Exning's Glorious Dead.

WAR MEMORIAL UNVEILED AND DEDI-CATED ON SUNDAY.

ADDRESS BY COL. GUINNESS, M.P.

There is scarcely a village in the whole of the 1 nited Kingdom which has so proud a war-record as Exning boasts. The gallant lads of Exning did not wait to be conscripted—from the moment the call to arms was sounded they flocked to the local Recruiting Office, while a number were already serving, or in the ranks of the Reservists, on the memorable fourth of August. The village has paid a heavy price for its magnificent patriotism—no fewer than 78 of its bravest and best gave their lives for King and Country in the Great War—but though Exning mourns them it mourns with an undying pride, and that pride has found eloquent expression in the beautiful memorial cross, which, in the presence of a crowd numbering 5000 to 7000 persons, was unveiled and

dedicated on Sunday afternoon last. The monument stands on an island site, at the point where four roads meet at the Landwade end At this point the highway, of Church Street. which the generosity of Lord St. Davids, the late owner of Exning House, recently enabled the Urban Council to widen, is so wide that ample space is left, on either hand, for the traffic to and from the Landwade Road. The cross is unquestionably one of the most beautiful and most dignified war memorials in all East Anglia; and it is pleasing to be able to state that it was designed, as well as executed, by a local sculptor-Mr. W. J. Nutty, monumental mason, of Cheveley. stands 14ft, 6in. in height, and is composed of fine-axed Cornish granite, while the lettering is leaded, so that both monument and inscription will endure for ages. The cross at the top is of conventional design, the wreathed edges representing a crown as well as a cross. The octagonal shaft tapers upward from a square pediment, on three panels of which are inscribed the names of Exning's heroes, while on the fourth side, facing towards Newmarket, are the simple words "Our Glorious Dead." On the cross are the dates "1914 -1918." The base has three steps, the lowest measuring 7ft. by 7ft.; and around it are granite pillars, 2ft. 6in. high, connected by aluminiumpainted chains. The leaded letters are gilded, and this makes an effective contrast with the soft grey hue of the granite. Exning has a memorial worthy even of the heroes whom it commemorates, and one upon which both the Committee responsible for its erection, and Mr. W. J. Nutty, to whom the work was entrusted, can be very warmly congratulated.-The cost of the memorial is about £600. It will be remembered that as the people of Exning preferred to have a memorial in their own village, and not to join in a scheme for the whole Urban District, it was decided, at a public meeting held in Newmarket, that there should be only one collection in the Urban area, but that one-fifth of the total sum realised should be allocated to the Exning Ward. A Committee of about 60 members was elected by the people of Exning, Mr. W. P. King being chosen as its Chairman and Mr. A. H. Whitaker as hon.

sec. It should be stated that the Committee is

The service commenced with the hymn "O God. our help in ages past." Col. Guinness M.P. then unveiled the monument, and Canon Farmiloe dedicated it.

Col. Guinness, after the dedication, gave a short and most appropriate address. This memorial which has just been dedicated, he said, stands to the memory of the 78 men of Exning who gave their lives for our country. The great throng which has met together this afternoon have come to honour those who have died, and to offer their deepest sympathy to the families who mourn their loss. To those who loved these men, to those who worked with them and played with them, no such memorial is necessary-they will live in the hearts of those who knew them, a shining example and inspiration. This generation, which has seen what war means, will find their greatest monument in the beauty of our English countryside, and in the peace of our English villages, which, but for their great sacrifices, might be as the fairest provinces of France-a desolation and a waste of ruin. If it were not for the million men of our race who gave up their lives in the war our freedom would inevitably have passed, and we should have been, to-day, the slaves of those who knew no law but savage force. But though we can never forget the debt which we owe to those commemorated on this monument, though their memory will remain honoured and green so long as there live any of those present here to-day to remember them, you have done well to build this monument, to stand so that your children, their children and their children's children shall know the record of Exning, and shall be proud to trace and bear the same names as those graven here. May this memorial which has been dedicated to-day to the memory of the glorious dead, ever inspire us who live to do what in us lies for the country which they loved, to make it worthy of their great sacrifice._

While a great number of relatives brought floral tributes, which were effectively arranged around the base of the monument by Messrs. T. Hall and W. Prior, the hymn "Let saints on earth in concert sing" was sung; and the air "O rest in the Lord" was finely played by the Town Band under the conductorship of Bandmaster Clarke. The Doxology was sung, and then Canon Farmiloe pronounced the Benediction. A most impressive service closed with the "Last Post" sounded by froop Leader L. Johnson, lst Newmarket Boy Scouts.

For some time afterwards great crowds of people filed around the monument. Among the floral tributes a large wreath of red, white and blue flowers, sent by Mr. and Mrs. T. Hall and family, was conspicuous. Wreaths or flowers were brought by relatives of practically all the men whose names are inscribed on the cross. Some bore such simple and touching inscriptions as "To my husband, from his wife"; but most bore the names of gallant men who had made the great sacrifice. The Chairman of the Committee, Mr. W. P. King, sent a wreath "To the honour and glory of Alec, his brother officers and men of the 12th Suffolk Regt." Mr. A. H. Whitaker the hon. sec.) and his wife, who lost their son-in-law sent a tribute "To our son Harry and all our brave Exning boys." Most of the lads had been pupils of Mr. and Mrs. Whitaker at the Council

the people of Exning, Mr. W. P. King being chosen as its Chairman and Mr. A. H. Whitaker as hon. see It should be stated that the Committee is for Exning Ward (the village) only, and that the men commemorated are men from Exning Ward, and not from the whole of the parish of Exning.

The names inscribed on the monument are as follow: George Ashby, Carol Baird, Frank Benstead, William Bond, Walter Bradley, Frederick Brown, Norris Brown, Thomas Brown, Sydney Hutcher, Oliver Carter, Alfred Chapman, Harry Mark, Alfred Cobbold, Arthur Collen, John Collen, Arthur Cornwell, George Davey, Walter Davey, Jack Dennis, Edward Dicker, Arthur Drake, George Elwards, Herbert Edwards, Henry Kverett, Vicars Everett, Robert Fallick, Allan Farr, Albert Fenn, Leonard Fenn, Frederick Fenn, Bertram Finch, William Foreman, Fuller, Robert Fuller William Goodchild, Charles Heffer, Ernest Hobbs, Arthur Howe, Abel How-lett, William Howlett, Thomas Howlett, Robert Jaggard, Reuben Jeffery, Dermod Jewitt, William Jones, George Judd, Alec King, George King, Vernon Laws, George Layton, Mark Ling, Maurice Lloyd, Arthur Neale, Albert Norman, Harry Osborn, Ernest Part, William Pattle, Kenneth Perry, Harry Pitches, William Pitches, Frederick Prewer, Frederick Rose, George Rosbrook, William Scott, Charles Setchell, William Snowden, Ernest Stevens Jack Talbot, Harold Thurlbourn, Albert Tilley, Joseph Trowedale, James Turner, Lawrence Vaile, Herbert Vernham, Oliver Wiseman, Bertram Woods, William Woods, Eric Woollard.

The memorial was unveiled on Sunday afternoon by Lieut.-Col. the Hon. Walter Guinness, M.P. for the Division, and who himself served with high distinction in the war. It was afterwards dedicated by Canon Farmilee, of Bury St.

Edmunds, Diocesan Missioner.

Peals were rung upon the bells of St. Martin's Church from 2 p.m. until 3 p.m. The ex-Service men of the village, the men of the Defence Force, and the children of the Exning Council School assembled on the school playground at 2.30 p.m., and marched to the memorial by way of Oxford St., Duck's Lane and Church St., headed by the Newmarket Town Band. About 30 men of the Defence Force from the Newmarket Drill Hall were under Capt. Cockell. The ex Service men turned out splendidly, being not very far short of a Company in strength.—The actual number was about 150. The contingent was under Capt. Ronald S. Ruston and Capt. A. N. Palmer; and carried the device of the Comrades of the Great War, Newmarket Branch. The schoolchildren each brought floral tributes, and many of the girls were dressed in white with black eashes. A second procession started from St. Martin's Church, the order being—1 The Committee; 2 relatives of the departed; 3 choirs and clergy. The Boy Scouts of Newmarket and Exning, under the District Commissioner, Mr. V. Swift, and Girl Guides, formed a guard of honour at the upper end of Church Street. The order of procession, after the two contingents met at the church was 1 The Town Band; 2 the ex-Service men; 3 the school children; 4 the Committee; 5 the relatives; and 6, the clergy and choirs. A large number of members and candidates of the G.F.S. (Exning Branch) were also present. The contingent of Boy Scouts numbered about 130 or 140, and inclu-The contingent of ded the 1st Newmarket (All Saints') Troop, under Scoutmaster E. O'Brien and Assist. Scoutmasters F. O Brien and Lander; the 2nd Newmarket (St. Mary's) Troop under Assist Scoutmaster Amos; the 1st Exning (St. Philip's) Troop, under Patrol Leaders; the 2nd Exning Troop, under Patrol Leaders (its Scoutmaster, Capt. Ruston was with the ex-Service men). The lat Exning Girl Guides were under their Captain, Miss Tanner.

brave Exping boys." Most of the lads had been pupils of Mr. and Mrs. Whitaker at the Council Schools. Another wreath was inscribed "In memory of our fallen comrades from the officers, Committee and members of the Exning Unionist The senders included, apart from the relations, all the leading residents in the village, among them being Capt. and Mrs. Ronald Ruston, Mr. and Mrs. J. Dalzell and family "in grateful memory of our glorious heroes"; Mr. T. Bruckshaw, Miss Bruckshaw and Miss Duckitt; Mr. and Mrs. Fred. Jeffery "in ever-loving memory of our brave heroes, who died that we might live " Mrs. H. Lines; Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Fuller and family; Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Benstead "in memory of our beloved son Frank Benstead and his respected comrades"; and many others. A tribute was sent too by Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Ruston and Miss Irene Ruston, formerly of Exning; and one from the Boy Scouts, Newmarket and District Association was inscribed "Gone home. Called to higher service.

The arrangements for the ceremony were admirable in every respect, and for this the credit is mainly due to the Chairman (Mr. W. P. King), and the Hon. Sec. (Mr. A. H. Whitaker). of the Committee. Mr. Whitaker worked especially hard, and the thanks of the community are due to him for the great ability with which every detail of the ceremony was planned and carried out. Inspector W. E. Saunders and Sergt. A. S. Brown of Newmarket, with the police under their direction, controlled the crowds and the traffic

very tactfully and efficiently.

On Sunday evening the Wesleyan Chapal was closed and a united service was held in St. Martin's Church, which was crowded. The service was taken by the Rev. W. M. Shepherd (vicar); both lessons were read by the Rev. S. H. Collins. B.A. (Wesleyan minister); and an elequent sermon on the war memorial and what it significant was preached by Canon Farmiloc. Mr. G. A. Sarvent presided at the organ.

Post Office, Newmarket.

Cessation of Sunday despatch and delivery. commencing Sunday, 12th June, 1921:-

DESPATCHES.—After the Saturday night mail despatch (latest time of posting \$15 p.m.) there will be no despatch until \$9 s.m. on Monday. Correspondence for the town and rural area posted in the head office letter box on Sunday will, however, fall into the first delivery on Monday.

DELIVERY.—There will be no delivery from house to house by postmen, nor handing out of letters to applicants at the Post Office on Sundays.

COUNTER BUSINESS.—The cfiles will be open 8-30 to 10 s.m. for telegraph business and the sale of postage stamps only. Registered letters will not be accepted.

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lad De Mary'a) Troop under Assist. Scoutmaster Amos; the let Exping (St. Philip's) Troop, under Patrol Leaders; the 2nd Exning Troop, under Patrol Leaders (its Scoutmaster, Capt. Ruston was with the ex-Service men). The 1st Exning Girl Guides were under their Captain, Miss Tanner.

A wide space around the monument had been kept clear, but this was all too small for those who took part in the procession. To the right a large area had been reserved for the relatives, of whom there was a great number, most of them carrying wreaths or other floral tributes. Next were ranged the school children; then the men of the Defence Force from Newmarket, and the Exning ex-Service men. The Boy Scouts and Girl Guides were placed on the side nearest Newmarket; and upon that side also, on the bank adjoining the garden of Beechwood, was stationed the Town Band, Alongside the memorial (which was veiled with a large Union Jack), was a small platform for the clergy and speaker. So vast was the throng that it extended some distance down Oxford Street and Swan Lane, and many of those present could scarcely have seen or heard any part of the proceedings. - There were certainly over 5000 persons present, and some estimates put the number at not less than 7000

The service was very simple, short and dignified—just what such a service ought to be. The hymns were beautifully accompanied by the Newmarket Town Band under Bandmaster A. G. Clarke, and the singing, led by the choirs of St. Martin's Church and the Wesleyan Chapel, was very hearty. The clergy present were—the Rev. W. M. Shepherd, vicar of Exuing and late Chaplain to the Forces (who conducted the service), the Rev. Canon Farmiloe (Bury St. Edmunds), the Rev. John Prankerd, ractor of Newmarket St. Mary, the Rev. J. W. Upton, pastor of the Burwell Congregational Church, and the Rev. S. B. Collins, B. A., Wesleyan minister. The whole of the members of the Exuing War Memorial Committee attended.

Colonel Guinness M.P. was accompanied by his wife Lady Evelyn Guinness, who spent her earlier years at Exning. Among others present were several members of the Newmarket Urban District Council, including Mr. Seymour Cole J.P., its Chairman (with Mrs. Cole), Major O. E. Griffiths J.P., Mr. B. Compodonico, Mr. H. Hambling, J.P., Mr. H. Howard, Mr. A. Challis, Mr. W. Bonham, the three representatives of the Exning Ward-Messrs. B. Newton, F. R. Jeffery and W. Bonham; and Major S. J. Ennion, Clerk to the Council; also County Alderman W. B. Sheppard, Mr. J. H. Troughton, hon sec. of the Newmarket War Memorial Committee, and several officers from the Army School of Instruction at the Camp. It would be impossible to give a list of the parishioners who attended—practically everyone in the village, high and low was there, besides thousands from Newmarket and all the parishes around.



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