

Unveiling an Honor Roll.

On Tuesday evening a large audience assembled at the Oddfellows' Hall, Wingham, to take part in the ceremony of unveiling the Honor Roll where it was inscribed the names of members of the Wingham Branch of the Grand United Order of Oddfellows who have heard their country's call, and one at least of whom has paid the supreme sacrifice—Bro. W. L. Thurling. There was a splendid roll up of members, and the District Grand Master (Bro. Harlow), District Deputy G.M. (Bro. Smith), and District Secretary (Bro. Whitbread) and Bro. Wrigley (Mayor of Taree) were also present.

After the usual Lodge business had been transacted, Bro. J. B. Richardson took the chair, and formally introduced the District Grand Master, whom he invited to take the chair for the remainder of the evening. That gentleman had travelled all the way from Port Macquarie to do honour to those whose names were on the Honor Roll.

Bro. Harlow then took the chair, and incidentally stated that it was the first public gathering he had presided at since his elevation to the Grand Mastership, but he was pleased to be present, and to see so many boys who had enlisted from the Lodge for active service.

Mr. L. Gurney here sang "Two eyes of Grey," very nicely, after which Mr. J. W. Gregg recited a very appropriate recruiting piece entitled "Bravo."

The District Grand Master then addressed the gathering, and reiterated his pleasure at being asked to take part in so important a ceremony. He said most lodges of the G.U.O.F. had Rolls of Honor, and the question that some might ask was were the members justified in going. They had to recollect that the Allies were fighting a defensive war, while the Germans and their allies were fighting an offensive war, and the latter had associated themselves with barbarism, and the members who had enlisted to put down barbarism had looked at the matter in a serious light, therefore it was the duty of those they had left behind to keep their memory green. He referred to the great hardships the Australians had suffered in Egypt while undergoing training, and to their memorable exploits at the landing at Gallipoli, where, had they had reinforcements, they would have been able to hold all they had so brilliantly gained. There were now about 300,000 Australians in France, fighting in our defence, and notwithstanding the gallantry of other arms of the Allied forces, the Australians stood out on their own, as witness their heroic efforts at Poziers. Leaders of military thought could see victory approaching, but we must be prepared to pay the price of that victory. The lodges had done well, particularly when it was reported that 300,000 had gone into the firing line from the world's lodges, and of this number N.S.W. alone had accounted for 3000. From the Wingham Lodge nine members had heard the call and gone forth—

the Wingham Lodge nine members had heard the call and gone forth—they had accepted the dangers of the war zone, and he deeply sympathised with the family of the late Bro. W. L. Thurling, who had forfeited his life for his country. There would doubtless be further casualties as a result of the devilish instruments of war, but his fervent hope was that all would return to their homes. The Australians, he contended, were not men—but supermen, to stand the trials they were being subjected to. Here the District Master called on Miss Mary Richardson to unveil the Honor Roll, which was suspended at the rear of the stage, and covered with the Union Jack and Australian Flag.

Miss Richardson then stepped on the stage, and in a clear resonant voice said:—

Worthy District Master, officers and members of the Grand United Order of Oddfellows, I thank you for the honor conferred on me by asking me to unveil this Honor Roll of members of the Wingham Union Lodge, who are serving their country and fighting for the liberty of the British Empire. It is pleasing to know the remaining members of the Lodge have been thoughtful to erect this in memory of those who have enlisted. I now remove the emblem of England and Australia, and expose to your view the very nice emblem, and ask the District Master, to read the names:—

The District Grand Master read the names. The Honor Roll is a very artistic piece of work, and the engraving of the names was executed in a tradesmanlike manner by Mr. Tyler, of the local Superior Public School. Here it is:

HONOR ROLL.

We hereby place on record the names of members of the Wingham Union Branch, No. 1388, who, for love of their country and a just cause, enlisted for Active Service during the Great War against Germany and her Allies, which began on August 4th, 1914, and we hereby express, on behalf of our Order, the high esteem in which we hold them for their gallantry and heroism.

WILLIAM B. THURLING.
DUNCAN A. WISELEY.
ALFRED R. PAYTON.
HERBERT T. STONE.
WILLIAM E. GALLAGHER.
HAROLD C. MAGN.
JOHN W. SIMPER.
CHARLES F. FITZPATRICK.
HORUBY W. PHILLIPS.

P. MEADE, Grand Master.
G. W. GERDEN, Deputy G.M.
GEO. H. SANDS, Grand Sec.

February 20, 1917.

The removal of the flags took place while the audience was standing and singing the Honor Hymn.

The chairman then thanked Miss Richardson for unveiling the Honor Roll, which he hoped would serve to keep green the memory of those whose names appeared thereon.

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Bro. Smith said this was a time when one required the tongue of a Demosthenes to do credit to a subject like the present. He quoted the words of Christ that "Greater love hath no man than this that he lay down his life for his friend." Those heroes whose names were on the roll had laid down their lives, and the roll would serve to keep their memory green, but he thought the members should go a step further and get portraits of those on the roll with which they could decorate the walls of the Lodge Room. They could then gaze on the faces of the heroes and admire their patriotism. He referred to a book he had been reading "The Retreat from Mons"—a book

everyone should read—where they would learn something of the great men who had faced odds of 6 to 1 in men, and more than this odds in artillery, and then kept the enemy at bay, retreating homeless, hungry and war worn, with no shelter night or day—all for you and for me. Surely these were the class of men whose memory deserved to be kept green. When our boys returned he trusted they would long remain in Wingham, but they would be able to say they had gone through the valley of the shadow of death.

Bro. Wrigley was pleased to be present to do honor to those of the Lodge who had volunteered. He agreed with Bro. Smith that the Lodge should obtain photos of those who had gone. While they could all talk feelingly of the hardships our boys were going through, yet there often came a ray of light to relieve this feeling. They would all be pleased to hear in this particular that Bro. Whitbread had that day received word that one of his sons had been awarded the Military Medal. (Great applause.) These honors tended to cheer us up, and if all Australians at the front did not win Military Medals, they had the satisfaction of knowing that they were doing their duty well. He congratulated the Lodge on the success of the gathering, and referred in eulogistic terms to the great influence the sister members were using in keeping the Lodge going while the boys were away on duty. The sisters had now to come out to take the places in the Lodge of those at the front, but when the boys returned they would be able to marry the sisters and keep them at home. (Laughter.) He felt under a debt of gratitude to those who had gone to fight for us.

The following programme was then entered:—

Numerous recitation, Master Norman Abbott. Recitation, selection from "Ginger Mick," Mr. F. Vaisey. Song, "Love me and the world is mine," Miss O'Halloran. Song, "Somewhere a voice is calling," Master Norman Abbott. Song, "By the shores of the Egean Sea," Miss M. Richardson. Misses Hite, Maolin, Berham, and Mesdemoiselle Arnauld and H. A. Abbott acted as accom-

MAGNIN, BORNHAM, and Mesdames ARNAULT and H. A. Abbott acted as accompanists.

Bro. Meltrum moved a vote of thanks to the Grand Master for presiding, to the performers, and the public for their attendance.

The D.G.M. suitably acknowledged the compliment, after which refreshments were served, and the proceedings terminated with a dance.