

February 26 1992 Memorial gives way to junction

DORNOCH'S 70-year-old war memorial was moved for road-safety reasons yesterday, with the help of a specially-designed clamp — despite misgivings from some residents.

Retired butcher and dairyman Mr Innes Grant, 2 Gilchrist Square, remembered the 1921 unveiling of the bronze statue of a kilted Seaforth.

"We were paraded down from the school in classes," he said.

"It was one of the first memorials erected in the Highlands for the fallen in the Great War, and it was a big occasion for all of us. I would have preferred that it remained where I saw it being unveiled."

Some members of the local branch of the Royal British Legion expressed concern when the plan was first proposed by the regional roads and transport department, three years ago.

Persuaded

But most were persuaded by local member Colonel Sir Allan Gilmour — a Seaforth in World War II — that road safety would be improved if the memorial's site became a junction.

Site manager for the contractor, Sportsworks, Mr George Morgan and his team produced four steel corner clamps for the sandstone base of the 11-tonne statue and sandstone plinth, which were held together by high-tension steel rods under very high pressure.

Sportsworks Highland manager Mr Angus Macdonald, Inverness, agreed there had been some controversy over the £180,000 road-improvement scheme at the junction of Poles Road and Evelix Road.

He said: "I am sure that, in a few months, the new location — only a few yards after all — will be found to be acceptable."

The Rev James Simpson, minister of Dornoch Cathedral, whose manse approach will be improved by the scheme, said the corner had been dangerous, and he welcomed the safety improvements.



■ Mr Angus Macdonald (left) and Mr George Morgan supervise yesterday's move.