

Honoring a Police Officer

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MONUMENT AT SUMMERTOWN

A very large crowd of local district residents assembled at Summertown on Sunday afternoon last, together with many from much further afield, to do honor to the late Constable G. W. Manhood, who died in April last while in charge of the Summertown police station. He was held in high regard by the residents, and shortly afterwards it was decided to place a tablet to his memory in the township. This, a neat grey granite column, was unveiled on Sunday.

The site selected is opposite the police station, on the high roadside adjacent to the cemetery, and the district council has agreed to surround it with lawn.

Proceedings opened with the National anthem, following which the Rev. G. R. Parrott, at the time the Methodist minister in charge of the district, offered a prayer, in which he commended the loss of a great friend to the district, and one who had ever been ready with a helping hand to anyone in trouble.

Mr. R. Matthews, chairman of the memorial committee, explained that an accompanying marble tablet was to be sent to Millicent, to be placed on Mr. Manhood's grave; it was inscribed: "A tribute to the memory of George H. Manhood, Mounted Constable at Summertown, 1938-43. A faithful officer and friend to all. From residents of that district." He said that the decision to honor their late friend had been unanimous. The passing had been a tragically sudden one, and Mrs. Manhood, who was stricken at the same time, had spent five months in hospital and was still in such condition that she was not able to be present that day, but the family was represented by Shirley, the elder daughter, also Mrs. Billinger (sister) and Mr. Watts (brother-in-law) from Millicent, and Mr. Woodworth (brother-in-law) from Adelaide. Mrs. Manhood, sen., sent apology from Millicent.

Mr. R. L. Leane, Commissioner of Police, said he was appreciative of the honor being done to a man of the force, whose way was not usually such an easy one. M.C. Manhood, however, had been an officer who could carry out his duty with credit to himself and satisfaction to the public, and the service mourned a valued comrade as well as did the

public, and the service mourned a valued comrade as well as did the people of Summertown. An officer needed to be fair, tolerant, courteous and helpful, and if this were so he should always gain the respect and esteem of those he lived amongst. The deceased had been only 37 years of age when called, and he was very sorry indeed for the occurrence. Only a few days before his death he had rung up and stated that he would have to take leave, as he was told he had a bad attack of tonsillitis, and the next thing the speaker heard was that he had passed away.

The Premier (Mr. T. Playford) unveiled the monument, which was inscribed similarly to the shield (with exception of the last few words). He esteemed it an honor to perform the ceremony, and he believed this was only the second such monument in the State—the other was at Alice Springs. Personally, he would remember George Manhood more as a friend than a police officer, and he was fully aware that he shared this opinion with the whole district.

The Last Post and other police calls were sounded by Junior-Cons. Prosser, and with the singing of a hymn the ceremony closed.

Supts. J. R. and W. F. Johns and a number of other police officers were also present, and the local V.D.C. attended in uniform.

It is the intention of the committee to, with a surplus that will be hand, establish a permanent memorial prize for competition at the local school, for woodwork, in which the late officer took great interest.