

HONOR ROLL UNVEILED

BIG GATHERING AT BAERAMI CREEK.

Ceremony Performed by State Member.

To Baerami Creek, a small centre, nestling under the hills in the valley famed for its lucerne and dairy products, belongs the honor of being the first centre in the Hunter Valley to unveil an honor roll as a tribute to those of its citizens who served in World War II.

This small but famous centre gave 35 of its citizens, including two young ladies, Joyce and Dorothy McTackett, in the service of Australia. Two of the number who did not return were E. Cameron, killed in action, and C. Connors, died on service.

The beautiful honor roll, made of cedar, carries the following names:— D. I. E. Balkie, W. L. Bullard, D. Bullard, N. F. Brown, E. Cameron, C. Castledine, C. Connors, T. Connors, D. Dean, R. Duggan, F. Easter, H. W. Ellis, T. W. Folpp, W. J. Folpp, V. Gardiner, I. Gardiner, R. Huggenson, J. Hobbins, N. L. Hopkins, T. R. Johnson, T. Maher, R. McKinnor, Joyce McTackett, Dorothy McTackett, G. Moore, R. Norman, senr., R. Norman, D. M. Rose, J. Schneider, A. Scott, J. E. Scott, R. W. Scott, L. Scott, N. G. Tonkins, R. Wilson.

The Honor Roll was purchased with funds provided by local residents.

UNVEILING CEREMONY.

The Honor Roll, now displayed in the Baerami Creek Hall, was unveiled on Saturday night by Mr. D'Arcy Rose, M.L.A. The ceremony of unveiling was preceded by a banquet, attended by friends from all parts of the Hunter Valley. Many ex-Servicemen from the district, now engaged in civil occupations in other parts, were present. The excellent fare provided for the banquet was prepared by the following ladies: Mesdames H. S. Cox, J. Moriarty, R. K. Ellis, L. Bullard, S. Hopkins, W. Castledine, V. Ellis, J. Sullivan, T. Scott, who were assisted by a large number of willing workers.

The secretarial duties for the party, which included a dance, were carried out by Mr. A. C. Fitzgerald. The hall committee acknowledges the

hall committee acknowledges the splendid services rendered by Mr. R. K. Ellis, ex-president, in the preparation of the Honor Roll. Messrs W. L. Bullard and N. Hopkins acted as M's.C. Music for the party was supplied by Mrs. Henderson's Merriwa orchestra.

THE ADDRESSES.

Mr. H. S. Cox (president), who presided at the banquet, welcomed the visitors, among whom could be seen many faces of friends who were visiting the district for the first time. "We owe," he said, "a debt of honor to those boys and girls who have served us so well, and now we hope the general public and the members of Parliament will see that they are given everything to which they are justly entitled."

Cr. R. Thornton, who proposed the toast of "The ex-Servicemen," asked the gathering to stand and observe one minute's silence in memory of the fallen. Inscribed on the Honor Roll, he said, were the names of two gallant men who had died so that the world may be made a better place, and it now remained for all to see that their sacrifices were not made in vain, and that they would strive to stamp out the selfishness and greed which appeared to have crept into the life of the nation.

The toast was supported by Mr. Glen McDonald, who said it was most encouraging to see so many people present to honor the men and women whose names appeared on the Honor Roll. As an old "Digger" he appreciated what the men of the second A.I.F. had done for Australia. "We should," he said, "honor them, and thank them, not only here to-night, but at all times."

Mr. W. M. Castledine expressed his

Mr. W. M. Castledine expressed his appreciation of the services rendered by the men and women of the Services, and wished them the best that life could offer.

Acknowledging the toast, Mr. L. Bullard said it was a great pleasure to see such a large number of friends present to witness the ceremony of unveiling the Honor Roll. "We are," he said, "only a small district, but the large attendance is a good sign that the people will not fail the ex-Servicemen. I think, too, we should have an honor roll displayed in recognition of those people who remained at home and kept the flag flying here, and saw to it that we did not want for anything."

Mr. George Tonkins, in true Digger style, told the gathering of his pleasure at being present, and the hope that the people would never again be called upon to engage in a war.

"We have," Mr. Max Rose said, "lost some of our greatest friends. It is good to know we have helped to restore the freedom for which we fought, and to know that our services are acknowledged in such an enduring way by the existence of the Honor Roll in this hall. I thank all for their interest in our welfare and for their many acts of kindness while we were away."

Mr. J. Moriarty proposed the toast of "The Visitors," the presence of whom held a grand meaning, because it indicated a sincerity of purpose and a feeling of gratitude to those who had offered their lives in defence of their country. Acknowledging the

toast, Mr. W. B. Kirk said the success of the gathering was a credit to the hall committee and the ladies. Sgt. Byers (Denman) said the success of the function reflected very great credit on Baerami Creek's small population. Mr. F. Thompson said he felt honored to represent Widden Creek on such an important occasion. The Creek, he said, had put up a great war record by sending away 35 of its young citizens, two of whom, unfortunately, did not return.

The toast of the Press was proposed by Mr. R. K. Ellis and acknowledged by Mr. R. E. McClintock.

Mr. V. E. Ellis paid well-merited

tributes to the women of Baerami Creek when proposing the toast of "The Ladies." The ladies, he said, were a very gallant army throughout the war years.

Responding on behalf of the ladies, Mrs. W. Castledine said her fellow-workers were proud to see such a large gathering present that night. The success of the gathering was, she said, accepted by the ladies as sufficient reward for their efforts.

STATE MEMBER'S ADDRESS.

In the course of his address, Mr. D'Arcy Rose referred to the beautiful character of the Honor Roll, and congratulated the people of Baerami Creek on achieving the distinction of being the first centre in the Hunter Valley to display an Honor Roll in recognition of the war services of its sons and daughters. He wished to congratulate the district on its excellent wartime record, which, possibly, was not exceeded by any other community of comparable size. "You are," he said, "not great in numbers, but to have had so many enlistments from this locality speaks highly of the loyalty of the people and their sons. The boys had carried on the A.I.F. in the same spirit as their fathers before them. Australia was proud of the first A.I.F. and equally proud of those who had followed them."

NEW ORDER "ALL HOOEY."

"We have," Mr. Rose added, "heard that we were fighting for a new order. To my mind that is just all hooey. It appears that we are going to have our greatest job in preserving the order we have been used to and the freedom we have enjoyed. On every hand we see a filching of those freedoms for which sacrifices were made, that we may live our own way of life and worship at any altar we desire without being molested. We will have to fight to maintain that freedom. What we do look for is to see that those who made sacrifices are not in need of anything in the change over to their civilian occupations."

Mr. Rose said he desired to pay tribute to the gallant young men and women for the services rendered and the sacrifices made by them. "Let us," he added, "think of those gallant men who made the supreme sacrifice, and offer to the bereaved our deepest sympathy. They died in a noble cause

sympathy. They died in a noble cause and serving their God, King and country. 'At the going down of the sun we will remember them.'"

Mr. Rose said it was a great honor to be asked to unveil the Honor Roll, because it was the first act of its kind he had performed in his Parliamentary career, and because of what had been done by the people and their sons, and the whole of Australia's farmers and rural workers to achieve victory. "It gives me," he said, "great pleasure to unveil this Honor Roll on behalf of the people of Baerami Creek, and to wish for all returned men and women that God will prosper them in the future." (Applause).

Mr. Rose drew attention to the names of Misses Joyce and Dorothy McTackett on the Honor Roll, and said he wished to congratulate them on the job they had performed for Australia.

Mr. J. Sullivan proposed a toast in honor of Mr. Roy Ellis, to whom, he said, was due all the credit for the success of the work leading to that night's gathering. "You can," he said, "look at Mr. Roy Ellis, and say 'There is the man who put the Honor Roll in this hall.'". Mr. Sullivan said there would be no rehabilitation problems if every citizen did as much for ex-Servicemen as Mr. Ellis had done.

Acknowledging the toast, Mr. Ellis said his heart and soul were in the welfare of the district. Everyone, he said, had shared in the privilege of providing the Honor Roll.