

BALDLE

**UNVEILING HONOUR BOARD.
ENTHUSIASTIC GATHERING.**

Baldle has the distinction of being the first centre in the Shire of Corowa and also the Home shire where the residents have taken the initiative of organising in a lasting way the names of the boys who have enlisted for active service, and on Wednesday afternoon last the ceremony of unveiling an honour board, containing the names of 44 young men, was performed at the Public Hall in the presence of a large and most representative gathering. The proceedings were carried out with a marked degree of enthusiasm, as every member of that community, man, woman, or child is proud of the part played in the great war by Baldle. The honour board is erected at the Public Hall, and the building had been decorated in a fitting style for the occasion with wattle blossom and greenery, intermingled with which were flags of the Allies, patriotic bunting and Red Cross emblems. At the appointed hour there was a large attendance of town and district residents, all assembled to do honour to the men who have sacrificed their lives to protect Australia from the Hun.

On the platform were seated Mr. Cuthbert Howard, who occupied the chair; Messrs. R. T. Ball, M.L.A.; Ald. A. A. Piggis, mayor of Corowa; Cr. Jas. H. Willis, president Corowa shire council; H. Bromfield, president Home shire council; Cr. W. Leahy, Home shire; Cr. Theo. Wilson, Home shire; Ald. J. Chivell, Corowa; and Rev. M. Laren Scott, Corowa.

In opening proceedings the chairman apologized for the absence of Messrs. Milson, Cr. F. Knight (Corowa shire council), W. C. Baylis, Wahgunyah (one of whose sons enlisted from Baldle, and whose name was on the honour board), and Mr. A. T. Watson, Lowerdale. The speaker said it was one of the proudest moments in his life to stand there that day and help to do honour to those who had enlisted from Baldle, that gallant little band of 44 names recorded on the honour board, which number spoke well for the little district, and represented every section of the community. He was proud, too, of the performance they had put up since they left. Some were on Gallipoli, and everyone knew how they had surmounted almost insurmountable difficulties, and in every way proved themselves true soldiers and splendid representatives of Australia. He was also pleased to see such a representative gathering on the platform which showed that a great deal of interest was taken in the war, and all were anxious to do honour to those who had gone from that part of Australia to uphold the flag and fight for the freedom of Australia and the other countries engaged. It was necessary to understand that they were fighting for all the countries that were taking part. Some thought that only Belgium was to be assisted, but they must understand that France, Russia, Serbia, Britain and all the countries engaged were fighting as one for one common cause. He was pleased to see Mr. Ball present. That gentleman was true to his electorate, and travelled over it as much as he could. He had never failed to attend at Baldle, where he was always welcome. Then Mr. Piggis, mayor of Corowa, was a very old friend in Baldle and district. It was pleasing to see him present with his colleague, Ald. Chivell, representing that portion of the district. Crs. Bromfield, Leahy and Wilson were also allies to the interests of the Home shire, while President Willis was a host in himself, and would uphold his end of the Corowa shire against the others. Then the church was represented by Rev. M. Laren Scott. Father Ryan would also have been present but was recuperating after his recent illness.

The speaker concluded by an appeal for help on behalf of the Baldle branch of the Red Cross Society. The ladies were seeking assistance to enable them to buy materials to send to the boys in the trenches, and there was no more noble work in the country. These

boys in the trenches, and there was no more noble work in the country. These ladies who worked so unselfishly deserved encouragement, and if some of those people who had money would help for the soldiers they would earn the best thanks of all concerned. He mentioned the concert that was to be held in the evening which was a voluntary effort on the part of the ladies and it was left to the public to make voluntary subscriptions to the cause.

Mr. Duff sang "Boys of the Old Brigade."

Mr. R. T. Ball then rose to perform the unveiling ceremony. He said it was a most pleasing duty for him to perform, but he looked upon it also as a solemn duty, and a solemn occasion. He had been asked to unveil the honour board and would do so straight away in order that they could all see it. Stepping across to the board Mr. Ball swept aside the Union Jack which covered it and said "It is my privilege to unveil this board so that you can see the names of those splendid men who have gone to fight for their country and King." It was done in a graceful manner, yet with a dramatic touch which inspired those present and brought them voluntarily to their feet with a spontaneous burst of cheers for the heroes whose names appeared on the board before them. The audience rose in a body almost before they realised what was expected of them, yet the genuine and hearty cheers that went up left no one to doubt that they were truly proud of their men, and quite automatically, with the first chord of the National Anthem, "God Save our Splendid Men" was sung with pathos and pride.

Continuing, Mr. Ball said:—My object in doing this was to get an inspiration, which I have now—"For King and country; men who have answered the call." This roll is kept for the purpose of recognising the merits of those men, and it is of such a character in the history of the nation that everyone of those who have enlisted from your district is deserving of every honour we can bestow on them. We have been engaged in a desperate battle for over two years, and are going through strenuous times, and while true men from this district and every other district have offered their services and laid down their lives for their King and country we find many more men are wanted, and every effort we can make must be put forward. Unfortunately the war has not yet been won, and it is necessary for us to do all we can to assist in bringing the war to a successful conclusion. During the two years of the war we have proved to the world, as far as the Commonwealth is concerned, that we have produced soldiers which were admitted by the best authorities to be equal to the best soldiers on the battlefield. Although we were not a military nation, during that time we have proved it. With regard to the present, I want to impress on you that it is absolutely necessary to do something more than in the past. The war is not over, and we are held on the best of authority that we have to do more, and I am sure that I voice the sentiments of the Baldle district when I say that we are determined to win. Mr. Hughes has made it clear that so far as the Commonwealth is concerned we are prepared to do all we can. After Mr. Hughes came into contact with the horrors of war he has come back to Australia, and I feel sure he has a message for the Commonwealth, which I hope will be in the direction of adopting universal training, or in other words conscription, and I know I am voicing the sentiments of Baldle and the Commonwealth when I say that the whole of the Commonwealth will be behind him and will support him in it, as there is a great deal more to be done. You may ask yourselves the question, Is it worth it? but I need not answer that question. You know the privileges you enjoy under the British flag. It is worth

it, if it costs us every penny and even our lives, rather than be slaves to French militarism. Unfortunately we are a long way from the firing line and don't quite realise the seriousness of

a long way from the firing line and don't quite realise the seriousness of the situation, and I quite agree with the chairman in saying that we are just as much concerned in protecting France as Belgium, and our own country as well. The seriousness of the position has never been brought home to us as in other countries, but our hearts and homes are just as much at stake as those of France. As far as Australia is concerned, we who have not been able to go to the front have only been able to assist in presenting munitions for the front, but have not been able to manufacture them to any extent. I have been associated with the manufacture of munitions shells for the firing line, but I have to confess that we have not sent one shell, as we have been told by the authorities that Great Britain has developed her factories to such an extent that they can make sufficient for themselves. But there is another aspect of this matter, and that is the cost of the shells, when we contrast the conditions in France and Australia. In Australia we are up against difficulties and could not manufacture them owing to conditions which exist, and which go to show that we do not realise the position. Labour troubles have been a contributing factor in this respect, and some men have gone as far as saying they would not make munitions. In England when war commenced they had to start to organise for the manufacture of munitions and big guns, and in the period of two years they are so well organised and have so remodelled their factories that to-day they are turning out nearly all their munitions and are manufacturing guns equal to those of Germany, who had 40 years to prepare. In England the people recognise that everybody must do their best. The women are engaged in manufacturing which would not be necessary under ordinary circumstances. In France to-day every man, woman and child has practically one object and that is to produce something which will help to win the war, and every factory is prepared to manufacture munitions. Women have even taken charge of small factories, and in one case where the husband was killed in battle the wife practically died through exhaustion in looking after their factory. Facts such as these show that the people of France are making supreme sacrifices to bring the war to an end. In countries near the firing line they realise the position, but we in Australia have just the same necessity for similar sacrifices. As far as Baldle is concerned, when 44 of her men have been prepared to lay down their lives, everyone of us owes a deep debt to them for going to fight our battles. Everyone is not qualified to go, but the names of those who do go will live in imperishable glory, while the slackers will be despised. It is necessary for all those who can go to do so, and for those who cannot it is their duty to do all we can to comfort them and to assist those who return and see that they never want in the future. It may be necessary for the Commonwealth Government to levy increased taxation and try and obtain all that is necessary in money to carry on the war. It matters not what the burden is, if it can be shown that it is necessary I can assure all those who do possess wealth they should be compelled to do their share in carrying this crisis to a successful issue. Mr. Ball concluded by saying that nothing gave him more pleasure than to come to Baldle on such an occasion. He was sorry that there was a necessity for it, but he was glad to do honour to those brave heroes who had gone to fight for King and country, and hoped they would all return safe and sound.

His Worship the Mayor of Corowa (Ald. A. A. Piggis) also spoke. He said it gave him great pleasure to come to Baldle with his colleague, Ald. Chivell, to say how brave the Baldle women were. When they looked at the board before them he could see tears in the eyes of mothers in the hall. He had come to say how proud they all were of those boys, and to sympathise with the Baldle people and to tell them how much they honoured those names on the board. We know our boys are equal to any soldiers in the world, and are made of the very best stuff that

are equal to any soldiers in the world, and are made of the very best stuff that man could be made of. With reference to Mr. Hall's remarks, he said it was perfectly true that they must all do everything possible. It was not possible to make such a sacrifice as those boys who had gone to fight for the whole of the civilised world, and for the autonomy of the smaller States. There were a great many things to be thought about. There would be a large number of men coming back after the war, and he did not know how the Government was going to settle them all in positions. When they went away they were led to believe that they would not want when they returned, and they would all have to be put back into comfortable positions. Ballialle people were well up in the doings at the seat of war, but when he (the speaker) attended a gathering like the one that day he could not forget brave Belgium with her scattered population, her old men and women who had been murdered all because she refused to regard her treaties as scraps of paper, and he could not forget the terrible ravages in France and all the cathedrals and property that had been destroyed, and the thousands of people killed and the rivers of blood when war was raging. He could not forget the wicked and diabolical crimes perpetrated by the Huns in deporting all those women and girls. He could not conceive what the result would be, and when he thought of what our own boys are doing it was not only our duty to put their names on the scroll of fame, but to do all we could to help them in the trenches. His own boy had written stating that he had met the two Lieutenants in the trenches, and he (the speaker) was pleased to meet the Ballialle people and tell them how pleased his son was to meet them. When they talked together they realised that they had a common bond of sympathy, and he wanted all to do their utmost to help the boys who are away. They could do this by helping the Red Cross funds to buy material, and if they were able to go to the front line they should go forward and help to relieve them. It would be a crying shame after sending them to fight out to reinforce them, and it would be a cruel thing to think that those boys whose names were on the honour board were neglected through those who were left behind failing to do their bit. If conscription comes there would be a lot more bursters, but if the need is there they must be prepared to give treasure and blood to bring the crisis to an end. He asked them in awe that the business of their lives was to do all they could to further this great war and see it through.

Cr. H. Bromfield, president Ruess shire; Cr. J. H. Willis, president Coress shire; and Rev. M'Levan Scott (Corowa), also spoke.

Mr. Hall said Senator Milhen wished him to intimate that he would have come along, but the War Council had arranged a programme for him which necessitated his being in another locality, but he gave his assurance that he would visit Ballialle sometime in the future, and deliver an address. Mr. Hall then moved a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Howard for the able manner in which he presided over the meeting.

Cheers were given for the Anzacs, for the boys at the front, and for the King and the Allies, which brought the proceedings to a close.

Afternoon tea was dispensed by the ladies, and butterbuns and sweets sold, the proceeds being devoted to the Red Cross funds.

In the evening a very successful concert was held in the hall, when a first-class programme of musical items was gone through. The committee expects to net \$50 as a result of their effort.

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| R. Anderson, | B. Mitchell, |
| H. P. Barnes, | H. G. Mitchell, |
| J. Breen, | G. M. Dumas, |
| T. Brundley, | H. M. Christie, |
| H. M. Brundley, | J. J. Higgins, |
| P. C. Duncanson, | F. Parker, |
| J. H. Harris, | H. J. Pethybridge, |
| L. C. Harris, | W. Quinn, |
| J. Hawkins, | J. P. Quanten, |
| C. G. Howard, | R. A. Richardson, |
| H. Howard, | P. Ridgway, |
| G. Holmes, | R. Robertson, |
| J. Hutton, | J. Ross, |
| J. Hunter, | J. Ryan, |
| A. Hutson, | F. Sherwin, |
| P. G. Hutson, | T. G. Strachan, |
| G. Jones, | J. J. Strachan, |
| H. Wright, | H. Sargy, |
| W. Lang, | W. Tambo, |
| A. Lupton, | H. Watson, |
| W. Lupton, | A. Wiley, |
| J. Martin, | W. W. M. Wilmet, |

The honour board is of a most handsome and artistic design of beaten copper mounted on oak. In the centre is a tablet bearing the 44 names, each engraved on strips of brass in script and screwed on to the mount. The following are the names of the heroes—

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| R. Anderson, | B. Mitchell, |
| H. P. Barnes, | H. G. Mitchell, |