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INSTITUTE OF ACTUARIES.

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REPORT OF SPEECHES

AT THE

**Unveiling of the Institute of Actuaries' War Memorial**

AT

STAPLE INN HALL, HOLBORN,

ON

THURSDAY, 16 MARCH 1922, AT 5 P.M.

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SIR ALFRED WATSON, President, said: Ladies and Gentlemen, we are met this afternoon in solemn pride to pay our combined tribute to the memory of our gallant brethren who died for England in the Great War, and to unveil the Tablet by which we seek, not to remind ourselves, for we can never forget, but to ensure that those who succeed us in the Institute of Actuaries shall be fully seized of the part the men of the Institute took and of the greatness of the sacrifice so many of them made in a conflict of which the might and the fatefulness will not be diminished in the perspective of history.

War Memorials multiply as, in obedience to a compelling sense of reverence and gratitude, men seek to perpetuate the achievements of those who, forsaking the peaceful tasks of civil life, stepped proudly forward to resist oppression and died in that resistance. In other places the names of most

IN MEMORY OF THE MEN OF THE INSTITUTE OF  
ACTUARIES WHO DIED FOR THEIR COUNTRY 1914-1918

ARTHUR W. ALEXANDER	WALTER B. BARNES
GEORGE F. T. ASHOTT	KENNEL T. HAWKINS
WILLIAM A. A'HAM	GEOFFREY V. HEALD
THOMAS N. AINSWORTH	JAMES HOGG
VINCENT J. ALLEN	THOMAS HOLGATE
TANLEY G. BENJAMIN	JOHN C. HOBLEY
CLAUDE THURWELL	ALEXANDER J. JONES
FRANCIS J. BLAKE	HENRY E. KEARLE
WILFRED BRADLEY	ERNEST J. KEMP
FREDERICK J. BUNTON	DONALD KIRK
HARRY W. BURNBY	JAMES LANGSTAFF
GEORGE F. BURROWS	ROBERT J. LEDGER
GEORGE L. L. LAWLER	MURIEL F. LOGG
ARTHUR V. CLARKE	JOHN V. M. LEAN
EDWIN C. K. CLARKE	CIVIL P. MADDOX
RAYMOND COLE	JAMES H. MARLIN
FREDERICK CORRIE	FREDERICK C. MANN
THOMAS G. CUNLIFF	ERNEST B. MARTIN
H. HELE DAVIES	THOMAS MIDDLETON
HAROLD J. DAVIS	HENRY J. MILLS
FREDERICK DEFRIES	BRIAN NEDDELL
GERALD D. DODDGETT	EDWARD A. NEWLAND
EDWARD M. DOWE	JAMES H. ORR
R. G. GREGGON STEES	HARRY ORRILL
CHRISTOPHER J. ELLIOTT	HERBERT H. PHILLIPS
WALTER S. EMERY	GEORGE H. POLLOCK
JOHN M. FRED	GILFRIED M. REEVE
GILBERT S. FREDDEN	DONALD A. ROBERTS
RICHARD C. FIPPARD	HOLKAY ROBINSON
HERBERT D. S. FROMANT	CHARLES S. SHILSON
AUSTYN J. C. FYFE	WALTER E. SMITH
RALPH G. GALE	SIDNEY F. SNOWDON
CHARLES G. GARNS	ALAN D. STEED
FREDERICK G. GOSWEN	JOHN B. T. THOMAS
FREDERICK J. GRANT	JOHN J. TWENTYMAN
GEORGE H. GRANTHAM	HARRY WALLIS
HERBERT C. A. GRASATT	HARRY WATSON
ARTHUR S. GREGORY	SNEYREY G. WATHERSON
MALCOLM T. GRIGG	FREDERICK WELLSCH
ERNEST H. GIMPRECHT	FREDERICK WILLIAMSON
ROSE J. HAMMOND	DAVID G. YOUNG

THEIR NAMES LIVE FOR EVER IN OUR

of those whom we commemorate are doubtless enshrined in loyal and grateful recollection by their associates in work and play. We, nevertheless, must have our Memorial of them. They were a part of our little community, sharing with us the pursuits and interests that bind us together, and by the high courage with which they faced the greater task, and by the sacrifice they made, they have endowed us with a sense of corporate pride to which we must needs give expression. To fight for one's country!—to die in its defence!—what eloquent dissertations, throughout the ages, have been produced upon these themes! But how infinitely different it is from contemplating the supreme sacrifice for country in philosophic abstraction to be brought into contact with it through those who were our intimate associates in our work and in our studies. Not all the ennobling sentiments to which the masters of prose and poetry have given utterance will suffice to express our thoughts and our emotions when we recall, each one of us, some of those whose names are recorded on this Tablet. They died for England! In very truth they died that we might live, that we might hold up our heads as free men, that, undiminished and unsullied, the heritage of liberty which had come to us from our fathers should pass on to our children. Greater even than this—for the fate of England was not the immediate issue—they died to resist the doctrine that might must dominate the world, that power justified aggression, and that, no man hindering, the strong might enslave the weak. Brushing aside all sophistries, and prompt to realize the fundamental issues, masses of our countrymen sprang to arms at the challenge, and none more promptly than the men of the Institute of Actuaries. What they undertook, what they endured, can in no way be so impressively indicated as by the long list of those to whose memory we now do honour.

You are aware that some 430 of our colleagues joined the Forces. Our Memorial Tablet contains 82 names, a high proportion indeed. The cruel toll of high-spirited youth that war remorselessly takes is significantly indicated by the fact that while six of the fallen were Fellows and 16 were Associates, 22 of our Students and 38 Probationers lost their lives. Not all were British in the narrower sense of the word. It is an additional bond between us and our professional brethren over seas that our Tablet includes the names of two

Canadians and five Australians. Each arm of the Forces is represented in the list. While, inevitably, the Army preponderates with 76 names, the Navy claims four and the Air Force two.

Our pride in their gallant service would be increased, if that were possible, by the record of the decorations conferred upon some of them. H. T. K. Robinson, for services described in the Presidential Address of my predecessor, was awarded the Distinguished Service Order, with two bars. The Military Cross was conferred in four cases: E. C. Kaye Clarke, E. M. Dove, F. G. Goodyear and E. R. Williamson. J. J. Twentyman received the Distinguished Conduct Medal. This may not represent the complete list. If so we should be glad to be notified of any additions which should be made to it.

Their resting places are widely scattered, and from what we know of the service of those who, happily, have returned to us it is probable that wherever Englishmen fought some of our men laid down their lives. Certain contests of imperishable memory will have a special significance for us of the Institute. Some of those who were our colleagues in the peaceful life at home lie in the hallowed acres that thickly stud the fields of Flanders, that land of proud and sacred memories for every man of British blood. Ten fell in the first battle of the Somme, one went down with his ship in the battle of Jutland, some gave up their lives in the Dardenelles and on the Gallipoli Peninsula, while others were killed in action or died from the hardships of the campaign based on Salonica.

As your President I have endeavoured in these few words to express, however inadequately—and on such a subject adequate utterance I can never find—the sense of pride that animates us as an Institute in reflecting upon the valour and selflessness of those whose names will have an honoured place on our walls so long as the Institute exists. That my poor words should not seem all there is to say on this historic occasion I am going to ask Mr. Higham, as representing our senior members to address you, and following him Mr. Clement Hall, selected by the Students' Society to speak for the juniors, so many of whom, including himself, did gallant service for their country in its hour of need.

MR. C. D. HIGHAM: It is strange to find myself talking

again in this Hall, for I thought I had sung my swan song years ago. I do not forget how often "superfluous lags the veteran on the stage," but when you, Sir, with kindly courtesy, suggested it was desirable that one of the older generation should have a share in the proceedings this afternoon I could not but comply, and I think I fairly may, because there are only two Fellows senior to myself. I doubt if some of you younger men knew what it was, when our dear England made her call in 1914, for us who were older to be able to do so little—some financial help perhaps, some entertaining, driving out the wounded, listening to interminable talk on Committees, and so on. But our limitations only increased our pride and pleasure when we saw the splendour of the unrivalled response that you made when you gave everything—your all. As you said, Sir, I do not think any profession excelled ours in the willingness with which the men came forward. I have no reason to suppose that my own office was different from any other, but except those who from age could not go everyone was willing, and everyone served except the few that we had to retain to keep the doors open. And they went out of their way to go. A dear friend of mine in the office, who was refused through an ailment, got admitted into hospital for an operation so as to qualify. He went out, and alas his name is on that list. But when we talk of the heroism of those who went I do think we also want to remember the heroism of those who stayed—I mean the wives who never kept their husbands back, the wives who took up unaccustomed burdens and manfully—that is the word—carried on. "They also serve who only stand and wait", and to my mind the bravery of patience is not less to be commended than the bravery that amid the rush of events and the joy of action goes forward to victory. There is a quotation I have made in this Hall before and I might venture to make it again. You will remember that when Horace was considering what should be his own monument he said "Non omnis moriar, multa que pars mei vitabit Libitinam." You have the same thought in St. Augustine's Confessions: "Nec omnino moriebatur." You have those first three words on Haydn's tomb and in other places, and I often think of them, especially on occasions like this. These men we are commemorating are not dead but living, living in the hearts of those they love—not loved—and who love

them, living in the memory of the companions with whom they worked in this great city and elsewhere, living in this Hall where they began their studies and went on ever learning day by day. And they live for an inspiration and encouragement to us and to all those who after us shall foregather in this Hall. It is not probable that during my lifetime we shall hear the call again in exactly the same way, but duty has many voices, and I have no doubt that when its clarion does ring out, at whatever time and in whatever manner, this profession of ours of which we are so proud will not fail to respond to its great traditions and once again stand forth as a pattern of unselfishness, of patriotism, and of honour. Once more, Sir, I thank you for letting me have the opportunity of adding this pitiful tribute to the memory of the friends we shall never see here again.

MR. CLEMENT HALL: Much as I appreciate the honour of speaking on behalf of the younger Members of the Institute on this occasion I would that the task had fallen to someone more fitted to do justice to it. It was a privilege to many of us to count as friends those whom we are here to honour to-night, so that in giving expression to our feelings of admiration for them and for what they did we can do so with the certainty that comes from personal knowledge. Of necessity the Memorial makes no reference to the individual deeds of valour performed by those whom it commemorates. Those men, I am sure, would have had it so. When the call came to them they went forth, with no idea of personal gain or glory, to do whatever their country in her need might require of them. To them it was sufficient to know that they were doing their duty. That done they desired no praise. The decorations and medals which had been won by them are a measure of the courage of those who have passed away, but it must not be supposed to represent the sum total of the gallant deeds which have been performed. Many a man who went to his grave with no ribbon upon his breast was in valour the equal of or superior to those whose courage had been officially recognized. I say that with no desire to reduce in the eyes of anyone the value of those decorations which have been granted, but rather with the view to assist you to realize the wonderful quality of those to whom this Memorial is raised. Although this is an occasion upon which our thoughts naturally tend to dwell upon the past we shall, I think, best

keep green the memories of our friends by upholding in the eyes of the actuaries of the world the prestige of this Institute, and by a determination that the ideas of liberty and freedom for which they fought and died shall never be forgotten.

The SECRETARY read the list of names of those inscribed upon the Tablet.

The PRESIDENT, in unveiling the Tablet, said : It is now my duty to unveil this Memorial and hand it to the Institute as a sacred trust, to be held, for ourselves in remembrance, and for future generations of actuaries to show the quality, the patriotism and the strength of purpose, of those men of the Institute who died for their country in the Great War.

I desire to acknowledge on behalf of the Institute the skilled art and craftsmanship to which we owe this beautiful Tablet. To Mr. Paul Waterhouse, the President of the Royal Institute of British Architects, whose son Mr. Michael Waterhouse is with us this afternoon, for the design and supervision of the work, and to Messrs. Hart, Son, Peard & Co., for the construction of the Tablet, I tender the sincere thanks of the Institute.

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