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

7/1755 2Lt Hugh **Linklater** MM.

Hugh was born on the 4th January 1880 at Waimea, Nelson. Son of Hugh and Mary Anne Linklater (née Hunter).

Following his education, he moved to Thames to work as a miner.

He was serving with the Hauraki Rifle Volunteers when he was selected for service with the 7th NZMR Contingent in South Africa. He served a full tour before returning to New Zealand in 1902.

 Prior to the First World War Linklater was a self-employed farmer in Westland.

*Mr Hugh Linklater; who has enlisted for the Front, was farewelled at Stafford on Friday night (13th Aug 1915). There was a very large gathering, and the proceedings were most enthusiastic. A number of our soldiers 'were present from Hokitika, and several visitors went down from Kumara. (Greymouth Evening Standard 16th Aug 1915)*

He enlisted in August 1915 with the Canterbury Mounted Rifles, with his unit embarking, from Wellington on 10 October 1915, arriving in Egypt in November 1915.

In early 1916 he transferred to the 2nd Field Company, NZ Field Engineers and deployed to France.

On the night of 25/26 June 1916 he performed the deed which earned him the Military Medal. The recommendation read: "For good work done in enemy trench on night of 25/26th June. This sapper during the raid by a party of the 2nd Bn, 3rd N.Z. (Rifle) Brigade after everyone else had left the trench, remained behind to fire a charge. A pumping engine and plant were destroyed".

*The Miliary Medal has been awarded to Lance-Corporal H. Linklater, of the New Zealand Engineers, in recognition of excellent work carried out by him when accompanying a raiding party in France lately. In connection with the award,*

*Major Barclay, in a letter, states, inter alia: “Lance-Corporal Linklater and another sapper, in response to a call, volunteered to accompany a raiding party from the 2nd Battalion New Zealand Rifle Brigade. Each sapper carried three large charges of guncotton, together with primers, fuse and detonators, in order to carry out the demolition which might be necessary in the German trenches, and any person with a knowledge of explosives will recognise that a man thus equipped undertakes a very hazardous task when he sallies forth amidst flying missiles and the concussion of bursting shells. The raid was splendidly carried out, and quite in accordance with the programmed arranged. Nine prisoners were taken and at least thirty Germans were killed, our men conclusively proving their superiority at close quarters. The engineers faithfully carried out their portion of the work; each followed a different officer and acted under his directions. Linklater was not only able to place mines under the German parapet, but he also demolished an elaborate pumping plant with gas engine. The latter task was not carried out without some difficulty as while in the act of placing his charges, he was interrupted by the arrival of one of the enemy, and he had to temporarily discontinue his work until the intruder was disposed of. The award of the medal has given general satisfaction amongst the New Zealand Engineers”. (Manawatu Times 16 Nov 1916)*

The award of the MM was announced in the London Gazette 21/9/1916. In October 1917 he was nominated for a commission and posted to the UK.

In February 1918 he was appointed 2nd lieutenant and posted back to the NZ Field Engineers. He returned to the front in August 1918, where he was slightly wounded, but remained with is unit, in late October 1918. *(Hokitika Guardian Nov 1918)*

At the end of the war, Hugh, together with 420 officers’ nurses, and men of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force, and, in addition, a number of naval passengers, were due to arrive in Wellington on June 25 aboard the transport Prinzessen.

 During WW2 the Army Department, Wellington, appointed Hugh Linklater, M.M Captain (temp.) with the announcement being made by HIS Excellency the Governor-General on 2nd January, 1942

Hugh Linklater died on the 13 Aug 19152, aged 69 and has been interned at Palmerston North, and is buried Kelvin Grove Cemetery, Palmerston North, Plot D 008:001.

RIP Hugh

Thank you for your service

E kore warewaretia

Will never forget

