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

4/2063 Spr William Gillies **Clarke.**

William Gillies Clarke was born on 28 February 1894 in Timaru, the eldest son of Reverend James Izatt Clarke and Jane Clarke (née Walker). He had a younger brother, David Adamson Clarke.

William's father, a dedicated Presbyterian minister, served in various communities, including Fairlie and later Wyndham, where he responded to a call from Knox Church, Waimate, in early 1918.

William worked as a telegraphist in Greymouth before enlisting for military service on 17 December 1915. Joining the Signalling Company of the New Zealand Engineers.

He reported to Trentham Camp on 18 November 1915 and embarked for overseas service on 1 April 1916.

During his deployment, a poignant connection was made when a bottle washed ashore at Martin’s Bay on 26 January 1917, containing messages from soldiers aboard his troopship. Among the messages was one addressed to Mrs. J. I. Clarke, his mother, and another listing his name and address as Sapper Clarke of Wyndham.

William served in the Western battlefields but was discharged on 16 December 1917 due to a pre-enlistment disability aggravated by active service.

He returned home in September 1917 with a contingent of sick and wounded soldiers.

After his military service, William resumed his career with the Post Office.

On 16 April 1919, William married Milford Adelaide Newton at St Andrew’s Church in Christchurch. That same year, he suffered the loss of his father, James, who passed away in Waimate after a sudden collapse following a Bible lesson. James was interred in Waimate, where William's mother, Jane, would also be buried in 1944.

His diligence and expertise saw him rise through the ranks to become Chief Postmaster at Hamilton in 1951.

He passed away on 14 August 1972 in Nelson, aged 78, and was laid to rest at Marsden Valley Cemetery, Block 15A, Plot 061. His beloved wife, Milford, had predeceased him in December 1971.

RIP William

Thank you for your service

E kore e warewaretia

Will never forget