

Soldiers' Memorial.

Unveiling Ceremony.

Although it is nearly seven years ago since the initial move was made for the erection of a memorial to the fallen soldiers and sailors of the district, it is only now that the monument has been completed. Standing on a commanding position in the Coronation Triangle (opposite the Town Hall), it is an imposing structure symbolical of the sacrifices made by our gallant men. The foundation (which was laid by the Mayor during the recent Back-to-Portland celebrations) is of granite, with marble columns rising to a height of over eight feet, surmounted with the figure of an Australian soldier, with head drooped and standing with reversed arms. On the monument, in gold letters, are the names of those who fell, as follows:—W. W. B. Allen, C. A. Allen, A. S. Allen, J. Allen, J. Baxter, D. L. Beames, H. E. Bayley, S. G. M. Campbell, Dr. S. J. Campbell, A. Cassidy, L. Collyer, J. P. R. Compton, L. A. Dusing, G. Cook, H. Dent, O. G. T. Finck, G. Garner, W. Hardie, J. D. Hateley, G. C. Hawkins, T. A. Hutchinson, G. Jarrett, R. Jerrett, L. V. Manning, J. Marshall, T. Miles, W. Naismith, T. Rodda, J. T. Redfern, L. Stanford, E. Rodda, J. T. Redfern, L. Stanford, W. Stanford, T. Stuchbery, W. T. Stuchbery, N. L. Theisinger, C. T. Teague, A. J. Trangmar, L. J. Upton, S. Wilson, E. Wise. The monumental work was carried out by Mr R. E. Carpenter, of Warrnambool.

The unveiling ceremony took place on Sunday afternoon in the presence of a particularly large assemblage, the weather being perfect for such an occasion. A large number of returned soldiers (most wearing decorations), headed by the Salvation Army band, marched from the club rooms and were received at the memorial by guards of honor consisting of the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides. In the enclosure were parents and relatives of the fallen men, Parliamentary representatives and members of the Borough Council.

Proceedings opened with the singing of the hymn, "Nearer, My God, to Thee," after which Chaplain McMeekin read passages of Scripture and led the gathering in prayer. "Lead, Kindly Light" was next sung, and the Mayor then addressed the as-

and the Mayor then addressed the assemblage. He said he was pleased to see so many present, and to know that they, as citizens, considered it a duty to pay homage to their fallen soldiers. The memorial was first initiated in 1923 at the Back-to-Portland celebrations. A certain amount was then raised, but not quite enough. Finally, they had to fall back on the ladies, as usual, and a committee, under the presidency of Mrs. T. Tulloh, was formed, and in a week's time the balance required was raised—a very fine effort. There was still a little more needed, however, as they desired the hallowed spot on which the memorial stood to be a thing of beauty, and a joy for ever. He was pleased to see the parents of the fallen present, also the returned soldiers, Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, and he commended the latter organisations for the fine work they were performing. He thanked Bandmaster Callander and the Salvation Army band for their services, and on behalf of the committee who had brought the memorial to finality, and the citizens of Portland, extended a hearty welcome to General Sir Neville Smyth, V.C., who had come all the way from Balmoral to perform the unveiling ceremony. If, however, the distance had been much greater, he was sure it would not have been too far for the General. He also welcomed Mr. Bond, M.L.A., and in closing, thanked Mr. Carpenter for his generosity. That gentleman, when it was found that sufficient funds were not in hand to complete the memorial as originally intended, had met them in a most liberal way and made them a handsome donation.

Sir General Smyth, V.C., who was enthusiastically received, said they all appreciated the remarks of the Mayor, and would long remember his words concerning the history of the beautiful monument, which had been erected in a perfect setting—there could be no better position for such a memorial. It was a great privilege and satisfaction to the people here to feel they had among them those near and dead to the heroes whose martyrdom they commemorated. They were united by a bond of human sympathy, and by the same loyalty and the same thoughtfulness towards the fallen. It was only right that they should think for a moment of what they owed to the men who had won the war. During

men who had won the war. During its course the Allied army obtained possession of the enemy's plans if they had won. Broadly speaking the scheme was that poor inoffensive little Belgium was to be engulfed, the French Channel ports, Dover and the Isle of Wight, occupied by German garrisons, and Australia allowed to pass into the enemy's hands and her manhood enslaved as German conscripts. But let them not dwell longer on that side of the picture—thanks to those who had done their duty in the Allies' cause, such a thing had been made impossible for ever. To-day their thoughts were not so much of the achievements of the Australians, but rather of what these brave men really were. He had the privilege of serving with the Australian soldiers for three and a half years, and he found deep in their hearts smouldered the fire of patriotism and self-sacrifice; yet under the grimmest conditions they were cheerful and game, and their high endeavors made the path before them always bright. If he had to go to war again and was asked with whom he would like to serve, he would desire nothing better than his old comrades of the A.I.F. (Applause.) He then unveiled the monument to the

about three-quarters of an hour looking round the rooms. The General is very interested in Scouting, and has just been appointed president of the 1st Balmoral Troop Committee. Lady Smyth also takes a keen interest in the Scout movement, and has plenty of experience, as she was Scoutmaster of a Troop in England for some years.

glory of God and in memory of their fallen comrades.

A most impressive ceremony was concluded by the sounding of the Last Post by Mr. Callander, and the singing of "Abide With Me."

Before dismissing, the General personally greeted the returned men (among whom were included the president, secretary and members of the Port Fairy branch of the R.S.A.) and expressed pleasure at seeing such a large number present. Mrs. Mount, who was also a nurse for a long period during the war, was also present.

After the inspection of returned soldiers, the guard of honor formed by the 1st Portland Girl Guides and Boy Scouts was inspected by General Smyth. The visitor expressed himself as delighted with the number and smart turn-out of the respective bodies.

Immediately after this General Sir Neville and Lady Smyth paid a visit to the Scout rooms. The General gave a short and interesting address to the Scouts, and they then spent about three-quarters of an hour looking round the rooms. The General