



**OKATO RETURNED SERVICES ASSOCIATION
SUB BRANCH**

REMEMBRANCE DAY CIVIC SERVICE

AND

UNVEILING OF MEMORIAL TO

LIEUTENANT EDMOND L MALONE MC

OKATO WAR MEMORIAL

**THURSDAY, 11 NOVEMBER 1999
AT 10.45AM**

ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

- 10.45am** The public are invited to assemble in front of the War Memorial to the south of it in Carthew Street.
- Returned Service personnel assemble on west side of memorial.
- 10.50am** Welcome from Okato RSA President, Mr Ivor Ellis.
- 11.00am** Observance of two minutes silence and Last Post.
- 11.05am** Sister Veronica Hackett.
- 11.10am** Keynote address - 'The Malone Family' - by Mr David E Walter JP, Past Mayor, Stratford District.
- 11.20am** Unveiling of Memorial Inscription by Mrs Barbara Whitlow, Hamilton, grand-daughter of the late Colonel William Malone.
- 11.25am** Her Worship the Mayor, New Plymouth District, Mrs Claire Stewart JP.
- 11.30am** President New Plymouth RSA, Mr Peter Peckham.
- 11.35am** Conclusion of ceremony.

11/699 LIEUTENANT EDMOND LEO MALONE MC

Born the eldest son of Lieutenant Colonel William Malone of Stratford Edmond was educated at the Convent School there followed by St Patrick's College, Wellington which he attended from 1900 to 1905. After a visit to England he spent the period immediately prior to the First World War working in the Dover Road area of the Okato District.

Within days of the outbreak of hostilities on 4th August 1914 the Colonel along with sons Edmond and Terry enlisted for overseas service. With the Colonel in command of the Wellington Infantry Regiment and the boys together in the Wellington Mounted Rifles the three embarked upon ss 'Arawa' which departed from Wellington on 15th October 1914 sailing via Hobart to the Middle East.

Following a period of preparation in Egypt the trio again embarked to take part in the Gallipoli landings. There Terry was wounded on 1st June, Edmond on 27th July whilst the Colonel made the supreme sacrifice on the 8th August within sight of the ultimate prize, the Dardanelles, as the hero of Chunuk Bair.

After regrouping in Egypt following the evacuation of the Gallipoli Peninsular the survivors, amongst them Edmond, now promoted to 2nd Lieutenant, formed the nucleus of the New Zealand Division which sailed on 7th April 1916 for Marseilles where the troops entrained for the Western Front. At this point their destiny was to take part in the Somme offensive in which the Division, from their involvement from 15th September onwards, achieved significant territorial gains, a unique distinction in this bloody campaign.

In 1917 the Division moved to Belgium in preparation for offensives at Messines and later at Passchendaele where Edmond, in October took part in the action which resulted in his being awarded the Military Cross.

Following a period of recuperation in England made necessary by further wounds Edmond returned again to France and when, in March 1918, the Germans launched their last major offensive of the war, the Division was hurriedly called upon to fill a gap in the front of the Somme. It was there, on 27th March, that he received a lethal wound which was ultimately to cause his death in hospital at Boulogne on 6th April 1918.

On 14th July 1917 Edmond married Mary Brocklehurst of Horwich, Lancashire a daughter being subsequently born posthumously. He now lies in the military section of the Wimereux Communal Cemetery on the northern outskirts of the seaside town of Boulogne, France near the last resting place of the Canadian, Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae whose immortal lines:

“In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks still bravely singing fly,
Scarce heard amidst the guns below.

We are the Dead, short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunsets glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders Fields.”

are an everlasting tribute to those who, like Edmond, gave their lives - ‘In Flanders Fields’.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The President and Executive Committee of the Okato Returned Services Association Sub Branch wish to record with gratitude the assistance of the following organisations and persons who have contributed to the Malone Memorial Project.

Department of Internal Affairs - Historical Branch

New Plymouth District Council

New Zealand Defence Force - Personal Archives

Parkin and Company, New Plymouth, Monumental Masons

Queen Elizabeth II Army Memorial Museum, Waiouru

Des and Nola Corbett, Okato.

The President and Committee desire also to place on record appreciation of the influence of their Immediate Past President, Dr Arthur Hogg, researching and giving effect to their desire that appropriate recognition be given the heroism and sacrifice of their late comrade Lieutenant E Malone.

