

A Numurkah Function SOLDIERS' MEMORIAL

UNVEILING CEREMONY

PERFORMED BY BRIGADIER-
GENERAL ELLIOTT

OTHER PARLIAMENTARIANS
PRESENT

Illustrative of victory through sacrifice, the memorial to the memory of fallen soldiers erected on the square at the corner of Melville and Saxton Streets, Numurkah was, on Saturday afternoon last, unveiled by Senator Brigadier-General Elliott, in the presence of a large gathering of town and district residents. With a base and pedestal of granite, there is in front of one of the four panels a life size figure of a digger with reversed arms, whilst on the top of the column is a figure representative of the triumph of peace. On the panels are inscribed the names of departed soldiers, the front panel also bearing the inscription:

"Erected by residents of Numurkah and district to the memory of those who paid the supreme sacrifice and in honor of those who served in the Great War 1914-1918."

The Hon. R. Kilpatrick, M.L.C., who was present, went from Shepparton, accompanied by the Ven. Archdeacon G. W. Carter. The Hon. J. G. Tuckett, M.L.C., came from Nathalia, whilst the Hon. M. W. J. Bouchier, accompanied by Brigadier-General Elliott from Melbourne by train.

The members of the memorial committee effected the arrangements for the function which were very complete. The committee comprised Messrs J. H. Harper, president, A. Stringer, secretary, E. Coxon, G. Moss, D. Rendall and J. Findlay and C. F. Thornton.

Ex-Soldiers Welcome

On alighting from the train the Brigadier-General and those accompanying him were formally welcomed by representative citizens. A procession of returned soldiers, headed by the local band, marched to the hall of the Numurkah branch of the returned soldiers, where the ex-defenders of Australia accorded Brig-

returned soldiers, where the ex-defenders of Australia accorded Brigadier-General Elliott a very hearty welcome, which was acknowledged in terms which elicited recurring rounds of applause.

The Dinner

In the local hall a sumptuous dinner was tendered by the president of the shire council, Cr. J. S. McKenzie, who, unfortunately, through temporary indisposition, was unable to be present, and his place at the head of the table was taken by Cr. R. C. Gordon, whose expressions of regret at the absence of Cr. McKenzie and of hopes for his speedy recovery were endorsed by a general chorus of "Hear, hear." Amongst the 140 who sat down to lunch besides the visitors mentioned above was the Brigadier-General's brother who came from his holding near Echuca and Messrs H. Lee (president) and J. Gilbert (secretary) Numurkah branch Returned Soldiers' League. The dinner was prepared by Mr. Simpson, licensee of the Shamrock Hotel, and did him infinite credit.

The toast of the "King" was loyally honored.

Cr. Gordon proposed the toast of "Brigadier-General "Pompey" Elliott," and said all were familiar with the name "Pompey" Elliott. (Applause). They regarded him as a great soldier. (Applause). How glad they were to have him present to officially unveil Numurkah's soldiers' memorial. (Applause). That was the most representative gathering that had assembled in that hall. Why were they there? To do honor to the memory of the deceased soldiers. (Applause). He characterised Col. Bouchier as a distinguished soldier whom he congratulated on being returned to Parliament unopposed. (Loud applause). He paid a tribute to the Ven. Archdeacon G. W. Carter, of Shepparton, which elicited warm applause. They were also pleased to see present the Hon. G. Tuckett, M.L.C. (Applause). He also eulogised the Hon. R. Kilpatrick, M.L.C., a sentiment which was heartily applauded. He explained the causes of the delay in finishing the memorial, one of which was the difficulty in getting a site. (Applause).

Mr. Harold Lee, in supporting the

ting a site. (Applause).

Mr. Harold Lee, in supporting the toast dilated on the loving esteem in which "Pompey" Elliott was held, stating the memory of his name would ever be green. He told some amusing war incidents in the history of the Brigadier-General in the field, eliciting much laughter from those assembled. "Where is your wonderful old horse, "Pompey,"? asked Mr. Lee. "Why I'll guarantee that if that horse came across an unshaved man he would stand stark still. (Applause).

The toast was accorded musical honors, and as those assembled sat down there were cries of "Good old 'Pompey.'"

Brigadier-General Elliott thanked the committee for bringing his brother from Tocumwal to meet him. (Applause). He paid a warm compliment to Col. Bouchier, than whom, he said, there was no ex-soldier who was more highly esteemed. (Loud applause). Touching on the voluntary military work he said false conclusions must not be drawn from results. It had to be remembered that the early recruits in the war had efficient officers to train them. (Applause). He was glad to see so many returned men looking so well. (Applause). The country had been generous to the returned men, £200,000,000 having been spent to benefit soldiers since the termination of the war. The land settlement scheme had placed many returned soldiers on the land who would be a success. (Applause). Then he related many amusing experiences at the war, which drew forth much laughter. He told of a padre who came to him one morning and said, "I've committed sacrilege." "Yes, what's the matter"? asked the Brigadier-General. The reply came, "Well, I had some whisky and water in my bottle and I used it for shaving." (Laughter). Touching the chairman's regret at the delay in finalising the memorial, he pointed out that in Melbourne they were still engaged in erecting the Shrine of Remembrance. (Hear, hear).

Unveiling Ceremony

Subsequent to lunch the processionists reformed and marched to the scene of the memorial where a large

sionists reformed and marched to the scene of the memorial where a large gathering of representative residents of the district had assembled. The distinguished visitors were accommodated with seats on a raised platform. The president of the memorial committee, Mr. J. H. Harper, occupied the chair.

The proceedings were opened by the singing of "God Save the King," followed by the hymn, "O God Our Help in Ages Past."

The chairman said the function marked the culmination of hopes long deferred, and evidenced that the memory of the deceased soldiers was enshrined in the hearts of the people of the district. However, the outcome was most gratifying. (Applause). He said Numurkah's record in the great war was second to none of any town in the Commonwealth. (Applause). A number of volunteers in Numurkah were amongst the first who assembled at the Broadmeadows military camp. (Applause). The memorial would be a perpetual reminder of things which they might be liable to forget. (Applause). They were honored in having with them one of the most gallant officers Australia had produced, General Elliott. (Applause). They were delighted to see such a distinguished officer as Col. Bouchier with them. (Applause).

Col. Bouchier, who was well received, incidentally thanked the electors for having returned him unopposed. (Applause). He would endeavor to faithfully represent all sections of the community. (Applause). He alluded to Brigadier-General Elliott as a gallant soldier whom they were delighted to have amongst them. (Applause). He expressed a hope that the president of the shire would soon be restored to health. (Applause). He congratulated the people of the town and district in erecting such a fine memorial to the memory of the deceased soldiers. (Applause). He was convinced the country could not do too much for those suffering from the disabilities of the war. (Applause). All should be grateful for what the Australian nurses had done in attending to the soldiers. (Applause). To all who had lost relatives in the great war he conveyed sincere sympathy. (Hear,

he conveyed sincere sympathy. (Hear, hear). On the military system he said he was sure that if the time to defend the country the present generation would do it as well as the soldiers had done in the great war. (Applause). During the war the Numurkah council raised a special war fund totalling £1700 through a 3d. rate. (Applause). He congratulated the memorial committee on the very fine tribute they were paying to the memory of the deceased soldiers (Applause).

The chairman apologised for the absence of Dr. Harris, M.L.C.

Brigadier-General Elliott, who was received with hearty applause, said he had attended many such ceremonies—sad occasions to the bereaved parents of the deceased. He sympathised with the latter. He was pleased to be present that day and renew many of his old acquaintances. From the district a detachment was raised who were present at the landing in Gallipoli under heavy machine gun fire. A Numurkah officer was among the survivors, who told him of an instance of a lad wounded to whom a comrade went to assist when the boy said, "Never mind me, I'm done. You do your duty." He told of many striking evidences of bravery which had come under his notice at the front, mentioning the name of Opie, from the Goulburn Valley, who gained distinction. (Applause). He instanced many cases of sacrifice by soldiers on the field to help their comrades. He was glad to be present to unveil the monument. (Applause). There were some who belittled the part that Australia could take in the war, but reminded them of the great achievements by the Commonwealth soldiers at the front, and the part taken therein by General Sir John Monash. That day they were paying a tribute to the men who fell in the war. (Applause). At the end came the Armistice—eleven years ago. The Hindenburg line had been broken and there was a complete victory for the cause of liberty and freedom. Armistice Day was the one day of Empire celebration. Shrines were being erected in all parts to commemorate the sacrifice

parts to commemorate the sacrifice for those that had fallen. (Applause). Should they not look for Anzac Day through the observance of Anzac Day. He then unveiled the monument, following which a two minutes' silence was observed.

Archdeacon Carter said the monument was one erected to the memory of those who had enlisted and those who had paid the great sacrifice. It should perpetuate the spirit of the A.I.F. as they faced the problems of peace which were greater than those of war—a spirit of comradeship that drew all for King and country. To the departed they were that day paying a tribute.

Then one prayer of Commemoration was said by the Archdeacon, following which "The Last Post" was sounded, and the hymn, "God of Our Fathers" then sung, the impressive ceremony concluding with the singing of "God Save the King."

Recruiting under the voluntary system of training for the citizen forces will start this week. First enrolments will be made in Melbourne.

The Murndal Estate, situated in the Hamilton district, which has been in possession of the Winter oCoke family for ninety-one years, has been subdivided, and on Friday last was sold by auction. For the 2356 acres which changed hands, £48,120 was realised.