

CARNIVAL AT GUNBAR.

PRESENTATION TO PRIVATE WM. JACKSON, V.C.

(From a Correspondent.)

Wednesday, October 24th, was a red letter day at Gunbar, when a carnival in aid of the Gunbar District Returned Soldiers' Fund was held, and a public welcome was given to Private Jackson, V.C.; and a roll of honor was unveiled at the Public School, giving the names of those who had enlisted within a radius of 20 miles from Gunbar.

The day was perfect, the sun's rays being neutralised by a cool breeze from the south. Gunbar is a sparsely populated district, but every family within 20 miles was represented, including grandmother and grandfather down to the latest arrival. Over 200 people were present, eager to do all they could to help along the good cause, and so a most successful function was assured. There was great difficulty in getting permission from the State War Council to hold the carnival, but thanks to the efforts of Mr Weaver, M.L.A., and the kindness of Senator Millen, a tardy consent was at last obtained.

Gunbar has had the honor of having the first V.C. for New South Wales, and it has also the credit of having started the first fund for district returned soldiers, having held a most successful carnival in May, 1916, when nearly £200 was subscribed. That money is banked in Hay, and the present effort was to increase that balance.

The hall was gaily decorated, and the stalls, with their tempting display, reflected great credit on those who had donated the gifts, and the stallholders who had arranged them.

Misses Armstrong and Nixon presided over the fancy stall, and were well supported by a keen team of young ladies, who vied with each other to secure the best results from their several raffles; and as a consequence this stall put up a record over £60 being gathered in.

The sweets stall was well looked after by Misses D. Gibson and May Pollard, and netted nearly £9. The soft drinks were dispensed by Misses A. Clark and E. Naismith, and, al

A. Clark and E. Naismith, and, although it was a cool day, close on £7 was secured. The produce stall was in the capable hands of Mesdames Robertson and Storey, and the sales realised over £15. The refreshment room was in the charge of Mesdames J. Gibson and Phillips, and these ladies, with their assistants, had a strenuous time supplying the inner wants, and on a modest tariff netted nearly £14. This was without doubt the most hardworked portion of the carnival, and the best thanks of the committee is given to Mesdames Gib-

son and Phillips, and their assistants, for the able and capable way they carried out their onerous duties.

Over £150 was netted at the carnival, including donations. The raffle for the pony donated by the president, Mr. A. McArthur, had to be postponed on account of the late consent of the Attorney-General to hold the raffle, but when it is disposed of, it is anticipated that close on £200 will be secured by the carnival, which for a small district like Gunbar is a very creditable record.

Mr. Owen Jones, the secretary of the Gunbar Returned Soldiers' Fund, was unable to be present, but his duties were ably carried out by the acting secretary, Mr. P. F. Flanagan.

At three o'clock an adjournment was made to the Public School, when several very pleasant events took place. The first was the presentation of a gold medal to Private Jackson, V.C. This medal was given by the Gunbar District Returned Soldiers' Association, and a like medal will be given to every soldier who enlisted from the district within a radius of 20 miles from Gunbar. Messrs.

Nixon, Gibson, and McArthur spoke in eulogistic terms of Private Jackson's brave action, and the honor that it had brought to the district; and Miss Armstrong pinned the medal on his breast, and hoped he would be long spared to wear it. This action was the signal for loud applause, and Private Jackson was warmly congratulated. The president then presented him with a wallet containing cheques and notes to the value of £64, as a small token from Gunbar and district of their appreciation and esteem, and told him that Gunbar would take a keen interest

tion and esteem, and told him that Gunbar would take a keen interest in his future welfare. Lieut. Rickwood, who with Sergeant Garner, accompanied Private Jackson, returned thanks on his behalf. Sergeant Garner, whose family has made one of the greatest sacrifices of the war (four of his brothers and his father being killed in battle), made a moving and eloquent address in favor of a vigorous prosecution of the war, which was very warmly received.

Gunbar has done its bit, and few districts can show a better record.

Mr. Donald McDonald, of Kelvin Grove, Gunbar, who has three sons at the front, then unveiled the roll of honor, on which is recorded the names of over 50 Gunbarites. This honor board has been secured through the efforts of Mr. Phillips, the teacher of the Gunbar Public School, and was much admired.

A dance was held in the evening, and the hall was comfortably crowded. The music and the floor were good; the M.C. was Mr. S. Hillman, jun.; the evening was cool; the ladies were charming, and everything conspired to make the evening a fitting conclusion to a most successful carnival.

Gunbar has now shown an example that other and larger districts should take up, and make the repatriation of the returned soldiers a sacred duty. If every district falls into line, and heartily cooperates with the Federal Government in their efforts to place the returned soldiers back into the civil life of the country, then the success of repatriation is assured.