



MEMORIAL SERVICE

on the occasion of the unveiling of
the Memorial erected and dedicated
to the memory of the men of the
2nd Division who fell in the Battle
of Kohima and the opening of the
Imphal Road

"Their name liveth for evermore"

KOHIMA

18 NOVEMBER 1944



ORDER OF SERVICE

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. AMEN.

I am the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.

HYMN

For all the Saints who from their labours rest,
Who Thee by faith before the world confess'd,
Thy Name, O Jesu, be forever blest. Alleluia!

Thou wast their Rock, their Fortress, and their Might;
Thou, Lord, their Captain in the well-fought fight;
Thou in the darkness drear their one true Light. Alleluia!

O may Thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,
Fight as the Saints who nobly fought of old,
And win, with them, the victor's crown of gold. Alleluia!

O blest communion! fellowship Divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
Yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine. Alleluia!

And when the strife is fierce, the war-fare long,
Steals on the ear the distant triumph-song,
And hearts are brave again, and arms are strong. Alleluia!

The golden evening brightens in the west;
Soon, soon to faithful warriors comes their rest;
Sweet is the calm of Paradise the blest. Alleluia!

But lo! there breaks a yet more glorious day;
The Saints triumphant rise in bright array:
The King of Glory passes on His way. Alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
Singing to the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Alleluia! AMEN.

The Divisional War Memorial

THE memorial was designed by Lieut. J. W. Ferrie R.E. and the stonework executed by the Divisional Engineers with the assistance of masons from other units and working parties from 4th Inf. Bde.

Assistance has also been given by C.R.E. 112 and the stone was erected by 200 local Nagas, who refused to accept payment.

The teak plaque on the plinth is a replica of the copper plate which will ultimately replace it. All copper plates are being engraved by Messrs. Llewlyn of Calcutta.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, which art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive them that trespass against us,
And lead us not into temptation;
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the Kingdom,
The Power, and the glory, For ever and ever. AMEN.

Priest : Our help is in the Name of the Lord.

Answer : Who hath made heaven and earth.

Priest : O Lord, hear our prayer.

Answer : And let our cry come unto Thee.

Priest : The Lord be with you.

Answer : And with thy spirit.

PSALM XLVI

(Read alternate verses)

GOD is our hope and strength : A very present help in trouble.

Therefore will we not fear, though the earth be moved : and though the hills be carried into the midst of the sea.

Though the waters thereof rage and swell : and though the mountains shake at the tempest of the same.

The rivers of the flood thereof shall make glad the city of God : the holy place of the tabernacle of the most Highest.

God is in the midst of her, therefore shall she not be removed : God shall help her, and that right early.

The heathen make much ado, and the kingdoms are moved : but God hath shewed his voice, and the earth shall melt away.

The Lord of hosts is with us : the God of Jacob is our refuge.

O come hither, and behold the works of the Lord : what destruction he hath brought upon the earth.

He maketh wars to cease in all the world : he breaketh the bow, and knappeth the spear in sunder, and burneth the chariots in the fire.

Be still then, and know that I am God : I will be exalted among the heathen, and I will be exalted in the earth.

The Lord of hosts is with us : the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost :

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be ; world without end. AMEN.

THE LESSON: Revelation Twenty-One

(Read by the Divisional Commander)

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

And I, John, saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.

And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there.

And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it.

And there shall in no wise enter into it anything that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

LET US PRAY

Almighty God, the fountain of all goodness, we humbly beseech Thee with Thy favour to behold our most gracious sovereign Lord, King George, Emperor of India; to bless our gracious Queen Elizabeth, Mary, the Queen Mother, the Princess Elizabeth, and all the Royal Family: and with Thy heavenly assistance to support and guide the Viceroy, the Commanders-in-Chiefs, the Governors of Provinces, the Judges, and all in authority in this land: so that all things being ordered in wisdom, righteousness and mercy, Thy people may serve Thee in all godly quietness to the glory of Thy Holy name: through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

Holy Spirit of God, Who rulest in the hearts of men, guide and direct the men and women of our nation, empire and allies, who are serving the cause of truth and right, that they may win for the world the fruits of their sacrifice and a just peace, Through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

We thank Thee, O God, for all those who having fought the good fight of faith, are now at rest with Thee: especially those who, in the day of battle have given their lives for their country. And we beseech Thee that, encouraged by their examples, and strengthened by their fellowship, we also may be found meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: through the merit of Thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

Father of all, we pray for those whom we love, but see no longer. Grant them Thy peace. Let light perpetual shine upon them; and in Thy loving wisdom and almighty power, work in them the good purpose of Thy perfect will. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

O Lord Jesus Christ, who on the Cross didst stretch out Thine arms embracing all the world, grant to the nations such a realisation of Thy love and sacrifice that they may learn to live in brotherhood one with another and serve Thee, the Prince of Peace. AMEN.

Teach us, O Lord to serve Thee as Thou deservest: to give, and not to count the cost: to fight, and not to heed the wounds: to toil, and not to seek for rest: to labour, and not to ask for any reward, save that of knowing that we do Thy will, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

HYMN

O Valiant hearts, who to your glory came,
Through dust of conflict and through battle flame
Tranquil you lie your knightly virtue proved,
Your men'ry hallowed in the Land you loved.

Proudly you gathered, rank on rank to war,
As who had heard God's message from afar;
All you had hoped for, all you had you gave
To save mankind yourselves you scorned to save.

Splendid you passed, the great surrender made,
Into the light that nevermore shall fade;
Deep your contentment in that blest abode
Who wait the last clear trumpet call of God.

Long years ago as earth lay dark and still,
Rose a loud cry upon a lonely hill,
While in the frailty of our human clay
Christ, our Redeemer, passed the self-same way.

Still stands his Cross from that dread hour to this
Like some bright star above the dark abyss;
Still, through the veil, the Victor's pitying eyes
Look down to bless our lesser Calvaries.

These were his servants, in his steps they trod,
Following through death the martyr'd Son of God
Victor He rose; victorious too shall rise
They who have drunk His cup of sacrifice.

O risen Lord, O Shepherd of our dead,
Whose Cross has bought them and whose Staff has led,
In glorious hope their proud and sorrowing Land
Commits her Children to Thy gracious hand. AMEN.

THE UNVEILING

All ranks will stand to attention during the playing of the Lament. Officers will not salute.

All ranks will stand to attention and all Officers will salute during the sounding of the Last Post.

During the unveiling and dedication of the Memorial and the sounding of Reveille all ranks will remain at attention. Officers will not salute during the sounding of Reveille.

LAMENT

Played by the pipes of the Scottish Regiments of the Division.

LAST POST

THE MEMORIAL IS UNVEILED BY

LIEUT.-GENERAL SIR W. J. SLIM, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.,
G.O.C.-IN-C. FOURTEENTH ARMY.

DEDICATION

I heard a voice from heaven, saying unto me, Write, From henceforth blessed are the dead which die in the Lord: even so saith the Spirit; for they rest from their labours.

O Lord, Jesus Christ, Almighty and Everlasting God, who by the Will of the Father didst save the world by shedding Thy blood upon the cross. Bless and hallow, we beseech Thee, this Memorial, which we raise and dedicate to the glorious and undying memory of the Officers and men of the 2nd Division, who laid down their lives in the Battle of Kohima and the Imphal Road. Grant that whosoever looks upon this Memorial, may be ever mindful of their sacrifice. Who livest and reignest with the Father, and the Holy Spirit. One God, world without end. AMEN.

REVEILLE

HYMN

O God our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home ;

Beneath the shadow of Thy Throne
Thy Saints have dwelt secure ;
Sufficient is Thine Arm alone,
And our defence is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God,
To endless years the same.

A thousand ages in Thy sight
Are like an evening gone ;
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever rolling stream,
Bears all its sons away ;
They fly forgotten, as a dream
Dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while troubles last,
And our eternal home. AMEN.

THE KING

(All ranks will stand to attention and all Officers will salute during the singing of the National Anthem.)

A Note

The Divisional Memorial at KOHIMA has been designed and erected by members of the Division to the proud memory of their fallen comrades.

The cost of the Memorial has been met by subscription within the Division, including the provision of a perpetual Trust Fund for its upkeep.

At present the Memorial is unfinished, but the final constructional work should be completed within a short time. The blank panels in the back wall of the dais will later be filled with the regimental Rolls of Honour which are now being engraved. The dedication plaque upon the base of the Memorial is a temporary one and will later be replaced by a similarly worded engraved copper plate. On the reverse of the base will be a similar plate recounting the story of the battle in these words:

In February 1944, a Japanese Army of Invasion advanced across the hills of MANIPUR and ASSAM, proclaiming as its mission the conquest of INDIA.

By April the Japanese 31st Division had invested KOHIMA. Its vanguards were approaching DIMAPUR. To meet the threat to the lifeline of our forces in IMPHAL, the 2nd Division was called from Southern INDIA.

By land, sea and air the Division moved to DIMAPUR. As fast as troops arrived, they advanced to the relief of the valiant KOHIMA Garrison, isolated on the top of GARRISON HILL.

On 14 April, leading the advance, 5 Inf. Bde. smashed the foremost Japanese road block at ZUBZA, and on 18 April 6 Inf. Bde. relieved the KOHIMA Garrison, now almost at the limit of its endurance.

The first task had been completed.

The second and heaviest task was to drive the enemy from the dominating heights of KOHIMA.

On this and the surrounding hills was fought for one month the bloodiest and most desperate battle of the campaign. Here, and on the hills above, 6 Inf. Bde. endured and fought back till every Japanese soldier was killed or lay buried under his broken strong points. To the North the KOHIMA NAGA VILLAGE was carried by the night assault of 5 Inf. Bde. and held against repeated counter-attacks. To the South over the steep jungle-covered hills of PULEBADZE 4 Inf. Bde. marched for fourteen days to strike the enemy in the heart of his positions. By 15 May, all KOHIMA was ours, and the strength of the 31st Japanese Division broken. Without continuously loyal aid from NAGA stretcher bearers, porters and guides, this victory could not have been won.

There remained the final task of 2nd Division. To complete the rout of 31st Japanese Division and open the road to the besieged garrison at IMPHAL. At ARADURA, VISWEMA, KHUZAMA and MARAM victories were quickly won against desperate enemy rearguards. On 22 June 1944 contact was made at MILE 109 with the forces advancing from IMPHAL. The road was open and the three-month siege of IMPHAL raised.

A routed force, the once proud 31st Japanese Division was in headlong retreat Eastwards, littering the hill tracks with its dead and dying.

A copy of this Memorial Service is being sent to the relatives of all those who so nobly gave their lives and whose memory is perpetuated in this Memorial.