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

12/2001 Sgt Maj Timothy **Kenna DCM MSM**

Timothy Kenna was born on April 17, 1880, in Ireland. His family later moved to Australia, where they settled in Clifton, New South Wales. Before enlisting, he worked as a labourer with the New Zealand Government Public Works. His next of kin was listed as Mrs. Margaret Kenna, presumably his mother.

He enlisted in the military on January 11, 1915, at the age of 35. He joined the Auckland Infantry Battalion and was deployed to Gallipoli on June 8, 1915.

Unfortunately, his time on the Peninsula was cut short when he was evacuated on July 24, 1915, due to a serious illness.

After his recovery in England, he was reassigned as a Spr to the No. 5 New Zealand Light Railway Operating Section on February 23, 1917. This unit was attached to the British 2nd Army. Within a mere two months, Kenna's leadership and dedication were recognized with a promotion to Sergeant. Another two months later, he was further promoted to Warrant Officer Class II and appointed Company Sergeant Major.

On October 21, 1917, Timothy was attached to the 17th Australian Light Railway Operating Company. His most notable act of bravery occurred a month later, on November 20, 1917. During a critical mission to transport desperately needed artillery shells to the front lines, his train came under intense high explosive and gas shelling. Despite the train being derailed twice and suffering from the effects of the gas, he managed to deliver the vital supplies to the artillery battery.

Following this heroic effort, Timothy succumbed to gas poisoning and was treated at a casualty clearing station before being evacuated to England for recovery. His gallant actions did not go unrecognized.

In March 1918, Timothy Kenna was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal, an honour second only to the Victoria Cross. Additionally, he had been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal in the New Year’s Honours List just two months earlier.

***M.S.M.*** *Company Sergeant-Major, New Zealand Engineers L.G. 1 January 1918, p77 In recognition of valuable services rendered with the Armies in the Field during the present war.*

***D.C.M.*** *Company Sergeant-Major, Railway Operating Section, New Zealand Engineers L.G. 4 March 1918, p2761 For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. Though the enemy were shelling heavily with gas and high explosive shells, he volunteered to get forward a light railway train of ammunition to a battery which was in urgent need of it. The train was derailed several times, but he made two journeys to the battery with ammunition, though he was suffering from the effects of gas. It was solely owing to his personal example that the work was accomplished.*

Timothy returned to New Zealand in August 1919 and remained in the Army until his discharge on April 28, 1920. He resumed his civilian career, working for the Government Public Works Department at their Esk Railway Works Camp in Hawkes Bay.

He spent his later years living in Wellington, passing away on November 28, 1954, at Wellington Hospital, aged 74.

He has been laid to rest at Karori Cemetery & Crematorium Wellington, PLOT Soldiers, Plot 15 G/4

RIP Timothy

Thank you for your service

E kore warewaretia

Will never forget

While Timothy’s initial enlistment was that of Pte with Auckland Infantry Battalion, by virtue of him been designated a Spr with the No.5 New Zealand Light Railway Operating Section, he warrants remembering.