

# MEMORIAL TABLET

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UNVEILED AT BALLADORAN

**One of the most important events in the history of the district of Balladoran eventuated last Friday night when a memorial tablet was unveiled in honour of the men and women from that area who served in the recent war.**

The ceremony was organised by a committee of district residents, headed by Mr. A. Dawes, and the unveiling ceremony was performed by the Shire President, Mr. H. Christie.

The hall was crowded for the ceremony, which took place at 9.30 p.m. A dance which followed was well patronised.

Opening the proceedings, Mr. Dawes, in explaining the object of the function, said there were regrets that from amongst the number who had enlisted there were three who had paid the supreme sacrifice. They were all proud of the men and women who had gone away to fight for their country.

M. Christie said the function was the first memorial ceremony carried out in the district associated with the last war, and the residents of the district were to be congratulated upon their effort, not that there was any particular need for haste in such matters. Their memorial tablet was something that would live throughout the years and act as a reminder of the service rendered by the men and women of the district in the years to come. They had done a splendid job in keeping the country free and preventing the Japs from landing in Australia. This was not merely lip service for no doubt it had been due to the strength and determination of the Australian men and women that this country was not under Jap control. There was no need to try and remember what would have happened had the enemy landed here, but it

the enemy landed here, but it should serve to remind them of the obligations they owed to those who had served. To the relatives of the three boys who had paid the supreme sacrifice they could but offer them sympathy. They would realise that they had the satisfaction of knowing that their effort had not been in vain. The war period had taken many years out of the lives of the young men which they were finding was not easy to overtake. They were probably unsettled and finding it difficult to pick up old contacts under changed conditions. They found today that there were many shortages that were needed for the ordinary comforts of life and our job was to help when and where we could. The speaker suggested there should be tolerance and understanding extended to the returned men, as this would go a long way towards helping them back to civil life again. He also referred to the excellent work Legacy was performing for the children of men from the first and second wars. It was tragic to see England's condition to-day and they would surely be called on for more sacrifices to help the Mother Country, but he was certain this would be freely given, to allow her to rise and again be the leading nation of the world. He then declared the tablet unveiled.

A flag draping the tablet was then unfurled, after which Mrs. E. A. Reichelt, who lost a son in New Guinea, placed a wreath on the tablet.

On behalf of the Gilgandra RS

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League, the president (Mr. A. McKellar) expressed great pride and pleasure at attending such a ceremony. He offered deep sympathy and understanding to those who had suffered by the loss of their sons. They had been left a trust by those lads and they should uphold it and not become complacent and forget for what they had died. Their thoughts should remain with these lads and the honor roll would always serve as a reminder of those endeavours.

On behalf of Eumungerie-Cobargo RS League, Mr. Richardson also spoke.

Mr. C. Dowd said it was a very hard job to thank them all for what they had done for him whilst he had been away, but he thanked them sincerely.

Mr. H. Campbell congratulated the residents on their splendid war effort and their desire to recognise the service rendered by the men and women of the district. It was only in country towns that a community of interests could be practised and this tended to weld every member closer to his neighbour, who as a result, shared all their joys and sorrows. The residents of Balladoran were closely interested in each others affairs and knowing them as they all did, he was sure that the future welfare of those who had served would ever be in the minds of those who appreciated the service given by the returned men. Deep sympathy would be extended to the parents of those who had failed to return.

Messrs. L. Bourke and K. Craig returned thanks on behalf of the returned lads, whilst Mr. Dawes thanked all for attending the function and making it such a success.

Supper was then served by the Balladoran ladies and dancing continued until 1 a.m.

The tablet was of marble, and contained the following inscription and names:

HONOR ROLL 1939-45

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Paid the supreme sacrifice:

Gnr. E. J. Farquharson

Pte. C. Jarvis

Sap. H. Reichelt

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Pte. C. Alchin

Sergt. W. T. Anderson

Pte. J. Anderson

Sergt. L. Bourke

LAC J. Challenger

ACI K. Craig

Dvr. M. Christianson, AWAS

Cpl. C. Dowd

F/O G. Furnell

Pte. J. J. Jarvis

Pte. J. Jarvis, AWAS

F/O F. Morris, DFC

LAC K. Mortimer

M. McInnes

Tpr. P. Pfitzner

Spr. T. J. Ratilick

Gnr. M. Stockings

Spr. S. Shields

Sig. C. J. Smith

LAC R. Smith

Pte. R. J. Wilson

Gnr. A. Whitfield

ACL B. Whitfield

Tpr. J. White

Sergt. J. Whitfield

Tpr. A. White