

Soldiers' Memorial

WEST NARRABRI UNVEILING CEREMONY.

Situated right on the side of the main street, opposite the Post Office, and in front of the railway yard, the West Narrabri Soldiers' Memorial forms a most striking feature. The obelisk was built by Mr. M. Hardy, of Narrabri, and forms an excellent example of Patent No. 12679, which is a composition of cement and gravel or cement and basalt, with a polished surface. The monolith, or shaft, which is about nine feet in length, is mounted upon a square structure of similar material, which itself rests upon an expanded base. Upon each of the four sides of the monument there is a large marble scroll, one and a half inches thick, which is set into and is flush with the face of the monument. Upon these scrolls are the names of the soldiers, numbering 102, who enlisted from West Narrabri. Above the scroll, in blocked marble letters, lined to perspective, are the words "Narrabri West Horse Regt." Below, on the side facing the road is a marble shield, flush with the monument, inscribed: "This war memorial was unveiled by Mabel K. Adams, Mayoress of West Narrabri, 21st October, 1920."

The monument is a credit to its maker and designer (Mr. M. Hardy) and is one which the people of West Narrabri may well be proud. The design is a combination of grace and dignity and is not overloaded with superfluous ornaments. It gives the impression of solidity, strength, and durability, while at the same time its lines suggest a simplicity that is pleasing to the artistic eye.

There must have been 500 people present at the ceremony, including a number of visitors from Narrabri.

The Narrabri District Band played the National Anthem, after which the Mayor of West Narrabri (Ald. Adams) explained the object of the gathering. He said he had presided at many welcome homes and had always considered it an honor to do so. But at such welcomes there usually had been but five or six returned men. This gathering was different for they were met to do honor to no less than 102 men of the town and locality who, of their own will, went away to fight for their King and their country. There was no need for him to tell those present of the good work done by these men. They proved themselves to be equal to any soldiers in the world. In his opinion the only way they could repay these men was to show respect to them and he did not think they could show it in a better way than by erecting a monument to commemorate their deeds. He felt sure that although these men did not go about the streets proclaiming the fact they would be pleased in their hearts to see such a recognition of their services. He was very sorry to have to say that sixteen of the boys whose names appeared on the memorial would never return and he felt sure the relatives of these boys would feel gratified to have their memories honored and to feel that the citizens of West Narrabri had not forgotten them.

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The Mayor of Narrabri (Ald. P. J. Levey) spoke in a similar strain, stating his pleasure at being present to join with the citizens of West Narrabri in commemorating the deeds of the boys who left West Narrabri for the front. He commented upon the fact that at the war there were no social distinctions. Rich men fought side by side with poor men. All were actuated with the one desire, to conquer the enemy of freedom. This fraternal feeling permeated all ranks while the war lasted, and it should be the everlasting how the war was over to perpetuate this feeling throughout the community instead of encouraging class hatred and strife.

The Hon. A. Palmer, in the course of a short address, said it was a pleasure to think that in a small community like West Narrabri no less than 102 men answered the call of duty. As an Australian he had been glad to hear an English writer refer to the Australian soldier as "the bravest thing God ever made." It had been said that some of the men that returned had "lost" a leg or an arm, but he liked the way a one-armed man put it; he said he had not "lost" it, but that he "gave" it, as contribution to the victory over the enemy.

Ald. W. Tiller (West Narrabri) said he thought the people of West Narrabri had great reason to be proud of their record which was being unveiled. They should be thankful to Mrs. Adams for the strenuous efforts she had made to collect funds for the memorial. She had had a big task to perform and would not give in until it was accomplished.

Mr. M. Ward (Town Clerk at West Narrabri) gave a brief outline of the history of the memorial movement. He said that on November 3rd, 1916, a meeting of ladies was held when Mrs. Adams was elected President, Mrs. H. Rozvis secretary and Messdames P. O'Connor, M. O'Brien and J. Bourke as a committee. Subsequently the other ladies dropped out and the whole of the work devolved upon Mrs. Adams. These ladies got to work and organized socials, dances and collections, and an amount of £55/3/8 was collected. Accrued interest brought the total to £62/8/11, and the recent Labor sports realized £12/12/-, which brought the total to £75. This was the actual cost of the memorial. On behalf of Mrs. Adams and the other ladies he had to tender their thanks for the help they had received. It was his planning duty to ask Mrs. Adams to unveil the memorial.

Mrs. Adams then unveiled the memorial, which was draped with the Union Jack, saying that she was well repaid for all her efforts by the pleasure it gave her to perform such a ceremony.

Ald. H. L. Walker (Narrabri) then decorated the monument with a large

bunch of beautiful roses and also a bunch of sweet peas, from his garden.

The Mayor (Ald. Adams) said a good many residents had expressed the hope that the memorial would be fenced in. The cost of this (with four posts, of the same material as the obelisk, and chains between them) would be £20. He suggested that the

two chains, and chains between them would be £20. He suggested that the flag be placed on the ground so that anyone desiring to contribute to this and could throw their contribution on to it. This was done and in this manner the sum of 24/18/1 was collected.

Ald. Walker next addressed the gathering laying special stress upon the fact that the men whose names appeared upon the memorial went of their own free will and were not forced to go by conscription.

Mr. W. Coleman, of Narrabri, spoke briefly, after which the Mayor took the opportunity to thank the members of the band and all others who had assisted to make the ceremony a success.

On the motion of the Mayor of Narrabri, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mayor Adams.

A member of the band sounded the "Last Post" as a tribute to the memory of the brave dead, and the proceedings terminated.

Apologies were received from Mr. Cunningham, M.H.R., Murrumbidgee, Wearne and Chaffey, M.L.A., the Area Officer, the Rev. Canon Villiers Reid and the Rev. Father Bonayne.

The Victorian Licensing Court has awarded compensation amounting to £31,135 to the licensees and owners of 26 hotels in the city which have been closed by order of the Licensee Reduction Board.

An interesting report on the possibilities of trade between Australia and Italy has been received by the Prime Minister from Brigadier-General Ramaciotti, who has been acting as an unofficial trade commissioner for the Commonwealth during a visit to Italy. The report states that there are great possibilities in wheat, wool, timber, coal, and other products.