Today I would like to pause and pay our respects to:

4/849 Spr Martin Alexander **Strong**

Martin was born on January 20, 1871, in Rangiora. He received his education at the Borough School and later embarked on a career as a carpenter.

He honed his skills by serving an apprenticeship with J. Withers and Son in Southbrook. Eventually, Martin transitioned into a builder role, partnering with his brother in Wellington.

By his last known residence, Martin lived at 56 Burke Street, Wellington, and his profession remained that of a carpenter.

His medical examination described him as appearing to be 40 years old, standing at 5 feet 10 inches, weighing 154 pounds, with a fair complexion, blue eyes, and light-coloured hair.

Martin's military journey began when he attested in Trentham on December 18, 1914, joining the 1st Field Company of the New Zealand Engineers. He left New Zealand on December 15, 1914, and after 123 days, he arrived at his destination.

He advanced to the front lines with the Fourth Reinforcements and was wounded on June 26, 1915, on the Dardanelles.

*The Casualty List No. 103 recorded his injury as follows: "WOUNDED. N.Z. FIELD ENGINEERS. 4/849 Sapper Martin Alexander Strong."*

Martin sustained gunshot wounds to his left thigh and right leg on June 26, 1915, and was subsequently taken aboard the H.M.H.S. Gascon. By June 30, 1915, he was admitted to a hospital in Cairo, Egypt, and later transferred to the 1st Static Hospital in Port Said on July 16, 1915.

While recovering, Martin was offered the chance to return home on the Tahiti, but he chose to rejoin the front line instead.

He was discharged from Zeitoun on August 10, 1915, and returned to his unit at Gallipoli.

Tragically, Martin was killed in action on August 28, 1915, aged 44; while his attested papers has him aged 40, his aged has been recorded as 34

The Lyttleton Times of September 21, 1915, reported his passing: "Martin Alexander (Aleo), son of Mrs. B. J. Strong, Rangiora, killed in action at the Dardanelles on August 28, 1915, doing his country's work."

His sacrifice is commemorated at Chunuk Bair (New Zealand) Memorial 8 Turkey (including Gallipoli)

RIP Martin

Thank you for your service

E kore warewaretia

Will never forget