

The Newcastle High School Magazine

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OFFICERS.

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Committee	SPORTS OFFICIALS AND SUB-PREFECTS.				

ANZAC DAY.

On Anzac Day we had no visitors, but, in addition to music from the choir, the programme contained messages to the school.

General Paton wrote as follows:—

Military Forces of the Commonwealth,
2nd Military District,
Newcastle,

22nd April, 1921.

Dear Mr. Saxby.—I am sending at your request a short message to the children of the High School regarding Anzac Day.

Nature has implanted within us all an intense love of our native country, and now that the Great War has ended in victory for us and our Allies we can look back with pride and reverence to that fateful day, the anniversary of which means so much to us in our island Continent, when the flower of Australia's manhood launched themselves with irresistible dash against the Turkish Army calmly awaiting them in their trenches behind a formidable array of wire entanglements, on the bleak and desolate shores of the Gallipoli Peninsula. Undeterred by the difficulties of landing in the surf, undaunted by the heavy rifle and machine-gun fire, they swept aside or dashed through the lines of Turkish soldiers, and forced their way up the precipitous cliffs. It was a noble effort, audacious in its conception, and magnificent in its execution. Australia and New Zealand had entered the war. Their soldiers had faced their baptism of fire under circumstances which sent a thrill throughout the civilised world.

The successful landing was not accomplished without serious sacrifice. As we see it now, we recognise that, apart from its immediate effect, it demonstrated to the world that Australia, though little more than one hundred years old, was determined to take her place in the affairs of nations; to stand beside the mother country in what she conceived to be a noble cause; to fight, and, if needs be, to die in an honest endeavour to live up to the best traditions of that grand old race from which we are all sprung.

THE NOVOCASTRIAN.

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In some respects April 25th represents to us the birth of a nation, and in celebrating its anniversary to-day our sympathies go out to the relatives of those brave fellows who gave their lives then, and subsequently, in the course of the war, that we may be permitted to pursue our daily avocations and educational studies in peace and security.

The bravery and resourcefulness of our sailors and soldiers, and the devotion of our kinsmen and women throughout these stirring and troublous times, provides a noble example for the boys and girls of our great public schools. It is to them that we must look in the future for the solution of those great problems which constantly beset a nation in the making.

From Mr. J. Jeffries, father of Captain C. S. Jeffries, V.C., an ex-pupil of this school, we received the following extract from one of his son's letters, which he thought appropriate to the occasion:—

3rd London General Hospital,

Wandsworth, 21st June, 1917.

"We are fighting in a just and righteous cause. We have the feeling that the Almighty is on our side, and we must get fair reparation for the sacrifices we have made. Out of this war, great, far-reaching benefits will arise if we win. All classes of people will realise that we have not understood each other. The various Colonies of the Empire will be drawn close to each other, and to the motherland, and all our relations will be established on a more humane basis. This war, then, if we win, will be looked upon not so much as a sacrifice, but as a triumph, and the races yet unborn will in years to come be inspired by the feeling that they are the descendents of a race of people who, in the darkest hour of this world's history, saw fit to go forth to fight and die in order that the great principle of equity might remain unchanged. We can hope, then, if success attends our arms, we will be able to live in the future untrammelled and unfettered by the menace of militarism, that nations will be allowed to work out their own destinies, that the supreme result will be—men will be drawn nearer to one another, nearer to God, and better understood."