



## ALONG THE MAIL ROUTE

### IMPRESSIVE CEREMONY AT ABORIGINES' SCHOOL

Because of the sacrifices of the Anzacs, Australian children could hold up their heads no matter where they went, said Mr. Alex Stanley.

Mr. Stanley, an aborigine, himself an Anzac who served on Gallipoli and in Palestine with the Australian Light Horse, was speaking at an Anzac Day Commemoration service at Moree Aborigines' school attended by 145 pupils and a number of visitors.

The service was conducted by the children and was most impressive with its simplicity and sincerity.

On behalf of the Headmaster, Mr. J. Tooher, Mr. M. Young welcomed a number of visitors including the President of Moree R.S.L., Mr. Howard Nicholson, Canon E. T. Ormerod, Rev. Fr. R. Shanahan, Rev. C. G. Mathieson, Rev. Murray Richter, the Inspector of Schools, Mr. R. E. Davies, the Headmaster of Moree Intermediate High School, Mr. W. Baldwin, Mr. W. Norbury, representing Moree Apex, Mesdames Green and Saunders, Aborigines' School Parents and Citizens' Association, Welfare Officer, Mr. J. Green, Manager of the Station, Mr. D. Reynolds and Mrs. Reynolds.

Mr. Young indicated a cairn of stones at the base of the flagpole which, he told the assembly, was not a shrine or a memorial but a symbol where the wreaths could be placed in honour of the fallen and to enable the children to pay their homage.

Mr. Nicholson said that on April 25 each year people commemorated what was now known as Anzac Day. It was on April 25, 1915, that the men of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps landed on Gallipoli and gave the word Anzac to the people.

"It was through their tremendous courage and sacrifice and their tremendous determination to carry on against odds any landing force has had to face that we were given our nationhood," he said.

"As a result it drew the admiration of the world—friend and foe alike—and as a result, Australia was born as a nation."

Mr. Nicholson said the Anzacs had established a tradition and spirit that had been carried on through the years and had been passed on to the soldiers of World War II and of whom General Rommel had remarked, were the best shock troops in the world.

"That spirit has made Australia not only a nation but a rising, great nation," he continued.

Boys and girls must have realisation of this spirit as they were the future citizens of the country and, in doing so, must remember the men who laid down their lives.

"Boys and girls, I hope you never forget their tremendous sacrifice", he added. "It is a heritage they passed on to us and is passed on to you."

"I hope and trust, and know, you will keep that spirit alive."

Mr. Stanley said that Anzac Day represented the greatest day in Australia's history. Men had laid down their lives on that first Anzac Day and children should appreciate what that meant. They were men from all walks of life and he was there to represent those men of Anzac.

"Children, always remember you are the sons and daughters of Anzacs and can hold up your heads wherever you go," he said. "There is nothing to be ashamed of because the flower of Australian men laid down their lives for this day."

"Remember it well."

The flag was then lowered to half mast and while the choir sang the Recessional, children laid wreaths at the base of the flagstaff.

This was followed by the recitation, "They Shall Not Grow Old". The singing of the National Anthem brought the ceremony to a close.