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

7/1090 Lt Harry Aloysius **Lockington** **MBE MID**, who was born on November 13, 1881, one of six sons of Elisha and May Lockington.

In the early 1880s, the Lockington family relocated to Reefton, a burgeoning settlement on the West Coast of New Zealand. There, the family engaged in sawmilling, building, and mining, industries central to the region’s development.

Following in his family's industrious footsteps, Harry pursued a career as a sawmiller with Lockington Bros in Reefton. His mechanical aptitude led him to become an engineer, and he took charge of the fitting shops of John McLean and Son, Ltd., during the construction of the Otira Tunnel, a major infrastructural project in New Zealand's history.

When World War I erupted, Harry answered the call, enlisting in the 5th Reinforcements of the Canterbury Mounted Rifles (service number 7/1090). His next of kin was recorded as his mother, Mary Lockington.

During the war, he served with distinction in Gallipoli and Egypt. He later transferred to the New Zealand Engineers, working closely with both the New Zealand and Australian Engineers. Rising to the rank of Lieutenant, Harry demonstrated exceptional leadership and technical skills, earning the Member of the British Empire (M.B.E.) for his service in the field. He was also mentioned in dispatches, a testament to his bravery and contributions during the war.

The citation for Harry’s MBE reads as follows: Lieutenant, New Zealand Engineers L.G. 12 December 1919, p15441 In recognition of valuable services rendered in connection with the military operations in Egypt and Palestine. And his citation for his MID reads as follows: *Lieutenant, New Zealand Engineers L.G. 22 January 1919, p1165 For services during the period from 16th March 1918 to 18th September 1918.*

Returning to New Zealand after the war, Harry resumed civilian life with the same sense of duty and purpose. In 1919, he was appointed a Justice of the Peace, reflecting his standing in the community. He managed the sawmill operations at the Mangahao hydroelectric works and later pursued other sawmilling ventures in the North Island.

In 1928, Harry applied for and was granted a coal lease over 20 acres in Block X, Reefton Survey District, showcasing his continued involvement in the resource industries that defined his early life.

As his health began to decline, Harry returned to his family homestead at Waitahu, near Reefton, before eventually settling in Christchurch. Despite his move, his connection to Reefton remained strong, and his contributions to the local industry and wartime efforts were remembered fondly.

Harry Aloysius Lockington passed away on January 1, 1958, at the age of 76. He was laid to rest in Reefton Cemetery, Plot 118, alongside the community and landscape that shaped his remarkable life.

RIP Harry

Thank you for your service

E kore e warewaretia

Will never forget