

## CHAPTER XXXI.

*South African War—Brighton Road State School Cadet Becomes Major-General Sir John Hoad—St. Kilda Men Enlist in Victorian Bushmen's Corps—Their Send-off—Memorial to Soldiers from St. Kilda—The Great War—Council and Citizens—Wonderful War Efforts at St. Kilda,—The St. Kilda Sailors' and Soldiers' Lounge—Councillors Who Enlisted, Brigadier-General Hughes—Lieut.-Colonel Duigan—Quartermaster Burnett Gray—The 14th Battalion—Presentation of Regimental Colours by His Excellency The Governor-General—The Rev. Andrew Gillison—His Heroism and Death at Gallipoli—St. Kilda Council's War Activities—St. Kilda Patriotic Committee—A Summary, of Work, and Collections—Returned Wounded Anzacs Entertained.*

**I**N the year 1900 Britain became involved in the South African War. Then it was that the St. Kilda Council led the citizens in a movement to obtain money for the Empire Patriotic Fund. At the time, when the British suffered in its war operations, at the Tugela River, seventy-seven young men of St. Kilda volunteered for service in South Africa. Twenty four of them had been cadets at the Brighton Road State School, under the Head Teacher John Hadfield. The School Cadet Corps, profited by his training, for it was the best, and the largest, Cadet Corps in Victoria. It won many open competitions, including the blue ribbon prize, the Sargood Challenge Shield. One of the cadets, who had the advantages of being a member of the Brighton Road State School corps, was named John Hoad. He, in after life became Major General Sir John Hoad, Commander in Chief of the Military Forces of the Commonwealth. He died at Toorak, after a short illness, on October 6, 1911. His funeral took place on the Sunday following with full military honors. Heavy, continuous rain drenched the funeral party as they passed along the Dandenong Road, to the St. Kilda Cemetery. The largest crowd of spectators ever seen in Dandenong Road, watched the coffin, on a gun carriage, pass to the burial ground.

The young men of St. Kilda, who volunteered for war service, in South Africa were trained for enlistment in the Victorian Bushmen's Corps. Many of them who had to improve their rifle firing, obtained their practice at the Elwood Butts.

A final review of the men, well mounted, and with full accoutrement, markedly so, with rifles and new, stiff-looking bandoliers, took place in the Albert Park, and the crowds, standing along the red road cheered them, and wished the men "God speed !" They made a brave show, this band of young men "Off To The War," but neither they, nor the spectators, really knew what war meant.

Residents of St. Kilda, on March 1st 1900, gave to the young soldiers of St. Kilda, who had enlisted in the Victorian Bushmen's Corps, a "God's Speed" in the St. Kilda Town Hall. During the day, quite a gay display was made with bunting, and flags, suspended from ropes, stretched across Barkly Street, between Blessington Street and The Junction. The licensee of the Court House Hotel displayed a large flag of Australia, 18 x 12 feet. During the day the flag was stolen.

Edwin Knox, was the first of the St. Kilda volunteers to lose his life in South Africa by being drowned while bathing at Wonderboom. He was the son of the late H. M. Knox, the municipal valuator for St. Kilda. The St. Kilda Rifle Club, and the St. Kilda Tradesmen's Club, combined their efforts, to erect a memorial to perpetuate Trooper Edwin Knox's memory. The memorial took the form of a drinking fountain, which was placed at Cleve Gardens. When the reports of deaths in action followed on Knox's death, it was realised that individual memorials, where so many suffered, were a mistake, and that fugitive semi-private memorials missed the broad recognitions of the spirit of team sacrifice, made by groups of adventurous patriotic young men.

The Mayor of St. Kilda, Councillor Edward O'Donnell, saw that the war sacrifice, made by the young men of St. Kilda, called for a city memorial. In the year 1905, with the aid of fetes, subscriptions, and entertainments, a sum of £250 was obtained for that purpose. A unique design of Australian manufacture for the memorial was wanted and tenders were called for the work, and that of Mitcham Tessellated Tile Co. was accepted. The memorial is constructed in brick, covered by faience work. The supporting angles are formed to represent the trunks of gum-trees, branching out into leaves and cones under the main cornice, and the roots are shown on a bold projection above the base. Above the main cornice is a cross of a deep golden color, which stands out clearly from the green tone

of the general mass of work. One panel shows the names of the seven soldiers from St. Kilda who died. Two other panels record the names of the 58 who fought the Empire's battles and returned. On the fourth panel is the figure of a soldier, dressed in Australian khaki, and facing the sea. Above the main column is a wrought-iron pillar, supported by brackets, enriched with shields ; and under the golden cross rests a finely executed wreath on each panel. Arthur Peck was the honorary architect of the memorial.

The memorial was unveiled on Alfred Square on Sunday afternoon, March 12, 1905, by the Governor, Major-General Hon. Sir Reginald Arthur James Talbot, K.C.B. The Sixth Australian Regiment provided a guard of honor of 280 men. The Mayor of St. Kilda, Councillor J. H. Pittard, the Councillors, and the Town Clerk, and many others were present. The St. Kilda Boys' Naval Brigade played "The Death of Nelson," and the united choirs of All Saints, Holy Trinity and Christ Churches sang the "Old Hundredth," and "God Save the King." After an address by His Excellency, he unloosened the Union Jack furled around the Memorial, and the eight buglers of the A.I.R. blew the "Last Post," the soldiers' "Good Night! Good Night!"

The names of the St. Kilda boys, who died in the South African War are:—

Corporal R. P. N. Robertson, killed in action at Middle Kraal, May 29th, 1901, aged 29.

Trooper Laurence Goudie killed in action at Wilmaranrust, June 12th, 1901, aged 21.

Trooper Edwin Knox died at Wonderboom, February 26th, 1901, aged 24.

Trooper M. A. Langley, killed in action at Frederikstad, January 5th, 1901, aged 22.

Trooper Leslie Stewart, killed in action at Witpoort, July 11th, 1901, aged 19.

Trooper John Whelan, killed in action near Walkerstroom, December 16th 1901, aged 23.

Trooper W. A. Rolls, died at Potcherstroom, May 29th, 1902, aged 29.

Such was the first experience of St. Kilda, in the sadness, and the heart break, which come, attendant shadows of death, with war. Even at that time, there were sinister signs of lowering war clouds, no less than the "mailed fist of Germany,"

in the European skies. The Prussian Hohenzollern, the Kaiser of Germany, had sent to the Boer President, Kruger, an ill-timed cablegram, that was, in its nature, hostile to Britain. And when the portentous time came—August 4, 1914, and Britain was forced to declare war on Germany, no one versed in European affairs was particularly surprised.

St. Kilda was but a point, in the British Pleiad, of the loyal war workers for the British Empire. Those thousands, and thousands, of workers, who formed the constellation were as the cluster of stars, unnumbered units, specks of diamond—like dust, and yet it was they, in the bulk, that made up the brilliance of the patriotic effort for King, and Motherland.

Great Britain declared war on August 4, 1914. Within ten days the women of St. Kilda had been called together by the Mayoress, Mrs. O'Donnell for the purpose of forming a local branch of the Red Cross. On August 31, 1914, Councillor J. H. Hewison was elected Mayor, and, with Mrs. Hewison, he consolidated the various war efforts of the citizens, which were designated the St. Kilda Patriotic League. The first organising secretary of the League was Mr. A. J. Punshon, and later Mr. W. F. Swanson took up the work. Directors of workers' activities under the Red Cross and Australian Comforts' Fund were Mrs. R. Hallenstein, Mrs. F. D. Michaelis and Mrs. J. McD. McKenzie. Miss Bessie Swan acted as Hon. Secretary to the local branches of the Red Cross and Australian Comforts' Fund throughout the whole period of war activity, and the Town Clerk, Mr. F. W. Chamberlin, acted as Treasurer of all patriotic and Red Cross funds, in which work he was ably assisted by Mr. J. F. Jeans, the Chief Clerk. The name, "St. Kilda Patriotic League," embraced not only the Red Cross and Australian Comforts' Fund activities, but it extended its operations when necessary, and became active in the recruiting movement, war loan propaganda, as well as establishing a Waste Paper Depot, Home-made Cakes and Jam Shop, and also promoting other activities.

The St. Kilda Soldiers' Lounge was an entirely separate organisation, controlled at its inception, by representatives of the St. Kilda Patriotic League, and the Y.M.C.A., but early in its history, full control was assumed by the St. Kilda workers, under the presidency of Mrs. R. Hallenstein, with Mrs. R. G.

McCutcheon and Mrs. C. S. Crosby as Vice-Presidents, and Mr. Chamberlin Hon. Treasurer. The Lounge was opened in December, 1915, and finally closed in February, 1920. There were also Men's Sectional Committees, such as the Recruiting War Loan, and the Red Cross Carpentry Workers, formed as occasion demanded.

The chief responsibilities of carrying on St. Kilda's activities fell upon the "War" Mayors and Mayoresses, who were Cr. J. H. and Mrs. Hewison, 1914-1915 ; Cr. J. J. and Mrs. Love, 1915-1916; Cr. H. F. Barnet and Mrs. Nahum Barnet (Acting Mayoress), 1916-1917; and Cr. Edward and Mrs. O'Donnell, 1917-1918. Mrs. J. H. Hewison, in the later war years, was prominently associated with the Metropolitan Centres of War Organisations, and for her patriotic work, was awarded the Order of the British Empire.

When the St. Kilda Council assembled on August 24, 1914, it expressed through the Mayor, Councillor O'Donnell, the Council's enthusiastic support, with the part, Australia proposed to take, in defence of the Empire, in the present international crisis and it voted a sum of £200 towards the Patriotic Fund. The Council sang the National Anthem, and that was the loyal prelude, at St. Kilda, to the long passage that lay ahead through the fires of tribulation. St. Kilda may be said to have girded up its loins, and then to have bent its back, and to have started *pushing* to victory, with all its weight, and prepared to endure reverses with all its fortitude.

And so it was to be. There was no slacking of efforts in St. Kilda, during the war period. The volume of work done, and the persistency of endeavor, put forth by the Council, and the citizens were amazing. The councillors, the citizens, their wives, and their children, were out "to do their bit"—to win the war. On September 14, 1914 the Council decided that the positions of any officers, or employees going to the war, should be kept open until their return. The Council undertook to pay to their families any difference in salaries, or wages, between the amount paid to them by the Council, and the amount paid to them by the Defence Department.

Out of all the metropolitan cities the City of St. Kilda was incomparably the first one in providing innocent pleasures, and daily amusements for soldiers on leave. St. Kilda was the source of untold good to thousands of soldiers, who were at a loss,

when on leave from the training camps, to know where to spend an inexpensive, and entertaining evening, free from the temptations that they would possibly encounter in less public places. The efforts of the St. Kilda Council, powerfully helped by loyal citizens, encouraged in the soldier boys a healthy mental outlook, and no soldier, who, at one time, or another, was among the thousands of soldier men, who visited the St. Kilda Soldiers' Lounge, was any the worse for doing so.

Doubtless St. Kilda had great natural advantages, as a place where masses of soldiers could be entertained. Preeminently it is a place that lends itself to great galas, and to spectacular entertainments, on a large scale. At St. Kilda, also a profitable field lies whereon can be reaped, in cases of favored public appeals, large sums of money. Such galas were held, such spectacular entertainments were seen, such sums of money were collected. Every kind of festivity, ranging from the confetti battles of a Mardi-Gras carnival, to open air concerts, was, during the war, to be found at St. Kilda. Day and night the drive for money for the Red Cross, and kindred war purposes, continued. Before the greatest good could be obtained from the advantages of St. Kilda's environment, it was necessary that the whole of the public forces of citizens, and their wives' endeavors, should be organised, that, to use a phrase of the times, there should be "an efficient man behind the gun."

The Town Clerk, though no longer a young man, sought to enlist as a soldier for the Empire. The military medical officers halted him, on the ground, that he could not bear the strenuous, and continuous hardships, that were inseparable, from active war service. Apart from his personal disappointment, the decision of the medical men was a wise one. Frederick William Chamberlin was a more valuable fighting asset to the British Empire in his place, as Town Clerk of St. Kilda, and the organiser of the war activities of St. Kilda, than he would have been as a soldier. His invaluable talents for organisation, his professional knowledge of finance, reinforced by his restless untiring nervous energy, were favourably commented upon by the Victorian Government, the local Military High Command and indeed by all, who *knew* what wonderfully good work he was doing as the master mind of the secretarial, and administrative machinery, by aid of which the monster gala gather-

ings, and the great appeals moved, and became successful ones, to the great honor of St. Kilda. In almost every community effort in St. Kilda the Town Clerk's influence was unobtrusively there.

We have mentioned the St. Kilda Soldiers' Lounge, the Rest Place, at St. Kilda that has now become historical. It was the most popular of any of the soldiers' public resorts, and deservedly so for it was the home of welcome, of song, of music and of refreshment. The soldiers felt that there they were "at home," at the "Diggers' Rest." These excellent results were obtained, through the untiring, sympathetic work of a company of enthusiastic St. Kilda women. A committee of St. Kilda residents, organised the Soldiers' Lounge in December, 1915. Mrs. R. Hallenstein was the director, and she was assisted by a battalion of young ladies, whose good fellowship with the soldiers was that of admiring sisters. Was it any wonder that the Soldiers' Lounge at St. Kilda was popular? The Lounge was projected for the purpose of establishing a rest house at St. Kilda for convalescent soldiers. To raise funds to do so, an Anzac afternoon was held at the St. Kilda Cricket Ground. As usual, there was no want of voluntary workers. The members of the St. Kilda Beach shows and theatres volunteered their services. There was a burlesque football match, and a tug-of-war. The public did its part by attending.

The Committee selected a site for the Lounge, which experience showed was suitable. The site was on the Lower Esplanade, on land that had once been occupied by optimistic men, who established a skating rink there and called it the Glideway. Much trouble had been taken to put down a good floor, with the aid of a steam roller, but the composition pavement cracked, and that was the end of the rink. The old rink bed formed a floor of sorts. The place then became 'The Daylight pictures' show, which show, in its turn, was replaced by another entertainment, in a building called the Comedy Theatre. The St. Kilda Soldiers' Lounge, in the first instance, was a part of an old refreshment room, at the back of the Comedy Theatre, and which room had been used by the promoters of the unsuccessful beach shows. The members of the St. Kilda Patriotic Committee, and the Young Men's Christian Association saw at once the obvious advantages the place presented, and they decided to acquire the building and it was opened as a Lounge on December 18, 1915.

In June, 1916, so well had the movement justified itself, that the Committee undertook the work of the extension of the premises. The Lounge eventually comprised a spacious room, with large sliding windows, through which the soldiers looked over the sands, to the waters of Hobson's Bay. A billiard table was provided, and the many volunteer women, with their diligent fingers, their daily gifts of flowers, made the Lounge the counterpart of a pleasant home, filled with smiling, and attentive hostesses. The place was decorated with pot plants, and a room was set apart, where refreshments were served free to soldiers by volunteer waitresses.

A fete took place to celebrate the opening of the reconstructed lounge on July 15, 1916. At the time Councillor J. J. Love was Mayor of St. Kilda, Her Excellency Lady Helen Munro Ferguson opened the enlarged Lounge, there being present in addition to the councillors of St. Kilda, and the Town Clerk, and a host of patriotic war workers, Senator Pearce, the Minister of Defence, and Charles F. Crosby, President of the Young Men's Christian Association. The Mayor paid high tribute, to the splendid work done, by the ladies of St. Kilda, under the direction of Mrs. Hallenstein. He stated that up to that time 30,000 soldiers had visited the Lounge. Upon the day the newly enlarged lounge was opened, a shipload of returned soldiers arrived in the morning and they were duly welcomed in Melbourne, by many strong posts, and the Returned Nurses', Sailors' and Soldiers' Fathers' Association. In the afternoon, many of them came, in a body, to the St. Kilda Lounge, and they were there received with the warmest of welcomes.

On July 29, His Excellency Sir Ronald Munro Ferguson came to see St. Kilda's famous Soldiers' Lounge, doubtless on the good report of his wife. It was well said by Councillor Barnet. that in the Lounge, one might see the Brotherhood of the Trenches, the Sisterhood of the Military Nurses. Certainly, here could be met soldiers whose home towns were in all parts of Australia. Special entertainments were organised, excellent concerts were given in the Lounge. On Sundays, special concert selections were given. One pleasing and notable occasion was on October 13, 1918, when the thanks of everybody connected with the Lounge were tendered to Miss Floris Levy, who had so often sang to the soldiers. The lady was on the eve of her marriage. Congratulations were conveyed by Councillor Barnet and the

good wishes expressed were as hearty as "the Diggers" could make them. Two members of the French Mission were present. The soldiers sang the Marseillaise as the Frenchmen entered the Lounge.

In June, 1919, the Lounge was visited by Brigadier General Brand, and Mrs. Brand. They received a great welcome though it was a surprise visit. He thanked, and congratulated, the Ladies of the St. Kilda Lounge, for all the work they had done, and were doing, and he called upon the soldiers to cheer the ladies to the echo. They did so, and the cheers caused hundreds of visitors on the Beach, and the Esplanades, to wonder what new' victory the Allies had won. Councillor Barnet returned thanks to the General, on behalf of the ladies. He said that more than 200,000 soldiers had visited the Lounge, and that many of the country, and interstate diggers had written countless letters to the various ladies of the Lounge, calling them foster mothers to the soldiers. The St. Kilda Patriotic League was unceasing in its work, to provide good things for the soldiers. So many ladies' names should be inscribed on the roll of the St. Kilda Lounge, that the Committee hesitated to make a start, lest it might be found to be impossible to gather in all the names, but pre-eminently, we may say, as the directress, Mrs. Hallenstein's name must always be mentioned first in any narrative of this outstanding feature of the patriotic efforts of St. Kilda.

When the Brighton Council suggested that Brighton, Moorabbin, Caulfield, and St. Kilda, should join in presenting a motor ambulance waggon, for the use of the Australian Imperial Forces, at a cost of £575, the Council of St. Kilda at once agreed, and sent along its apportioned cheque for £175. That was in November, 1914, when the Councils, and the public had scarcely realised the full meaning of a war of attrition, and how nations behind the men, with the guns, would have to open their pockets, and to bend their backs night and day, in the national effort to win the war. Bright spots appeared in the dark war clouds that lowered over Australia, and sometimes Australians paused to cheer at good news. Such an occasion took place on November 10, 1914, when the Council in session, a press message came through, that the German raider "Emden" had been engaged by H.M.S. "Sydney", and driven ashore at Cocos Island. When the news arrived the Council was receiving a deputation on the

perennial question of sea bathing accommodation, but consideration of that was thrown aside while councillors, and members of the deputation, cheered, and also sang the National Anthem.

In October, 1914, Councillor Frederick Godfrey Hughes asked for, and received, from the St. Kilda Council, twelve months' leave of absence. He had been appointed to command the 3rd Light Horse Brigade of the Australian Expeditionary Force. Before he left St. Kilda, he was entertained by the members of the St. Kilda Tradesmen's Club in their club rooms. The Mayor of St. Kilda, Councillor Hewison was in the chair, and the cordial feeling in the room showed how popular the departing soldier was. He was presented by the Council, with a silver campaigning bottle, and by the Tradesmen with a silver cigar case, and match box. In replying to the toast of his health, he said his father, and his wife's father, were of the party who crossed over the borders to Port Phillip, with stock, in the year 1846. On June 8, 1915 a letter dated Egypt, was received, by the Council, from Councillor Hughes, stating that the Light Horse Brigade had left its camp at Mena, and was then at Heliopolis. The best wishes of the Council were sent to him with the expressed hope "that the men he was leading would achieve a glorious success." He was appointed Brigadier General and the Council sent congratulations to their colleague. News came through in October, 1915 that the Brigadier was in the hospital, at Alexandria, suffering from enteric fever. In January, 1916, his name was mentioned in the King's birthday honors, the honor awarded to the Brigadier being that of C.B. In April, he was invalided to Australia, where he arrived in May. He was welcomed by the Council on May 8 with enthusiasm. His Worship the Mayor, Councillor Hewison referred to the military services of Brigadier-General Hughes, and to the military services of Major—Councillor—Duigan ; to the enlistment of Councillor Burnett Gray, and also to the desire of the Town Clerk, Mr. F. W. Chamberlin to enlist. Mention was also made of the number of the outside employees of the Council who had enlisted.

At the Council meeting, held on November 29, 1920 Councillor Hughes was welcomed on his return from a visit to England. On July 10, 1922, Councillor Hughes informed the Council that he would not again be a candidate for municipal honors, at the forthcoming civic elections in August. He spoke feelingly of

his twenty four years of office, as a councillor, and the pleasure it had given to him to take his part in the marked development of St. Kilda in that period. Councillor Hughes addressed the councillors, in the mood of one, who has acquired wisdom, in the experience of municipal administration. The councillors expressed their deep regret at the retirement of their valued colleague. It may be recorded that Frederick Godfrey Hughes *gave* to St. Kilda of his best, and his name is one to be inscribed upon the list of the distinguished civic fathers of St. Kilda.

On August 16, 1915, the Council tendered a farewell to Councillor Duigan, one of the Council's representatives of the South Ward, on his departure for the war. Councillors expressed hope for his success in his military career, which hope was realised. He rose from the office of a Captain to be Lieut.- Colonel Duigan, the honor being given him on the field of battle. On his return, July 10, 1917 the Council *gave* him a special reception and he told of the terrible ordeals the Australians had to go through on the Bapaume Front. Lieut.-Colonel Duigan was invalided home to Australia through pneumonia.

Councillor Burnett Gray enlisted and in October, 1915 the Council congratulated him on the step he had taken. News was received, on April 11, 1916 that Councillor Gray had been appointed to the office of Company Sergeant Major. A letter dated "At Sea", May 19, 1917, was received by the Council, from Councillor Gray in July wherein he resigned his office, as Councillor in the St. Kilda Council, for the South Ward. He expressed his sincerest wishes for the continued progress of St. Kilda, and for the welfare of the councillors. The Council adjudged Councillor Gray, as one of the Councillors going out of office, on August 23, 1917, under the provisions of Section 118 of the Local Government Act 1915, and so they avoided the trouble and expense of a by-election.

One of the most impressive ceremonies, in the early days of the civilians' war efforts, was the presentation of regimental colors by the citizens of St. Kilda, to the 14th Battalion of the Australian Imperial Forces. The presentation was made at the St. Kilda Esplanade on Sunday afternoon, December 13, 1914. On behalf of the citizens of St. Kilda, His Excellency *Sir* Ronald Munro Ferguson, the Governor-General, wearing the uniform of the Commander-in-Chief of the Australian Commonwealth

Forces, made the presentation. The crowd on the Esplanades and adjoining lands, interested in witnessing the ceremony, was estimated to number between seven and eight thousand. The Governor-General was accompanied by Lady Helen Munro Ferguson. Among the official party were His Worship the Lord Mayor of Melbourne, Alderman D. V. Hennessy, and the Lady Mayoress, His Worship the Mayor of St. Kilda, Councillor J. H. Hewison, and the Mayoress, Councillors H. F. Barnet, R. A. Molesworth, Edward O'Donnell, and G. B. Renfrey, with Mr. H. F. Phillips and the Town Clerk of St. Kilda, who was the honorary secretary of the Presentation Executive. On the arrival of the vice-regal party, its members were received by the Mayor of St. Kilda. The proceedings commenced at 2.30 o'clock, and they took an hour of time. When the first official greetings were over, the Governor-General inspected the Battalion, which stood, drawn up on the lawn, at attention, a fine martial sight of precision and efficiency. After the inspection, the "Recessional" was sung by three Anglican surpliced choirs from the St. Kilda churches, All Saints, East St. Kilda ; Christ Church, St. Kilda ; and Holy Trinity, Balaclava. Thousands of voices joined in with the choir's singing, until the "Recessional" became the praiseful prayer of the whole of the community present.

In the centre of the bright green lawns, looking their best under a blue sky and an early mid-summer's day was a hollow square, formed by the lines of the Battalion, each unit of which was destined to brave the fortunes of war. Everything was bright and cheerful, flags, and bunting, the splashes of color, from bright parade military uniforms, and the ladies' dresses. The Battalion's mascot, a fox terrier, was dressed in khaki, marked with the regimental number 14. What little could be seen of his tail, outside his rug was erect, so the dog was keeping his flag flying. All that lay ahead of the Battalion was happily hidden. We knew nothing, at the end of the year, 1914, compared to the knowledge we afterwards attained, of what a nightmare of a world disjointed it was in the war zone of slush, mud, gloom, fire, explosions, blood, misery and death.

In the hollow of the square were the regimental drums, piled in the centre. The Regimental colors, to be presented, were enclosed in oil covers. They were handed by the Executive to the Mayor of St. Kilda, and to the Mayoress. The covers of

the colors were taken off. A breeze, sufficient to cause the flags to float out and wave, was blowing, and the regimental colors of the 14th Battalion fluttered, in the sight of thousands of cheering men, and women. The flags were still but flags. They were placed against the drums to be consecrated the colors of the Battalion, and so to become something more than flags, since they were to visibly represent the fighting spirit of the Battalion.

Of the figures in that great assemblage, on that serious occasion, the one that stood forth from among the rest, on the lawn, was the figure of the man of Peace, the man of God, the Revd. Andrew Gillison M.A., the chaplain, the padre of the 14th Battalion, the man who had left his church, St. George's Presbyterian Church, East St. Kilda, to go forth with the Battalion, believing there were many men on war service who felt happier in the thought that ministers of God shared a large measure of their trials, men prepared to rejoice with them, to sympathise with them, to stand by them in camp, in battlefield, in hospital, aye, even to the end. Such then was the man who stood on the Foreshore lawn, the surpliced point of white, that thousands of eyes were focussed upon, as he consecrated the Battalion colors. In doing so he said:—

"In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost, we do dedicate, and set apart these colors, that they may be a sign of our duty towards our King, and Country, in the sight of God, Amen!"

The colors were then handed to the Governor General by Major Adams and Major Rankine. His Excellency bestowed them on Lieutenants W. H. Hamilton, and B. Combes, who received the colors, each of them on bended knee. These acts were followed by cheering, and the singing of the Recessional hymn. The Governor General addressed those present in his immediate vicinity. The troops were marched towards the St. Kilda Pier Head, and then turned, so that they could pass His Excellency in review order. When the colors were opposite to His Excellency His Worship the Mayor, Councillor Hewison, led the Vice Regal group, with a cheer, which cheer was re-echoed from the throats of thousands of spectators. The Battalion was headed by the Pioneer Corps, the Signal Corps, and the Regimental Band playing. Lieut. Colonel R. E. Courtney was in command of the Battalion. His name was to become

well known on Gallipoli, as a place name, "Courtney's Post."

The members of the 14th Battalion had been conveyed from Broadmeadows, in two special trains. They had been entertained at luncheon on the St. Kilda Cricket ground, at noon, by the City of St. Kilda. The greatest enthusiasm prevailed, when the Battalion marched into Melbourne to entrain for Broadmeadows. Some excitement was caused, at the St. Kilda Railway Station, by the derailment of a carriage belonging to an ordinary train. Melbourne newspaper reports of the spectacle were complimentary to the Town Clerk of St. Kilda. They stated that the civic side of the ceremony was a perfect piece of organisation, that the spectacle, was one of the most successful seen at St. Kilda,

War regulations prevented the Battalion from taking the colours to the front, and in compliment to the Battalion padre, Rev. Andrew Gillison, prior to the Battalion's departure they were deposited in St. George's Presbyterian Church, East St. Kilda, and there remained for over 15 years. At the instance of the 14th Battalion Association, the church authorities generously agreed to a suggestion made that they should hand over the colours to the St. Kilda Council, and such was done at the Anzac Memorial Service, held on Sunday, April 27, 1930. The colours were emblazoned with the following battle honours :—"Pozières, 1917 ; Messines, 1917; Polygon Wood, 1918; Amiens, 1918; Landing at Anzac, 1915; Bullecourt, 1917; Ypres, 1917; Hamel, 1918; Hindenburg Line, 1916-18; Sari Bair, 1915." They are now enclosed in a bronze case, and are to be seen in the foyer at the City Hall.

Duty and the adventure of war called, and the gallant company that formed the 14th Battalion, brothers to many other gallant Australian companies of fighting men, sailed over the rim of the horizon, and entered into the regions, where a censor's judgment was law. On August 28, 1915, the sad news came through that the loved padre of the 14th Battalion, the Rev. Andrew Gillison, one of the Presbyterian chaplains of the Australian Imperial Force in Gallipoli, was wounded on Sunday, August 22, 1915. The notification—it was a notification of death—came to the Rev. David Ross of St. Kilda. Such a happening seemed to be too sad to be true. The heart of St. Kilda, it is not too much to assert, ached with a dumb, confused sense

of an irreparable loss of a gallant gentleman, and a Christian Soldier. Melbourne itself sighed, and his death was mourned in, and out of many churches.

Some time elapsed before the story of the Rev. Andrew Gillison's death was received by his wife in St. Kilda, in a letter dated August 25, 1915, and sent to her by the Rev. Dr. Merrington, the Senior Presbyterian Chaplain at the Front. And this was the tale, wherein the heroism of self sacrifice of Padre Gillison is apparent to all men, for all time, in the history of deeds, that thrilled men on the heights of Gallipoli. The Rev. Andrew Gillison, with another (unnamed) chaplain, was passing along a communication trench, on Sunday August 22, when they saw a wounded man, lying some 50 or 60 yards away. Despite warnings that the enemy Turkish snipers were shooting in that direction Captain Gillison, and his companion, after a talk over the situation, decided to crawl out, beyond the shelter of the trench, into no man's land, to try to bring in the wounded man. The time was about 11 a.m. While crawling out they were both hit with snipers' bullets. Despite their wounds, they both managed to make a run for cover. Gillison fell within a few yards of the home trench, and he was brought in. He was taken promptly to a medical post. There the doctor, after examining the wound, said it was serious, but not a hopelessly fatal one. The wounded padre seemed relieved at the thought that his case was not hopeless. He said he felt bright, and happy. He lapsed into unconsciousness, and died, soon afterwards, between one and two o'clock p.m. He was buried at 9 p.m. Full moonlight shone on the burial group, a large gathering of mourners, including a representative of General Monash, Captain Salier, officers, and men of the 14th Battalion, and also many chaplains, including Fathers Powers, and O'Connor. At the graveside Chaplain Major Grant recited the scripture sentences. Chaplain Captain Dale offered up prayer. The body was committed to the earth, covered with the Union Jack. The Rev. Dr. Merrington offered up prayer, and also gave a short address, in which he referred to the self sacrifice, shown by a gallant, and a brave man. The face was calm, and strong, as the body lay on a stretcher, waiting for burial, covered by the Union Jack. Ministering hands had prepared the body for burial, in a manner then unknown on that gory field of battle. In the clear moonlight, by the classic Aegean Sea, the mortal

remains of the Rev. Alexander Gillison were laid to rest, till the glorious Morning of Resurrection. His grave was marked with a cross, and its situation is on the upper slope of Anzac Beach. Generals Birdwood, Godley, Monash, and Chauvel expressed their feelings of sorrow. Throughout the army on Gallipoli there passed a thrill of regret when the soldiers knew of his death, and the thrill was mingled with feelings of intense admiration for the well loved padre's valorous deed.

At the Council meeting, held on August 30, 1915, the Council passed the following resolution :—

"That the Council expresses its profound sorrow, at the death of the Revd. Andrew Gillison, at Gallipoli, and offers its sincere sympathy with Mrs. Gillison, and the family, in their bereavement; that the Council joins in the wide spread recognition of his noble attributes; his high ideals of manhood so truly exemplified in his life, and his unfailing sympathy with, and thought for others, and It feels that if there can be any solace of his loved ones' grief, it surely must be from the knowledge that his whole life was spent for the good of his fellow men, and that the great sacrifice was for his King, and the Empire."

This resolution was sent to Mrs. Gillison under seal of the City of St. Kilda. Elders of St. George's Presbyterian Church, St. Kilda, invited the Council to be present at service on Sunday, April 1st, on the occasion of the unveiling of a mural tablet, to the memory of the Rev. Andrew Gillison.

In December 1919, an impressive service was held in connection with the unveiling of an Honor Roll, containing the names of 116 members of St. George's Presbyterian Church, East St. Kilda, The Lieut. Governor, His Excellency Sir William Irvine unveiled the memorial, and he made references to the heroic sacrifice of the gallant padre.

In February, 1915, steps were taken to organise what was called the "Third line of National Defence." It consisted in the voluntary training of citizens, a movement St. Kilda was not a stranger too. A conference was called by the Lord Mayor of Melbourne to consider how the extension of rifle clubs, and provisions for military drill for citizens, could be made effectual. The Council decided in July, 1915, to promote a patriotic demonstration to stimulate recruiting. The meeting took place in the St. Kilda Town Hall on July 30. The St. Kilda Band played

martial and loyal airs outside the Town Hall, and before the meeting began the building was filled to overflowing. Many women were present, and almost everyone of them was knitting socks for the soldiers. The stage was draped with British, and Australian flags, and the word "Duty" was prominently displayed on a large shield. The Mayor, Councillor J. H. Hewison, led the way to the platform, followed by the State Governor, His Excellency, Sir Arthur Stanley, K.C.M.G., His Excellency, the Lieut. Governor, Sir John Madden, K.C.M.G., the Councillors of the City of St. Kilda, the Town Clerk and others. They stood at attention, while the City Organist Mr. H. J. Inge played the National Anthem. Later, the Federal Attorney General, the Hon. W. M. Hughes, arrived, and took a seat on the platform. After the proceedings had been opened, and Horace Stevens had sung two patriotic songs, His Excellency Sir Arthur Stanley moved and the motion was carried:—

"That this meeting of St. Kilda Citizens, proud of the part Australia has already taken, sympathising with the relatives of the fallen, and the wounded, urges every man, who can emulate their gallant deeds, to do his duty, and to enlist for active service, that the reward of victory their heroism demands may be the earlier won."

Miss Evelyn Ashley sang the song of the "Heroes of the Dardanelles," and "To Arms, to Arms, Ye Sons of the Empire." The effect of the invocative song was electrical. The hall rang with tumultuous applause. The Marseillaise, at this stage, rolling in, a volume of sound from the organ was as inspiring to those present almost, as it would have been to an audience of French people.

The Federal Attorney General, the Hon. W. M. Hughes moved:—

"That all present pledge themselves to do their duty, as loyal citizens, and to devote all their energies, and make every sacrifice to help their King and Country in the Great War."

This meeting was followed at St. Kilda by an increase of the number of enlistments for the war.

The St. Kilda Women's regular working patriotic party numbered over 200 workers, and they collected, on one button day, in July, without unusual effort, from local residents, £301. Special efforts too, of considerable magnitude, to raise funds for innumerable purposes were frequently made. Possibly no other suburban city around Melbourne, can have recorded in its history such a succeeding train of successful efforts ; such continuous streams of small offerings amounting to such large

totals. Such results were made possible, no doubt, from the suitability of the shore lands of St. Kilda, whereon to organise picturesque open air shows, day and night carnivals, whereto, thousands of visitors came ready to spend money. We do not purpose to describe in detail each of those wonderful galas, those remarkable festivities at Luna Park; the confetti battles, and, an hundred and one things, the basic reason of which was to open the pockets of the people, to secure the ever wanted funds for the needs of our sailors and soldiers fighting over seas. And the claims of our Allies were not forgotten; the needs of the distressed Belgians; the wants of the French Red Cross, and others all had their turn, their button, their flags days and the wonder above all was, the continuously generous way, in which the civilian populace made daily sacrifice, how they donated, again and again, and no appeal went unanswered. To those who shared in the activities of the St. Kilda citizens', the war efforts must remain an ineffaceable memory of how British citizens, in such periods of national trouble, can become one corporate soul, can be obsessed with the one dominant idea, and that idea was the determination to win the war. In other places there were slackers, in other cities renegades appeared, who whispered disloyalty, but the atmosphere in St. Kilda was none too genial for such persons to breathe, and little, or nothing, was heard of them in the seaside city.

We anticipate, by a few months, the presentation of a financial statement, which discloses something of the range of effort. It is the annual report of the St. Kilda Patriotic Committee, submitted to the Patriotic workers, in the Town Hall, on Wednesday evening, August 30, 1916 by the Treasurer, the Town Clerk, Mr. F. W. Chamberlin. It showed that Funds received, or raised from August 1915, to August 1916, 50th Batt. band £100/7/7; Beach Entertainments, £178/8/5; Citizens' Welcome, £152/0/3; Anzac Anniversary, £27/12/10; Contribution Material £462/12/4; Belgian collection, £92/0/6; Palais de Danse, £176 1/5; Children's Party, £113/0/4; "Before the Dawn", £129/17/11 Trinity Club, £101/4/7; Caste, £46/15/11; Sundry Entertainments £15/4/-; house to house collections, £1,180; Button Days, Wattle Day, £153/6/8; Allies Day, £407/14/1; Our Day, £469 3/6; Lady Mayoress's Day, £575/3/10; Anzac Day, £564/3/6; King George's Day, £382/4/11; French Red Cross, £857/5/6; Russian Flag Day £277/9/6. Total, £6,461/17/7.

St. Kilda Lounge: Including the proceeds of the fete, on July 22, £670/4/7, £2765/1/-, making a total of £9,226/18/7. From March to August, the Men's Working Party made 130 chairs, and camp stools, and 73 folding tables—total 203, the cost of the material being £25/8/3. Total Red Cross Goods sent to the Central Depot 6,631, Lady Mayoress's Patriotic League 24486; tinned food 970, French Red Cross 697, Kooyong Hospital 33, Wirth's Park 198, Soldiers' Lounge 111, Sundries 60. Total 11,186 viz. Pyjamas 1,124, shirts 662, socks 2,120, washers 771, sundry articles 6,509. Total 11,186. Red Cross goods made, Rolls 11,979, surgical towels, 4,000, absorbent pads 4,680, abdominal belts 325, bandages 1,157, draw sheets, and sheets 81, sundries 345. Total 22,567 articles.

From the commencement of the war to August 28, 1916 the total funds were as follow:—

Belgian Relief (including Belgian Button and Flag Days)	£2879	0	6		
Wounded Soldiers (including Australia Day)	2418	4	7		
Red Cross	2121	13	6		
Sundry Button Days (excluding Belgian Days and French Red Cross Special Appeal)	2981	6	11		
Purchase of Material	890	11	3		
Purchase of Comforts	148	2	9		
Lord Mayor's Patriotic Original Fund	350				
French Red Cross (including Special Week Appeal)	1025	15	5		
Ambulance Presentation (joint)	346	18	4		
Purple Cross	5	2	1		
Discharged and Disabled Wounded Soldiers	27	12	10		
	<u>£13,194</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>2</u>		
Presentation of Colors	£99	13	6		
Recruiting Committee	25	18	10		
50 <sup>th</sup> Batt. Band	116	10	0		
Citizens Welcome	152	0	3	£394	2 7
	<u>£13,588</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>9</u>		
Lounge	2,765	1	0		
Grand Total	<u>£16353</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>9</u>		

Such a result speaks of the assiduity with which the Patriotic workers of St. Kilda carried on the civilian side of the war, and the figures also proclaim the generosity of the citizens of St. Kilda.

At times, when working hard, the Council sometimes paused to allow of the expression of the sympathy, that was never absent from its corporate heart, for those who had suffered, and for those who were suffering, for those who had lost sons, or fathers, or others of their kith and kin. Such an occasion was on May 10, 1915, when the suspension of standing orders in Council was granted, to allow of this special motion to be passed :-

"That this Council expresses its sincere sympathy with the relatives of those of our gallant men, who have fallen, and records its great admiration of the bravery, and courage shown by our soldiers at the Dardanelles."

It was ordered, that a copy of the resolution be sent to the Honorable the Minister of Defence.

During the week, ending December 11, 1915, there floated a calico banner, on the portico of the St. Kilda City Hall, bearing the exclamation printed, in large letters, "Boys, We Are Proud of You !" It was the city's greeting to a great gathering, which took place, in the City Hall, to welcome invalided soldiers from Gallipoli, National colors — red, white and blue — illuminated the hall, as did also the flags of the Allies. The returned soldiers entered, greeted by a salvo of hand clapping. They numbered between fifty and sixty cheerful men, ruddy, brown, and weather worn. Many members of the 14th Battalion were present. The Mayor, Councillor J. J. Love, welcomed the returned invalided soldiers, on behalf of the citizens of St. Kilda. A musical programme was gone through, and the St. Kilda Brass Band played selections. During the evening, small parties of soldiers continued to arrive. Some of them had lost a limb, many of them hobbled in on crutches. One of the soldiers, Private Whelan, told those present, that he was a member of the 14th Battalion to which body the colors were presented a little more than twelve months before He had met the late Padre Gillison, and if ever there was a

Christian man the padre was he. The speaker asked of those present, who was the soldiers' friend? and the men shouted "Gillison! Gillison!" and so on to the end, and the National Anthem.