

WAR MEMORIAL SCREEN

Dedicated at Violet Town

On Sunday, March 19th, at Evensong the Bishop of Wangaratta, the Rt. Rev. T. Armour, B.A., Th.Soc., dedicated the War Memorial Screen in St. Dunstan's Parish Church, Violet Town.

Mrs. A. Peacock, president of the Women's Guild, unveiled the screen at the beginning of the service. Mr. Trevor Wilson, president of the Violet Town R.S.L., of whom a number of members were present, led two minutes' silence, followed by "Lest We Forget." The Rev. G. Gilbert, late Army Chaplain, read the verses—

**"Oh valiant hearts who to your glory came
Through dust of conflict, and
through battle flame."**

The Bishop dedicated the screen to the Glory of God, and in memory of those who had served, or had died, in the war.

The screen, from the vestry to the church, contains the names of those who served, carved on two cedar panels, on either side of the door. On top of the screen are carved the words, "Greater love hath no man," and a crossbeam carved with bunches of grapes, stalks of wheat, and passion flowers, symbolises the Great Sacrifice made by Christ, which sanctifies the lesser sacrifices of the men and women commemorated. The whole is surmounted by a cedar cross. The carving on the cross itself symbolises the three languages, Hebrew and Greek and Latin, in which Christ's accusation was written. J. and H. on the arms stand for Jahveh (Hebrew Jehovah), the main beam holds the Christian monogram X over P (XP, the opening Greek letters in the word "Christ"), and the

(XP, the opening Greek letters in the word "Christ"), and the scroll on top, I.N.R.I. (Jesus Nazarensis, Rex Indaonum) "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews."

The Women's Guild gave the screen, which was designed,

erected and carved by the Rector, who was glad to do the work himself, as he was enabled thereby to put into it, in concrete form, his thoughts and feelings for the men he had served "Through dust of conflict, and through battle flame." The men he had seen go out strong and healthy, and come back sick and maimed; the men who came home again; those whose bodies he had buried outside Australia.

The Bishop preached from the text, "Nevertheless, he would not drink thereof, but poured it out unto the Lord," from the story of the three mighty men who broke through the hosts of the Philistines to bring King David a drink of water "from the well of Bethlehem, that was by the gate."

David said "Be it far from me Oh Lord, that I should do this. Is not this the blood of the men that went in jeopardy of their lives?" and therefore he would not drink it. The sacrifice that the mighty men had made in jeopardy of their lives, he offered as a sacrifice to God. The sacrifice of the men and women of St. Dunstan's Parish, at the jeopardy of their lives, was offered as a sacrifice to God, symbolised in the screen, which in turn, shows in symbols the Sacrifice of Christ.

An old rector, living in an English south coast town during the last war, and seeing the ranks of healthy men marching down endlessly for embarkation to France, said in bitterness: "Sheep for the slaughter." Later another and comforting thought came, "No, lambs for the sacrifice." Let us not take and fritter away the sacrifice these men made for us, but offer

and trifle away the sacrifice
these men made for us, but offer
it to God.