

UNVEILING MONUMENT AT STRATHBOGIE

The handsome monument to the fallen soldiers of Strathbogie, designed and erected by Messrs. Talochino and Son, of Benalla, to the order of the people of that district, was unveiled on Saturday last. The monument is placed on the highest position in the centre of the township, and it is noticeable before any of the houses can be seen.

Arriving at the township, one saw great preparations for the unveiling ceremony. The high pedestal was veiled with the Union Jack, and seats were arranged at the foot in a hollow square for the school children, and with seats for the parents of the soldiers. The soldiers themselves occupied a space between the pedestal and a Union Jack flying from the flag pole. An organ was installed, on which Miss Heaphy (school teacher) accompanied the children and the audience in the singing of hymns at intervals. Proceedings commenced with the singing of the National Anthem.

Cr. Armstrong, as master of ceremonies, welcomed the military guests (General Elliott and Captain-Chaplain Macauley) and the public generally, to assist in the unveiling of the monument erected to commemorate the soldiers who had died that we might have freedom under the Union Jack, and also those who were fortunate enough to return. All would agree that Strathbogie had paid a heavy toll when he told them that out of 52 who had enlisted 20 would never return. Strathbogie residents were very proud of their monument, the cost of which had all been voluntarily and willingly subscribed by the residents. They had also done a lot of work in connection with the erection of it. Only last Thursday, when they had called a working bee, seven teams of horses, ploughs, scoops and 27 men had turned out.

The hymns, "Nearer, my God, to Thee" and "Lead, Kindly Light" were sung, and addresses were delivered by Messrs. Platt (shire president), S. C. Turner (president Fathers' Association),

C. Turner (president Fathers' Association, Euroa) and Captain-Chaplain Macauley. The unveiling ceremony was performed by General Elliott.

The General said he was very glad to come to any part of Euroa district, as so many men he had with him had come from this district, and had been with him in some of the most bitter fighting, particularly the late Major Tubb, V.C., and the late Corporal Burton, V.C. Mr. Turner said the soldiers had no hardships to train them for dangers, but the pioneers of the State had suffered many. As a small boy he lived with his parents in the western part of the State. After a severe drought, when land was thrown open in the North-East, his father inspected it up to Buffalo, and brought back the report—land good and fertile, but would take a lifetime to clear and make productive—they decided to stay where they were. People who came here then had as much hardship as any pioneer or army, and their children were reaping the benefit. Those pioneers' blood made the soldiers what they were. When our men landed at Gallipoli they had never seen hand grenades, and had to manufacture them out of jam tins on the beach. The awarding of four V.C.'s on the one night (three being awarded to Messrs Tubb, Burton and Dunstan) was an unique event in the British army. It is a source of great pride to claim friendship with such men, and with such other men as the late Captain Fay and Colonel Wiltshire. He told in graphic language of the landing, the treachery of the Greeks, Lone Pine engagement, Fleur Baix and others. In conclusion, he extended deepest sympathy to the relatives of the fallen soldiers. He said great sacrifices had been necessary, and they had made them to retain intact this country. He then unveiled the monument, the assemblage standing.

The band played the "Dead March" and the bugler sounded the "Last Post."

Cr. Armstrong said they had been fortunate in securing such a man as Mr. Talochino to do the work, as, after the contract had been signed, Mr. Talochino suggested an improved

after the contract had been signed, Mr. Talochino suggested an improved black stone, which he procured from Sydney at an extra cost to himself of £5; also, on arrival, the figure was damaged, and, though Mr. Talochino could have repaired same and erected it without outsiders being any the wiser, he took the honorable action of sending to Italy for another at a loss to himself of £75.

A description of the monument has previously been published in these columns.