

KETTERING LEADER - 15th July 1921

Feast Sunday (Sunday last) was this year a memorable day in the history the village of Woodford as on that day the memorial to the lads of the village who fell in the Great War was unveiled.

A procession was formed at the top of the village headed by the Kettering Rifle Band under the conductorship of Mr C H Baker, the president of the Band. Mr H Luck also being present.. P C Mitchell was in attendance of the procession, then followed representatives of the various local organisations and a large number of men who served in the war.

The service at the Memorial, erected on the Village Green, was a most impressive one and will ever be remembered by the hundreds of people present. The band accompanied the singing of the hymns which was lead by the WMC Male Voice Choir under the conductorship of Mr J Fletcher of Thrapston.

The service was conducted by the Rev, Gerard M Davison, late chaplain of the Forces and Rector of Woodford. The hymns, "Nearer, my God, to Thee" and Lead, Kindly Light" were followed by prayers, then came the hymn "O God our help in Ages past". The Rev. Jos Wells, Wesleyan Minister, read Psalm 121 and the Rev Herbert Leng, Baptist Minister read the lesson from 1 Corinthians XV.

The Honoured Dead

The Rev Edgar G Chew OBE late chaplain to the forces then said "Let us remember with thanksgiving and with all honour before God and men, the men of this parish who gave their lives in the service of King and Country" and read the following names inscribed upon the memorial: W F Ainge, A L Allen, L Allen, C Betts, H A Betts, A C Braines, H J Dunford, J T Faulkner, W Freer, R F Hobbs, E H Houghton, S Jackson, A C Jakins, G W Jakins, A King, W Leaton, G V Leveritt, A Lowe, L B Manley, W A Mehew, R J Murdin, W H Murphy, T J Parrott, F E Perkins, H Robinson, CE Smart, H Spencer, F Steers, J Taylor, W W Tiney, A R Waite, H Wood and R A White.

The Memorial was then unveiled by Col Malcolm Roma OBE of Great Addington who gave an appropriate address, which was followed by an anthem by the WMC Male Voice Choir, The Rev Edgar S Chew OBE then dedicated the Memorial and the hymn "For all the saints who from their labours rest" was sung.

On behalf of the Comrades Club and parishioners of Woodford Sergeant Major A Lewis Norfolk Regiment then handed over the Memorial to the keeping of the Parish Council, Mr F Matthews, chairman of the Council accepting the trust on behalf of the members.

Following the benediction, pronounced by the Rector, the " Last Post" and the Reveille" were sounded by the buglers of the Raunds Church Lads' Brigade, and the impressive ceremony closed with the singing of the National Anthem.

The Memorial

The project of the Memorial has been carried out entirely by the Woodford Comrades Club. The funds were raised by voluntary subscriptions and donations. Those responsible for the

success of the effort were Messrs. A Lewis (president) G Petch, A Leaton, B Jackson, A Shipton, E Tiney, J Bunning, W White, A Swann, G Allen, F Howlett, and T Croft secretary.

The Village Green was the site chosen and the memorial consists of an Obelisk of Derbyshire stone mounted on four hexagon steps. The names of the fallen are inscribed on the three sides of the tablet and on the other side are the words

“To the glorious memory of the men of this parish who gave their lives in the Great War 1914 -1919”

On the column a Crusade sword has been cut and the word “Honour” is seen at the bottom. The beauty of the Memorial lies in its simplicity, and is in keeping with the many fine old village buildings in its proximity. The Work has been well executed by Messrs. Morris and Sons of Kettering.

Tributes of Affection

The beautiful floral emblems laid upon the obelisk were as follow:- “Comrades Club, Woodford: To those we left behind: also a laurel wreath hung upon the column “From members of the Woodford Working Men’s Club”, “Loving memory of our dear son Jim”; From brother George and family”; “Loving remembrance of my dear husband, W Freer and dear nephew, E Houghton”; “Loving memory of Pte W W Tiney from father, sisters and brother”: “Loving memory of Pte H Spencer from Ken and Howard (sons) and his sisters”; “From Mr and Mrs Ward and family - Coach and horses”; “Loving memory of dear Alf, and George from mother, brothers and sisters”; “Loving remembrance from the workers of the Ideal Clothiers”; “Loving remembrance of Pte Hy Wood from father, sister and brothers”; “Pte Frank H Wood from father, sister and brothers”; “ Pte Frank Perkins from Gran, Uncles and aunts”; “Lance Corporal W L Eaton, from nieces and nephews”; “Loving memory of our dear Dad, Pte W Hobbs”; “W Murphy from Mrs W Cole and family”; “Loving memory of dear Dad from Phyllis, Doris and Vera”; “Alfred and George Jakins from Mr and Mrs Loasby (Thrapston)”; “ Loving memory H J Dunford, from mother and family”; “Loving memory of Fred Ainge and Charlie Betts, from fellow workers of the clothing factory”; “Loving remembrance of dear Arthur from Hetty and George”; “Pte. Harry Robinson, from his loving wife and children”; “Pte Gaston Leveritt, from mother, grandparents, and Dora”; “Loving memory of Sam from mother , sisters and brothers”; “Dear Charlie, from his loving mother, Harry and Kate”; “Our dear son H F G Ainge from mother, father sisters and brothers”; “ To our chums H Robinson and G Jakins”; “Loving memory of our dear son and brother Reg”; “Loving memory of Johnny Taylor from Mr and Mrs F Knighton, Reg and Carmen”; “Reg A White; Loving memory from father, brothers, sisters and nephews”; “Loving memory from father, mother brother and sisters”.