

# MEMORIAL GATES UNVEILED AT RUGBY

## TO MEMORY OF MEN WHO PAID SUPREME SACRIFICE

### Impressive Ceremony Witnessed By Large Crowd

**MORE THAN 200 PEOPLE WERE PRESENT AT THE CEREMONY OF THE UNVEILING OF THE MEMORIAL GATES DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF MEN WHO PAID THE SUPREME SACRIFICE IN TWO WORLD WARS, 1914-18, AND 1939-45, AT RUGBY PARK LAST SATURDAY AFTERNOON.**

In addition to local citizens, visitors were present from Boorowa, Rye Park, Crookwell, even from places as far distant as Temora and Kurri Kurri, in the Newcastle coalfields area, to witness the ceremony which was performed by Colonel C. W. G. Anderson, V.C., of Young.

The gates were draped with a large Union Jack in the centre and smaller Union Jack and Australian flags on either side. In front of the gates was a roped off area where the guests of honor were seated.

Mr. Harry Southwell, of Rye Park, made his public address system available for the occasion.

#### RUGBY CITIZENS PRAISED

Returned Servicemen lined up to form a guard of honour at the gates; then Mr. Mick Medway, President of the Rugby War Memorial Committee, acting as Master of Ceremonies for the occasion, gave an opening address, in which he stated that the gates were to be dedicated to the memory of men who lost their lives in both World Wars. He praised the citizens of Rugby for the terrific amount of work they had done in connection with clearing the park, erecting fences, find-

done in connection with clearing the park, erecting fences, finding funds for the Memorial, etc., and stated that there was still a great deal to be done before they would be satisfied that the work was completed.

**"The people of Rugby,"** said Mr. Medway, **"had risen to the occasion admirably, and I count it a privilege to be able to pay this tribute to their efforts."**

Apologies for their inability to attend were received from Crs. A. G. Gorham (President of Boorowa Shire Council), T. Perceval, Messrs. G. Anderson and T. Merriman.

#### FIRST MEMORIAL IN BOOROWA SHIRE

Councillor Reg Gorham, who represented Boorowa Shire Council, in place of Cr. A. G. Gorham, expressed his congratulations to the Rugby people for their sterling effort in erecting

the first memorial in the whole of the Boorowa Shire—an effort which was particularly creditable in view of the relative smallness of the Rugby district.

Mr. Harvey Armour, of Rye Park, President of the Boorowa Returned Soldiers' League, said that he felt deeply honored at being asked to attend and represent the R.S.L. He too congratulated the citizens of Rugby on the fine spirit and initiative they had displayed. He could remember the self-same spot where the park now stood, when it was merely a relatively useless area of land, yet now, by the industry of this band of workers, it had been converted to a memorial which would serve both as a public utility and as an attractive medium of beautification.

In the absence of Cr. Tom Perceval, President of the Rye Park Memorial Fund, Mr. J. T. Edwards deputised and expressed Cr. Perceval's profound regret at being compelled to miss the ceremony because of illness. Mr. Edwards said he hadn't expected to be given the opportunity to publicly express his congratulations to the Rugby citizens for their enterprise in erecting so impressive a memorial. However, he was delighted to receive the opportunity, especially as he could appreciate the difficulties which the committee must have encountered in obtaining labor and materials during such difficult times as these.

**"These gates represent a vast amount of organisation and hard work for all concerned,"** said Mr. Edwards, **"but their reward will lie in the thanks and appreciation of all who saw the gates."**

## Affecting Sincerity of Colonel Anderson's Address

Colonel Anderson, V.C., then gave a brief address, prior to performing the actual unveiling ceremony. When he was invited to come and unveil the

gates, he said, he was deeply sensible of the honor conferred upon him. We are inclined to forget that we owe our way of

forget that we owe our way of life to a number of people who laid down their lives in order that we should continue to live as free men and women.

"In this particular instance he had a deep personal interest in the proceedings because of the men whose names appeared on the Honor Roll there, two had been comrades of his, serving side by side in the same campaigns, facing the same trials and privations, and sustained by the same beliefs in the righteousness of their cause.

**"The two men were Doug Perceval and Hilary Gorham,"** said Col. Anderson. **"With men such as these had been wrought such bonds of friendship and comradeship that all distinctions of class and creed had been forgotten."**

He said such comradeship provided beautiful memories which stood as one good thing among all the horrors of war.

**"War is always a hateful thing, but those who had seen what happens to countries overrun by fanatical enemies, realise that there is something even worse than war—slavery,"** said the speaker.

**"Our freedom is the most important thing we have, our great heritage from our British forebears who have kept their shores inviolate for almost 1000 years. These soldiers whose**

memory we are here gathered to perpetuate, died that we might maintain our heritage of freedom, and we have to carry forward the torch which they handed on to us.

"Such ceremonies as these," Col. Anderson continued, "mean a great deal to Ex-Servicemen, for they bring back memories of comradeship, hardships and adversity. This spirit of comradeship is admirably expressed by these memorial gates which represent the entry to a haven of rest and joy. The relatives and friends of the fallen men might comfort themselves with the thought that they laid down their burdens, tired oblivious of their sur-

they laid down their burdens, tired, oblivious of their surroundings, and contented to think that their loved ones would be spared, by their efforts, to enjoy their freedom during life and then to meet again in the eternal life which we are all promised. The gateway is symbolic in that it leads to a park where their children may romp and enjoy the freedom for which they fought."

Col. Anderson then proceeded to the actual unveiling ceremony, saying:

**"It is now my privilege to unveil these gates, which we dedicate to the memory of those who paid the supreme sacrifice in two World Wars, 1914-18 and 1939-45."**

After the flags had been lowered for the unveiling, a wreath was laid at the bottom of the gates, and then all stood at attention whilst Bugler D. Wilkinson, of Crookwell, sounded the "Last Post." There followed two minutes silence whilst the flag was slowly raised to the mast-head.

Next followed a reading of

Birgon's poem "To The Fallen," by the Rugby School teacher, Mr. John Hafey.

**"They shall not grow old, as we who are left grow old."**

The bugle then sounded the "Reveille," and the dedication ceremony was brought to a conclusion with the playing of a recording of the hymn "Rock of Ages."

Mr. Medway then thanked Colonel Anderson, all speakers, and especially Mr. Harry Southwell for having providing the amplifying unit.

The singing of the National Anthem concluded the proceedings.

#### **DESCRIPTION OF MEMORIAL**

The gate itself was of iron, and bore the inscription **LEST WE FORGET**, in the centre. It was flanked by marble posts bearing marble plaques inscribed in lead lettering.

The left-hand plaque bore the inscription:

**TO THE MEMORY**

#### **TO THE MEMORY OF THOSE WHO PAID THE SUPREME SACRIFICE WORLD WAR 1914-18**

**GIBBONS, T. R.  
MEWBURN, R.  
MEWBURN, A.**

The right-hand plaque was similarly inscribed, but referred to 1939-45, the names engraved being:

**GORHAM, H. G.  
PERCEVAL, D. R.**

There are four panels of white picket fencing on each side of the gateway, and the rest of the Park has been enclosed by a plain wire fence.

At the conclusion of the official ceremony the crowd broke up into groups where remarks were heard on all sides praising the members of the Rugby Memorial Committee and the district residents generally both for the enterprise they had shown in erecting the Memorial, and for the fitting manner in which the dedication ceremony had been organised and carried out.

Colonel Anderson personally opened the gates and conducted through them relatives of the fallen men. These comprised Mr. and Mrs. Reg Perceval, parents of D. R. Perceval; Mrs. Lydia Gorham, mother of H. Gorham; Frank Mewburn, cousin of R. and A. Mewburn; and Mr. Ossie Croker.

A delightful supper was served in the supper room for the visitors by the Rugby ladies, and all guests voted it a fitting conclusion to a memorable day.

Mr. Southwell entertained the younger folk by showing cartoons in the hall.