer days."

Mr. Johnson said he had been in the Courela hall for his service farewell and welcome home socials. He had experienced rather a mixture of feelings. On the first occasion his feelings had included those of foreboding as he was going forward to the unknown. In the second he felt happiness and security. This time his feelings were somewhat similar to those he experienced the first time, but he trusted that the danger of war at present so imminent, would pass.

The "Ode to the Fallen" was recited by Mr. Hubert Howard, after which Mrs. Bert Thompson placed wreaths under the photographs of the two young men who had lost their lives.

Mr. Gordon Schulz, in his remarks, expressed gratitude to the men who had gone forward to safeguard the security of those at home.

Mr. Joe Day congratulated the Courela people on the handsome memorial. He said if the same spirit prevailed throughout the cities as that in the country, Australia would be a better place.

Incidental piano music during the ceremony was provided by Miss Flora Ceyne. Songs by Mr. Lance Symons, Mrs. Woods, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Skinner (duet) and Mr. Kevin Palmer, were pleasingly rendered and enjoyed.

In conclusion, Mr. Schulz thanked Mr. "Podge" Redding, Miss M. Laffer and Mr. R. Bebbington (Streaky Bay) for their work on the preparation of the memorial roll. After the National Anthem, afternoon tea was served.