

STRETCHER-BEARER'S DEATH.

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A PLEASANT POINT MAN.

A letter concerning the death at the front of Private M. Saunders, written by Private S. Venning to a friend in Pleasant Point, says: — “I wish to write to you to acquaint you with a few of the facts concerning the death of my esteemed friend, Mark Saunders. He and I had been closely associated almost for 20 months, and I felt his loss keenly, more so in view of the fact that he was a fellow stretcher-bearer.” The writer goes on to say that the New Zealanders were interested in a stunt on October 4 last, and later on about the 12th and 13th. On the 4th, 5th and 6th, his unit was “in it.” On the morning of the 4th all were in their relative positions before daylight, immediately prior to “hopping over.” While the four stretcher-bearers were waiting for the barrage to lift, Fritz was of course sending shells over too, and one of these hit four yards away from our shell hole, and buried and bruised a few of our chaps. Our job was to dig them out as they were completely buried. It was found that three of them would have to “go out” to the dressing station and the writer went with them. Mark, he learned afterwards, went on, and was first slightly wounded on the temple by a shell splinter - for which he ought to have “gone out,” but as it was not serious, he did not do so. A little later, when Mark and two other bearers were picking up a case another shell landed near them, and Mark was fatally injured, and died within four or five minutes. The writer did not get near that spot again, but he sends these particulars, as a duty, seeing that they were fellow-workers as stretcher-bearers and friends from South Canterbury. “Mark had been in this work three months and was very popular all round, and I can assure you that the chaps in the company who knew him expressed their keen regret to me in their own way. He is much missed. Personally I got on very well with Mark, and regret his death very much. One thing at least it will be satisfactory and consoling to [know that] as a stretcher-bearer one does his part in these pushes as much as any. I'll just tell you what General Godley told us subsequent to Messines: ‘If anyone is deserving of recognition of services and reward, it is the stretcher-bearers.’ Lately I was speaking to Captain Wells, the Padre who buried Mark, and he told me where he was buried, and that a neat wooden cross is on his grave. Our Company Commander was killed the same day, and is also buried in the same spot.”

Timaru Herald. 26 April 1920 (page 3) [2014, 2015]

ANZAC DAY.

OPEN-AIR SERVICE.

IN TIMARU.

Anzac Day was fittingly celebrated in Timaru yesterday, when an open-air service was held in King George's Place, and a solemn tribute paid to the honoured dead. From a cold, grey sky rain fell at intervals, the sombre atmospheric conditions being in keeping with the solemnity of the occasion. There was a large assemblage of people, and the proceedings, which lasted an hour, passed off in a manner befitting the occasion.

A large wooden cross was erected on a rockery, which was made for the occasion, on the grass plot adjoining the municipal buildings. Laurel leaves were interspersed between the rocks, and a large laurel wreath, bearing the words: "In memory of our fallen comrades," was placed by the Returned Soldiers' Association on the rockery, at the foot of the cross. Immediately after the service the rockery was covered with wreaths placed there by parents, brothers and sisters, and friends of deceased soldiers.

From a dais in front of the Council Chambers an address was given by Pastor Nicholls. On the dais stood the Mayor (Mr Wm Raymond), the Rev. T. Wilson Potts (president of the Ministers' Association), Pastor Nicliolls, Councillors T. W. Satterliwaite, J. E. Hurdley, G. J. Sealey, J. P. Murphy, H. Allchurch, A. M. H. Shirtcliff, A. Washer, and J. P. Hughson. Mr H. W. Scott secretary to the R.S.A., the Town Clerk being also present.

The military were present in strong force. The procession was marshalled at the Drill Shed shortly after 1.30, and the parade was in charge of Lt.- Col. Newman Wilson, D.S.O., M.C. Prior to marching off, Lt.-Col. Wilson addressed the returned soldiers on parade, and expressed his pleasure at seeing such a representative attendance. He referred to the military training of the territorials and cadets, and hoped that some of the returned men would interest themselves in the territorial movement, as their steadying influence would do a power of good amongst the men and boys at present undergoing training. He complimented the returned men on their steadiness on parade, and expressed the hope that Anzac Day in the years to come would be even more largely attended than it had been in the past. The parade was marshalled by Staff- Sergrts. Major (W. O.) H. Frank and A. M. Thatcher, under Captain H. D. McHugh, M.C. and bar, adjutant, the Reserve of Officers present being Majors Foden and Dryden.

Captains Oakey, M.C., Marriott and Jackson, Lieutenants Casserly and Pennyfeather, and the following officers in charge of units: A Coy, 2nd South Canterbury Regiment—Lt. W. A. Stead, (35), 43 Coy, Cadets, Captain W. Fossey (35), 44 and 45 Coy.'s Cadets, Lt. J. P. C. Walshe, (50), High School Cadet Coy., Lieuts. Cockcroft and Hind, (130), while the 2nd (South Canterbury) Regimental Band, High School Band, and the Bugle Band also took part in the procession. The returned soldiers on parade numbered about 150, and the Orthopaedic Hospital car, with members of the staff followed in the rear of the procession. The firing party of twenty returned soldiers was in charge of S.S.M. A. Mathieson. The Boy Scouts were also in attendance, and distributed the sheets on which the order of service was set out.

In his address Pastor Nicholls paid a warm tribute not only to the men of Anzac, but to all who had gone forth so valiantly to fight that we might live in peace and safety. Of those who had given their lives lie remarked it could be truly said: "They saved us, but themselves they could not save." The speaker explained the derivation of the word "Anzac," and then showed how the letters composing the word could be otherwise applied—'Ascribing New Zealanders a commemoration,' "asking New Zealanders a confession" and. "among New Zealanders are Christians." Each of these interpretations of the word Pastor Nicholls used as the basis for a dissertation on the heroism of the brave fellows who had given their all for others, and the resultant cause for thankfulness, admiration, and gratitude on the part of those who were now living in peace and comfort. The speaker also voiced a warning against the materialistic leanings of the age, of sin in all its forms, and said that we could best honour the dead by so shaping our lives as to show that their great sacrifice had not been made in vain. After the address; the hymn, "The Nameless Graves" was sung. This was followed by "The Dead March," (played by the Battalion Band); then the burial service was read by the Rev. T. W. Potts, after which a firing party ranged on either side of the cross, fired three volleys,, the Band played the "Last Post," and the ceremony closed with the National Anthem.

During the playing of the Dead March, the wreaths were arranged at the cross by Corporal Davie. Wreaths were sent in memory of W. A. McQueen, Rifleman George Hill, Rifleman C. Burgess, officers, non-commissioned officers and cadets of Nos. 43, 44 and 45 companies Senior Cadets, B. C. Collings, E. Davis, A. Small, S. Corrigan, A. Muir, W. Kingour, R. Girdwood, O. Halliday, J. Templeton, J. Dow, J. Anderson, D. Dow, D. Anderson, J. Barklay, Jack Mansell and Walter Harte, Tim and Gordon Langrish, Norman Stuart Young, **Corpl. C. W. Saunders, Mark Saunders, Albert Bennet Saunders**, Sergt. O. E. Davie, Sergt. E. Fairbrother, M.M., Lt.-Col. C. E. Thomas, Wilfred Turner, Lieut. Neville S. Joyce, A. H. Austin, D. Hodgson, Major David Grant, Edward Edginton, Colin Edgar Wilson, Donald and Miller Dickson, William B. Walton, Col. Bauchop and other Port Chalmers boys, Geraldine boys, Dug. Hodgson, Leonard Cecil Hight, floral tributes to. the memory of the fallen by the ladies

committee of the R.S.A., the Mayor and Mayoress, the Orthopaedic Hospital, Mr and Mrs E. Roland Guinness, Celtic Football Club, Zingari Football Club, Timaru Boys' High School, Y.M.C.A., Miss McLean, besides several others bearing no name but "To the memory of the fallen."

REFERENCE IN THE CHURCHES.

Appropriate references to Anzac Day were made in the churches yesterday. At St. Mary's, where the Mayor and Councillors Satterthwaite, Hughson, Allchurch were present, the service was conducted by the Ven. Archdeacon Jacob. Mrs P. W. Rule sang "I know that my Redeemer liveth," the congregation sang the National Anthem, and "The Last Post" was played by Bugler Segar.

WAR MEMORIAL

AT PLEASANT POINT.

There was a large gathering to take part in the unveiling of the Pleasant Point War Memorial, which took place on Thursday last. The memorial is erected on a piece of Crown land west of the railway station and on the south side of the railway, where it occupies a commanding situation. The structure begins with three concrete steps, the lowermost 9¼ feet square. Upon these rise the cap, die, and base of an octagonal shaft, surmounted by cap and an octagonal timber cross. These are in Coromandel granite, fine axed, except the die and base of the column, which are polished, bringing out the rich dark grey of the granite, in contrast with the lighter grey of the unpolished stone. The names are engraved on the die by fine chiselling, and therefore stand out clearly. The brief inscription on the northern of the four faces of the polished die is: "Our Glorious Dead. Their Memory Liveth for Ever."

The names beneath the inscription are: — T. J. Brosnahan, C. W. Saunders, G. Davis, R. Naughton, C. Childs, J. T. Steven, E. Friel, M. Saunders, A. Stumbles, H. B. Hinson, R. F. Aiken, J. Muir, E. Childs, T. J. Brosnahan, T. B. Fitzgerald, N. Maze, J. Cosgrove, W. A. Dunn.

Rev. Dr. Kennedy, Major Inglis, Rev. G. D. Faulkner, and Mr T. D. Burnett, who unveiled the memorial, spoke. Little Maisie Maze then laid on the steps a wreath for the Memorial Committee, and this was followed by a number of others. Bugler T. Corlett then sounded "The Last Post," and this closed an impressive ceremony.