

A HISTORY OF THE SCHOOL IN 100 OBJECTS

THE WAR MEMORIAL BOOK

Size: Overall: 10½in x 8½in x 2¾in / 265mm x 215mm x 70mm

Pages: 10in x 8in / 255mm x 205mm

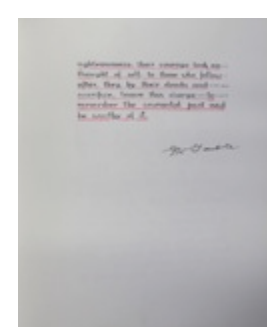
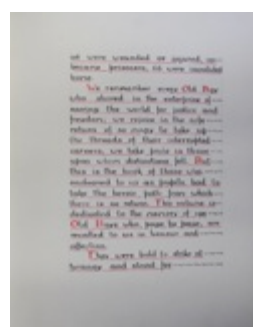
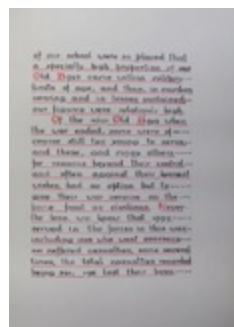
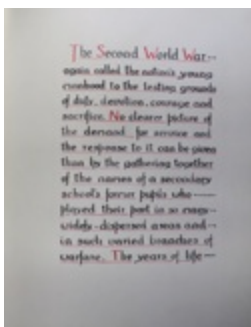
Description: Individually illuminated, water-coloured pages, one for each of the World War II fallen, along with some introductory pages have been sewn into a unique book, with a tooled leather cover.

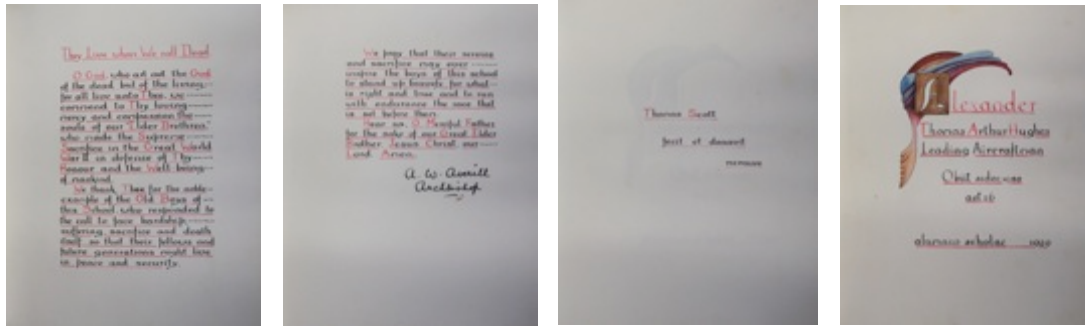
Discussion: The Book's creator was Tom Scott who was a master at the School (1926-1949) and a gifted artist. The Book bears the legend:

THOMAS SCOTT
Facit et donavit
MCMXLVII

So it was a parting gift in 1947 though the individual pages may well have been done earlier.

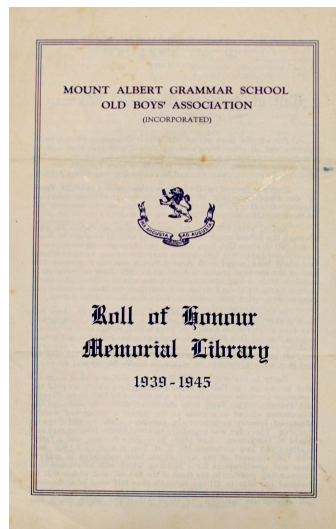
Illustrated here are the cover, frontispiece, an illustrated text from the Book of Ecclesiasticus, a four-page letter from the Headmaster, FW Gamble, a two-page prayer by Archbishop AW Averill, the donor's page, and the first individual page, that of Leading Aircraftman Thomas Arthur Hughes Alexander.





There are other memorials to the fallen.

Soon after the end of World War II the Old Boys' Association was keen on building a Memorial Library. A target of £5,000 was set. After some years the target had not been met and the price had skyrocketed to over £12,000 for a more modest building. The idea was abandoned in 1953 and the Association decided to build a Sports' Pavilion.



Early in the war the Old Boys' Association opened a special fund known as the **Roll of Honour Fund**, into which we paid the numerous amounts spontaneously contributed by Old Boys, Parents and Friends. This fund now stands at £300. A year ago the Association offered to provide at the School a fitting and worthy **Memorial Library** to honour the sacrifices made by Old Boys in this war. This offer was gratefully received by the Headmaster and

The Pavilion is a ferro-concrete grandstand with a complex winged roof. It was designed by Old Boy Professor of Architecture, Dick Toy, who was retained to build the Library.



Bronze panels at the southern end carry the names of the fallen. There is an upper section with the School Emblem and the words:

WORLD. WAR. II
.1939. 1945.

Across the top of the panels are the words:

REMEMBER THEIR SACRIFICE AND BE HUMBLE



The name panels are locked together by a metal frame, and the upper section is screwed at the back to the jammed-together panels. None of this is visible from the front. The whole is held to the wall by long bolts which pass through the wall to the other side. A flagpole completes the memorial. It was officially opened by Prime Minister S.G. Holland on ANZAC Day 1956.



Another physical memorial is a cabinet to house the photographs of the fallen. *The Albertian* of 1967 (p48) reported under the heading: ANZAC DAY – Annual Commemorative Service, that: “On display for the first time was the mahogany cabinet given to the School by the Old Boys’ Association for the permanent storage of the photographs of Old Boys killed on Active Service.”

The cabinet has 20 drawers each of which accommodates 10 photographs. Across the top of the cabinet are the words:

LEST WE FORGET



On top is a glass-fronted box which formerly housed the Memorial Book, which was removed because of the possibility of light damage.

The cabinet and drawers were fully restored in October 2008.

The 1967 report also mentioned that the photographs had been remounted and the frames fixed.

As with the cabinet, after 40 years many of the photographic images and the mounts were deteriorating and some frames were loose.

Sixty photographs in the worst condition have been professionally re-photographed onto archival film stock then re-matted using archival card, new frames and museum-grade glass which filters out 99.9% uv. Others will be restored as funds allow.

Another of the memorials is an Annual ANZAC service. *The Albertian* of 1957(p40) reported in the Old Boys’ Notes that: “For the first time since the unveiling of the War Memorial Pavilion on ANZAC Day [1956] a ceremony was held in the School Hall on April 25 at 10am, by arrangement with the Headmaster. It is hoped to make this an annual event.”

So it has proved to be.



A Service is held each year, as near as practicable to ANZAC Day. Prior to the service, in the FW Gamble Memorial Hall, the photographs of the fallen are displayed around the walls of the Hall. Those in attendance are dignitaries, older Albertians, including many veterans, (who, after the Service, repair for one of their quarterly lunches), Year 9 and Year 13 pupils (students attend the Service in their first and last years).



Graham Burgess MNZM reflects on photographs of his fallen comrades.

School prayers are read, there is a welcome, an address is given, there is the reading of the names of 50 of the fallen (on a four-year cycle), the National Anthem is sung, a Benediction is intoned and wreaths are carried out to the Memorial Pavilion by the President of the Albertians Association, on behalf of Albertians, and by the Head Prefects, on behalf of the School. The assembly stands in silence as a trumpeter plays *The Last Post*, the flag is lowered by cadets, *Reveille* is played, and the flag is raised.



Michael Riley, Albertians President, with Head Prefects William Good and Mary-Grace Aballe, 15 April, 2005.

The annual ANZAC ceremony and the physical memorials are ongoing reminders of those, who, as Gamble put it, “had to take the heroic path from which there is no return.”

Brian Murphy