

PUBLIC TRIBUTE

To Gallant Boys

Service at Warroo

On Sunday, June 20, the little brick church at Warroo, held a congregation drawn from the immediate and district neighborhoods which had attended to pay tribute to the memory of Cpl. Edley and Pte. James M. Simmonds, the sons of Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Simmonds, of "Pretoria," Warroo, who were killed in action in New Guinea on November 19 1942.

The service was conducted by Rev. A. E. White.

Included in the congregation were the president and secretary of Forbes Returned Soldiers' League (Messrs. Clarence and Hastings) and several members of the League, and Forbes V.D.C. under Capt. R. O. Palmer, to which are attached three brothers of the heroic lads who went forth to meet the enemy.

Rev. White took as his text the following extracts from St. Matthew 20: 20-21-22:

"Then came to Him the mother of Zebedee's children with her sons, worshipping Him, and desiring a certain thing of him.

"And He said unto her: 'What wilt thou?' She said unto Him: 'Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on thy right hand, and the other on the left, in thy kingdom.'

"But Jesus answered and said: 'Ye know not what ye ask. Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and be baptised with the baptism that I am baptised with?' They said unto Him: 'We are able.'

The speaker compared the tasks gladly shouldered by Zebedee's sons, James and John, with those accepted with equal readiness by the lads who were mourned.

In each case the response had been to the call to fight false beliefs so that good might prevail throughout the world.

The call came to fight for the beautiful and good, and the two Simmonds lads went overseas. Later they returned, but again went forth to defend their land--not far away this time, but near at hand. They knew what their part in the conflict meant; they had counted the cost. And on the hills in New Guinea, in the great fight that meant the turning back of the enemy, they stood bravely. They drank of the cup of sacrifice.

Was it worth it, enquired Rev. White. "Only you and I who live in this land know the answer," he supplied. "It depends on us to prove that it was worth while," he continued.

In conclusion, Rev. White said: "If from their example come an incentive to put the needs of mankind, God and country first, then their sacrifice will have been worth while. But only then.

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"The boys were prepared and did sacrifice their lives for the good of mankind, and it was the same spirit of unselfish service that was required to-day in each person if their sacrifice will not have been made in vain."

TABLET UNVEILED

A memorial tablet, set into the wall of the church, right of the Altar, was then unveiled by Mr. E. A. Clarence, as president of the Returned Soldiers' League, who also recited the Act of Dedication and led the congregation in the declaration: "We will remember them."

The stone carried the following inscription:

In Memory of
Cpl. EDLEY SIMMONDS
Pte. JAMES M. SIMMONDS
2/31st Bat. A.I.F.

Killed in action in New Guinea
10th November, 1942

Serving their King and Country.

Lest We Forget.

V.D.C. GUARD OF HONOR

At the conclusion of the service the members of the V.D.C. formed a guard of honor from the door of the church, to the gateway through which the congregation passed.