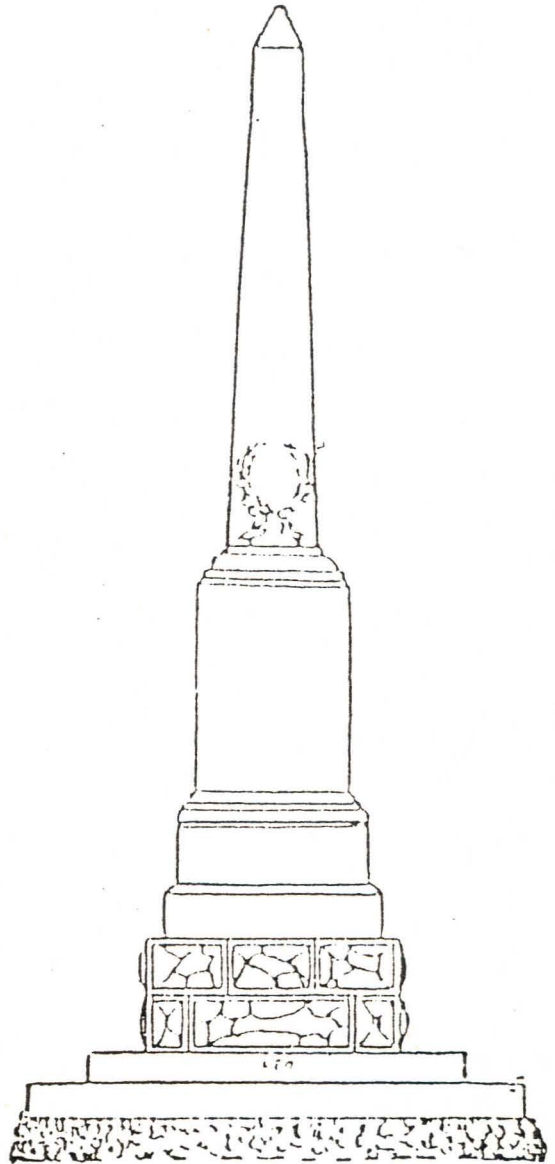


GOODNA SOLDIERS' MEMORIAL

TO BE UNVEILED ON SATURDAY NEXT BY
HIS EXCELLENCY SIR MATTHEW NATHAN. 1921



GOODNA SOLDIERS' MEMORIAL

GOODNA HONOUR STONE

UNVEILING CEREMONY

SPEECH BY THE GOVERNOR

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* PRESENT DAY DUTIES. *

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All sections of the community in Goodna assembled last Saturday afternoon, the occasion being the unveiling of the Honour Stone recently erected in the town. The ceremony was performed by his Excellency the Governor (Sir Matthew Nathan, G.C.M.G.) who made a stirring speech dealing with Australia's contribution towards assisting the Empire during the war, and the present duties of the people.

The vicinity of the memorial presented an impressive scene. The Governor, who came from Brisbane by motor-car, arrived at 3 p.m., accompanied by his private secretary (Col. Parsons), and Mr. A.C. Elphinstone, M.L.A. They were met at Dingo Hill by a mounted escort in the charge of Mr. A. Josey. On arrival at the scene of the ceremony, His Excellency was greeted by a guard of honour of 26th Battalion cadets, under Warrant-Officer R.C. Pickering. A number of children from the Goodna and Redbank Plains Convent Schools was also present to greet the Governor, and under the direction of Messrs G. Clem (Head Teacher at Goodna) and A. James (Head Teacher at Redbank Plains). The scholars also formed a guard of honour to receive the Governor. Under the baton of Mr. T. Parker (jnr), the young people subsequently sang, "Australia, the Land we Love." As the Governor stepped from the car a brass band, under the baton of Mr. R. Hall, played the National Anthem. His Excellency who was met by Cr. H.L. Jones (Chairman of the Moreton Shire Council), inspected the cadet's guard of honour and complimented their officer on their appearance. He then was introduced to relatives of deceased soldiers, with whom he conversed for a moment.

Cr. Jones, on behalf of the residents, welcomed His Excellency to Goodna, and said they appreciated his kindness in coming to assist them in doing honour to "those digger boys of whom we are so proud." A total of 124 men enlisted from that small locality, 22 of whom would never return. "They were 22 of our best lads, your Excellency," added Cr. Jones.

Continuing he said the whole of the material for the beautiful memorial was the product of Queensland, and the work was done by Messrs Lowther, of Brisbane, under the supervision of Mr. E. Greenway. He introduced the Governor.

The Governor said: Thank you for your kind welcome, Mr. Jones. I agree with you that this is a fine monument. It is simple and dignified; as it should be considering what it is intended for. It is a wonderful thing visiting shires and townships all over Queensland and seeing honour boards and war memorials bear witness to the loyalty of the people at each and every one of them. Sometimes I ask myself what were the motives which moved men so remote from the horrid scenes of war to go to them in vast numbers with all speed. The spirit of adventure counted, no doubt, but I think not much. The sense of gratitude to the old country for past protection went for more. Then there was the belief that the cause was righteous, that if on this occasion might was to be allowed to overcome right, the whole world would presently come under the rule of unregarding force. Most potent factor of all was the feeling that the land from which parents had come and of which the earth, the water and the air working from a distant past had moulded the body and the mind of nearly every Australian, had a claim that could not but be heard, and was not weakened because a wider growth had been sought under a tenderer sky. Whatever be the cause, the men from the new island continent of the Pacific went in their thousands, and the old island kingdom of the Atlantic rejoiced not only because of the help she so sorely needed, but also because of the evidence it gave of union between the people of one blood now growing up differently conditioned. And if this continent should be involved in a war in defence of the right. I have no doubt that the same feeling of union would bring free soldiers from over there to fight on the shores of the Pacific, and that the people of England would gladly send them even if it meant more crosses and obelisks shining white on the commons of Surrey and by the cross roads of Somerset. But it is not to stimulate a future struggle that the monument which I am to unveil to-day has been erected. Rather it is to remind us that the men whom it commemorates fought in a war which was to end war, and that we must go on fighting for that purpose by building up a State broad-based on righteousness and training people to make sacrifices for peace and so to deserve this greatest of all blessings.

Cr. Jones announced that an apology for unfavourable absence had been received from Mr. Arnold Wienholt M.H.R.

Mr. Elphinstone said he was sure they would all agree that it was fitting that he representative of His Majesty should be the one to unveil the monument to commemorate the sacrifices the Goodna boys had made. He would like them to take special notice of the point made by His Excellency that there was a possibility that British forces might have to struggle to maintain the rights they enjoyed in the Empire on this side of the world. The centre of war had, owing to circumstances, been transferred to the Pacific, which was to strategic part of the Empire at present. Therefore, he would ask them to take particular note of this part of His Excellency's address. He was sure they all hoped that the occasion he had referred to might never arise, but the best way to prevent it, and to put it as far away as possible was to be prepared. The monument was a beautiful one. It was there to remind the people, in the words of the Biblical axiom, "Is nothing to ye, all ye that passes by," of the sacrifices that had been made, and that they had obligations as great in peace as in war times. Recently they were torn with grief to learn that 70 or 80 men in the North had been hurled to sudden death. It was a terrible shock to them. He wanted them to remember too, that 50,000 or 60,000 Australians went with their eyes open to make sacrifices for the Empire to which they were all proud to belong, and they made the great sacrifices. The memorial was to remind the people of those sacrifices, and also of their duty in maintaining the spirit of equality and integrity for which these men fought by continuing the fight in civil life. The present function was an important duty. "You will find Goodna one of the best portions of His Majesty's dominions, Your Excellency," said Mr. Elphinstone. "It is one of the most patriotic and energetic communities I have ever come across, and your visit will help to keep that spirit alive. Goodness knows there is still much to be done in the various communities, because we have to put this country in a condition that it will be fit and able to receive many of those ex-service men who fought under the British flag and who are now seeking an outlet for their energies in some of the less thickly-populated parts of the Empire."

The Governor removed the Union Jack which covered the names on the stone, and he read the list of those who had lost their lives.

Afternoon tea was served by the ladies.

In the course of the afternoon the Governor inspected the escort and complimented the men. He also addressed the children, briefly commending them for having assisted in the function, and remarking that they had done their duty, which was the principal thing for them. He granted the children a holiday for the following Monday (to-day). The Governor left Goodna shortly after 4 p.m. his departure being the signal for cheers by the children.

The arrangements for the function were in the hands of the following ladies' and gentlemen's committee:- Mrs. J. Carroll (president), Miss Crookston (secretary), Mesdames Pettinger (vice-president), Parker (treasurer), Roberts, Devine, Daye, Ferguson, Law, Ellis and Miss Devine, Messrs T.I. Parker (president) B. Carr (secretary), D. Carroll (treasurer), A. Josey, F. Twenlow, E. Galligan and F. Webster.

The monument was built by Messrs Lowther and Sons of Brisbane, under the supervision of Mr. E. Greenway, of Ipswich. The material used is Ulam marble, from the Rockhampton district. It is of simple design yet impressive, and is situated on a prominent corner on the southern side of the railway line. The stone is sub-mounted by an obelisk, and there are three panels, on which are inscribed in lead letters, the names of all the men who enlisted from the district, the front panel containing the list of those who lost their lives during the war. Above the names is a laurel wreath of bronze. The monument is built on a solid concrete foundation with a basement of rough Ulam marble. Under the front panel are inscribed the words, "For God, King and Country," and lower the words, "Erected in honour of the men who enlisted from Goodna and district in the great war, 1914-1919."