

## STRATFORD MEMORIAL HALL OPENED

**T**HE new war memorial hall at Stratford added dignity and mana to the borough and district, said Mr. S. W. Smith, Minister of Internal Affairs, who officially opened the building during a service and ceremony attended by nearly 1000 people on Sunday afternoon.

The Mayor, Mr. N. H. Moss, presided and the service was conducted by the Ven. Archdeacon G. H. Gavin, Archdeacon of Taranaki, who dedicated the hall. The official party on the stage consisted of the Mayor and Mayoress, Mr. and Mrs. Smith, Mr. T. T. Murray, M.P. for Stratford, and Archdeacon Gavin.

"This day has greater significance than any other day except tomorrow for it is near enough to the 40th anniversary of the landing on Gallipoli," said Mr. Smith. "It is a great privilege and honour for me to be asked to open the building which has three outstanding qualities."

### FITTING MEMORIAL

It was a fitting memorial to those who left the town and district at the call of duty, he said. Aesthetically it had beauty and dignity and its usefulness was epitomised by the fact that it would serve for a wide range of community activities. It was a place where Diggers and Kiwis could meet and recapture, to some extent at least, the spirit that, in adversity, made life not only bearable but at times even enjoyable. The hall was therefore a fitting memorial for a progressive part of Taranaki.

"Basically, as I see it," he continued, "this is an effort of the people of the district to demonstrate their appreciation of those who served and to provide a memorial to those who fell."

As the building was dedicated to the memory of those who fell on the altar of public sacrifice that democracy might prevail, and the world be a fit place for the free peoples, members of the community should dedicate their lives to the four freedoms—freedom from fear, want, of speech and worship—and remember that the price of peace was the willingness to make sacrifices.

"As these rooms are used by young and old there will always be a silent tribute paid to those commemorated by the erection of the building," Mr. Smith said. "The building is a communal effort and you people have a duty to use the building; to look after it and make it a living memorial. You must go out of your way to see that the returned men get as much as possible from it."

After welcoming Mr. Smith, the Mayor thanked Archdeacon Gavin for consenting to conduct the service. He was invited to do so because he had a long association with the armed forces and was a chaplain in the first world war. He also welcomed the visiting mayors.

The day commemorated five years of effort to plan and build the memorial

hall, he said, and he thanked the many people who made it possible to go ahead with the scheme. A debt was owed to those who worked on the original appeal for funds and those who supported the council in its plan.

In a community there were many opinions as to what form a memorial should take, Mr. Moss continued, and one plan had to be decided on. He thought the community should be proud of what had been done. The building was a facility of great benefit to the community life of Stratford and should remind people in the years to come of those who served in the second world war.

"It is opened free of debt, which is an achievement, for in these days most local bodies have to create community facilities along with a debt burden," Mr. Moss said. "The hall cost £43,056. Public subscriptions amounted to £10,310, interest earned was £232, grants from the Borough Council were £11,285 and the Government subsidy was £21,329."

Such a building was not erected without the services of skilled people. He thanked the architect, Mr. M. B. Patience for his untiring effort, congratulated the builder, J. H. Ashman, New Plymouth, Ltd. on a good job well and faithfully done and commended the many skilled workers of all classes connected with various aspects of the construction.

"I look forward," he said, "to the building being used every day and night for community activities. It will cater for both the younger and the older people. It will make recreational facilities available for the young people. It should counteract the drift to the cities and juvenile delinquency. There is no reason for young people to drift around the streets when they have a building such as this."

### CHALLENGE TO COMMUNITY

Mr. Moss added that the hall would seat 1200 people and if the people wanted a full size stage there was provision for one to be built on to the front of the building if some £1200 to £1500 were raised. It was something to which the community might give attention over the next few years. "There is a challenge to the community to respect this building and see that it is not damaged because I've been told that 'it's too good for the purpose,'" he concluded.

Accompaniments to the hymns were played by the Stratford Citizens' Band conducted by Mr. C. A. Thomas and Mr. J. Wallace, member of the band, played "The Last Post" and "Reveille."

The building was open for public inspection after the ceremony.

## Work, Moral Fibre, Religious Principles Are Answer Today

Through history civilisations had risen and fallen; if the civilisation of the western nations was to survive then it would be through work, moral fibre and adherence to religious and moral principles. This was the message that Brigadier A. H. Andrews gave to 1000 people in the Anzac Day address in the Stratford war memorial hall yesterday.

He stressed the point that the sacrifices made by the services in two world wars and several other engagements would be lost unless people generally strove for peace in every day life.

The men who landed on Gallipoli 40 years ago made history but they did not know it then, said Brigadier Andrews. There were men in the hall that day who took part in the landing and fought on the peninsula. Those men sacrificed their lives and well being for the cause of peace. Some 20 years later the men and women of the Second World War fought for the same ideas and causes.

### NEW SIGNIFICANCE

Between the two major wars, he said, Anzac Day was remembered largely only by those who lost relatives in the first war. But Anzac Day had acquired a new significance as the result of the second world war because the horror of war was brought home to a generation that had not previously experienced it.

Now, said Brigadier Andrews, there was a general feeling that another world war would bring death and destruction to these shores and attendances at Anzac Day ceremonies, which were symbolic of the sacrifices made by so many, were increasing. People were hoping for peace but peace could come from God alone. Thus more and more people were attending Anzac Day services than they did 10 to 15 years ago.

"Everyone must see that if we are to profit from the past we must order the future so that these things for which men died will be cherished and fulfilled," said Brigadier Andrews.

He urged everyone to combat the evil of infiltration within the country; to strive for peace and harmony and to work for the prosperity enjoyed in New Zealand which, he considered, had the highest standard of living in the world.

"Prosperity and peace go hand in hand," he said. "We must help others to arise their standard of living. There is too much striving for a Utopian existence under which too many want to do as little as possible for as much remuneration as possible."

He said that the spirit of Anzac should be carried into everyday life because civilisations had decayed in the past through a weakening of moral fibre following the placing of personal pleasure before patriotism.

Finally Brigadier Andrews said that the people of New Zealand should see that the country and Commonwealth were strong militarily, morally and spiritually. "We must see," he said, "that the East does not become the dominant area of the world."

### FIRST BY R.S.A.

This was the first Anzac Day service at Stratford conducted by the R.S.A. In commenting on the point in his opening remarks, Mr. J. W. Till, president of the Stratford and District R.S.A., said also that it was the first Anzac Day service held in the new war memorial hall. The building, he said, was a magnificent one and a fitting tribute to those who died or served in the wars. The big attendance was proof that the sacrifice made by the men and women who served overseas was not forgotten.

Units on the parade were headed by the Stratford Citizens' Band and were: Members of the R.S.A., 62nd Light Anti Aircraft Battery, Legion of Frontiersmen, Members of the R.S.A., 62nd Light Anti-Scouts, Cubs, and St. John Ambulance girls. Mr. B. E. Richmond, vice-president of the R.S.A., marshalled the parade and his assistant was Mr. G. Burton. The returned service personnel and the 62nd L.A.A.B. marched to the Victoria Park and Malone memorials and then came through Broadway, halting outside the photographic war memorial in the entrance to the municipal building. Here the Legion of Frontiersmen mounted a guard of honour and the parade saluted. When it moved off it was joined by the other units in a march through Broadway to Regan Street, turned up Regan Street and along Miranda Street to the war memorial hall for the service.

Mr. Till presided at the service which was conducted by members of the Stratford Ministers' Association. In the official party were Brigadier Andrews,

## W.D.F.F. Gave Lunch To Returned Men And Women

As they have done for many years, women of the Central Taranaki W.D.F.F. provided lunch for returned service men and women at the Stratford Services Club after the Anzac Day service in the new war memorial hall.

The address at the lunch was given by Dr. W. P. P. Gordon, Stratford, a medical officer of both world wars. He contrasted the advances made in abdominal and plastic surgery between the two wars. Generally speaking, he said an abdominal wound in the 1914-18 war meant death. In the 1939-45 war, with the rapid means of getting serious cases to the back lines quickly, men suffering from abdominal wounds had an 80 per cent chance of survival. He also gave details of the way in which the advances made in plastic surgery between the two wars enabled medical science to rebuild people injured in such a way that 20 years before they would have either been dead or permanently maimed for life.

As an officer on hospital ships in both wars he said that as far as he knew the enemy respected hospital ships. Some were sunk by bombers in harbour when moored with a mass of other shipping but he had one experience of the Luftwaffe bombing a harbour full of shipping. In this case a hospital ship was hit but a British airman told him that this would not be the deliberate fault of the German airmen but "one of those things" that happened when air raids were done on a massed target.

Entertainment was provided during lunch by Chainey's orchestra, Toko; Mr. C. Bradley, piano-acordion and Mr. A. Kilmister, who led community singing.

### "Lest We Forget"

The programme for the official opening of the Stratford war memorial hall on Sunday included a list of the Stratford servicemen who, within the knowledge of the Borough Council, lost their lives in the 1939-45 war and whose photographs appear in the official roll of honour in the municipal building. They were:

Arthur, V.; Ashcroft, H.; Barlow, M. F.; Bell, M. P.; Blackwood, F. J.; Bourke, P. M.; Burt, I.; Butchart, D. L. W. Cannon, E. D.; Catterton, P. A.; Cruickshank, R. J.; Cuff, G. M.; Cunningham, A. J.; Erickson, W. C. J.; Fawcett, J. M.; Fawcett, A. G.; Foley, W. J.; Fowler, N. L.; Gower, K. W.; Haines, R. H. J.; Harris, G. A.; Harkness, D. J.; Hight, C. H.; Jeffares, B. C.; Jeffares, C. C.; Jenkin, B.; Lawn, A. W. L.; Lawrence, C. S.; Lindop, F. C.; McIsaac, G. R.; McNeil, A. G.; Moore, M. C.; Piper, J. D.; Potts, C. A.; Rutherford, F. A.; Sanderson, F. A.; Sangster, C.; Shrimpton, S. G.; Spence, R. C.; Stanford, A. D.; Swindhurst, R. F.; Stewart, D. M.; Taylor, W.; Volake, L. G.; Villers, J. T.; Wellington, W. R.; Wilmshurst, J. C.; Williams, A. G. B.; Wunsch, G. E.

### SURFACE MAILS

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Australia, New Caledonia, Tahiti, Malaya, India, Ceylon, Pakistan, Hong Kong, China, Egypt, N.Z.A.P.O. 444; H.M.N.S. Kaniers, R.N.E.A.P. Malaya; Monowai, Wellington, May 1, 2.15 p.m.

Italy and Balkan States (except Greece); Monowai, Wellington, May 2, 7.15 a.m.

United Kingdom, Irish Republic, Europe, Greece, Central America, Venezuela, Colombia, British, French and Netherlands Guiana, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia and Chile; Peralta, Auckland, April 29, 6.45 a.m.; Hurunui, Auckland, May 4, 5 p.m.

Canada, United States America, Mexico, Hawaii, Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay, Brazil and Falkland Islands, Tasmania Star, Wellington, April 29, 7.15 a.m.; Port Halifax, Dunedin, May 6, 7.15 a.m.

### CLIFTON PARK WIN

Clifton Park beat Waitara 24-8 and retained the Leslie Cup in their annual bowling match held at the Clifton Park green. The teams were: Clifton Park, Lowe, Hunter, Fahy and Williams; Waitara: Marshall, Bullot, Young and Rowe.

Army Headquarters, Wellington; the Mayor and Mayoress, Mr. and Mrs. N. H. Moss; the chairman of the Stratford County Council, Mr. B. Hutchins and Mrs. Hutchins and the ministers.