

CUNDERDIN.

HONOR BOARD UNVEILED.

(From Our Correspondent.)

What must have been a record crowd for Cunderdin assembled on 11th inst. to pay tribute to the soldier who enlisted from this district. Much regret was expressed at the absence of the Hon the Premier (Mr Mitchell) and the Minister for Education (Mr Colebatch), who were both unable to be present.

A banquet was given to about fifty returned men at 5 p.m. and the spread was of such magnificence as to be worthy of the occasion. A short toast list was honored. After the loyal toast had been honored, Mr Harrison, M.L.A., proposed the toast of the 'Navy and the Army.' He pointed out that the Navy was an Army of Defence, whose duty it was to maintain the Peace by doing the duty of a Police Force. It was not intended to be an aggressive force inviting trouble, and in that sense could not be compared with the huge pre-war army of Germany. After eulogising the war service of the Navy, the speaker dealt on the Army, particularising the fame gained for Australia by our Volunteer Army. Quoting an Australian General he said, Our Boys were the metal that tempered the steelpoints of the whole British Army. Our boys had done well in the war, and we looked to them to do equally well in peace.

The toast was received with enthusiasm.

The chairman (Mr G W McKie) then proposed the principal toast of 'Our Boys.' He voiced the feeling of the whole district in expressing wholehearted appreciation of the Soldiers' services to their Country. They were immensely thankful to have their loved ones back again after a victorious campaign. Our soldiers had won a glorious name for Australia by their achievement on the field of battle.

The toast was drunk with musical honors.

Lieut Hird and Private J. S. Lundy briefly responded in typical Digger style. Mr Harrison proposed the toast of the 'Allies,' dwelling on the invaluable service of Belgium by fighting gallantly against overwhelming odds whilst Britain's Army was being hurriedly mobilised. He also paid tribute to gallant Serbia, and other Allies.

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Mr W. Hastie proposed the toast of the 'Visitors,' which was responded to by Mr Harrison, who also begged leave to propose another toast, that of 'The Ladies.' Incidentally he mentioned that little Westralia had subscribed one and a quarter millions to Patriotic Funds during the war. The toast was received with musical honors.

After the banquet, the hall was cleared and at 8 p.m. dancing commenced. There was a crowded house, and at ten o'clock Mr Harrison, M.L.A., performed the ceremony of unveiling the Honor Board. About forty returned soldiers, under Lieut Hird, were lined up in front of the Board, and stood to attention whilst the Board was unveiled. The Honor Board contains 100 names of soldiers who enlisted from the district, of whom twenty-one made the Supreme Sacrifice. The Board is a massive work of art executed in Jarrah. On top is a carved representation of Australia's Coat of Arms. On each side is a corinthian column of polished jarrah. Over the names of the heroes is an inscription in gold lettering 'AMOR PATRIAE' (Love for Country), and over the middle panel, which contains the names of the fallen heroes, is a carved wreath and the inscription 'MEMORIA IN ETERNA (In Everlasting Remembrance).

In unveiling the Honor Board which cost £150, Mr Harrison said it was a splendid tribute to the memory of those who answered their country's call, and it was equal to the best he had seen in the country districts. As a tribute to those whose names were on the centre panel, there was silence for twenty seconds after which Mrs N. J. Hodgson recited with perceptible effect 'Red, White and Blue' (Somewhere in France).

After the unveiling ceremony, dancing was resumed, interspersed with song and recitations. Mr Oscar Gliddon sang 'The Deathless Army,' and 'My old Shako,' Mrs W. Hird 'Somewhere a Voice is Calling' and 'Love will Find a Way,' Mr J. J. Flanagan 'Mary o' Argyle,' and 'Mary,' Miss Marjorie Hodgson recited 'Tommy Atkins' (in character), Mr Dickenson 'Nursing the Baby,' and Mr Kielv contributed several recitations. After each he was vociferously recalled until he had exhausted his repertoire.

The arrangements were in the capable hands of Mesdames Hodgson, Senr., and Egeberg and a ladies' committee, and Messrs Elyard, Baxter, McKie and others.