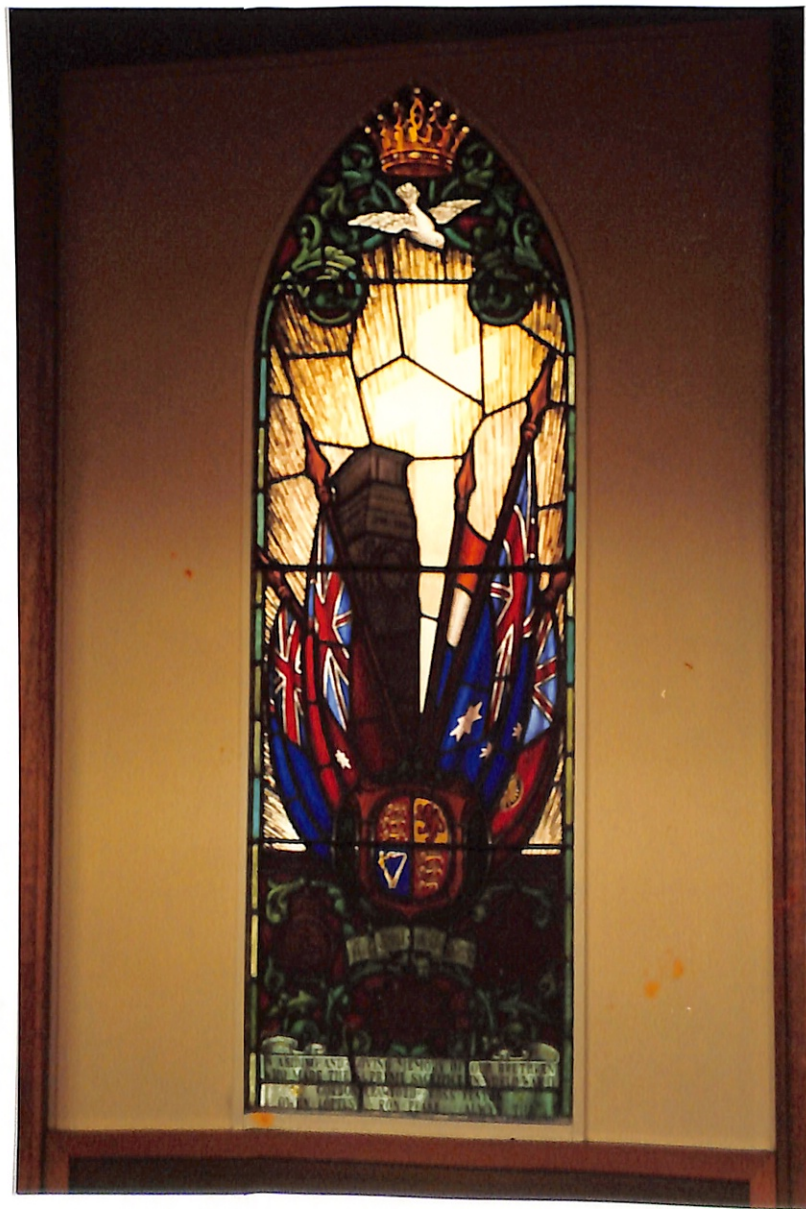


MEMORIAL WINDOW - SECOND WORLD WAR

A memorial to five young men, members of Christ Church, Mitcham, who gave their lives in the Second World War (1939-1945).

Gordon Crawford Ross Fenton
Owen Loftus Ron Peake Alwyn Till



MEMORIAL WINDOW - SECOND WORLD WAR

This is a memorial to the young men from Christ Church, Mitcham, who served in the Second World War and gave their lives.

A memorial was first suggested at a Vestry meeting on 3rd March 1947 and again on 5th May, when The Vicar, the Rev. Reg Roddick, sought suggestions so that the matter could be discussed with parishioners. It was agreed that the memorial should be a small window with the cost not exceeding 50 pounds (\$100). At that time it was thought that, later, it could be incorporated in the new church, which was being discussed at that time.

On 28th June 1948, Mr. Graham reported to the Vestry that the design had been accepted as a suitable memorial by the parents, Mr. Fenton , Mr. and Mrs. Peake, Mrs. Loftus, Mrs. Till and Mr. and Mrs. Crawford. The window was to be made and installed by Matheson Studios, Melbourne. Mrs. Una Westbury, a friend of Alison Till, the sister of Alwyn Till, has advised that the memorial window is based on a similar window in St. Martins-in-the-fields in London. We are seeking to confirm this.

At a Vestry meeting on 6th July 1949, Mr. Graham advised that Mr. Matheson would have the window ready for installation by Easter 1950. This was not to be so, for at the Vestry meeting on 4th September 1950 the inscription to be placed on the window was agreed to.

The new window was unveiled and dedicated by the Dean of Melbourne, The Very Reverend Roscoe Wilson, on Sunday 19th November 1950 (a copy of the service sheet is enclosed). It was installed in the north wall of the original church.

In 1958 it was re-installed in the Memorial Chapel of the new church where the Nativity window is now installed. It was moved to its present position in the chapel when the modern stained glass windows were installed in the sanctuary early in about 1960.

On 24th February 1996 the window was extensively damaged by vandalism in the church. From photographs and fragments it was restored by Glen Mack Studios of Daylesford and re-installed on 3rd July 1996.

It would seem appropriate, as we again remember these young men, to set down the contents of the letter from Mr. Fenton to the Vestry following the installation and dedication of the window.

" Would you please convey to the Vicar, Churchwardens and Vestry our expression of the highest appreciation and sincere thanks of my wife and myself for the tribute paid by Christ Church on Sunday last to the memory of the five boys whose lives were given in the late War.

The beautiful service was deeply impressive, and the window unveiled is, we think, very lovely and appropriate.

It is realized that the service and the memorial were the result of much time and sympathetic thought given by those in whose hands arrangements had been placed, and we have been profoundly moved by the fine spirit expressed in the achievement.

We derive much comfort and gratification from the knowledge that our dear son and the other lads are so worthily and affectionately remembered. "

The inscription on the window reads -

THE UTMOST FOR THE HIGHEST

"In abiding and loving memory of our brethren
who made the supreme sacrifice in World War II

Gordon Crawford Ross Fenton
Owen Loftus Ron Peake Alwyn Till"

Ross, Owen, Ronald and Alwyn Streets in Mitcham, between Mitcham Road and Rooks Road, are named after these young men. There is no record of a Gordon Street.

A copy of the form of service used for the unveiling and dedication of the windows is attached.

UNVEILING AND DEDICATION

Our brethren remembered are:

GORDON CRAWFORD, ROSS FENTON, OWEN LOFTUS,
RON PEAKE, ALWYN TILL

They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old,
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn,
At the going down of the sun, and in the morning—
We will remember them.

LEST WE FORGET!

PRAYER OF COMMEMORATION

HYMN — THE RECESSIONAL

GOD of our fathers known of old,
Lord of our far flung battle-line,
Beneath whose awful hand we hold
Dominion over palm and pine—
Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,
Lest we forget—lest we forget.

The tumult and the shouting dies;
The captains and the kings depart;
Still stands Thine ancient sacrifice,
An humble and a contrite heart.
Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,
Lest we forget—lest we forget.

Far-called, our navies melt away;
On dune and headland sinks the fire;
Lo, all our pomp of yesterday
Is one with Nineveh and Tyre!
Judge of the Nations, spare us yet,
Lest we forget—lest we forget.

THE BLESSING

Christ Church, Mitcham



Unveiling and Dedication of War Memorial Windows

BY

THE VERY REVEREND ROSCOE WILSON
Dean of Melbourne

SUNDAY, 19th NOVEMBER, 1950
At 3 p.m.

Order of Service

HYMN

O GOD, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home.

Under the shadow of Thy throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,
And our defence is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God,
To endless years the same.

A thousand ages in Thy sight
Are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.

The busy tribes of flesh and blood,
With all their cares and fears,
Are carried downward by the flood,
And lost in following years.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Bears all her sons away;
They fly, forgotten as a dream,
Dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while troubles last,
And our eternal home.

PRAYERS

PSALM 23

THE LORD is my shepherd: therefore can I lack nothing.
He shall feed me in a green pasture; and lead me forth beside
the waters of comfort.
He shall convert my soul: and bring me forth in the paths of
righteousness, for His Name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff
comfort me.

Thou shalt prepare a table before me against them that
trouble me: thou hast anointed my head with oil, and my cup
shall be full.

But thy loving-kindness and mercy shall follow me all the
days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

LESSON

HYMN

O VALIANT hearts, who to your glory came
Through dust of conflict and through battle flame;
Tranquil you lie, your knightly virtue proved,
Your memory hallowed in the land you loved.

Proudly you gathered, rank on rank, to war,
As who had heard God's message from afar;
All you had hoped for, all you had, you gave
To save mankind—you yourselves you scorned to save.

Splendid you passed, the great surrender made,
Into the light that nevermore shall fade;
Deep your contentment in that blest abode,
Who wait the last clear trumpet-call of God.

These were His servants, in His steps they trod,
Following through death the martyred Son of God:
Victor He rose; victorious, too, shall rise
They who have drunk His cup of sacrifice.

O risen Lord, O Shepherd of our dead,
Whose Cross has brought them and whose staff has led;
In glorious hope their proud and sorrowing land
Commits her children to Thy gracious hand.

ADDRESS BY THE DEAN

THE UNVEILING

REQUEST

READING OF FACULTY

Gordon Douglas CRAWFORD
Born 30th October 1919 at Andover, England
Died (Missing, presumed dead) 23rd January 1942

Gordon was the eldest child of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Crawford of 91 Dunlavin Road, Mitcham. The house is still there and is currently (May 1996), being renovated. Mr. Crawford was a T.P.I. from the First World War and was active in the community and the R.S.L.

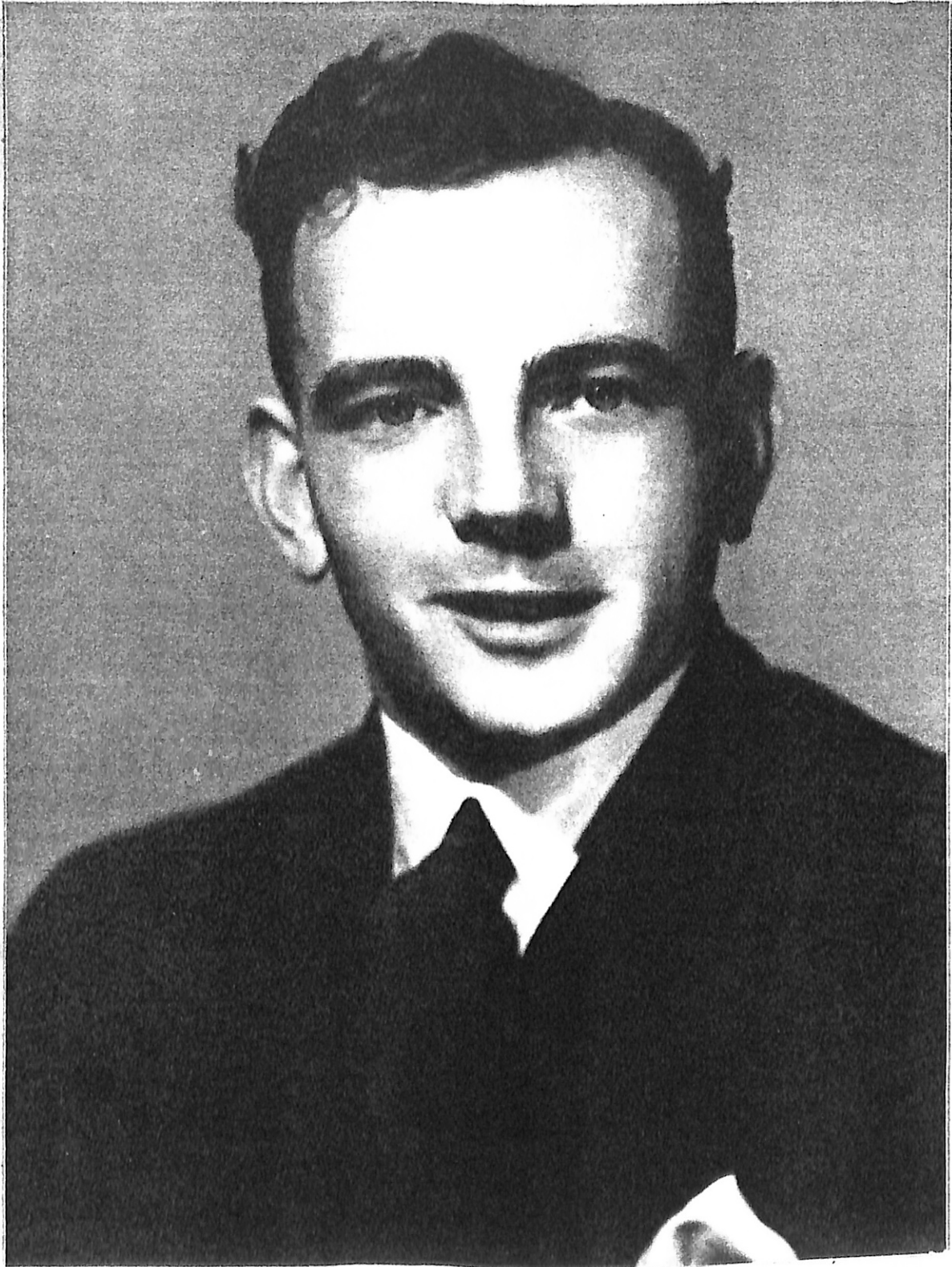
Gordon worked as an accountant. He served in the C.M.F. from 1st July 1940 until he enlisted in the 2nd A.I.F. on 26th March 1941.

Whilst in the C.M.F. he served in Australia with various Infantry Training Battalions. Upon his enlistment in the A.I.F. he transferred to the 2/22 Battalion with whom he served in Rabaul until he was declared Missing and for official purposes presumed dead as of 23rd January 1942.

His brother Ray lives in Drouin, in Gippsland. Ray was an active member of Christ Church and served on the Vestry for a number of years.

Gordon is named on the War Memorial on Halliday Park.

A copy of a photograph of him is attached.



William Ross Bremner FENTON
Born at Cobram Vic. on 30th July, 1922
Died (killed in aircraft accident) 11th August, 1942

Ross was the only child of Mr. and Mrs. Horace Fenton of 171 Mitcham Road, Mitcham. Mr. Fenton served as headmaster at both Mitcham and Ringwood Primary Schools. They were active in the community, and Mr. Fenton was on the Vestry for a number of years in the 1940's.

Ross was confirmed in the church on 6th August 1939.

Ross enlisted in the R.A.A.F. on 30th January 1942. After initial training at Somers he went to the Air Observer School at Mount Gambier for training as an Air Observer. At this stage he was a Leading Aircraftsman.

He was killed in an aircraft accident (presumably whilst in training) at Reedy Creek near Kingston, South Australia, on 11th August 1942. He is buried at the Springvale Crematorium, Victoria, Section 1, Plot N, Row C, Grave 4.

Ross Street, Mitcham, is named in remembrance of him.

He is named on the War Memorial in Halliday Park.



Owen Spencer LOFTUS

Born _ _ _ _ _

Died as a result of wounds 22nd February 1942
(although the sanctuary chair at Christ Church
records that he died P.O.W. 17.4.42)

Owen lived in Whitehorse Road, Mitcham. Church records at the time mention Mrs. Loftus and she was active in the Church for many years.

It has been said that Owen was associated with the introduction of a hirecar/taxi service in Mitcham in the mid 1930's. From a newspaper advertisement, it is known he was involved in selling new cars.

He married Jean McClelland, daughter of T.R. McClelland, who was the son of John and Eliza, remembered in the Nativity window. Jean was a niece of Tess and Jane McClelland.

The sanctuary chair at Christ Church was given " In remembrance of Gunner O. S. Loftus died P.O.W. 17.4.42 ".

Owen enlisted in the 2nd A.I.F. on 20th June 1941 as a Gunner. He served with 2/1 Heavy Battery in Darwin and Timor until he was declared Missing 22nd February 1942. This was subsequently changed to " Died of Wounds in 1945. "

Owen Street, Mitcham, is named in remembrance of him.

He is named on the War Memorial in Halliday Park.

Attached is a copy of the newspaper advertisement.

Blackburn & Blackburn

CIRCULATING IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF BLACKBURN AND MITCHAM AND DONGASTER.

Registered at the General Post Office, Melbourne, for Transmission by Post as a Newspaper.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 10, 1936.

Scantlebury gave a address, describing Health Centre Movement, a small value to the nation. His sister in charge was illustrated by a long Mitcham: total attend- views which were w entries, 54; babies graphs beautifully for, 15; referred to; gessing artistic me, Blackburn: Total at- To a considerable s; new entries, 42; bell's remarks su; doctor, 6; to hos- made by him receer voluntary helper at on the subject O,ss Schugg, to whom which he emphasis The evening con- establishing sancti per, which was pro- state for the sp-e president and Mrs. fauna and flora fr agencies of fire.

Phillip Island, he illustration of his a of it once clothed wick. Mrs. J. B. r reunion of 14 vine street, Blackburn, was married to Mr. David Victor McDowell, second son of Mr. and Mrs. George McDowell of 9 Leamington crescent Caruegie. Friends of the bride had decorated the church most artistically, bowls of pink carnations and larkspurs and

shows, 2.3/1.7/0 to 2.9/4/7. Calves.— A heavy penning and prices good, small vealers, 34/6 to 50/-; calves, 14/- to 26/-; small calves up to 12/6. Sheep.—The usual good penning and competition keen, lambs, 15/9 to 22/11; wethers, 2-tooth, 17/6 to 20/-; 4-tooth to 21/9; ewes, full-month, to 14/1. Poultry.—A fair penning and selling at best marked rates, cockerels, 7/- to 10/4; fat hens, 5/6 to 6/9; store hens, 3/9 to 5/4; white leghorn hens up to 4/1; white leghorn cockerels, 4/9; drakellings to 9/-; guineas to 10/6; ducks to 4/6; turkeys, 5/7 to 7/4; cock chickens, 7/- to 7/-; chickens, 6/4.

n the corner by the no eye to the outside. all animals, are prov super-protection. In a se, Patterson's shoes e kind of super-protecti . By corrective and .sures they banish foot h their scientific lasts ze of sizes they solve for you. Why don't ing the right foot prote made Patterson's shoe beyond the boundarie e suburbs in which th ern shoe stores are loca new lovely styles now s) Box Hill store.

A QUALITY CAR IN THE LOW-PRICE FIELD.

THE NEW
GRAHAM LIGHT SIX
24 M.P.G. ————— 75 M.P.H.

Sedans from £395.

Local Agent:

O. S. LOFTUS

334 MITCHAM ROAD, MITCHAM. Phone: Vermont 40.

AND, thos, was on Sunday Rev. Host, lind. Quot- have not n ye have l, whom ye went on to the chief and na-

by a halo of orange blossom and flowed softly away to the length of the train. Her bouquet was of Christmas lilies and magnolias. Her one attendant was her twin sister, Miss Jean Stephens, who was frocked in deep yellow georgette cut on long lines which accentuated her slender

PHONE: WX1490.

Blackburn Station

Ronald Mosely PEAKE
Born at Ringwood Vic. on 17th August, 1921
Died over Germany 12th March, 1943

Ron was the only son of Mr. and Mrs. Peake. They lived in a house built by Mr. Peake in Albert Street. They moved into 459 Whitehorse Road, Mitcham which was later bought by the Catholic Church for a convent.

Mr. Peake owned the timberyard and hardware store (Peake & Cox), opposite 459 Whitehorse Road, where St. John's Primary School now stands.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Peake were active in the church and Mr. Peake was on the Vestry in the 1940's. Ron played the organ.

Ron was educated at Melbourne Grammar School. He gained a Leaving Certificate, learned to play the organ and was a member of the Chapel Choir.

On leaving school he played the organ at Christ Church, Mitcham. He was also active in C.E.B.S.

Prior to enlisting in the R.A.A.F. he worked part time in the National Bank at Abbotsford and was studying for a Commerce Degree at Melbourne University.

Ron enlisted in the R.A.A.F. for training as a pilot on 20th June 1941. After initial training at Victor Harbour and Benalla he was sent to Calgary, Canada, in December 1941, for training in the Empire Training Scheme as a pilot.

In May 1942 following the completion of his training in Canada, he was sent to England for advance training as a Sergeant Pilot on Oxford, Wellington and Halifax aircraft.

On 26th February 1943 he was posted to No.100 Squadron flying Lancaster bombers over Germany. After a number of actions over Germany, on 12th March 1943, Ron Peake and his crew were officially presumed dead as a result of air operations over Stuttgart.

The International Red Cross Committee, Geneva, advised that Sergeant Peake was buried in the Central Cemetery, Dortmund, Prisoner of War Section.

Ron Peake's sister, Mrs. Marjorie Menzies, lives at " Trystings ", 43 The Parade, Ocean Grove, and provided some of the early information on the Peake family.

Ronald Street, Mitcham is named in remembrance of him.

He is also named on the War Memorial on Halliday Park.

A copy of a photograph of him is attached.



Alwyn Terence TILL
Born 4th May 1921 at Ringwood
Died 20th August 1944 at Payenne, Belgium

Alwyn was the only son of Mrs. Till, a War Widow from the First World War. She also had a daughter, Alison. They lived in Percy Street, Cook Road and later at 573 Whitehorse Road, Mitcham. The house has recently been sold and Alwyn's sister Alison who lived there now lives at Gracedale Manor, Warrantdyte Road, Ringwood.

The Till family were all involved in the Church, ^{Alison} Mrs. Till playing the organ for a number of years. Alwyn was very active in the C.E.B.S. as leader locally and in the City, where he was on the C.E.B.S. executive. He worked at SKF Ball Bearing Company.

Alwyn enlisted in the R.A.A.F. on 31st January 1942 for training as a navigator. After initial training at Somers, he spent some time at the Air Observers School at Mt Gambier, then at the Bomb and Gunnery School at Port Pirie and finally at the Air Navigation School at Nhill.

He embarked for U.K. via U.S.A. on 15th January 1943 and arrived 17th March 1943. After advanced Observer Training and operational training he joined an active Squadron, No. 76, at Holme on 24th November 1943. Following conversion training he joined the Lancaster Squadron, No. 635, at Downham Market on 7th May 1944, flying bombing raids over Germany.

Officially, Lancaster No. 694 was reported missing in an attack on the night of 12/13 August 1944. The R.A.F. Missing Research and Enquiry Service, France, had ascertained that all members of the crew were buried in the communal cemetery at Werbomonton approximately 18 miles south east of Liege, Belgium.

However in a letter received by Mrs. Till after the war from Baron J. Vander Straten Waillet, Alwyn joined the "Maquis", the Underground army in Belgium, and was killed at a little place called Payenne, between Dinant and Neufchateau on about 20th August, whilst fighting with the "Maquis" in an ambush against the Germans.

The Baron said that " He was a credit to his family" and " At the spot where your son was killed I have had a cross erected. It is situated in lovely scenery, all that surrounds it is so peaceful. "

The R.A.A.F. has since been advised of the letter from the Baron.

Alwyn Street, Mitcham, is named in remembrance of him. His name is also included on the War Memorial on Halliday Park.

A photograph, an essay, a copy of a letter to his mother, the copy of the letter from the Baron and a cutting from a C.E.B.S. publication are also attached.

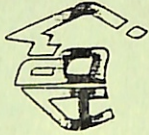


MEN'S DINNER

MEN - You are reminded that the next Men's Dinner will be held on Friday, September 6 = 7.00 PM. Please record your name today if you plan to attend.

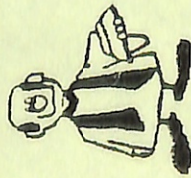
ABM

You are invited to attend the annual ABM Luncheon, at St John's Tower, on Wednesday, September 11 = 12 noon. The Archbishop is guest speaker. Tickets are available from the Vicar.



FATHER FRED SAYS

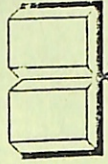
Bustle and activity being the characteristics of our age, a superficial mind can suppose that these must be the characteristics of heaven also.



LECTIONARY

Note our Readings for today =

GENESIS 45 : 1-15
PSALM 133
ROMANS 11 : 13-32
MATTHEW 15 : 21-28



YEAR'S MIND

In our Year's Mind this week we remember:

August 19 (1993) = HARRY EDWARD GORSUCH
20 (1944) = ALWYN TERENCE TILL
(RAAF - see WW II Memorial Window
23 (1967) = FREDERICK JONES

CARITAS

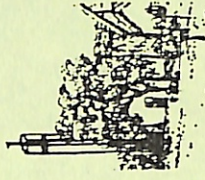
Caritas members are reminded that they will hold their Mid-Year Dinner in the Forster Hall on Tuesday of next week, August 27 @ 7.00 PM. This is open to the wider Christ Church family. Please record your name if you plan to attend.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Why a change of name for our ecclesiastical Sundays in the second half of the Christian Year? APBA, pp 455 & 462 (Larger Edition only), in an explanation of "The Seasons" and "The Readings," talks about "Sundays After Pentecost" (not Trinity." This reflects an ecumenical and liturgical use in many Christian Churches, world-wide.

FROM WW II

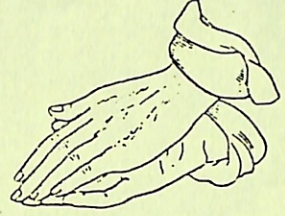
Among those we remember this week, in our Year's Mind, you will note, one, ALWYN TERENCE TILL. He is one of the servicemen commemorated in our WW II Memorial Window. The TILL family had a strong past connection with this parish. Alwyn Till was born in Ringwood in May of 1921. He enlisted in the RAAF in January of 1942. His mustering was "Navigator" and he eventually obtained the rank of Warrant Officer. The service record we have on A.T. offers some fascinating reading, but, too much to reproduce here. A letter from Belgium, to A.T.'s mother, records that he died on August 20, 1944.



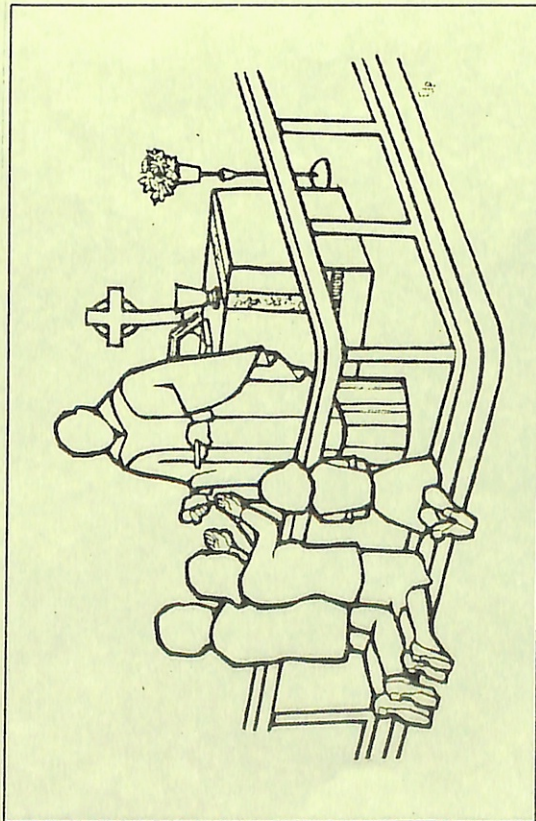
THE SICK

Please pray for :

GYWNNIE DOBIE
INEZ DUCK
ELIZABETH EDGAR
VIVIANNE FOSTER
Sr ELIZABETH-JULIAN
VAL EMMERTON
JOYCE O'NEIL
JOAN POUND
MARY RYDER
JOHN SCOTT
JOAN WILKINSON
EVELYN WILLIAMS



the Body of our Lord Jesus Christ



THE PARISH OF
CHRIST CHURCH - MITCHAM
DIOCESE OF MELBOURNE

THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



AUGUST 18, 1996

- 8.00 AM : HOLY COMMUNION
- 9.30 AM : SUNG EUCHARIST
- 9.30 AM : SUNDAY SCHOOL
- 6.00 PM : EVENSONG @ ALL SAINTS

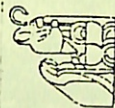
NEXT WEDNESDAY : AUGUST 21

10.00 AM : HOLY COMMUNION

NEXT SUNDAY : AUGUST 25 : PENTECOST XIII

- 8.00 AM : HOLY COMMUNION
- 9.30 AM : SUNG EUCHARIST
- 9.30 AM : SUNDAY SCHOOL
- 11.15 AM : MAR THOMA SERVICE

VICAR : Father Keith Browne
Christ Church Vicarage
18 Edward Street
MITCHAM - 'Phone 9873 1210



CHRISTMAS CARDS

Quantities of the Mothers' Union Christmas Card are now available = \$4 per pack of ten.

WELFARE

Note our suggested 'welfare' item for next week :

TINNED MEAT MEALS

MRG

See Joan Reynolds for your tickets to the latest MRG production, "Kindly Leave The Stage." Performances are from August 29 to September 8.

EVENSONG

Our Tri-Parish Monthly Evensong will be held tonight = 6.00 PM @ All Saints. Fr John Simpson will preach. Please bring-a-plate for "afters."

COPY

BY T.A.T.

680 Words

"They Paved the Way for Progress"

The Pioneers in this Forgotten Trade Laid the Foundations of
Melbourne's Outer Eastern Suburbs

Older residents of the orchard districts east of Melbourne will need no explanation of the above picture. They will tell you that it is a carter with his wood-dray, and expect you to know the rest of the story. It is unlikely that you do however, so this article is for your benefit.

The dray is a relic of a forgotten chapter of the history of Melbourne suburbs, especially the eastern suburbs. It was constructed during the great wood-carting boom which lasted some 40 years. Note the slotted top-rails and the iron loop below the axeman's hand. These were used for the erection of "standers" to enable wood to be stacked high above the sides.

The late Mr. Cook was proud of being a pioneer to such an orchard district as Mitcham. Like many other orchardists in that district, he began his career as a carter of firewood during the boom period.

It all began when Melbourne returned to sanity after the gold fever of the 50's and the 60's. The gold brought over half a million immigrants to Victoria during the first few years of its discovery, and a great number, disheartened after years of fruitless searching for the elusive metal, returned to Melbourne to settle down. There was a great shortage of houses, and tents were common near Melbourne for years after Canvas Town ceased to exist. Brick-makers did a roaring trade as greater and greater became the demand for their products. The brick kilns burned wood as fuel, and enormous quantities of wood were needed for this purpose alone. The regular fuel merchants who supplied bakers and householders were unable to meet the increased demand.

Things had commenced to happen in Doncaster and its environs. The market gardeners there were dropping the production of vegetables in favour of fruit growing. Cherries, apples and pears grew wonderfully in that district, and the original settlers, and newcomers, purchased large tracts of land in Doncaster and between Box Hill and Ringwood, for orchards. Now this land was mostly heavily timbered and while some landowners cleared the land themselves, most preferred to throw it open to the wood-carters, charging 1/6 per load for the wood removed.

And so the boom began. There was plenty of wood available, close to the city, and there was a great demand for it. A small cartload of wood brought 14/- at the brick kilns. Scores of men entered the trade, some using teams of drays, others single drays or bullockwagons. At first frequent trips were made with ordinary light carts, but as it became necessary to go further afield to obtain wood, the large heavy dray of the type illustrated was introduced, and fewer trips were made with larger loads. Three tons by measurement this dray would hold, £1 being received for a load.

White and dusty Whitehorse Road became furrowed with the constant grinding of the wheels of the drays and bullock wagons used by the wood carters. From early morning until mid-day the hillsides echoed the explosive ~~cracks~~^{cracks} of the bullock whips and the lowing of the bullocks as they hauled their swaying, creaking loads towards the city. Brightly painted wood-drays bumped and rumbled over the unmade road to disappear in clouds of dust. Singing drivers, shouting drivers, laughing drivers, swearing drivers all helped to rouse suburban residents from their slumbers.

Late in the afternoon these rugged carters would return with their empty drays, and many made merry in the hotels well into the night. Until midnight, drays and bullock wagons with their blinking lights could be seen returning to the bush, some drays singly, others in strings of six or more with the man in the foremost spinning yarns, or playing cards.

When wood ceased to be used as a fuel for industrial purposes, the wood carting boom faded so inconspicuously that its passing went unnoticed. Whitehorse Road was made, and the cart ruts covered over. The carters became orchardists, and their picturesque trade was forgotten.

By T.A.T.
680 Words

1

Apr 21 1945

London, England

Hello Mum,

Last year when I sent you your birthday greetings they arrived a day or so late but this year I am sending them a little before time. I am coming with them myself in voice and spirit even if I am not there in the flesh. This voice of mine will reach you just as the winter is starting in Australia but here in London the days are still misty but not quite as cold. On the streets today I met a couple of flower sellers with violets, daffodils and jonquils; these are welcome signs that soon the grass will be green again.

Our crew, that is to say, Ginger, Johnny Ross and I, are having a few days leave. Yesterday we went to a birthday party at Johnny Ross' place. He is our wireless operator and it was his twenty first birthday party. His place is in Dartford, south of Kent. That is where Jean and Arthur Rose came from. I have been to Islington to see the *Worthingtons* whom I have mentioned several times in my letters. They are very nice people, you would like them I'm sure. Johnny and I love going there. Tomorrow, I shall move off to Bristol to see your cousin Alice, Mum, and Jim, so you see Mum I must be well and full of kick to be able to go about like this.

Since going away that Thursday morning some months ago I have met many people and visited many places and can't help thinking how very fortunate I have been every day for I see little things and it helps me to think of you and brings me back to the days before the war when we were all three so very happy and did not know it. These daffodils and violets I mentioned before bring back memories of the little garden you made when our garden was just a clearing in the bush. Then, I passed a news-agent's shop with *Children's*

2.

then my
comics comes to the memory of those stories you used to read to us, Mum, in the Sunday Companion before we could read or write ourselves and on seeing apples and pears and fruit of any kind brings back memories of you laughing and working in orchards so that Father Christmas could visit us both, Alison and I that is. Then I know that Shirley and Valda will be learning and enjoying those things that Organ once enjoyed and I hope it will not be far distant before we shall meet again and I hope this won't be long. What a day of meetings that will be. In the meantime Mum, please give my kindest regards to all my friends and relations, especially to the C. E. B.S. boys and now, to you and Alison, I send my fondest love.
many many thanks Mum for everything
Happy, happy birthday and goodbye for the present,

May God give you strength to persevere.

Alwyn.

Then when I had been up late at night studying, I would hear your voice floating down the hall saying "Get to bed - Come on Alwyn it's late now - Get to bed. And what did I do? Why I went to bed immediately to avoid ^{having} getting my hide spanned
For all these things & ~~had~~ hundreds of others, Mum, I want to thank you

copy
Baron Jose van der Straeten
WAILLET

BRUXELLES 1111
1 Place Stephanie

BELGIUM.

7th November, 1946.

Mrs. E. V. Till,
Clive Street,
MITCHAM, Vic. Australia.

Madame,

It is an honour for me to be perhaps the first to write to you about your son A. T. Till of the Royal Australian Air Force.

In August of 1944 we were in the marquis. This means that volunteers were grouped together and in parts as we did took to the woods and strived by all means to hinder the Germans and destroy their communications and transport of every type.

To make it possible for you to follow me, I will give you certain details which may interest you if you can obtain a fairly large scale map of Belgium district: Dinant, Neufchateau, Marche. The South of the Country.

We had in our camp which I commanded about one hundred men. This camp was one which we received a great many allied airmen on their way back to the Allies through enemy occupied territory. At the time of your son's arrival which was about the 15th August, we had six or seven British airmen.

Till arrived one day having been brought by one of our men who had found him walking along a main road towards the west (direction from which were coming the Allies). His plane had been shot down over Belgium and I think he was the only survivor. He landed in Troispont which is situated towards the German frontier in the direction of Spa, Liege. From there he walked by day, having taken the only precaution of turning his coat inside out, for about 50 to 60 kms. Having got to Haversin between Ciney and Rochefort, he was met and easily recognised to be an airman, by one of our men, so he was taken to our camp in the heart of the woods. We soon made friends. Several of our men knew English very well.

One evening my sister, Baroness de Crawhez who lived close by our camp and she lost her husband the very first day of the war asked these airmen to dine in her house, Chateau de Frondeux par Montgauthier, Haversin. We had a very friendly evening.

A day or two later I with a group of men were about to ambush the Germans along a road. Till and an Englishman joined us. We left the camp very early in the morning in two cars. We made a road block and I placed the men half to either side of us. We were on the main road from Dinant to Neufchateau at a little place called Payenne. All my men were placed on a high bank dominating the road. Till and the Englishman were together.

At about 8.30 we heard the noise of approaching trucks. They appeared to be German telephone operators with their infantry escort on the way to mend telephone lines we had smashed previously. They were more numerous than we expected. I yelled to him in two or three words of broken German which I know, to give himself up. He went to the back of his truck and ordered his men to come out. I opened fire. That was the signal for my men to give the Hun all we had. The Germans a few of which we killed got to cover behind a bank on the opposite side of the road and a fight began. The Germans were about 35 men. They got beyond us and began to encircle us so I gave the three blasts of the whistle. the

The men on my left did not come to the prearranged spot so it was only the next day, when these men got back to our camp, that I heard that Till had not come back. The men feared the worst, though none of them actually saw what had happened to him.

Very soon after I had word from a scout I sent to the spot that Till had been killed. He had been seen by a man from his house. He fought till a direct hit went through his head and he was killed instantaneously. He died a man's death, he is a credit to his family. However painful it is for one to lose a member of one's family. May I here express to you all my sympathy for the loss he is to you. He died I think on the 20th August.

At the spot where your son was killed I have had a cross erected. It is situated in lovely scenery, all that surrounds it is so peaceful.

Madame, I should like you to address me any questions or ask me to do anything that you may wish with regards to your son.

We in the liberated countries owe so much to our Liberators, and to a man such as Till, who not only offered his life for a cause at his job, but even came and joined us in the fight. It would be with the greatest pleasure that I will do anything I can for you. Please accept my services.

I would have written to you earlier had I been able to find your address. You must have suffered through not knowing and through having no details.

Captain Davies, War Crimes, had Till's watch when I last saw it, if you wish to have it back, I can arrange to have it sent to you.

Yours very sincerely,

(Sgd) En. J. van der Straten Waillet.

10.

Character is higher than intellect.

Sport continued from page 9

"C" GRADE

Team	P	W	L	D	For	Agt	Pts	Pc
Richmond . . .	3	3	-	-	82	26	12	315.3
Fitzroy	3	3	-	-	121	53	12	228.3
Nth. Fitzroy . .	3	2	1	-	140	34	8	382.3
Nth. Carlton . .	3	2	1	-	117	38	8	307.8
Brunswick . . .	3	2	1	-	81	53	8	152.8
Collingwood . .	3	2	1	-	34	53	8	64.1
Nth. Brighton . .	3	1	2	-	19	114	4	15.5
Surrey Hills . .	3	-	3	-	17	61	-	27.8
Carlton	3	-	3	-	26	110	-	23.6
Caulfield	3	-	3	-	20	115	-	17.3

TABLE TENNIS

Hereunder are the results, so far, of the above Competition.

JUNIOR SECTION

Team	Pl.	W.	L.	Pts.
Caulfield (St. Cath's)	3	3	-	12
Caulfield (St. Mary's)	3	2	1	8
E. Malvern (All Saints')	2	1	1	4
M. Brighton (St. Andrew's)	3	1	2	4
Surrey Hills (Holy Trinity)	2	-	2	-
Burwood (St. Faith's)	1	-	1	-

SENIOR SECTION

Team	Pl.	W.	L.	Pts.
Caulfield (St. Cath's)	4	-	-	-
Balaclava (Holy Trinity)	4	-	-	-
E. Malvern (All Saints')	4	-	-	-
Murrumbeena (St. Peter's)	3	1	-	-
Caulfield (St. Mary's)	3	1	-	-
M. Brighton (St. Andrew's)	3	-	3	-

SENIOR SECTION — ZONE 2

Team	Pl.	W.	L.	Pts.
Camberwell (St. Mark's)	4	4	-	16
W. Coburg (St. Alban's)	3	2	1	8
S. Camberwell (St. Mary's)	4	2	2	8
Coburg (Holy Trinity)	2	1	1	4
Thornbury (Holy Trinity)	4	1	3	4

Sports Secretaries — read and ACT!

Up to the time of going to press several Clubs have not completed the required number of games. Although it is not necessary to strictly adhere to the dates laid down, it would help the Basketball Organiser if games were completed as near as possible to these dates, enabling a more up-to-date record of the Comp. and correct report of position to appear in these columns. Thank you!

VALE

LEADERS and members will regret to learn that last month news was received that Alwyn Till was officially believed to have lost his life in air operations over Germany, on 13th August, 1944. Alwyn was a valued member of our Executive Committee at the time of his enlistment in the R.A.A.F., and had been a most able leader in camps as well as being the leader of the branch at Christ Church, Mitcham. During his training and service abroad, he made a special study of the work of various movements for boys, and sent to officials of our Society many helpful suggestions gained from his investigations. In a letter to our Secretary, written only a few months before his death, he said: "Of all the different movements I have seen, none can better C.E.B.S., and I thank God for the great help the Society has been to me in my own life, and you

can be sure that on my return to Australia I will be ready and eager to take up my work again for the benefit of the Ceps of to-day."

All who knew Alwyn, found him a grand chap, always with a smile and always ready to answer a call to service, and the memory of his life and example will be an inspiration for those who carry on the work he loved so greatly, and served so faithfully. *

Word has been received by Rev. N. Danne, St. Philip's, Collingwood, that one of his sons, Peter, had been killed in action with the A.I.F. Peter was an extremely likeable boy, and contributed a great deal to the interests of C.E.B.S. in his Parish. Mr. Danne has another son serving in England with the R.A.N.

A PRAYER OF CONFIDENCE

Dear God, You are always near me, I know; I want to feel that I am near You. Make real my belief, deep my trust, strong my love, manly my

religion. So shall I more surely know that You are not beyond my reach, and that we are close to one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.