

# Tribute to Deceased Soldiers at Cassilis

## MEMORIALS TO CAPTAIN IAN McMASTER, M.C., AND CORPORAL MAX KING.

### Unveiled and Dedicated by Bishop of Newcastle.

In the presence of a large and representative gathering in St. Columba's Church, Cassilis, on Sunday afternoon last, His Lordship, Dr. F. de Witt Batty, M.A., Bishop of Newcastle, who was attended as chaplain by Ven. Archdeacon Woodd, unveiled and dedicated a beautiful memorial window to the memory of the late Captain Ian McMaster, M.C., and a fine wall tablet in marble to the memory of the late Cpl. Max King.

The ceremony, which was attended by members of the V.D.C. and Returned Soldiers Leagues from Muswellbrook, Denman and Merriwa, was a most stirring and impressive one, and will long be remembered by the people of Cassilis and district.

#### LATE CAPTAIN IAN McMASTER, M.C.

Son of Sir Frederick and Lady McMaster, "Dulkeith," Cassilis, the late Captain McMaster had charge of the Cassilis Light Horse Troop before enlisting over two years ago. He gained his commission and saw considerable service in the Middle East and was one of the gallant defenders of Tobruk. He gained the Military Cross and was mentioned in despatches during the heavy fighting at El Alamein and it was here that he died of wounds received in action on 2nd November, 1942.

#### CORPORAL MAX KING.

The late Cpl. Max King, who is survived by his widow and three young children, was in business in Cassilis before enlisting in the A.I.F. and was the son of the highly esteemed King family of Cassilis. He saw service in New Guinea and it was here that the young soldier met his death as the result of a motor accident on 7th April, 1942.

As in the case of the late Captain McMaster, profound sympathy has been expressed from far and near with the relatives of the late Cpl. King. Both soldiers by their record of

service have added lustre to the traditions of the A.I.F., and Cassilis will remember them with pride and the memorials encompassed within the hallowed walls of the little Church of St. Columba will serve to keep their memory green for generations to come.

When Sir Frederick and Lady McMaster and family and Mrs. Max King and members of the family arrived they were escorted to seats in the front portion of the Church.

Accompanied by his chaplain, Archdeacon Woodd, His Lordship the Bishop then entered the Church and was escorted to the sanctuary by the Rector (Rev. S. V. Satchell).

The service, which was directed by the Rector (Rev. S. V. Satchell) commenced with the singing of the hymn, "O God Our Help in Ages Past," which was followed by prayers for those who had made the supreme sacrifice, the Rector specially mentioning the names of Ian McMaster, Max King and Frank Hyndes (son of Mrs. W. C. Allen, Cassilis).

The Lord Bishop then read the special lesson, taken from the 21st. chapter of the Revelation of St. John the Divine.

Next in order of the service was a solo beautifully sung, and most appropriately chosen, by Miss Peggy Witney, entitled "He Shall Wipe the Tear from Every Eye." Mrs. E. Potts (Merriwa) playing the accompaniment.

#### DEDICATION CEREMONY.

The Bishop of Newcastle then unveiled the memorial window and mem-

veiled the memorial window and memorial tablet and dedicated them to the glory of God and to the memory of Captain Ian McMaster, M.C., and Cpl. Max King respectively.

Following the roll of drums, Trumpeter H. R. Griffiths played the Last Post. The proceedings were most impressive and thrilling and took the minds of the sprinkling of returned soldiers present back over the years intervening since the Great War, and the hearts of all present must have gone out in silent sympathy to the relatives of those loved ones to whom the memorials were erected.

#### THE BISHOP'S ADDRESS.

His Lordship spoke words of tribute to the memory of the fallen and words of comfort for the relatives in his address, the text for which he took from the 4th. chap. of Wisdom, the 13th. verse and part of the 14th. verse: "He being made perfect in a short time, fulfilled a long time; for his soul pleased the Lord." Describing war as hell let loose on earth, Bishop Batty hoped he would not be misunderstood in making the assertion. "I assure you," he said, "I do not question the rightfulness of our entry into the war and I pray daily that God will give us a righteous peace; but nothing can alter the fact that war means the sacrifice of our nearest and dearest on the altar of their country." His Lordship then went on to refer to the other side of war in which, he said, we see men performing such deeds of chivalry and such deeds of valor and rising to the great heights of sacrifice, emulating Him Who made the supreme sacrifice on Calvary, and sharing in that great love—that they

lay down their lives for their friends.

#### "TYPICAL OF YOUNG AUSTRALIA."

"It was my pleasure to know Ian McMaster for some years," continued the Bishop, "and I shall always remember the high opinion I formed of him. He was typical of young Australia. He possessed those qualities which made him a real soldier—consideration for others, modesty and qualities of leadership which were not found wanting when tested by the acid test of war. He was one who enjoyed the complete confidence of his superiors, and had he lived, was destined for

complete confidence of his superiors, and, had he lived, was destined for much higher service. I did not know Max King, but I am sure the same could have been said of him. It is a pity that such fine types of young men have to be offered on the altar of their country. But we can say this, I think, that life should not always be measured in terms of quantity, but in quality. Had I time I could give you many examples of this, but let me remind you of one, that of the greatest life ever lived and yet ended on the Cross at the age of 30 years. The lives of those we remember to-day we cannot judge by time, but by eternity, which, after all, is all that which matters, and judged by that standard they were very great." His Lordship then went on to give words of comfort to the bereaved, and said that what he always found most comforting was the New Testament parable of the man who began to build his house and found he had not enough material to finish it. "There is a most comforting lesson to be drawn from this parable, and I ask you to take comfort in the fact that God never begins to build anything unless He can finish it. Somewhere in this sphere the young lives we remember to-day will be brought to a glorious finish," added the Bishop, who concluded his remarks by comforting the bereaved with the words: "I pray that God may lift up the light of His countenance upon you and your loved ones and give them and you His peace which passeth all understanding."

Before the singing of the final hymn, "O Valiant Hearts," the Rector expressed his appreciation at the presence of members of the V.D.C., which were in charge of Captain G. K. Lawrie, Lieuts. T. R. Hallett and C. C. Bradly, and stated that Cr. J. R. Telfer was present, representing the Merriwa Shire Council and the Merriwa Anzac Observance Committee; Mrs. A. R. Morrow represented the Red Cross branch of Cassilis; the Junior Red Cross were in charge of Mrs. E. R. Cains, while Mr. W. H. Cullen represented the returned soldiers of Cassilis. The Rector also mentioned that the Cassilis and Merriwa Masonic Lodges were represented, as were the Patriotic Fund Committees of each centre.

Following the singing of the last hymn, the Rector expressed his appreciation to all who had helped in the arrangements for the service.

preciation to all who had helped in the arrangements for the service, particularly Messrs M. Campbell and Co. Pty. Ltd., for making the amplifying equipment available, and Messrs Griffiths and K. Saunders who had been responsible for its installation and the excellent service it had given for those who remained outside the Church.

Miss Joy Constable presided at the organ throughout the service.

#### **THE MEMORIAL WINDOW.**

The memorial window, which was designed and executed by Alfred Handel, Sydney, contains wonderful coloring, and has been placed in the southern wall of the sanctuary. The design is most appropriate, depicting as it does the Old Testament story of David symbolising the shepherd or pastoralist, going out to do battle with the giant.

#### **MEMORIAL TABLET.**

The memorial table to the memory of the late Cpl. Max Douglas King has been affixed to the southern wall of the Church, near the altar rails, and is a very fitting and silent tribute to the departed soldier.

The Rector, who was responsible for the arrangements for the service, was congratulated on the fact that not a hitch occurred.

#### **CONFIRMATION SERVICE.**

In the morning the Church was well-filled when the Bishop, who was attended by his chaplain, Ven. Archdeacon Woodd, administered the sacrament of Confirmation to 17 candidates who were presented to the Bishop by the Rector (Rev. S. V. Satchell). Mr. Robert Hughes (Wallsend) acted as server.

Appropriate hymns were sung, Miss Joy Constable being at the organ, and His Lordship gave an inspiring ad-

dress to the candidates.

#### **DEDICATION OF GIFTS.**

During the service the Bishop dedicated a silver bowl for the font and light globes in the nave of the Church, to the memory of the late Amelia Jane and William John Soles, old and faithful members of the Church who had done much for the welfare of it in the early days at Cassilis. The gifts were made in loving memory of their parents by members of the family, and a brass plate to this effect adorns the

ents by members of the family, and a brass plate to this effect adorns the wall of the Church. The Bishop also took the opportunity of accepting the gift of beautiful light globes for the sanctuary, the gift of the Junior Guild, whose members the Bishop praised for their spirit of devotion which prompted the gifts.

The service throughout was most inspiring and all present joined heartily in the singing of the hymns.

The altar was tastefully adorned with a wealth of wonderful blooms, and those responsible were congratulated on its appearance.

#### **RED CROSS TEA ROOMS.**

Afternoon tea was dispensed in the Masonic Hall, following the memorial service, by the ladies of the Cassilis branch of the Red Cross, and here Mrs. A. L. Bowman was in charge and, with her assistants, coped with a big job splendidly.

At the Presbyterian service at Merriwa on Sunday afternoon, Rev. W. L. I. Arnold thanked Mrs. L. Lambert for playing the organ, and remarked that Mrs. Potts who usually officiated was playing in the Cassilis Church at the memorial service. Rev. Arnold then paid a tribute to the memory of the late Captain Ian McMaster, referring to him as a soldier and a gentleman.

#### **AT MERRIWA.**

On his arrival in Merriwa on Saturday afternoon, His Lordship the Bishop, together with the Ven. Archdeacon Woodd, was welcomed at a social gathering in the School of Arts. Mrs. Batty, who was to have addressed the gathering, was unable to make the trip, occasioning much disappointment to those who attended to hear her address. The Bishop, who extended an apology for Mrs. Batty, addressed the gathering in her stead. Afternoon tea was served and an enjoyable musical programme was contributed to by Mrs. E. Potts, who played the overture on the piano and gave a vocal solo; Mr. E. Woolley (cornet solo); Mr. Pritchard (one-stringed violin solo), Miss Peggy Witney (vocal solo) and Miss Marie Ell (violin solo).

The Rector presided and welcomed the Bishop, and the afternoon's arrangements were organised by Mrs. Satchell.

#### **AT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH.**

Returning to Merriwa from Cassilis on Sunday afternoon, His Lordship the Bishop was the preacher at evensong in Holy Trinity Church and the Ven.

in Holy Trinity Church and the Ven. Archdeacon Woodd read the lessons, the service being conducted by the Rector. The service was well-attended, and the Bishop gave a thoughtful and interesting address, taking his text from the Sermon on the Mount, "Blessed are the meek for thy shall inherit the earth." He exhorted his hearers to learn to cultivate humbleness and meekness and reminded them that none with a self-assertive or arrogant nature could be meek. Applying the text to the present day, the Bishop went on to point out that meekness had no place in the teachings of the leaders of Nazi Germany or Italy, and for that reason their objective, which was to rule or inherit the earth, could not succeed; for God has said: "The meek shall inherit the earth. Victory will go to the meek." "To cultivate humbleness is not easy," the Bishop added, "and we should fight against the danger, both in a national and personal sense, of saying with the Pharisee, "thank God I am not as other men are," but rather should we say with the sinner, "depart from me O Lord, for I am a sinful man."

The Lord Bishop and the Archdeacon were the guests of the Rector and Mrs. Satchell on Sunday night and left early on Monday morning for Newcastle.