

## READERS' VIEWS NAMBOUR & DISTRICT WAR MEMORIAL

To the Editor  
SIR.—I think an explanation is warranted of the true position, in view of the fact that, as organiser for the Nambour and District War Memorial Committee, I am continually met with questions, such as: Why did you sell your other memorial hall? The public built one memorial hall, why was it sold?

The true position is as follows: The first Diggers' hall was built on the present site about 1922. A ways and means committee was formed for the purpose of raising funds and collected about £200 by public subscription. The Diggers themselves formed working bees and cut, carted, and erected the stumps. A certain amount of voluntary labour was also contributed, mostly by relatives of the Diggers. The people who supplied the timber, iron, etc., agreed to wait for their money, but by 1924 an amount of £1100 was still owing, and these people started to look for their money.

Five members of the Sub-Branch then went guarantors and the above amount was paid off. This building was destroyed by fire and the present structure was erected and completed in the year 1930. The nucleus of the money used in the erection of the present building came from the fire insurance on the first building and £1400 worth of debentures were then issued bearing interest at three and a half per cent., to complete the amount due for construction.

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In April, 1935, the E.S. and A. Bank was approached and agreed to take over the mortgage and the debenture holders were paid up with interest to date. In 1940, in view of certain happenings which appeared likely to take place, and would have, but for the war, a special meeting of the Nambour Sub-Branch R.S.S.A.I.L.A. was called, and the trustees were instructed to effect the sale of the building. This was duly carried out, the purchasers being Edgar Wells and M. H. Gray. The price received was £2,500, and of this amount £500 was required to meet the E.S. and A. Bank mortgage, the balance, £2000, was invested in the war loan. Of this £2,000, £250 was withdrawn and used for the purpose of purchasing from Mr. A. W. Thynne the present site owned by the Diggers, and on which the Nambour and District War Memorial is to be built. The Diggers have also contributed £1,000 to this fund, making a total of £1250 which, I am sure, anyone will agree who knows the circumstances, is more than ever was contributed by the public in the first place.

It is to be sadly deplored that a large number of the public of Nambour and district are in ignorance of the true facts relating to the present Diggers' Hall in Howard Street, Nambour, and are labouring under the delusion that it was built by the public as a memorial to the Diggers of the 1914-18 war.—  
Yours etc.,

V. TAMPPINEN