

DEDICATION OF MEMORIAL WINDOWS

"We erect these memorial windows because it will help us to know whence came their courage, their gentleness, their faith and their inspiration."

The Bishop of Armidale, the Right Reverend John S. Moyes, D.D., spoke in these terms at the dedication service of four stained glass windows in St. Augustine's Church yesterday morning.

One pair of windows are in memory of Brigadier Arthur Leslie Varley, M.C., and Bar, and Lieutenant Robert Ashton Varley, and the other pair to the memory of Carlie May Hughes, of Elmore Station.

Prior to the commencement of the service, men of the 1st and 2nd/18th Battalions marched to the church to the music of the Inverell Pipe Band, led by M. M. Freeman, a former W/O of the late Brigadier Varley's Battalion. The parade was organised by members of the 2/18th.

When the service began the church was packed to its utmost capacity.

When he had dedicated the windows the Bishop asked the congregation what was meant by memorials and why they were set up.

"Is it because our memories are so short that unless we set them up we are going to forget?"

"Is it because when we die we are finished and there is nothing more?" he asked.

Death, said the Bishop, was not the end but only a gateway into a larger life again for which this life was only a preparation.

The sting was taken away from death because we passed through the gateway with a friend, he added.

"The Christian sets up memorials because those that die live again," Dr. Moyes declared.

The Christian not only believed in immortality but in resurrection, the rising of a new life.

We erected memorials, said the Bishop, because it helped us to know whence came their courage, their gentleness, their faith and their inspiration.

Jesus Christ shattered all human ideas by rising from the dead a living Christ.

That was why we have a church and have memorials in a church, said Dr. Moyes.

It was because Jesus Christ suggested a memorial that we erected them to His sons, he continued. His memorial was a meal, and that memorial enabled those whom we keep in memory to live a new quality of life.

"We erect these memorials not because we may forget the dead but so that we may live in the fellowship of the living," Dr. Moyes concluded.

The Divine service was conducted by the Rev. Battersby.

Mrs. Carlie May Hughes, widow of the late Russell Hughes, of Elmore Station, was renowned throughout the district for her untiring efforts during both World Wars for the Red Cross. She worked unceasingly for the cause and her kindness and generosity are now bywords in the hearts of all who had the privilege of knowing her. Mrs. Hughes died in February, 1948.

The late Brigadier Varley came to Inverell after the First World War and entered into business as a stock and station agent. During the course of the war he was awarded the Military Cross and Bar, was mentioned in despatches and finished with the rank of Staff Captain in World War II. The Brigadier took a battalion overseas and later became a Brigade Commander. He was again mentioned in despatches. He was reported missing after the sinking of a Japanese troop ship in September, 1944.

His son, the late Lieutenant Robert Ashton Varley, joined the services six months before the conclusion of the war. He became Reinforcements Officer to the 2nd/1st Battalion of the 6th Division and was killed in action in New Guinea in the last phase of the war.