

# Honour Plaques In Memory Of Fallen

## Unveiling And Dedication Service

### Large Congregation in St. Andrew's Church

Practically every section of the community was represented in the crowded congregation in St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church last night when honour plaques were unveiled in memory of nine members of the Church who were killed on active service in World War I., and 19 who paid the supreme sacrifice in World War II.

Floodlights were focused on the plaques as they were unveiled, revealing the following names of men who had died in various theatres of war and were buried thousands of miles from their homeland:—

1914-18: J. Cameron, P. Campbell, R. Davidson, F. A. Grayson, C. J. Grieve, J. Y. Simpson, A. C. Skerman, W. Steel, L. W. Teitzel.

1939-1945: Len Allison, Ian McKenzie Angus, Doug. Avery, Percy Clegg, David Crichton, Charles Crombie, Mervyn Crombie, Graham Davidson, Allen Eason, Ruben Free, Keith Gardiner, Alex. Harkiss, Arch. Harkiss, Dick Schlyder, Ken. Smith, C. Watson, Ralph Roland Wilson, Noel Flitcroft, Bert Cooke.

The service, at which the Rev John Alexander, of Melbourne, officiated, was choral and took a similar form to that on Anzac Day.

An organ prelude began at 7.10 pm, and soon afterwards returned soldiers, who had assembled outside the church entered as a group headed by the president of the Warwick sub-branch of the RSL (Mr R. S. Philp) and the immediate past president (Mr R. Stewart). A large number attended to pay homage to fallen comrades.

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The congregation included relatives and many friends of the fallen, while citizens were officially represented by the Mayor of Warwick (Ald A. T. McCahon). Scouts were also present in uniform.

The unveiling and dedication of the plaques which are of Queensland silky oak and situated one on either side of the organ facing the congregation, the left one flanking the original 1914-18 roll of honour, was poignant with memories.

The names are in bronze lettering surmounted by the words: "In memory of the fallen," together with the war years.

Bronze laurel leaves in the lower portion help to complete the exquisite design of the plaques, which were the gift of the Presbyterian Women's Club and are shield-shaped.

Before the unveiling, the plaques were draped with the Australian flag. Both were unveiled simultaneously by the cutting of a cord by the Rev Alexander, MA, BD, who is Assistant Director of the Welfare of Youth of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria. Mr Alexander is visiting Warwick at the invitation of the selection committee appointed by St Andrew's congregation to nominate a successor to the Rev G. Reid, now of Newcastle.

The service opened with the Doxology, followed by a prayer, a hymn, scripture reading and a solo ("O Rest in the Lord") by Mrs J. Carlson.

After the Act of Remembrance, the Rev Alexander, in the name of the congregation, then unveiled the plaques and read the names inscribed thereon.

Thanksgiving and intercession preceded the singing by the choir of "O Vallant Hearts."

There was a minute's silence. Then the Last Post was sounded by Trumpeter J. McShane, after which the anthem, "There is no Death," was sung, and Reveille sounded.

In a subsequent address, the Rev Alexander took as his text: "Death was swallowed up in Victory." He referred to the curious paradox in using the term "Good Friday" to commemorate the death of Jesus.

It was "Good Friday" for two reasons. The first was the spirit in which Jesus approached death. His courage and unselfishness

made of His death a triumph rather than a tragedy.

Secondly, death was not the end, for its triumph was completed by the Resurrection.

Mr Alexander applied these two points to the present memorial service and told from personal knowledge while a chaplain with the RAAF for 3½ years of incidents illustrating the quality and courage displayed by some of the men while facing death in the recent war.

They were proud of the men who had died, showing undaunted courage in the face of terrific

who had died, showing undaunted courage in the face of terrific odds. Those remaining must face up to the task of re-construction and re-building of the world. It was their particular responsibility. They should dedicate themselves to the great task, and resolve that their comrades shall not have died in vain.

The present occasion, he emphasised, was not merely one of sorrow, but also one of pride. Christian Faith believed that death was not the end, but that there was a fuller life beyond.

The address was followed by a closing hymn, the National Anthem and Benediction.

Hymns sung by the choir were "There is no Death," "King of Kings" and "O Valiant Hearts."