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

13561 Spr Richard **Carter**

Richard Carter was born on July 28, 1890, in Hikurangi, to Henry Carter and Julia Eliza Carter (née Campbell).

He attended Whangarei High School in 1905, and upon graduation, he secured a position as a clerk with the New Zealand Railways Department. Richard resided in Auckland and was working towards becoming a Railway Engineer when he enlisted for World War I at the age of 25.

On February 18, 1916, Richard enlisted in the New Zealand Expeditionary Force (NZEF) with no prior military training. His medical records noted that he was 5 feet 7½ inches tall, weighed 11 stone, and had brown hair, brown eyes, and a medium complexion. Richard began his training at Trentham Military Camp and was assigned to the 13th Reinforcements as a Sapper.

Richard embarked from Wellington on June 27, 1916, aboard the *Willochra* (HMNZT 54), traveling in convoy with *Tofua* (HMNZT 55). The convoy included the 13th Reinforcements NZEF, 7th Reinforcements to the 1st and 2nd Battalion NZ Rifle Brigade, and 4th Reinforcements to the 3rd and 4th Battalion NZ Rifle Brigade, totalling 2,123 troops.

During the voyage, Richard fell ill and was hospitalized on the *Willochra* on July 12, 1916. He was discharged upon arrival at Devonport, England, on July 26, just two days before his 26th birthday.

After an eight-month gap in his service records, Richard was posted on April 16, 1917, to the New Zealand Infantry Brigade (NZIB) Signaller Division, 3rd Battalion Auckland Infantry Regiment (AIR) at Codford. He was then transferred to the 4th NZIB Signal Section on May 5, 1917, and proceeded to France on May 28, 1917.

The 4th Infantry Brigade was formed in response to a request from the British War Office in February 1917, composed of troops already in England. The Brigade was responsible for holding a quiet front line section near Messines and involved in extensive preparations for the Messines offensive, including burying communication cables to protect them from artillery bombardment.

The Brigade arrived in France on May 29, 1917, and came under the New Zealand Division's command on June 10. In late September 1917, the Brigade was involved in the Battle of Passchendaele, launching an attack on Gravenstafel Spur on October 4. The attack was successful, with the Brigade capturing all objectives and taking 700 prisoners for the loss of 130 men killed and over 600 wounded. The 4th Brigade was held in reserve during the costly Battle of Passchendaele on October 12 1917.

By January 1918, losses in the New Zealand Division led to the disbandment of the 4th Brigade. Richard was attached to the NZ Division 22nd Corps on February 8, and on March 15, 1918, he was posted to the Division Signal Company.

On March 29, 1918, orders were issued to proceed to the front line. The trenches were in poor condition, exacerbated by continuous rain and heavy enemy artillery bombardment.

On April 5, 1918, Richard sustained wounds during intense artillery fire and was admitted to the No. 1 Field Ambulance.

Tragically, Richard died of his wounds on April 6, 1918, at the age of 27, in the field at Beaussart. He was initially buried at Beaussart but was later reinterred at the Hedauville Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme, France (H.16). The cemetery, used from March to August 1918, now contains 178 First World War burials.

Richard has been laid to rest at Hedauville Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme, France H. 16

RIP Richard

Thank you for your service

E kore warewaretia

Will never forget