

## Soldiers' Memorial.

### THE KING ISLAND MONUMENT UNVEILED YESTERDAY.

#### ANZAC.

In the dark of an April morning,  
Where the guardian cruisers ride,  
'Twixt the set of a moon and sunrise—  
Abreast of a racing tide;  
In boats by the flying shrapnel,  
On the beach in the sudden raid,  
Though they died, yet they built a nation—  
The men that Australia gave.

For the sake of that April morning,  
In the name of the charges they made,  
For the lads who had died ere dawning—  
The men that Australia gave!

No more fitting day than that of the anniversary of the Anzac landing, when Australian troops made their debut in the recent war and, incidentally, inscribed their name in the historical annals of great deeds, could have been chosen for the unveiling of the local memorial to the men who "went west" while attached to the A.I.F. Yesterday was the seventh anniversary of Anzac.

The memorial occupies an imposing position in the triangle opposite the town hall, Currie, and shortly after 2 p.m. yesterday it was the centre of a large crowd, assembled for the last public function in the war's connection. A savor of the war period was presented by the flag-draped monument and the half-masted bunting, and the occasion was fittingly devoid of any semblance of frivolity. The day was fine and sunny, though a strong easterly wind prevailed, but from this the scene of operation was fortunately shielded by the town hall. The school children were ranged in a half-circle, and the adults filled the background.

Mr R. H. Hooper (president of the the R.S.A., which body had carried through the erection of the memorial on behalf of the public) directed the proceedings. He stated that it was now many months since the last man had been welcomed home and the uniform discarded, yet time could not efface memories, and the function that day was one of sadness, yet

proudness in the fact that the monument stood for an effort achieved, and the sacrifice of the men whose names appeared on the stone had not been in vain.

Mr G. E. Robinson, who was Warden of the municipality during the whole war period, also briefly addressed the gathering. He paid a great tribute to the Island's patriotism, and stated that the record of nearly 200 enlistments from a population of about 1000 was especially fine. There had been killed 29 men who enlisted from the Island, and while they regretted every one of them they were glad in the knowledge that the toll had not been more excessive.

Mr W. H. Hickmott, the oldest King Island resident, then unveiled the monument, which is of freestone 14ft high, containing names of the fallen men on two sides, and on the front, together with a laurel wreath and Australian badge, the following inscription:—

Erected by the Residents of King Island as a tribute to the men who enlisted, and in memory of those as engraved hereon who made the supreme sacrifice in the Great War, 1914-18.

The list of killed is:—

Æ H. Barrenger, J. Bennett, A. Blake, A. Clemons, J. Darragh, R. Hilder, O. T. Jacobsen, R. Lyall, J. McKendrick, Lyn. Ross, A. Rowe, H. Russell, J. T. Rouse, P. Smith, R. Snodgrass, J. Stewart, N. Tetley, A. Tolman, H. Farrell, W. Burke, W. Symons, F. Smith, C. Moore, C. A. Barnes, J. Copeland, T. R. Lowe, O. Pickett, A. Copeland, E. G. Gadsden.

A number of wreaths were placed around the monument by residents.

#### MEMORIAL SERVICE.

The flag was then raised to the peak of the staff, and the crowd entered the town hall, completely filling it. The memorial service was conducted by Revs H. H. Gowing (Anglican) and J. Leach (Methodist), and Mr G. E. Robinson officiated at the piano.

Hymn, "Oh God, our help in ages past"; reading, Rev. Gowing; hymn, "Lead kindly light"; reading, Rev. Leach; prayer, Rev. Gowing, concluding with the Lord's Prayer, in which all joined; hymn, "Nearer my God to Thee."

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Rev. Gowing took for his theme "Greater love hath no man." He said the Australian army was the finest body of men that had ever been raised—proved by its actions; yet, while in action discipline was of the best, out of action there was practically none. Britain had entered the war to champion a smaller nation,

and Australia had followed the traditions of race and done her part. He briefly followed the course of the war and Australians' deeds of fame, and stated it was fitting that when the surrendered German navy was taken over to Scotland it was the H.M.A.S. Australia that led the way. It was on St. Mark's day seven years ago that the first Australian casualty list occurred at Anzac, and following that were to be found on all the fronts, and in English cemeteries as well, graves of our soldiers, all marked with a cross—lesser Calvaries, as one writer has it—and they all died that Australians might be free.

Solo, "Let us have peace," Rev. Leach.

Rev. Leach said the first Australian casualty list was indeed a sacrifice, occurring as it did before a shot had been fired by the men, and Anzac had, therefore, an added meaning of heroism. The memorial unveiled that day was in honor of some of the Australians who had given their lives, but adequate recompense could not be made for these sacrifices except by living for the ideals for which these men had died. They sank self in the interest of the whole world—for others, and the days to come would show the fruits of their sacrifice and that all had not been in vain.

"Dead march," played by Mr G. E. Robinson; hymn, "God of our fathers"; National anthem; benediction.

Several donations towards the memorial were handed in during the afternoon, and any additional will be welcomed, as the fund is nearly £20 short.