
Stained Glass Window at Avenel St. Mary's Catholic Church

Location

Nagambie Road, Avenel, STRATHBOGIE SHIRE

Municipality

STRATHBOGIE SHIRE

Level of significance

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Heritage Listing

Vic. War Heritage Inventory

Heritage Study/Consultant	Vic War Heritage Inventory - Stained Glass Memorial Windows Study, Bronwyn Hughes, 2013;
Architect/Designer	Montgomery, William,
Hermes Number	196965
Property Number	

Memorial Window References & Acknowledgements

AWM Roll of Honour; NAA: B2455, O'Dwyer, Martin; *Euroa Advertiser*, 24 August, 1917, p.3.

Thanks to Ray Brown for bringing the window to the author's attention.

Memorial Window Subject

St. Martin of Tours

Memorial Window Text

n/a

Memorial Window Inscription

In loving memory of our dear son and brother Private Martin O'Dwyer, died in France August 6th, 1916. R.I.P.

Memorial Window Description & History

The window depicted *St. Martin of Tours*, patron saint of France, dividing his cloak with a beggar. Private O'Dwyer's parents, Mr. and Mrs. John O'Dwyer of 'Laurel Grove', Tahbilk and his sister, Mrs. N. Walsh of West Brunswick donated the window to their local church. The commission was put in train fairly quickly as stained glass artist, William Montgomery sent a design of *St. Martin* to Mrs. Walsh on 29 May 1917; it was unveiled by the Rev. Father Kavanagh on 5 August 1917, almost exactly a year after the soldier's death. The full cost of the window, £39.5.0 included the installation of a wire guard to protect the window and was paid in cash immediately.

Martin O'Dwyer was a 37 year-old grazier at Tahbilk when he enlisted on 1 April 1915. Only a month later he embarked on HMAT Ulysses with 21 Battalion, bound for Egypt and, ultimately, Gallipoli. Suffering from bronchitis he was admitted to hospital at Mudros on the island of Lemnos after the Gallipoli evacuation and then rejoined his unit in late January 1916. The battalion was among the first Australian troops to land at Marseilles on 26 March 1916 and marched to the Somme where O'Dwyer took part in the battle of Pozieres. Private O'Dwyer received gun shot wounds to the abdomen on 4 August 1916 during the fighting at Mouquet Farm and died two days later at 3 Casualty Clearing Station. He was buried at Puchevillers British Cemetery, several miles south-west of Doullons in France.

In a strange quirk of fate, William Montgomery's son, 'Mont', was also in 21 Battalion with Martin O'Dwyer. Sergeant Montgomery survived through the same battles, including Mouquet Farm, but he too was killed, on 5 October 1918 at Montbrehan.

This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.

For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>