

HONOR BOARD AT GOORAMBAT

Unveiled by General Forsythe

The people of Goorambat and district have erected in the Mechanics' Hall in their township a handsome polished black-wood honor board containing the names of 89 men who went to the late war and 10 who also volunteered from a radius of within five miles of Goorambat. At the top is the Australian coat of arms, and on either side are two pillars supporting two field cannon. The names of those who fell are inscribed on raised wood in the centre in the form of a scroll, while the other names are contained on four tablets. The whole is a magnificent piece of work. On Tuesday afternoon last the unveiling ceremony took place, and was performed by Brigadier-General Forsythe, who was in command of the unit in which a number of the Goorambat district lads served. The ceremony was fixed for 2 o'clock, and at that hour there was a large assemblage from all parts of the district, and when the doors were opened it was found that many were unable to obtain admission. Cr. Walker, shire president, occupied the chair, and proceedings commenced with the singing of the National Anthem.

The chairman said they were gathered together that afternoon for an event that should be remembered for many years to come by the people of Goorambat. To his own knowledge the people of Goorambat had been amongst the most loyal in the Benalla shire. They had also, in proportion to their population, sent the greatest number to take part in this great war. They were met together that afternoon to show their appreciation, and the soldiers who had returned would be pleased to see that the people had not forgotten them and their comrades who had fallen. Our soldiers had returned victorious. We often used the word victory, but sometimes, he thought, we did not realise what it meant. At the beginning of last century the battles of Waterloo and Trafalgar were fought and won. The world then never realised what those victories meant, but we knew now that if they had not been won there would not have been an Australian people to-day.

have been an Australian people to-day. When the news was received the people of those days were greatly pleased, but the far-reaching effects were not known at the time. After Waterloo our legislators had to turn their minds to building up a nation. To-day a similar problem had to be faced. We had to stand together, and if the Empire continued we, as Britislers, will have big power in ruling the world. We knew that many had lost their lives, and those losses had been our pain. We knew that if Great Britain rules the sea we are safe, but if we had not won, our property and those dear to us would never have been safe, and we should have had to obey a different master. There is one thing that we must not forget, and that is that the greatest asset and prize a nation can have is the loyalty of its people. (Applause.) They had the moulding of the national character in their hands. They had children growing up, and it was their duty and his duty to see that their children were educated in loyalty in every way. A parent was not doing his duty to the empire if he did not implant in the child's breast loyalty to the empire. Then if we should be engaged in such another terrible war we would have the satisfaction of knowing we brought our children up in the right way, and that would mean the success of the nation we all love. (Loud applause).

Cr. Cleary said he was delighted to be there that day to take part in the ceremony of unveiling the honor board. He was glad to be there with General Forsythe, who was to perform the unveiling ceremony, and who was such a fine soldier and held in the highest esteem by every soldier he had come in contact with. (Applause.) They were proud of the part their boys had played in the great war. They did not say their boys had done better than those of any other part of the State, but they did say they had done as well as any any other part of the Commonwealth. (Applause.) The proceedings that afternoon were the final act, and they, who had been unable to do any fighting, were doing their best to show how grateful they were to the boys who had been fighting their battles for them. (Applause).

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Colonel J. I. Martin, who was received with applause, said it gave him the greatest pleasure to be present that afternoon to assist in unveiling that memorial to those who had returned, and also to those who never will return. He could not express his opinion as he would wish, because many of those who left that district were before the war under his command in the old regiment, and they gave their time to training to night in audience of their country. That was not a training centre, but these men gave their time freely, though never thinking they would be called upon to face the enemy in the only place where he could be met. They went and fought, and some of them have not returned. There were very few of the old regiment now left. He thought there were very few young men who did not volunteer to go. He was sure that no district, for its size, sent so many men, and such good men. Of the total number of men who left these shores there might have been 2 per cent who were wasters, but there was not 1 per cent. of the men who left Goorambat who were wasters or scalliwags. (Applause.) All went prepared to lay down their lives for liberty and freedom, and they did the job. (Applause.) They raised this young nation from being practically unknown to a position amongst the honorable nations of the world which it now enjoyed. Australia by its achievements surprised the world, and to-day was known all over it. (Applause.) They were there that afternoon to do honor to those who had returned and to keep green the memory of those brave boys who will never come back. (Applause.)

Cr. T. A'B. Cook, who was greeted with applause, said he was aware until a few minutes before that he was to be called upon to speak. They had had many functions to welcome returned soldiers, at which he and Cr. Cleary cracked jokes, but, as Cr. Cleary had said, this was the final act, and it was scarcely the time when jokes and jests could be indulged in. He was struck with the fact that on the last occasion they were speaking in that hall they were drawing the veil over that awful war, but it was not the last act. This, as Cr. Cleary had said, was the last act. He spoke of the great sacrifices people of that and other districts

sacrifices people of that and other districts had made. Of those who went 60,000 did not live to return to that land for which they had so bravely fought. Many anxious moments the leaders and officers of the men who went had spent, and it would not be out of place to express once again their thankfulness to those who had made a sacrifice so great. In a small radius of his own home he knew of four out of fourteen families who would not return. He was pleased to be with them that afternoon to join in doing honor to those men and unveiling the honor board. It was often said that 400,000 had been sent from these shores, but not one had been sent. Every man was free to remain at home if he so wished, but of their own choice they went. (Applause.)

The chairman then introduced General Forsythe, and, amidst applause, called upon him to perform the unveiling ceremony.

General Forsythe addressed himself to the ladies and gentlemen, and added, might he also say children. He was very fond of the young folk, and might they in the future, recognise their duty in fulfilling Australia's destiny. He was very pleased to be with them. He thought that in country centres one got the genuine man and the genuine woman. In the city there was so much frivolity that the people were not so solid. In his mind they did not represent the country like those who lived in the country districts did. Many of them in the volunteer

forces prior to the war had the privilege to go to the war, but some, on account of age or other disability, were unable to get away. But those men who for years gave their time to the citizen forces laid the foundation of the A.I.F., and but for their work there would not have been any successful A.I.F. He always felt inclined to take off his hat to his old comrades who were unable to go. He was also pleased that afternoon to meet his old comrades in the A.I.F., and a few in Goorambat who were associated with his unit. (Applause.) He felt the task given to him that day was an honorable task, because when he performed the ceremony he unveiled to the people of Goorambat for all

when he performed the ceremony he unveiled to the people of Goorambat for all time the list of names of brave men. He also felt it was a very sad duty, because he also unveiled the names of the dead of the district. What a number of these honor boards were existing right throughout the Commonwealth. He had visited many places, and could see a mental picture of stately cathedrals and public buildings in the country, and in them handsome honor boards. He saw one spot in Queensland, away back in the cattle country. There were no buildings, but on a monument at the corner of cross roads there were twenty four names. That embraced the names of every eligible young man in that district. That would be a finger post on the road of life, pointing clearly to what is the road to honor, and urging those who saw it to go along that road. Now the great war was over. We all thanked God that it was so, but they could not help recalling the desolation and destruction it brought—not to one country, but to the whole earth. The earth still staggered under its baneful influence. There was one thing that stood out in spite of the black cloud, and that was the greatest loyalty shown everywhere and the fine attitude of the women. There was that consolation. He was pleased to hear the president of the shire say that the work we had before us was not yet finished. We had yet to build up our nation, and the foundation had been laid well and truly by the war, and we must not lose those splendid qualities which were found by us in the war. Another thought was, don't let us in building up our great country, which we had come to love so much, say it is the other man's job—it is the legislator's job to build up our country, for it was only to be done by each one doing his part. No doubt to-day Australia is disturbed, and one wondered what would be the outcome and is there a cure. To his mind there was only one cure, but it is not possible at present, and that was the cure of absolute Christianity. (Applause.) It was the only cure. It does not exist amongst us as a whole, but one basis of Christianity was this—"Do unto others as you would they would do unto you," and if we only applied that principle to things we would have peace. We might not have perfection, but we could have

things we would have peace. We might not have perfection, but we could have ideals and aim at it. (Applause.) Now, he asked them to remember their honorable dead. They said they were not dead so far as their union is concerned with those whom they loved before they went away. He was reminded of the old song which he used to sing as a boy, "Old John Brown's body lies mouldering in the grave, but his soul goes marching on." He saw now those words contained a wonderful truth, but until his comrades died he never realised what it meant. While their comrades were lying in their graves in France their souls still march on, and he could feel them marching on as he sat and meditated. He could feel them marching on with him as he went on in life. He was sure these men would march on, not as an inspiration only to those who knew them, but to the whole of Australia. (Applause.) Then they had to remember, as had already been said, our bereaved, especially our mothers, the mothers who gave and lost their sons, and having lost them complained not. Nobody could understand what a mother's love is except a parent, and nobody could plumb the depths of a mother's sorrow when she lost her offspring. Their sympathy had also gone out to the fathers. If their losses had happened in other ways there would have been weeping and wailing in the streets, but in this case there had not been so because they knew their heroes had died in a great cause. They knew that the aching void in their hearts would be filled, and they did hope that the feelings would be blunted, and that they would march on keeping in view the great resurrection morn, when there would be a reunion which would never be broken. In unveiling that board, he said to them it would be an inspiration to do their duty, never counting the cost, as these men did not. (Loud applause.)

The board was then unveiled. The names of those who made the supreme sacrifice were on the scroll in the centre, while the other names were on two panels on either side. They were as follows:—

SUPREME SACRIFICE.

Barker, W.	Johnston, W.
Corboy, P. J.	Morrison, H.

Corboy, P. J.	Morrison, H.
Davis, E. J.	Payne, J.
Dunlop, P. J.	Robertson, W. G.
Feldtmann, E. H.	Robertson, D.
Gregory, W.	Sergeant J. E.
Hall, C. B.	

OTHER NAMES.

Bell, I.	Jones, J. H.
Carlyon, S.	Lowry, R. K.
Chapman, E.	Lindsay, R.
Christian, B.	Love, W.
Cook, L. A.	Meikle, W. R.
Coombs, H. S.	Meikle, R. W.
Coleman, W.	Meikle, C. J.
Corboy, T. P.	Moore, E.
Davis, R. S.	Moore, P.
Davis, C. W.	Morrison, A. L.
Davis, V. H.	Morrison, H. J.
Davis, W.	Morrison, A. G.
Dempsey, T. J.	Moylan, A.
Dowell, F. E.	Moylan, J.
Dobson, A.	Matthews, T. C.
Dunlop, H. A.	Payne, J. S.
Dunlop, H. S.	Pearson, J. W.
Dunlop, A. J.	Pearson, F.
Dunlop, A.	Robertson, J. F.
Ellis, W. J.	Robertson, C.
Flood, B. B.	Ryan, V. W.
Frawley, J. W.	Ryan, M. J.
Frawley, P.	Ryan, M. P.
Franklin, A.	Sanger, J. H.
Gleeson, W. E.	Saunders, W.
Hall, F. R.	Sharp, T. R.
Hall, G.	Smith, A. M'K.
Hall, W. G.	Stodart, F. L.
Hall, J.	Taylor, B.
Hair, J. W.	Todd, J. S.
Hair, H. L.	Todd, F. L.
Hepburn, J. H.	Unman, W.
Hill, H. J.	Wallace, H. H.
Holloway, V.	Wallace, A. W.
Jeffreys, J.	Wallace, R. W. G.
Jennings, G. W.	Winnell, E.
Jennings, T. E.	Youngs, C.
Johnston, B. P.	Quinn, Sister M.
Jones, J.	

ALSO VOLUNTEERED.

Dunlop, V. O.	Kenneth, D.
Ellis, R.	Morrison, R.
Hall, R. W.	Payne, W. F.
Hall, E. V.	Quirk, W.
Holloway, C. R.	William, H. V.

Mr. Wilkie sounded the Last Post after the board had been unveiled.

Lieut. F. Hall moved a vote of thanks to General Foreythe, and said as one of those who went away under his command, it was a very great pleasure to have him

It was a very great pleasure to have him back and perform the ceremony that day. (Applause.)

The motion was carried with acclamation, and after a vote of thanks to the shire president, the proceedings closed with the singing of the National Anthem.