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

4/669 Cpl John Quinton **Adams MM.**

John was born on January 1, 1884, in Otago, before moving to Auckland.

John, a devout Anglican, hailed from 145 Hobson Street, Auckland. He embarked on April 17, 1915, as part of the 4th Reinforcements, New Zealand Field Engineers, aboard HMNZT 21, HMNZT 22, or HMNZT 23 (Willochra or Knight Templar or Waitomo).

During the war, John's valor and leadership shone brightly. On the night of July 24, 1918, in Hebuterne, he displayed extraordinary courage while in charge of a carrying party. Despite the chaos caused by enemy fire, a shell struck the wagon John's party was accompanying, resulting in injuries to three men, the driver, and a horse. The party scattered, and the horses bolted, becoming entangled in a belt of barbed wire.

Undeterred by the continued shelling, John, a Corporal at the time, demonstrated exceptional leadership. He worked tirelessly to extricate the horses from the wire, reassembled his party, and, amidst the ongoing danger, successfully delivered crucial materials to the forward line. His actions under fire were not just heroic; they exemplified the finest qualities of courage and selflessness.

For his exemplary service, John Quinton Adams was awarded the Military Medal on November 13, 1918, a recognition of his extraordinary bravery on the battlefield.

After the war, John's life continued in peacetime, marked by resilience and dedication. He departed this world on July 18, 1953, in Whangarei, Northland, leaving behind a legacy of valor, sacrifice, and service to his country.

As we pay tribute to Sapper John Quinton Adams, let us remember a man whose acts of bravery defined not only his time on the battlefield but also the spirit of those who served alongside him. May his memory endure, a shining beacon of inspiration for generations to come. Lest we forget.