

SOLDIERS' MEMORIAL AND HONOR ROLL.

UNVEILING CEREMONY.

A large number of district residents attended the unveiling of the Soldiers' Permanent Memorial on Saturday, when Brigadier-General Brand, the State Commandant, performed the ceremony. Arriving at the Shire Hall shortly after two o'clock, he lost no time in carrying out the function. Inspecting the guard of honor, consisting of the local cadets, under the command of Lieut. A. Sewell, he was introduced to the people by the president of the shire, Cr. M'Murray, J.P. Cr. M'Murray stated that the memorial had been erected by the people of the shire as a small tribute of respect to the memory of those brave boys who had paid the supreme sacrifice, some of whom were laid to rest in unknown parts in foreign countries. General Brand remarked that he deemed it a great honor to unveil such a fine monument erected to the memory of those brave boys who had answered the last call. They would see many of their soldiers wearing distinctions, such as the military medal and Victoria Cross. These had been allotted for conspicuous bravery on the field, the reason being chiefly that they had risked their life to save a comrade. This was a great distinction, but the men whom they were honoring that day had done more: they had given their lives for the freedom of their kindred and their country. "Greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friend." It was the duty of the people to see that the soldiers' dependants and their children received full consideration for their loss. He had no desire to detain the people long, therefore he would unveil the monument, which he hoped would ever keep green the memory of those men who had sacrificed their lives for their country's sake in the late great war. After the unveiling, he requested that all should uncover their heads while Cadet Reynolds sounded the "Last Post."

The pillar, which is constructed of Victorian grey granite, and stands 20 feet high, is finely dressed, with the die on the four sides ribbed for the lettering. Bronze bands and festoons of laurel leaves are affixed to the

laurel leaves are affixed to the obelisk, while four badges, representative of the Australian Military Forces, are cut on the top portion of the obelisk in black lines. The monument stands on three tiers of gray granite, which is enclosed in a 15ft. square, with rustic bluestone piers 3ft. high connected by an iron linked chain. The names of 59 men who were killed overseas, are engraved on the monument, together with the inscription—

"Their name liveth for evermore."

This inscription, which is a biblical one, is taken from the Book of Ecclesiastes, and is greatly used on an inscription on the stone remembrances erected in France and other countries by the Imperial War Graves Commission. The cost of the erection of the memorial was £475, and the total amount collected to date—Mr. and Mrs. Rowan forwarding a cheque for £1 1s during the week—is £642 2s 3d. In addition, the council accepted, at a special meeting on Saturday morning, the tender of Mr. W. Hansford for the construction of a garden and rockeries adjoining the memorial in station-street. In the laying out of this work, provision has been made for the erection of a band rotunda, the building of which is being actively taken up by the Werribee Progress Association, and also for the construction of five or six seats. With the removal of the shire weighbridge from its present site, the whole of the work, when completed, will be a handsome addition to the town, and a fitting tribute to those who gave their lives for their country.

A move was then made to the Shire Hall, where Cr. M'Murray, in welcoming the people to the unveiling, and in introducing General Brand, said the board was erected by the Shire Council in honor of the men who had enlisted from the district of their own free will, and later did such great work in the war. Also on the board were the names of two sisters, who were not afraid to risk their lives, and who did most useful work.

General Brand said that on an average of twice a week he was visiting different parts of the State attending functions of this kind, but the board he was now asked to unveil was one of the best he had seen. He was pleased indeed to see that Werribee

best he had seen. He was pleased indeed to see that Werribee's Roll of Honor contained so many names of brave men and also two noble women who answered their country's call. A number of Werribee soldiers won distinction, but the greatest distinction of all was the "star" opposite the names of those brave

boys who made the sacrifice. He was not only said the A.I.F. won the war wherever they wanted they there. The battle front extended for about 75 miles, of which Australians held about 12 miles. He had soldiers under him from all the allied countries, and could say the Australian soldier had no equal. The board he was pleased to unveil to be a lasting tribute to the soldiers who had enlisted from Werribee district, and would ways bring back their men. He said that during the war soldiers were faced with great difficulties, but the Australian boys always overcome in some extraordinary way, in this respect won everlasting fame. On the other hand, had some comforts, and he pleased to know that the patriotic people of Werribee contributed upwards of £5,000 towards the cost of such comforts. He also pleased to know that work was being done at Werribee in assisting to repatriate wounded men. The average "digger" did not want charity, he wanted to repatriate himself by returning back to work as speedily as possible.

Hon. A. R. Robertson, M.L.A. moved a vote of thanks to General Brand for his kindness in coming to Werribee for the purpose of unveiling the Roll of Honor.

Mrs. M'Murray entertained General and Mrs. Brand and their party to afternoon tea in the president's room, and was ably assisted by the ladies of the Cross Committee.

The board, which was constructed by Messrs. Cox and Co. of Lonsdale-street, is a fine piece of workmanship, and is cut out in polished blackwood. The names of 375 soldiers who enlisted from the shire are inscribed on it, a "star" denoting those who paid the supreme sacrifice.