

## Anzac and Memorial Services 1919 to 1941 Upper Hutt District

07 May 1919

Upper Hutt School Committee

07 May 1919

Upper Hutt

The Hon T M Wilford  
Wellington

Sir

### Peace Celebrations

At a Meeting of the Local Peace Celebration Committee I was Directed to ask you to be good enough to use your influence and secure the services of the Trentham Band for the celebrations on Sunday and Tuesday. An application has been made to the Camp Commandant, and in answer we were informed that the band may be available for us, but it all depended upon the instructions issued for Head Quarters. The success of any function of this kind depends a good deal upon having a band, and we thought that as Wellington is well supplied with bands, but would probable also require the band on Monday we may be able to have it for the other days.

The outlying districts of Mangaroa, Wallaceville, Kaitoke, Whiteman's Valley, Akatarawa and Te Marua are combining with Upper Hutt and having united celebration at Maidstone Park and they join with us in hoping that we may have the services of the band.

I am Sir

Yours faithfully (signed) *L CLOUGH Secretary*

[on the back of the letter in the corner it is written]

Has our [sic] Defence can anything be done in the direction indicated (signed initial) 7/5/19

Comm. re draft reply (signed initial JA) 9/5/19

*(Reference Archives NZ Wellington R22430145 AAYS 8638 AD1 755 15/183 Ceremonies, entertainments etc., Celebrations Peace Day Proposals date 1918-1919)*

### Evening Post 26 Apr 1922

At Upper Hutt - The green fields and trees of Maidstone Park made an appropriate scene for the Upper Hutt Memorial Service, which was organised by the Upper Hutt Town Board, on lines suggested by the Town Clerk, Mr Lodge. On the platform were the chairman of the board, Mr W Greig, the Revs Barnett and McCaul and Sir Thomas Mackenzie, whose address is reported elsewhere. The Upper Hutt Band, newly formed, played with a merit, indicating steady practice. The service was in every way a distinct success.

### Evening Post 27 Apr 1922

Brave, but badly led - Gallipoli a sound plan, but revolutionary aid by old Turks. Historically, the Anzac memorial service at Upper Hutt on Tuesday was placed on a high plane by the presence of a former Prime Minister and High Commissioner of New Zealand, Sir Thomas Mackenzie, who was also a member of the British Royal Commission during the war, and as a member of the Dardanelles Commission, Sir Thomas Mackenzie is in a position to speak with authority; and he spoke with enough candour to throw some new light on the inception of the Expedition, and to give certain half-secrets a wider currency.

### **SEARCH 1923**

### **SEARCH 1924**

### Evening Post 17 Apr 1925

Memorial Gate at Trentham - To-morrow Bishop Sprott will officiate at the dedication of the memorial lych-gate at Trentham, erected by the members of the St John's Anglican Church in memory of those belonging to the Church who fell in the Great War. The gate, which is in keeping with the Church and its surroundings, is of oiled jarrah, the roof being of asbestos tiles. The stones for the wall were taken from the Hutt river-bed, being generously given by the owner of the property from which they were taken, and gathered and carted without cost by vestrymen

and other men of the parish. There is also a tablet bearing the names of the fallen inside the north wall of the gateway and this is of grey Australian granite. The wall extends from each side of the gateway, but is not properly part of the memorial, being added as a setting to the lych-gate and as a part of a scheme for the whole frontage of the churchyard on the Main road.

#### Evening Post 20 Apr 1925

Disillusioned - unrealised blessings - Bishop Sprott on War's Results - St John's Church, Trentham, was filled on Saturday afternoon on the occasion of the dedication by Bishop Sprott of the lych-gate which has been built as a memorial to the men belonging to the church, who fell in the Great War. A short service on the lines of the usual evening prayer was held in the church, the lessons being read by the Rev N S Barrett and the Rev J H Sykes (both former vicars of the parish), the present vicar, the Rev G V Kendrick, taking the rest of the service, and Bishop Sprott addressing the congregation. The Bishop said that he thought people in general were not favouring the erection of memorials as much as they had done immediately after the war. It was not that we were forgetting, it was not due to the passage of time, but largely that we had been disillusioned and lost something of that feeling of elation prevalent during the war. We had anticipated wonderful blessing to follow on the Armistice. Perhaps we had expected too much. Had we any right to expect more than a recovery to pre-war status? But whatever the results of the war, whatever our disillusionments, they should not lessen our admiration for those young men, who full of life and vitality, full of plans and ambitions for the future, had laid down their lives for us. His Lordship said he thought it was particularly appropriate for the dedication to take place at Easter time - the festival of immortality. To those who had lived their full life, death was not unwelcome, but our soldiers were young, and could not be expected to look at it in that light. He liked to think of the beautiful lines in the Book of Revelations "His servants shall serve Him, and they shall see His face" and to think of our brave men as passing to higher service. "Lych," said the speaker, was an Anglo-Saxon word, meaning "corpse," and a lych-gate was a gate leading into a churchyard, under which the coffin or bier could rest. But we could dissociate our thoughts from that grim idea, for in the words of the hymn just sung: Jesus lives henceforth is death. But the gate of life immortal. At the close of the address the clergy, followed by the congregation, moved to the gate, where prayers were offered by Bishop Sprott, including a particularly beautiful one for our Empire and those who had died to save it. The gate, which is similar in design to that of St Mary's, New Plymouth, is of oiled jarrah, with roof of asbestos tiles, and the memorial tablet is of grey Australian granite, bearing the inscription: - This gate is erected to the Glory of God and in memory of those members of the Church of England, who, from Trentham, Upper Hutt, and surrounding districts, laid down their lives in the Great War. August 1914 - November 1918. Archdeacons Johnson and Hansell, and the Revs Barnett, Sykes, Fry, Compton, Isaacson, and Groves attended, and they, and a large number of those present at the ceremony, were afterwards entertained at tea in the vicarage grounds.

#### Evening Post newspaper 27 April 1925 page 9

At Upper Hutt - The memorial services in Upper Hutt district were well attended. In the morning, St John's Church, Trentham, was crowded. The Presbyterian minister, the Rev. J Holmes, read the lesson, and the Rev. G V Kendrick addressed the congregation, after which a verse of the National Anthem was sung, and a wreath was laid on the memorial tablet at the lych-gate, and the Last Post was sounded. Wreaths were also placed on the graves of all soldiers buried in the churchyard. In the afternoon the Upper Hutt Town Board arranged for a further observance at Maidstone Park, where a large number of residents assembled. A verse of the National Anthem, introductory remarks by Mr A J McCurdy (chairman of the board), prayer, hymns, and scripture reading by the Rev. G V Kendrick, preceded an address by the Rev. F B Lawrence (Karori and Marlborough), who had seen active service with, the Forces. The Rev. J Holmes also addressed the gathering, and pronounced the Benediction, after which the Upper Hutt Band played The Garland of Flowers, and Bandsman Neighbours sounded the Last Post.

At St. Joseph's Catholic Church a special Mass for the Dead was celebrated at 8 am by the Rev. Father Kelly, followed by a Benediction service. The church was packed, and upwards of two hundred partook of Holy Communion. The choir sang a number of appropriate hymns in English, including Nearer My God to Thee, and the celebrant delivered an address suitable to the occasion. At the conclusion of the Benediction service the congregation stood while the Dead

March in Saul was played by the organist. In the afternoon the children of St. Joseph's Orphanage assembled, and proceeded in procession to the Catholic churchyard, where they decorated the grave of Seaman Doran of HMS Chatham.

Evening Post newspaper 21 April 1926 page 10

The Upper Hutt Borough Council decided last night that Anzac Day should be observed as it was last year, with a gathering in the school grounds at 3.15 p.m. on 25th April, so as not to clash with the church services. The Returned Soldiers' Association, said the Mayor, was endeavouring to arrange for the Rev. F. B. Lawrence to give the address again and the Anglican and Presbyterian ministers would co-operate. As chairman of the School Committee, Councillor W. Greig gave immediate permission, for the use of the school grounds.

Evening Post newspaper 26 April 1927 page 14

At Upper Hutt - Services of the Upper Hutt district were held by the Rev. Father Kelly in the Roman Catholic Church at 7.30 am and by the Rev. Mr Holmes in the Presbyterian Church and the Rev. G V Kendrick in the Anglican Church (St. John's, Trentham), at 11 am at the latter service a wreath was laid at the foot of the memorial lych gate. In the afternoon a public ceremonial, arranged by the Mayor, was held in the Upper Hutt State School grounds, the speaker being the Rev. F B Lawrence (Karori and Marlborough), himself a Digger. The clergy of the district also joined in this service, the Lord's Prayer and Scripture reading being given by the Rev. Mr Holmes, and an address and the Benediction by the Rev. G V Kendrick. Returned soldiers, borough councillors, members of the friendly societies, pupils of the schools, and many others gathered for the service, and the local band played the music for the hymns and the National Anthem.

Evening Post newspaper 24 April 1928 page 4

In Memoriam - Anzac Sunday Service - An Anzac remembrance service was held in St John's Church on Sunday the Minister of St John's the Rev J R Blanchard B A officiating.

Evening Post newspaper 26 April 1929 page 8

RSA Splendid Work - Testimony to the splendid work being accomplished by the Returned Soldiers' Association in the interests of the returned soldiers was given at the Anzac Day ceremony at the Upper Hutt School by Captain J A Shand. He referred to the various activities of that body, and said that's the years passed, and incapacity {torn war injuries became more difficult to trace, the Wellington Returned Soldiers' Association acted as advocate for the men, and with most satisfactory results. If the returned men only knew of the association's many activities in this connection he was sure its membership would show a considerable increase. The, Rev. Mr. Hunt, another of the speakers, said he was very pleased that the matter had been mentioned. He himself could speak personally of the valuable work being done by the heads of the R.S.A., and he was sure that many men had benefited from it. I know, of no other association that is doing better work than the Returned Soldiers Association, added the rev. gentleman, and I take off my hat to the RSA. Opportunity was also taken to again give public acknowledgment, on behalf of the Wellington Returned Soldiers Association, to the magnificent work of the Upper Hutt residents during the war period in attending to the wants of the thousands, of men who marched through the district, going to and from Trentham and Featherston, and extending to them many kindnesses.

Evening Post newspaper 20 August 1929

Brick or Wood an Upper Hutt Complaint - Regret that the Government intended to depart from its definite promise to erect the new Upper Hutt Courthouse in brick expressed by the Upper Hutt Borough Council last night. The matter arose out of a memorandum from the Government Architect concerning the proposed war memorial to be erected in front of the new Courthouse the memorandum being forwarded to the council by the Department of Justice. The architect said that the memorial was too big in scale to place in front of the Courthouse which is built of wood and he recommended that the council be advised to obtain a more suitable position for such a large structure. Councillor W Greig- pointed out that the Courthouse was to be erected in the brick area and anyone but the State building there would not be allowed by the bylaw to build in

wood. A reason given by the Mayor (Mr P Robertson) for the change of intention regarding the Courthouse the plans for which had been drawn for brick was that brick would cost too much. A motion of regret at the Government's intention was carried. No action was taken in regard to the war memorial.

*(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 20 August 1929)*

The War Memorial was never erected in front of the courthouse but later they did place a small cross on the lawn. Over the following years the annual Anzac parade assemble point was outside the courthouse before they members marching to Maidstone Park.

## **SEARCH 1930**

Evening Post 17 March 1931 page 15

The Returned Soldiers Association was granted the use of the Maidstone Park for the Anzac Day celebrations

Evening Post newspaper 23 April 1931 page 13

In The Hutt Valley - In the morning, at Upper Hutt, weather permitting, services will be held at all the schools, the speakers, being supplied by the local branch of the Returned Soldiers' Association. In the afternoon a memorial service will be held in Maidstone Park, at 2.30. A parade of returned soldiers will be strengthened by a party of ratings under an officer from Trentham Camp South African veterans and Scouts, together with various friendly societies. The local band will head the procession, which will march from the RSA rooms to the Park.

Evening Post newspaper 23 April 1932 page 3

Anzac Day – The Public are invited to attend a Memorial Service to be held at Maidstone Park, Upper Hutt, at 10.15 am - All Ex-Servicemen are requested to parade. Fall in opposite RSA. Rooms, Station street, at 10 am sharp. Should the weather be unfavourable the Service will be held, in the Majestic Theatre. W J Comber President.

Evening Post newspaper 26 April 1932 page 1

Upper Hutt - The Anzac service at Upper Hutt was held at Maidstone Park, many people attending. Returned soldiers and a detachment of Naval men, preceded by the Municipal Band, marched to the park, where the service was conducted by members of the various local churches. Addresses were given by the Mayor of Upper Hutt, Mr A J McCurdy, and Adjutant Norman, of the Salvation Army. Prayers were said by the Rev. G W Hunt and the Rev. G V Kendrick. The band played appropriate selections, and the "Last Post" was sounded by Mr. A. Jackson.

Evening Post newspaper 28 July 1932

Fire at Upper Hutt old building destroyed – A small building in Station Street Upper Hutt built at least fifty years ago and used until recently as the Courthouse was almost completely destroyed by fire early this morning. Since the erection of the new Courthouse the old building has been used as a clubhouse by the Returned Soldiers Association. Mr A W J Kearns sleeps on the premises and he was awakened at about 3 am by the smell of smoke and the noise of the burning. The Upper Hutt Fire Brigade soon arrived but was able to save only the shell of the building. Mr Kearns's wife who also lived on the premises was away last night. The building which was owned by the Department of Justice was insured for £100 and the furniture and effects were insured for £100.

*(Reference Papers past website Evening Post newspaper 28 July 1932 page 12)*

## **SEARCH 1933**

Evening Post newspaper 27 April 1934 page 2

The- Anzac Day service at Upper Hutt was held at the Cozy Theatre, yesterday afternoon. The Upper Hutt Band was in attendance. The service was held under the auspices, of the Upper Hutt RSA and the Hutt Valley South African Veterans Association. The speaker was Captain F Moor, DCM. The Mayor of Upper Hutt (Mr J McCurdy) presided.

Evening Post newspaper 12 April 1935 page 11

A meeting will be held at Upper Hutt on Monday night of the RSA, South African Veterans, clergy, and the band to make arrangements for Anzac Day.

Evening Post newspaper 26 April 1935 page 13

The service at Upper Hutt which was largely attended, was held in Maidstone Park in fine weather. The Mayor of Upper Hutt (Mr A J McCurdy) presided. Major C A L Treadwell said it was a matter of pride to him to be able to make the address at Upper Hutt, particularly because some men whose friendship he had formed on the battlefield were present.

Upper Hutt Weekly Review 24 April 1936 page 1

Anzac Day - Anzac Day will be observed tomorrow (Saturday) in the Upper Hutt with the Church Services, in the morning and evening and a Citizens Service in the afternoon. Special church services at St John's Anglican Church and the Presbyterian Church will be held in the morning at 11 am and an evening service at the Salvation Army Hall at 7 pm. The citizens service in the afternoon will be held in the Maidstone Park, commencing at 3 pm (if the weather is unsuitable the service will be transferred to the Record Hall). The Municipal Band will be in attendance and it is hoped that a combined choir will lead the singing. Any members of choirs in the district will be welcomed, and special accommodation will be set aside for them. The usual parade of South African Veterans, Returned Soldiers and Scouts, headed by the band, will leave the Upper Hutt Court House at 2.30 pm sharp, and the executive of the local branch of the Returned Soldiers appeal to all returned men to be on parade that afternoon, medals and decorations to be worn. The address will be delivered by the Rev Mr Tooley of St Cuthbert's assisted by other ministers in the district.

Upper Hutt Weekly Review 24 April 1936 page 1

Upper Hutt - The Anzac service at Upper Hutt was held at Maidstone Park, many people attending. Returned soldiers and a detachment of Naval men, preceded by the Municipal Band, marched to the park, where the service was conducted by members of the various local churches. Addresses were given by the Mayor of Upper Hutt, Mr. A. J. 'McCurdy, and Adjutant Norman, of the Salvation Army. Prayers were said by the Rev. G. W. Hunt and the Bey. G. V. Kendrick. The band played appropriate selections, and the "Last Post" was sounded by Mr. A. Jackson.

Upper Hutt Weekly Review 01 May 1936 page 1

Anzac Day in the Upper Hutt - Citizens Memorial Service - Owing to the wet weather the Citizens Service was held in the Record Hall (by permission of Mr A J McCurdy). The usual procession of returned men was, however, carried out. Falling in at the Court House, the procession moved off, led by the Upper Hutt Municipal Band, then followed the armed detail from the Trentham Camp, under Corporal Foubister, South African Veterans, Returned Soldiers, Legion of Frontiersmen and Boy Scouts. The marshal of the parade was Mr A Collins, assisted by the Secretary of the Returned Soldiers Association. Arriving at the hall, reserved places for the parade was soon occupied and in a very short time the hall was overflowing with citizens, and as stated later on by one of the speakers, one of the best crowds seen in Upper Hutt for Anzac Day.

Upper Hutt Weekly Review newspaper 23 April 1937 page 3

Anzac Service At Upper Hutt - The citizens' Anzac Service will be held on Sunday afternoon in Maidstone Park at 3.15 p.m. If the weather is anyway wet, the Mayor has offered the use of the Record Hall. A parade of all returned men will be held, and ex-Servicemen are asked to fall in outside the Courthouse at 2.45 p.m. The service, has been postponed 15 minutes this year, so as to allow the residents from the Trentham and Silverstream areas the opportunity of catching the rail car from town, which arrives at Upper Hutt at 3.14 p.m.

Upper Hutt Weekly Review 22 April 1938 page 3

Anzac Day will be observed in the district on Monday next. The schools will hold their services in the morning and the citizens memorial service will be held at Maidstone Park at 3 pm. If wet, Mr

McCurdy has kindly offered his hall for the service. All citizens are invited. The returned soldiers which will parade from the Courthouse, Veterans and an armed detachment from the Trentham camp.

Evening Post newspaper 23 April 1938 page 10

Upper Hutt Parade - At Upper Hutt the parade will leave the Courthouse at 2.30 pm. The parade, which will be headed by a band, will consist of an armed guard from Trentham camp, South African! veterans, and members of the Returned Soldiers Association. The service will be held in Maidstone Park at 3 pm. The address will be given by Mr S F Carver, MM, and local ministers of religion will take part. The Mayor and councillors and members of lodges will be present.

Upper Hutt Weekly Review 29 April 1938 page 6

Anzac Day at Upper Hutt - Owing to the inclement weather, the Citizens Anzac service was held in the Record Hall on Monday afternoon, the hall being filled to overflowing. A parade of returned men headed by the Upper Hutt Band and an armed detail from the Trentham Camp marched from the Court House to the hall, there being a good muster of returned soldiers and members of the Legion of Frontiersmen. The Mayor (Mr A J McCurdy) presided, and the address was given by the president of the local Branch of the RSA (Mr S F Carver, MM)

Evening Post newspaper 21 April 1939 page 11

The Upper Hutt service will be held in the afternoon. A procession led by the Upper Hutt Municipal Band and consisting of South African Veterans RSA members, the local platoon of the Territorials, the League of Frontiersmen, Boy Scouts, and Girl Guides will leave the front of the Court house at 2.30 pm and will march to Maidstone Park, where a civic service will be held. In the absence of the Mayor, Mr P Robertson, through ill health Councillor J Blewman will preside. The address will be given by Padre N L Winhall.

Evening Post newspaper 23 April 1940 page 11

At Upper Hutt and Eastbourne the usual Anzac Day parades will be held under the auspices of the RSA.

Evening Post newspaper 23 April 1940 page 11

Parade reports - Upper Hutt 2 pm speaker Staff Sergeant F Price Trentham 2 pm speakers Majors J R Kirk and Mr H Polson

Evening Post 26 April 1940 page 5

Services were also held at Upper Hutt and Eastbourne

Evening Post newspaper 26 April 1941 page 1

Over 800 people attended the Anzac Day ceremony at Maidstone Park, Upper Hutt. The parade, which was the biggest seen in the borough, comprised South African and Great War veterans, Red Cross units, the Home Guard, including two mounted troops, a Territorial platoon. Girl Guides, the St. John Ambulance. EPS units, the Upper Hutt Volunteer Fire Brigade and the Municipal Band. The Mayor, Mr J Blewman, presided at the service and the address was given by the Rev J L Holland, CF.

Upper Hutt Leader 06 March 1941

Home Guard Church Parade – A church parade of the Upper Hutt Sub-Unit Home Guard will take place in Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March. Fall in at 1000 hours (10 am) sharp in front of the Upper Hutt Courthouse and march to Maidstone Park where a short Service will be held Rev J C McCaw officiating. All Subsidy Units of Home Guards and EPS are invited to attend. Upper Hutt Municipal Band will be in attendance. H Birkett Commander  
(Reference Upper Hutt City Library website Upper Hutt Leader 06 March 1941)

Upper Hutt Leader 24 April 1941

They Say What Do They Say - That the usual Anzac Service will be held on Maidstone Park tomorrow afternoon (Friday). That the address will be given by the Rev J L Holland son of the Bishop of Wellington. That Returned Soldiers are requested to parade medals and decorations. That the Home Guard, EPS, WWSA, and other 'kindred units will be there. That the parade will leave the Courthouse just after 2 pm headed by the Municipal Band. That if the weather is unfavourable the service will be held in the Majestic Theatre.

*(Reference Upper Hutt City Library website Upper Hutt Leader 24 April 1941)*

Upper Hutt Leader 18 April 1946

Anzac Day Service - The Service will be held in Maidstone Park on Thursday the 25th April 1946, at 2.30 pm (If wet the Service will be held in the Mayfair Theatre at 2.30 pm) A Parade of the following bodies will fall in in Pine Avenue opposite the Courthouse and proceed to Maidstone Park. Assemble Pine Avenue 2 pm Municipal Band, SAV, RSA, Home Service Association, Red Cross, St. John Ambulance, Pipe Band, Guides and Brownies, Scouts and Cubs, and school children. J BLEWMAN Mayor

*(Reference Upper Hutt City Library website Upper Hutt Leader 18 April 1946)*

Upper Hutt Leader 28 April 1949

Anzac Day at Upper Hutt – 3000 Returned Servicemen attend Dawn parade – At 5.45 am on Monday morning about 350 returned servicemen lined up outside the RSA Hall and led by the Standard Bearer Captain SD Rodgers MC marched silently down the Main Road to the lawn outside the Courthouse where the Dawn Service was held.

*(Reference Upper Hutt City Library website Upper Hutt Leader 28 April 1949)*

Upper Hutt Leader 26 April 1956

President Frank Kershaw pronounced the Anzac Dedication after which wreaths were laid at the foot of the cross on the lawn outside the Courthouse.

*(Reference Upper Hutt City Library website Upper Hutt Leader 26 April 1956)*