

Origin of the Royal New Zealand Engineers Corps Memorial Chapel

The Corps of Royal New Zealand Engineers Memorial Church of St Martin's

In April 1972, Headquarters, Home Command, in Wellington advised the Corps Memorial Committee that a 74 year old church at Makotuku, near Norsewood, had been offered to Linton Camp as a Garrison Church. It was suggested that the RNZE Corps Memorial Association might be interested in assisting with the finance for the removal and re-erection of the church in Linton Camp. The church was offered as a gift to be removed. It was then envisaged that the church would become the place of enshrinement of the Rolls of Honour of the Corps and would also form part of the RNZE Corps Memorial Centre Complex.

Early History of the Makotuku Chapel

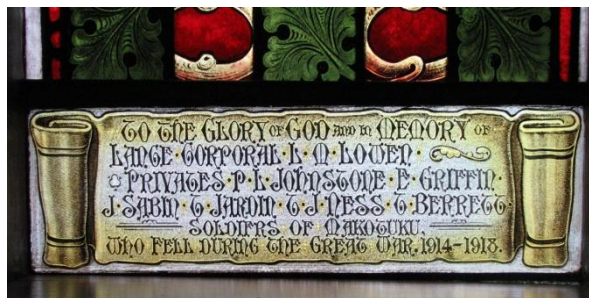


Mrs Friberg, a Resident of Makotuku was the first to promote the spiritual needs of the local residents in the early 1880s. In 1885 there is a record of Bishop Stuart preaching at morning service in Makotuku. The first church was destroyed by fire and this, the second church was dedicated on 5 February 1899 by the Very Rev W.L Williams, The Bishop of Waiapu.

This church had a central place in the life of the farming community at Makotuku and at the end of the Great War three stained glass windows were installed in the sanctuary behind the altar. These windows remain in the church as it is today.

If you look closely you will see the text at the foot of each window, one a memorial to those from the community who fell in the war and the other a thanks offering for the safe return of those

who came home and rejoined the farming activities in the district. These windows were dedicated by Archdeacon Simkin in 1923.



Names of Makotuku men commemorated in this window.

LCpl L.M. Lowen, Privates P.L. Johnstone, E. Griffin, J. Sabin, J. Jardin, T.J. Ness, T. Berrett

As happens in many places falling population, easier access by car meant that this church was becoming less used. The last carol service was held in 1967 at which time 125 parishioners filled the church. The last service was conducted by the Rev Willink at 9 am on 4th August 1968.

New Life for the Chapel



By 30 November 1972 the foundations for the church were being worked upon in Linton headed by Cpl Colin Oliver, of 2 Field Squadron providing the work force. The church was dismantled at Makotuku and transported

in parts to Linton with each part marked so that re-erection would cause as few challenges as possible

Sgt Murray Holt was appointed task foreman and was responsible for rebuilding which included the replacement of all damaged or degraded timbers. Replacement of damaged timber took considerable time and skills of the sappers working on the re-construction were often tested.



Chapel reconstruction progressing with parts fitting together like a jigsaw puzzle

By July 1974 all was ready. On the 20th July 1974 a parade of the Sapper units in Linton Camp was held. The first of two commemorative plaques was unveiled outside in view of all present. During the service inside a commemorative plaque above the RNZE Rolls of Honour was unveiled by Lt Col Ken Rutherford and Lt Col Lindell. Music for the parade and the service was provided by the Palmerston North Salvation Army Band.



Repository of the RNZE Rolls of Honour

Two of the most important functions sought for this chapel were a place recognised as a site for worship and a home for the New Zealand Engineers and Royal New Zealand Engineers Rolls of Honour. The Rolls of Honour of New Zealand Sappers killed in action during both World Wars are held in a special cabinet in the chapel.



The cabinet containing the Rolls of Honour

The Chapel contains a number of other memorials dating from the Great War, the Second World war and up to the most recent deaths of this century. These are all treasures and memorials of Sappers past. This is the home and heart of the Corps of Royal New Zealand Engineers.

This chapel has seen worship and remembrance for over 115 years.

RNZE

Military History Resources

Medal Rolls

Official Histories

Unit and Regimental Histories

Deployment and Project Records

Campaign Histories

Embarkation Rolls

RNZE Corps Heritage and History

Who's Who

Photographs, Maps and Plans

Construction Design Drawings

Library and Reference Material

Information Updates

at the

**RNZE Corps Memorial Centre
Cnr Powells Ave and Puttick Rd
Linton Military Camp**

Provided by

**The RNZE Charitable Trust
C/- DSS Registry
Linton Military Camp
Palmerston North 4820
NEW ZEALAND**



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Saint Martin's RNZE & Garrison Chapel Linton Military Camp, Palmerston North NEWZEALAND



**The Spiritual Home of the
Corps of Royal New Zealand
Engineers (RNZE)
and
Repository of the Rolls of
Honour for the RNZE.**

Ubique - I Nga Wahi Katoa

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