

## **SIDELIGHTS ON THE WAR**

### A LETTER FROM THE HOLY LAND.

Mrs. M. Kennedy, of Murray Street, Temuka, late of Winchester, lately received the following letter from Rev. Father (Chaplain) A. F. McDonald, with the N.Z. Forces in Palestine, under date December, relating the death of her son:

“Early last month you will have learned that your boy, 11/1252, Thos. Kennedy, 8th Canterbury Mounted Rifles, with other brave comrades made the supreme sacrifice. Tom had come safely through the first big day's fight at Beersheba on October 31. On Sunday night (November 4) we were suddenly pushed out into some very rough country along the road to Jerusalem, six miles north-east of Beersheba, to hold up some strong Turkish counter-attacks. Next day, Monday, 5th, saw us in a rocky gully exposed to heavy shrapnel fire. I left the gully myself under machine-gun fire to bury a Catholic boy, and at the dressing-station was told that Tom was coming through, shot through the stomach. I attended to some of my boys brought out wounded, and as it was too late to think of finding my way back to the regiment, who were to be relieved at any moment, I stayed near the ambulance, and about 2 a.m. on Tuesday (November 6), I was fortunate enough to find Tom in the last ambulance cart to come in. Abdominal wounds are always very dangerous, so I told Tom his wound was serious and that I was going to give him the last Sacrament. Poor Tom, he had always been a fine lad and splendid Catholic, and he received the last rites in splendid disposition. He asked me to write you and send all his best love if anything happened to him. An ambulance van was waiting and hurried him towards Beersheba. That was the last I saw of him. From the Canterbury Regiment I learned later that he had succumbed. R.I.P. My dear Mrs. Kennedy, he was a son to be proud of, a brave soldier and a good practical Catholic, and I can assure you his comrades will miss his sunny cheerful presence. Accept my sincere sympathy for yourself and family. As a Catholic mother you will be consoled by his splendid end. I have been able to offer the Holy Sacrifice for the eternal rest of his soul.”

## THE HONOURED DEAD MEMORIAL AT WINCHESTER. UNVEILED YESTERDAY.

A bright, albeit a touching little ceremony took place at Winchester yesterday afternoon, when in the presence of several, hundred people a monument was unveiled to the memory of the Winchester men who fell in the war. The ceremony took place in bright sunshine and everything passed off in a most effective way. Among those present were Mr T. D. Burnett, M.P for the district., the Mayor of Geraldine (Mr B. B. MacDonald), and the Mayor of Temuka (Mr T. Gunnion). Mr H. A. Philp presided; there were seven speakers, and the actual unveiling was performed by the Misses Opie and Calmer. Proceedings opened with the Lord's prayer, after which the hymn, "Lead Kindly Light" was sung. Then the monument— which is erected in the best possible place in the district, in the school grounds at the junction of the Main and Milford roads —was unveiled, and Mr J. DeRenzy read the names inscribed on it. As he was doing this the school children filed past, each bearing a wreath which was placed on the steps leading up to the monument till they were covered on all four sides with these beautiful floral emblems. The Rev. Frank Harris was the first speaker. He paid a glowing tribute to the brave fellows who had given their lives in order that others might live in peace. He referred to the vision that these men had had when the call to arms came, and said that the noble way they had responded to the call of duty, and the heroic way in which they had given their all would for ever win the admiration of everybody. Their noble work would bear fruit in imparting to the national life a richer sense of honour and virtue and thus their deeds would live after them. Mr Harris also extended the sympathy of the community to the loved ones whom their honoured dead had left behind, and said that while they sorrowed for the dead they should be inspired and comforted by the knowledge that those who had died so nobly had left the world better for their having lived in it.

Adjutant Lamond, of the Salvation Army, addressed his remarks principally to the many young people present. He stressed the point that the greatest good was done in this world through sacrifice, and asked the boys and girls ever to remember that the soldiers who had died for them had taught this lesson in a way which must never be forgotten. Their endeavour throughout their lives should be to be worthy of that great sacrifice.

Mr R. R. Macdonald, Mayor of Geraldine, said that many of those whose memory they were honouring had been his personal friends; and he referred in glowing terms to the glorious deeds which had been performed by them. The most glorious thing a man could do was to fight for his native land, and the boys

of Winchester had done this right nobly. He sympathised also with the bereaved ones, but reminded them that the deeds of their sons and brothers would ever live, and be a source of admiration to the world.

The Rev. A. H. Harris based, his remarks on the injunction, which was read on Commemoration Day in one of the great public schools of England: "Let us now praise famous men." He went on to extol the virtues of those whom they had met to honour, and said that they were truly great in the highest sense of the word. They had died for truth against falsehood, for honour against dishonour, for justice against tyranny, for Christian freedom against Hunnish cruelty and slavery, and had classed themselves with that company of men and women who were rightly called great. Their glory would never be blotted out and their names would live for ever.

Mr T. Gunnion, Mayor of Temuka. spoke in a characteristic way of the pluck and courage of the boys, and said that Winchester had an enviable record in what it had done to put down the Hun and maintain all that civilisation held dear. He was convinced that the dead whom they were honouring that day were already reaping the reward of their nobility and self-sacrifice, for they had given their lives in the cause of right and justice. He deeply sympathised with the bereaved ones.

Mr T. D. Burnett, M.P., said he took it that the men they were honouring were plain average men like themselves, and that while the average man did not like facing death, these men did not hesitate to do so in the circumstances by which they were surrounded. All honour to them, he said, and may their fine example long survive. They had renounced all things pleasant to join the Army, giving up rank, position, and worldly possessions; and they were worthy of all honour for what they had done. God had destined New Zealand to be a great country, and those men had helped to make it such. It was now for those who were left behind to continue to make it a still better little country, and by doing this they could best show their appreciation of the sacrifices which the soldiers had made. While they mourned for and honoured the dead, they must not be unmindful of the living, and must see to it that those who had returned from the war maimed were not allowed to want. Mr Burnett also offered his sympathy to the parents, relatives, and friends of the deceased soldiers who had played their part so manfully in the greatest war on record.

Mr George Steven, of Timaru, and who was at one time schoolmaster at Winchester, replied on behalf of the relatives of the deceased soldiers.

The National Anthem was sung; a volley was fired by a firing party from Temuka, under Sergeant-Major Story; and the Last Post was sounded by Stanley Burtenshaw.

The Temuka Brass Band, under Mr Burtenshaw, accompanied the three hymns which were sung — "Lead Kindly Light," "Onward Christian Soldiers" and "Abide With Me." The monument is a very impressive one. The base, which is circular, 4ft 6 inches in diameter, is made of French flint, and the quadrangular

monument which it supports, is composed of Scotch pearl granite. A flight of three steps, in concrete, surrounds the circular support to the monument, and the whole has a very pleasing effect.

On the monument, is inscribed: "Our Glorious Dead," and "We lie dead in many lands so that you may live here in peace." The names of the men engraved on it are as follows —Troopers G E. Brooker, F. G. Hide. T. R. Kennedy, and A H. Maddren; Gunner J. H. Andrews; Driver G. McDonald; Lieuts. F. D. Maurice, and J. Steven; Sergts. J. W. H. Bryant. S. McClelland, W. T. McClelland, and B. A. Smith; Corporals F. Barratt and W. H. Hoskins; Riflemen S. E. Davey, and C. J. Haar; Privates W. A. G. Harte, T. E. Brooker. G. F. D. Thomas. S. P. Wallace (all one-time pupils of the Winchester School). Also from the Winchester district:—Sergt. J. H. Joseph; Lance-Sergt. T. Hodgson; Riflemen J. S. Fothergill and W. Guilford; and Privates J. Aitken and C. E. Scott.