

Unknown to many Cambridge citizens, in a Hill next to lake Te Koo Utu is a small building that hides the entrance to a 40 metre tunnel that leads to a room that housed 600, 000 litres of fuel in WW2, this project was called AR9. It's existence was made a secret to the Cambridge community and even more so to the Japanese invaders heading towards them from the south pacific ocean. The fuel was there as a reserve, and Tanks would take it off to be used in aircraft at RNZAF Station Rukuhia (Hamilton Airport) which served as the RNZAF main repair depot for aircraft. Most large overhauls, conversions and repairs were done at Rukuhia so they needed the fuel to test completed aircraft. Tragedy occurred again in the early hours of the morning of October 14, 1943. A fire had started up thought to have been caused by a cigarette in the barrake hut where two guards normally slept. When the Cambridge Police arrived on the scene to take a look around the charred remains of the area they found the body of a young 20 year old called LAC Richard Edward Issacs. Issacs death was acknowledged as being the only serviced man killed while being on active duty in Cambridge. The Cambridge Community Board acknowledged the family's loss, the history of the tunnel and future plans to light it. But the Tunnel still remains today locked behind metal doors, still a mystery to some of the Cambridge community.

