
Stained Glass Window at Corio Geelong Grammar School All Saints' Anglican Chapel



Corio Geelong Grammar
School Chapel oHalloran
Giles

Location

Biddlecombe Avenue, Corio, GREATER GEELONG CITY

Municipality

GREATER GEELONG CITY

Level of significance

-

Heritage Listing

Vic. War Heritage Inventory

Heritage
Study/Consultant

Vic War Heritage Inventory - Stained Glass Memorial Windows Study, Bronwyn
Hughes, 2013;

Architect/Designer

Whall & Whall, London, Whall, Christopher W.,

Hermes Number

196763

Property Number

Memorial Window References & Acknowledgements

AWM Commemorative Roll; Peter Cormack, *The Stained Glass Work of Christopher Whall 1849-1924: 'aglow with resplendent colour'*, The Charles J. Connick Stained Glass Foundation, Boston, 1999; Michael Collins Persse, 'The Robert O'Halloran Giles Window', *The Corian*, 1988[?], pp.9-11; *Argus*, 9 May 1930, p.12; Letters: Montgomery to Dr FE Brown, 20 1922; Montgomery to W.H. Lloyd, Adelaide 4 April 1924; Dr FE Brown to Montgomery 12 February 1924 and 25 February 1924 enclosing extract from Mr. Giles' letter; H. Campbell, Secretary Whall & Whall, Ltd to Montgomery 23 January 1924; Dr. FE Brown to May Montgomery 14 September 1927 William Montgomery Collection, MS15414, State Library of Victoria.

Memorial Window Subject

St. Giles St. Francis of Assisi

Memorial Window Text

n/a

Memorial Window Inscription

To the Glory of God in memory of Robert O'Halloran Giles born 28th January 1897 died of wounds 26th April 1918

Memorial Window Description & History

The memorial window was designed and made in England and the series of letters among the papers of stained glass artist, William Montgomery shows that the Headmaster of Geelong Grammar School, Dr FE Brown, entrusted Montgomery with all matters regarding landing, customs, duties, insurance and delivery of the two-light *St. Giles* and *St. Francis of Assisi* window, ordered by Thomas O'Halloran Giles.

The Secretary of Whall & Whall Ltd, London wrote to Montgomery with details of its passage from England on the SS *Palermo* on 25 January 1924, consigned to Mr HW Lloyd, 22 King William Street, Adelaide. Unfortunately, by the time the window arrived the stonework for that portion of the chapel was not ready to take the stained glass and *St. Giles* and *St. Francis* remained in storage until after Montgomery's death in 1927; it was finally installed in 1929. Christopher Whall (1849-1924) was the leading Arts & Crafts artist in stained glass in Britain and, although this must be among his last works, it remained true to his ideals of truth to materials. Napier Waller, who would go on to provide a number of windows for All Saints' Chapel, described Whall's stained glass a 'a thing of colour and architectural unity'.

Robert O'Halloran Giles was the second son of Thomas and Joanna (nee Barr-Smith) O'Halloran Giles, born at Aldgate, South Australia on 28 January 1897. After schooling at Queen's College, Adelaide and Geelong Grammar School at Corio in Victoria, he trained in England and then joined the 1 King Edward's Horse as a cavalry officer. The regiment was part of the King's Yeomanry whose members were part time cavalry units from the Dominions, including the Australian Light Horse. After fighting on the Italian front and in France, Second Lieutenant O'Halloran Giles was wounded and taken prisoner. He died of his wounds in Belgium on 26 April 1918 and was buried at Tournai Communal Cemetery Allied Extension, aged 21.

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