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

4/124 & 12798 Spr Joseph **Keane**

Joseph Keane was born on 28 March 1894 in Waimate, New Zealand, to Daniel Keane and his second wife, Johanna (née Carrol). His parents had emigrated from Kerry, Ireland, and settled in Waimate, where Joseph spent his early years.

He enlisted for military service on 10 August 1914, joining the Samoan Advance Party at the outset of the First World War.

This unit was responsible for the New Zealand-led occupation of German Samoa, marking the country's first action in the war. At the time of his enlistment, his recorded address was care of Mrs. Foster, Exeter Street, Lyttleton. After returning from Samoa, he was discharged from service on 22 March 1915.

Keen to continue serving, Joseph enlisted again in February 1916. By then, he was employed as a railway porter, and his enlistment address was recorded as C/o New Zealand Railways, Lyttelton.

He embarked for overseas service on 27 May 1916. Initially posted as a gunner on 9 February 1916, promoted to Bombardier on 1 March 1916, though he reverted to gunner on 5 May 1916.

During his service, he was hospitalized at Bulford Military Hospital in England from 11 October to 7 November 1916.

On 15 February 1917, he transferred to the Engineers.

After serving for three years and 86 days overseas, he embarked for New Zealand on 2 July 1919 and was officially discharged on 17 September 1919.

After the war, Joseph resumed his work with the railways, becoming a railway signalman in Lyttelton.

In 1918, tragedy struck his family when his eldest brother succumbed to the influenza epidemic that swept through New Zealand.

Ten years after returning from military service, Joseph married Mary Margaret Elizabeth Lufaro in 1929. The couple settled in Lyttelton, where they made their home.

Joseph Keane passed away on 22 July 1960 and has been laid to rest in Lyttelton, Block South. Plot I.15leaving behind a legacy of service and dedication to his country and community.

RIP Joseph

Thank you for your service

E kore e warewaretia

Will never forget

In posting this tribute to James I wish to acknowledge the contribution made by Tony Rippin, Curator of Documentary History at the South Canterbury Museum for providing me with a list of Sappers from that region