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

4/1743 Spr Patrick Joseph **Brosnahan.**

Patrick was born on 20 July 1884 in Kerrytown, South Canterbury. He was the son of Hugh Brosnahan and Julia Brosnahan (née Scannell).

He was one of three brothers; his brother Timothy John Brosnahan was killed in action during military service, and another brother, Louis Brosnahan, also served in the military.

Patrick worked as a surfaceman for New Zealand Railways (NZR) before enlisting for service in World War I. At the time of his enlistment, he resided at the address of Mrs. McDonald on Sumner Road, Lyttleton.

He enlisted in the New Zealand Expeditionary Force in June 1915. During his medical examination, he was described as “a very suitable man” for military service. On 8 January 1916, he embarked from Wellington aboard the *Maunganui*, bound for Suez, Egypt, as part of the 9th Reinforcements for the New Zealand Engineers.

In July 1916, he was wounded in the right thigh by a machine-gun bullet while in action. Although the injury caused no long-term disability, it was one of several challenges he faced during his service.

In late 1918, while on leave in France, he contracted influenza. He reported his illness and was transferred to the New Zealand Convalescent Hospital in England on 12 December 1918. Prior to this, he had spent two weeks bedridden in Ireland under the care of a doctor. A medical report from 18 December 1918 at Hornchurch Hospital described him as unwell, with symptoms including a sore throat, persistent cough, and shortness of breath upon exertion.

He was deemed unfit for war service for six months and unable to return home for three months. On 9 May 1919, Patrick was discharged from the military due to being no longer physically fit for service as a result of illness contracted during active duty.

In 1924, he married Edith McDonald. Tragically, their marriage was cut short when Edith passed away in 1932.

Patrick’s health, already compromised from his wartime illnesses, continued to deteriorate. He died on 23 December 1933 in Christchurch at the age of 43. The cause of death was myocarditis and chronic pulmonary tuberculosis, conditions likely linked to his influenza and the hardships he endured during the war.

Patrick Joseph Brosnahan's life reflects the enduring impact of war on those who served. His service and sacrifice are remembered as part of the broader story of New Zealand’s contributions to World War I.

RIP Patrick

Thank you for your service

E kore e warewaretia

Will never forget