

A CITY MOURNS THE PASSING OF TWO BRAVE SONS
POIGNANT SCENES AT FUNERALS OF FIREMEN JONES AND ROBINSON
"FLUNG INTO SILENT ETERNITY"
ELOQUENT TRIBUTES BY CLERGY.

Poignant scenes were witnessed in Armidale yesterday and to-day when the last sad obsequies associated with the tragic deaths of Firemen B.F. Jones and W.J.B. Robinson, who were killed by an explosion at the premises of F. Braund and Co., Ltd., on Wednesday morning, were performed in the presence of thousands of citizens who packed the Church of England Cathedral, lined the streets leading to the cemetery, and congregated at the gravesides.

The funeral corteges were, perhaps, the most representative ever seen in this city, and the tear-filled eyes of the sorrowing crowds provided ample proof of the saddening effect of the tragedy on the community.

Dying as heroes, in defence of the lives and property of citizens of Armidale, the victims were laid to rest with the full honours of an admiring city. Fireman Jones's funeral took place yesterday, and Fireman Robinson's to-day.

Not a vacant seat could be found in St. Peter's Cathedral for the preliminary service yesterday and hundreds were unable to gain admission. More evidence of the popularity of the young man and the widespread grief of the citizens was given in the wonderful collection of floral tributes arranged about the casket.

The service at the Cathedral and at the graveside was carried out by the Rev. Canon Best and the Rev. R.C. Cockerell.

In the address at the Cathedral Canon Best said that the vast assemblage was an expression of the respect and admiration the citizens had for the men who died so gallantly at their duty.

"It is enough to say that the community was stunned to learn of the tragic occurrence, which flung Beresford Jones from a full and active life into a still eternity, and inflicted mortal wounds on Fireman Robinson", said the Canon. "All our sympathy goes out to the bereaved relatives in their sorrow, and we also pray that Capt. Fred Maizey may make a full recovery from his wounds. We are not only expressing our sympathy but our respect and admiration for those men who were tried in the balances, and were not found wanting. Every fire contains an element of danger to the men of the brigades, and in this instance came death, hurtling swift and dreadful. But when the call came each man went to do his duty. No higher tribute can be made to those who died than to say that they did their duty".

The flower-laden casket was borne from the church by Messrs. J. Munsie and R. Colmer (fellow-members of the Fire Brigade), Cecil Boler and Dudley Benjamin (team-mates of North Armidale Football Club), and Walter Boler and Les Johnson (North Armidale Junior Cricket Club).

The members of the brigade formed a guard of honour at the entrance of the cathedral, and the casket containing the deceased's remains was borne to the grave by the engine, which took him to his death on Wednesday morning.

The cortege was led by the Armidale City Band, playing the Dead March, from Saul, then followed seven hundred footballers, cricketers, and representatives of other sports, the Church of England Men's Society. The Armidale Police, led by Inspector Harrison and Sergeant Drew, the