

Midhirst

The recently completed memorial gates at the Midhirst school, commemorating the district's war dead of 1914-18 and 1939-45, were unveiled yesterday.

The gate is supported by two pylons, one for each war. The 1914-18 plaque was unveiled by Colonel T. L. Gibbs and the 1939-45 one by Colonel T. T. Murray.

The memorial and the lists of the fallen were dedicated by the Rev. H. Moore. The Rev. W. E. Comber said the prayers and the Last Post and Reveille were sounded by Bandsman N. Cullen, Stratford.

Speakers were the chairman of the war memorial committee, Mr. G. L. Vickers, the vice-president of the Stratford and District R.S.A., Mr. B. E. Richmond, and the chairman of the Stratford County Council, Mr. B. Hutchen.

Speaking for the president, the Rev. W. E. W. Hurst, who was unable to attend, Mr. Richmond congratulated the people of Midhirst on their choice of a site for the memorial. It would remind the children of today and those of future generations of the sacrifices made by those who fought to preserve the freedom of their country. New Zealand had made tremendous sacrifices; 16,000 were killed in the 1914-18 war and 10,000 in the 1939-45 war, and thousands more died of wounds after returning home, or were maimed. It was fitting that the memorial should be unveiled on Anzac Day, the day of remembrance for those men.

Mr. Hutchen said any expenditure on preparedness would be fully justified if it saved another generation from the horrors of a third world war.

A roll of honour of all the men of the district who served in the 1939-45 war is being prepared for erection in the Midhirst hall.

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