

Funeral of Sergeant Timothy Roland Bishop

48RM Commando

Military honours were accorded at the funeral at Dosthill on Monday, and manifestations of esteem and sympathy were such that St. Paul's Church was more than filled and many unable to gain admittance gathered in the churchyard. The cortege was headed by the British Legion standards, that of the Kingsbury branch carried by Mr. W. Jordan, and that of the Tamworth branch by Mr. G. Goodwin, with naval and military escort. A guard of honour was formed by Royal Navy, Army, Royal Air Force and Home Guard personnel, under Lieut. J. S. Elliott (Pioneer Corps), and including Home Guard officers, Major E. Jackson, Capt. B. Aucott and Lieut. Price. As the coffin, draped with the Union Jack and carried shoulder high by khaki-clad bearers was taken into the church, the standards were dipped and the guard of honour came to the salute. The officiating clergy were the Rev. N. P. Frost (Vicar of Kingsbury), the Rev. F. W. Walton (Vicar of Warton), and the Rev. E. S. Thomas (Priest-in-charge, Dosthill). Sergt. H. Andrews (Home Guard) was at the organ, and during the service the hymns "The King of Love my Shepherd is," and "O Valiant Hearts" were sung, and Psalm 23 "The Lord is my Shepherd" and the "Nunc Dimittis" were chanted.

The interment was in the churchyard, and at the graveside the hymn "Peace, Perfect Peace" was sung. Mr. A. Pegg, who was in Civil Defence uniform sounded the "Last Post" and Reveille."

The principal mourners were Mr. T. S. Bishop (father); Miss Margaret Bishop (sister); Mr. T. Bishop (grandfather); Mr. W. J. Boonham (grandfather); Miss D. Boonham, Miss E. Boonham, Mrs. O. Price, Mrs. M. Jones (aunts); Mrs. T. S. Bishop (step-mother); Mr. Stuart Price, R.N. (uncle); Mrs. T. Bishop, Miss F. Boonham, Mr. H. Boonham; Mr. and Mrs. E. Boonham. Among those present were: Mr. H. Dean, Mr. G. W. Kell (representing the National Provincial Bank), Mrs. J. Rammell, Mr. T. Draper, Mr. B. Stonier, Mr. and Mrs. Stevenson, Mrs. Thomas, Mrs. Cooke, Mrs. C. Prince, Mr. D. Prince, R.A.F., Mr. G. Radford, Mrs. F. W. Walton, Mrs. Turner, Councillor A. S. Cooke, Councillor G. Rutherford, Mr. C. Tongue, Mr. D. J. Nutt (representing St. Paul's Church), Miss Sherratt, Mr. J. Andrews, Mr. W. Wright, Mr. D. Brown (representing the local Civil Defence Services), P.C. Johnson (representing the Police). A memorial service is being held at Dosthill Church on Sunday evening, June 18, at 6 p.m.

In the course of a short address, the Rev. F. W. Walton, after speaking in intimate terms of his acquaintance, as a former neighbour as well as a priest, with their gallant young friend, quoted words from the Epistle to the Hebrews "Those who die in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off." Rupert Brooke had written: "If I should die think only this of me: There is some corner of a foreign field that is for ever England." For them that day their own village became "as it were united with, and part of, the soil of France, for the liberation of which our men are giving their lives." Even before the war started Roland Bishop had, in the spirit of high adventure looked forward to the time when he could play his part. He had gone joyfully into the battle. Of him it could be said that tranquil he lay, "his knightly virtue proved." May his memory be hallowed in the land he loved. They were bound to mourn but not without hope, for at the centre of the Christian faith stood the full assurance of resurrection to eternal life for those who died in faith.

Beautiful floral tributes were received from the following: Margaret, Marina and Philip; Dad, Madge and children, at Comberford Road; Auntie Dorothy, Auntie Evelyn and Granddad; Uncle Stuart and Auntie Olive; Mr. and Mrs. T. S. Bishop; Aunt Min, Uncle Bill and family; Auntie, Uncle and family, Hockley; Uncle Harry, Auntie Lucy and family; Doreen; H. Dean; Lieut. J. S. Elliott, N.C.O.'s and men of the Pioneer Corps; Miss Cheatle, Dosthill; Mrs. Winfield, Church Farm; Rod, Joe and Wendy Gausden; Mr. and Mrs. G. Seal; Mr. and Mrs. Tongue and family; Staff, Stoneware (1928) Ltd.; Allan Vickers; Sid, also Roland and Tom, now serving in Italy; Trooper Ernest Dean, B.E.F.; George E. Wright; Mr. H. Young and family; Mr. and Mrs. Machin, Mr. and Mrs. Handley, Mr. and Mrs. Pyke and Derek, Mr. and Mrs. Groucott; Mr. and Mrs. F. Andrews and family; Millie and Jim; Lily, Arthur and family; Gwen, Herbert and family; Mr. and Mrs. J. Mountford, Mr. and Mrs. R. Mountford and Joyce; Willie and John Clark; Mrs. C. Prince and family; Dosthill Home Guard; Mr. and Mrs. J. Andrews; Villagers of Dosthill; Working Men's Club, Dosthill; British Legion Club and Branch, Tamworth. The funeral arrangements were carried out by Messrs. E. J. Cole and Sons.