

Honour Board Unveiled at Freestone

FREESTONE: One of the highlights in the Freestone community life was the unveiling of the honour board in the memorial hall.

A large crowd from all surrounding districts was present, including many returned men specially invited, for the occasion.

The hall was beautifully decorated and the stage, newly lined and painted, was a fit setting for the ceremony.

The ladies' committee had worked very hard on these items for some weeks, and the appearance of both hall and stage were a credit to them.

At 10 p.m. a halt was called in the dancing and returned men present were asked to come to the foot of the stage. After the National Anthem Mr. J. P. Canavan introduced Cr. A. N. Allen, chairman, Glengallan Shire Council, who was chairman for the occasion.

In an address Cr. Allen said:

"We have met to commemorate those who left their homes and loved ones and took up arms to defend their country in time of great need. That you, the people of this district of Freestone, hold them in honour is shown by this memorial you have erected to their memory.

"The manner in which you have worked for this building and given of your time and substance to make what was first an idea into a reality shows that you are mindful of the sacrifices made on your behalf.

"No one in his right senses glories in war; no man who served wants to recall the bitter days of battle. Those

...served wants to recall the bitter days of battle. Those terrible days might well be blotted out of memory were it not for the sacrifice and devotion of the men who

fought.

"We may, if we will, forget the strife, but if ever we should cease to remember those who made the supreme sacrifice, or should otherwise betray them, we shall brand ourselves as unworthy of the sacrifices made for us.

"We today enjoy privileges for which a great price has been paid, and we shall be condemned to dishonour if ever we are untrue to those who died to preserve them.

"But you have shown, by the erection of this building, that you are not unmindful, and that you want to remind yourselves of these men and their sacrifice, and also to have this place stand as an abiding witness of your gratitude and pride.

"These men who died are now part of the conscience of this nation, and always, and especially in times of crisis we shall feel their eyes upon us, hoping that we will catch the fire that burnt in their hearts, that we, too may be stung to the same pride of our nation and play the man as they did."

Cr. Allen then introduced Mr. V. E. Baker, vice-president Western district R.S.L., to perform the unveiling ceremony. In doing so Mr. Baker said:

"I feel that in these present unsettled times the need to maintain and uphold the ideals which inspired these men whose names appear on this honour roll is greater than ever before.

"Our first pioneers all over Australia were for the most part men and women who came from the older world in search of freedom—freedom to work, to live and to worship as they wished—to live the free way of life. In order to

free way of life. In order to win that freedom they were prepared to endure hardships which we in these comfortable and prosperous days find it hard to imagine.

"To retain that freedom the men we honour tonight were prepared to, and some did, make the supreme sacrifice. In order to preserve the democratic way of life which

means so much to us, it is surely up to us to contribute in some measure, however small.

"Particularly in these present anxious times, it is necessary to present a strong and united stand against subversive influences. The Royal Commission which is being conducted in the south, and the recent threat from the Chinese Communists in the South China Sea should bring home to us all the urgent need for constant vigilance.

"The price of freedom is eternal vigilance" is the watch word of the R.S.L. and should apply equally to all loyal citizens.

"I do not propose to detain you for any great length of time tonight. I feel it is unnecessary for me to further emphasise how much we owe to these men. You people of Freestone and district have already shown your wish to acknowledge the debt by the placing of this honour roll so kindly donated by Mr. W. M. Palmer, in this hall, which is the centre of your community life, and where it will always serve as a constant reminder of their courage and sacrifice.

"In accordance with the responsibility vested in me tonight, I shall now unveil this honour board."

Mr. R. Simpson, Warwick Sub-Branch R.S.L., supported the previous speakers' remarks, and also thanked the committee for the invitation to be present to take part in the unveiling ceremony.

Mr. G. T. Allen then read the names inscribed on the

the names inscribed on the honour board.

Mr. O. O. Madsen, M.L.A., also spoke. He stressed the value of the community centre to the district. It was a fine gesture to make that centre a memorial to those who had served, and the honour board was a constant reminder to all who had given their all to their country. Cr. W. Palmer had given the honour board to the hall and district and he called for a very hearty vote of thanks to Cr. Palmer for his generosity. This was given.

Cr. Palmer, in responding, said he had lived all his life among the lads whose names were on the honour board, and nine of them had been employed by him at different times. He felt the least he could do for them in return was to donate this board so that their names would not be forgotten.

Official guests and returned men and their wives or mothers were entertained at supper supplied by the ladies, who attended to supper for all present.

Dancing was enjoyed. Mr. T. Phelan was M.C. A chocolate waltz was won by Bruce Free, Mt. Sturt.

The honour board is of polished wood and has a centre-piece inset with three photos of the men who died on active service. On each side of these is a column of names in gold lettering.

Names on the board are:—
G. Allen, R. Barton, E. Barton, G. Booth, H. Booth, A. Chamberlain, A. Cox, D. Cox, K. Cox, R. Cox, A. Dawson, K. Flynn, F. Ford, D. Frazer, E. Gover, J. Hagenbach, J. M. Hagenbach, 414956 Pilot Officer J. H. Porter, 44 Rhodesian Squadron, R.A.F., enlisted June 1, 1941, posted missing 22nd March, 1944.
42943 Pte. Sgt. V. H. Hansen, killed in action at Trappes, over France, 3rd June 1944.
GX 16911 Pte. W. L. Williams, 2/15 Aust. Inf. Bn., R.E.I. N.F., enlisted 25th March 1941, died 1st January, 1942.
P. Hagenbach, T. Head, D.

1911. GLEN 1st JANUARY, 1912
P. Hagenbach, T. Head, D.
Mauch C. Morgan, J. McGee.
A. Noble, L. Palmer, J. Porter.
W. Porter, E. Roberts, P.
Ryan, E. Shelley, L. Shelley.
C. Simon, F. J. Smith, R.
Tandy, W. Whell.