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

4/63A Spr Piers Acton Eliot **Warburton**

Piers was born on the 12 Feb 1885, Palmerston North, to George Hartopp Eliot Warburton and Sophia Isabella Budd, a brother to Charlotte Eliot, Edward Darien and Maude Agnes.

He moved from New Zealand to British Columbia Canada in June 1912, where he had obtained an appointment with the West Kootenay Power Company. He was working for this company when war was declared with Germany.

When in August 1914 the Canadian Government announced its intention to raise troops for service in France, he offered himself as a recruit for the First Contingent of the Canadian Expeditionary Force.

Being rejected on account of his eyesight, he resigned his position immediately and moved to England where he applied to be enrolled in the Divisional Engineers, Royal Naval Division. Again, he was refused on account of his eyesight. Strong representations were made on his behalf to the Military Authorities and he was eventually permitted to enlist in the British Section of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force which sailed for Egypt in December 1914.

Spr Warburton's Division was then allotted to the newly created Mediterranean Expeditionary Force which was intended to invade the Gallipoli Peninsula in Turkey, and his Division sailed for Turkey from Egypt in early April 1915. Whilst on the ‘sap' at Quinn's Post, Turkey, on April 30 1915, he was mortally wounded, being shot in the head by a sniper. He immediately became unconscious and was conveyed to the Hospital Ship Mashobra.

Asked for more information by the family, his commanding officer, Captain Alan Gordon McNeill, wrote on 14th June 1915.

1. “Mr Eliot Warburton, of Palmerston, has only this week received particulars as to the death of his elder son, Sapper Piers Acton Eliot Warburton, who died of wounds received at the Dardanelles. Sapper Warburton was in the British section of the New Zealand Engineers and was killed at Quinn's Post, which has been the centre of such fierce fighting and so much bravery, while pushing forward a sap towards the enemy's trenches. His commanding officer speaks highly of his soldierly spirit and engineering capacity. The letter giving the details was received by Sapper Warburton’s relatives in England in response to enquiries and forwarded to his father in Palmerston. The letter mentioned by Capt. McNeill ' 'is having been sent to the next of kin, has not been received by Mr Warburton. Capt. McNeill writes from "near Gaba Tepe, Gallipoli Peninsula," on June 14, as follows: —"In reply to Miss Mill man's letter of 20th May, a letter has already been sent to the next of kin, but, so far as I am able, I will give the additional information asked for. Sapper Warburton was wounded at a spot known as Quinn's Post whilst engaged in "sapping," i.e., digging forward from our trenches towards the enemy (who, in this place, were only some 30 yards distant) to build up an advance firing trench. The bullet hit him in the forehead or temple, and he was rendered unconscious, and immediately handed over to the Medical Corps. From this point onwards I can give no official information, but I may state that his wound received immediately a temporary dressing, that he was carried by stretcher to the nearest dressing station, where he received thorough attention, and that on the same day he was taken on to the Hospital Ship. We afterwards heard (unofficially) that he was buried at sea. As a soldier he was all one could desire. He always carried out his work thoroughly and without thought of danger. He knew the dangerous nature of the work on which he was last engaged, yet went to it in the same cheerful and happy spirit in which he used' to attend his daily parades in camp. You have the deep sympathy not only of myself, but of the whole company in the loss of so fine a man, whom we can so ill spare. (Signed) A. G. McNEILL, Capt. 0.0. Ist Division Field Company, N.Z. Engineers."

[1] 'Manawatu Standard' (New Zealand), 13th August 1915

Spr Warburton succumb to his wounds and died on the 30th Apr 1915 and was buried at sea.

He is remembered Lone Pine Memorial, Lone Pine Cemetery, Anzac, Turkey and at Memorial Plaque St Mary the Virgin church Iffley Oxfordshire UK.

RIP Piers

Thank you for your service

E kore warewaretia

Will never forget

