

*Timaru Herald.* Thursday, 12 April 1917 (Papers Past) [07 August 2015]

## **28TH REINFORCEMENTS SOUTH CANTERBURY MEN.**

### **GERALDINE'S FAREWELL.**

On Tuesday night, wet weather notwithstanding, there was a very fair attendance at the Drill Hall, Geraldine, to farewell the departing members of the 28th Reinforcements. Major Kennedy was in the chair and the hall was decorated with flags and flowers. A capital entertainment was provided. Several selections were played by the Geraldine orchestra, and the vocalists included Miss Macgregor, Mr Macgregor and Mrs F. Trott, while Miss Chapman contributed some excellent recitations, all the performers receiving enthusiastic recalls.

The local men leaving with the 28th's were Privates G. S. Ayling, W. Earl, Fitzgerald, C. Griffiths, R. Hampton, J. Howard, W. Buckley, A. Payne, G. Edgar, J. Ambler, A. Beattie and G. Summerfield. At the invitation of the chairman the recruits present walked on to the stage, and on behalf of the Geraldine Committee Messrs Ayling and Howard were each presented with a wristlet watch and each man was given a parcel of comforts on behalf of the Home and Empire League, it being notified that if the boys wanted anything else they had only to intimate their requirements to the League. Addressing the men Major Kennedy said that General Sir William Robertson had said that men were wanted before anything else, and he, the speaker, believed that the gallant lads who were now leaving would worthily uphold the honour of their country and town. He wished them good luck. The soldiers were enthusiastically cheered as they left the stage.

The men and their friends were entertained at supper and a dance concluded the entertainment.

A large crowd cheered the men as they were motored off to Temuka yesterday afternoon.

*Temuka Leader.* 12 April 1917 (Papers Past) [01 October 2023]

## **28th REINFORCEMENTS.**

### **SEND-OFF AT GERALDINE. TO MEN OF 28th REINFORCEMENTS. TUESDAY NIGHT.**

Despite a wet evening there was a very fair attendance at the Drill Hall, Geraldine, when a send-off was tendered to the men who were leaving for Trentham the following day. The Entertainment Committee had as usual decorated the hall with flags and flowers, and had made complete arrangements. Major J. Kennedy, who presided, stated that the small attendance was no doubt caused by the unpleasant weather conditions, but the rain would be very useful for other purposes. Those present would no doubt make up for the smallness of numbers by the warmth of the reception they would give the men who were going away. — (Applause.)

### **THE CONCERT.**

The Geraldine orchestra opened the musical programme with the National Anthem, and afterwards played a selection. Mr McGregor gave a comic song "In the Only Way." He received a recall and brought down the house with an additional verse of the same song. Little Miss Chapman gave a nicely rendered recitation, for which she received a well-earned encore. The best item was a song by Mr F. Trott, "Mother McCrce," and he also had to

respond to an encore. Mr and Miss McGregor next sang a duet, "Ye Banks and Braes of Bonnie Doon." An encore was inevitable, and brought forth another old Scotch song, "Ro..th Adair," each of the favourite melodies being sung with good expression. The orchestra played another series of selections, which were well received, and proved all too short. Miss Chapman gave another recitation, and found such favour that she had to respond to triple recall. Miss McGregor sang two songs (the second in response to an encore) and Mr McGregor gave "I Loved a Lassie," the audience joining in the chorus of his encore song, "Roaming in the Gloaming." Both songs were rendered in Mr McGregor's best style, and proved very popular. The orchestra played another well-appreciated item, and this brought the concert to a close.

#### THE PRESENTATIONS.

Major Kennedy then asked the recruits to come up to the platform, and presented Privates G. S. Ayling and J. W. Howard. with wristlet watches, on behalf of the committee, and after apologising for the absence of Mrs Hislop, who was unable to be present, gave, on her behalf, to the two Geraldine boys, and Privates G. Sommerfield, G. Edgar, and A. G. Payne (who were also present on the platform) the parcel of soldiers' comforts which the Home and Empire League had supplied to all the men who have left. In doing this the chairman stated that as the President of the League had often told the boys, if they wanted anything else they had only to write to the League, and they would be supplied. Continuing, Major Kennedy said that it was action that was wanted to-day. Only that day they had been told by General Sir William Robertson, that men were wanted before anything else. He believed and trusted the gallant lads who were leaving, would uphold the honour of their town and country among the British regiments and those of their Allies, with whom they came in contact. Private Ayling had been in business in Geraldine for some years, and he had always been known as a straightforward fellow. Private Howard was also well known in Geraldine, and he also wished him good luck and a good time in the future.

Mr Trott, in the absence of the Brass Band, which usually played "Soldiers of the King," sang a verse of the song, and the men were heartily cheered as they left the stage.

Supper was then served to the soldiers, their friends, and the performers, and a dance wound up a very pleasant evening.

The men left in motor cars on Wednesday at 2.15, being given hearty cheers as the cars moved off. The route taken was via Orari, where the men from that district were picked up.

The following are the names of the recruits leaving the district with the 28th Reinforcements: Privates G. S. Ayling, W. Earl, R. Fitzgerald, C. E. W. Griffiths, R. L. Hampton, J. M. Howard, W. M. Buckley, A. G. Payne, C. Edgar, J. B. Ambler, H. Beattie, and G. Summerfield.

*Timaru Herald.* 4 May 1917 (Papers Past) [07 August 2015]

During the past month the following soldiers have had farewell socials tendered to them by the people of the Hilton district: — Trooper A. Beattie, Privates C. Griffiths, W. Earl, G. Summerfield, W. Buckley, S. McCaughan, and -- Constable. All the men, with the exception of Private Constable, were entertained at the hall, and each was presented with a wristlet watch. Owing to Private Constable's leave being nearly up the committee were unable to arrange for him to be entertained in the usual manner, so some of the committee met at Mr John Buckley's residence, and on behalf of the Hilton people presented him with a wristlet watch. The thanks of the committee are due to Mr Buckley for his hospitality.

*Timaru Herald.* 4 August 1917 (Papers Past) [07 November 2013]

## WEDDING.

### EARL—COLLINS.

A very quiet but pretty wedding took place at St. Joseph's Church, Temuka, on Thursday morning, the contracting parties being Private Wm. Earl of the 29th Reinforcements, son of Mr Job Earl, of Geraldine, and Miss Kitty Collins, daughter of Mr M. Collins, of Orakipaoa, Temuka. The Rev. Father Campbell officiated at the ceremony. The bride, who was given away by her father, wore a beautiful navy costume and a pretty white hat, with touches of pink. The bride was attended by her sister, Miss J. Collins, who wore a neat costume of grey cloth and black hat relieved with pink. Mr W. Collins performed the duties of best man. Miss E. Twomey presided at the organ during the ceremony and played the "Wedding March" as the bridal party left the church. A few intimate friends then assembled for the wedding breakfast, where the usual toasts were proposed and heartily honoured. Mr and Mrs Earl motored to Timaru to catch the express for the south.

*Temuka Leader.* 9 August 1917 (Papers Past) [16 April 2018]

## A SOLDIER'S WEDDING.

At St. Joseph's Church, Temuka, on August 2nd, a quiet but pretty wedding took place, the contracting parties being Miss K. Collins, daughter of Mr Collins, Milford, and Private W. Earl, of the 29th Reinforcement, son of Jos. Earl, of Geraldine. The bride wore a pretty navy blue costume and white velour hat. The bridesmaid, Miss J. Collins, wore a mole costume and black hat. The bride's brother, Mr J. Collins, was best man.

*Timaru Herald.* 20 May 1919 (Papers Past) [05 November 2013]

### WELCOME AT GERALDINE.

Yesterday morning the following soldiers detrained at Orari — Sergeant J. Johnson, Privates G. E. Anderson, W. Earl, P. W. Regan, and Rance, while another Geraldine man, Private Annals, went on to Timaru. On the men being motored to Geraldine Major Kennedy, on behalf of the Soldiers' Entertainment Committee, said they were all glad to send the men away in good spirits and now they were extremely glad to welcome them back. He trusted they would enter into civilian life as soon as possible and spend many happy years amongst them.

The Mayor, Mr Macdonald, also welcomed the men home. For a long time they had a sad time, when they hoisted their flags to signify that some had "gone west"; but now they hoisted the flags with pleasure, because they signified that some of their men had come back. They were proud and glad to have them back and he assured them they had the best wishes of everyone.

Cheers were given for the men, who were then personally welcomed by their friends.

*Timaru Herald.* 29 May 1919 (Papers Past) [07 August 2015]

## HILTON. A SOLDIER SOCIAL.

The welcome home social given in the Hilton hall last Thursday evening in honour of Sergt. A. Toomey, Privates D. Friel, W. Earl, C. Griffiths and T. Brien, was a great success, as everyone present seemed to be having a good time, and the crowded hall evinced the popularity of the returned soldiers.

After several dances had taken place Mr Summerfield, the chairman of the Patriotic Committee, made a short speech welcoming home the boys. Speeches in praise of the returned soldiers were also made by Messrs A. Wilkinson, J. South, Crawford and H. Pierce.

The chairman then requested Major Kennedy to present a gold medal to each soldier. After expressing the pleasure it gave him to be there to assist in welcoming the boys back, the Major handed the medals to Mrs Kennedy to pin on to each soldier's tunic.

Sergt. A. Toomey on behalf of himself and his comrades, made a very neat little speech, thanking the people of Hilton for their reception home, and also for the Christmas gifts which had been sent to them while they were away at the front.

After supper was over the rest of the evening was filled in with dancing and songs. Excellent music for the dances etc. being played by Messrs Johnson (piano) and Donnithorne (violin). Songs were contributed by Miss Beattie and Messrs Crawford and Collins. Mr E. Ramsey filled the position of M.C. in a very efficient manner. Visitors were present from Temuka, Geraldine, Waitohi, Beautiful Valley, Rangitata, and other districts.

On the motion of Mr A. Wilkinson a hearty vote of thanks was passed to all those who had come to Hilton to assist in giving the boys such an enthusiastic home.

*Timaru Herald.* 21 October 1929 (Papers Past) [30 September 2023]

## OBITUARY. Mr William Earl.

On Saturday at his late residence, Kakahu, occurred the death of the late Mr William Earl, at the age of 50 years. Deceased was born at Kakahu, being the third and youngest son of the late Mr Job Earl. He saw active service in the great War, and on his return, took over, after his father's death, the homestead at Kakahu, where he successfully engaged in farming until his death. Deceased was known as a successful farmer, and was very popular and highly respected throughout the district. He is survived by his widow (nee Miss Collins), and two children of school age. The interment will take place to-day in the Geraldine cemetery.

*Timaru Herald.* 22 October 1929 (Papers Past) [30 September 2023]

## GERALDINE INTERMENTS

Yesterday morning, the funeral of the late Mr W. Earl left his late residence, Kakahu Road, for the Geraldine Catholic Church and thence to the Geraldine cemetery. The cortege was the largest seen in Geraldine for some time and included mourners and friends from Ashburton, Rakaia and Geraldine districts, while Fairlie, Cave, Albury, Temuka, Timaru and St.

Andrews were represented. Members of the Geraldine Hibernian Society, of which deceased was an honorary member, were present, and as he was a returned soldier, the Geraldine ex-Servicemen's Association was represented by Messrs A. R. Hawkey, A. A. Readdie, W. McClure, F. Grayburn and A. Black. The pall bearers were Messrs J. Kennedy (Geraldine), J. Earl (Kakahu), John Guerin (Hilton) and Joseph Guerin (Cave).

The floral tributes were numerous, and were evidence of the esteem in which the deceased was held.

Requiem Mass was celebrated by Rev. Father Herbert, S.M., and at the cemetery, Rev. Father Herbert officiated.

*Temuka Leader.* 22 October 1929 (Papers Past) [30 September 2023]

## **OBITUARY.**

### **MR WILLIAM EARL.**

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The interment took place yesterday, in the Geraldine Cemetery.

The funeral, which was very largely attended, took place from the Catholic Church, whence the cortege proceeded to the Geraldine Cemetery, A Requiem Mass was celebrated by the Rev. Father Herbert, who also conducted the service at the graveside. The pallbearers were Messrs J. Kennedy (brother-in-law), J. Earl (brother), A. Lysaght and F. Charles (brothers-in-law), John Guerin and Joe Guerin (members of the Hibernian Society). The Ex-Servicemen's Association attended the funeral, under their committee — Messrs W. McClure, A. Hawke, A. A. Readdie, Black, and F. Grayburn.

*Press.* 22 October 1929 (page 5) [07 August 2015]

## **TIMARU AND SOUTH CANTERBURY NEWS.**

Mr William Earl, who had lived in Kakahu all his life, died on Saturday. A week ago Mr Earl became suddenly ill, and was removed to the Geraldine Hospital, where an operation was performed. It became necessary to perform a second operation on Saturday, from which he did not rally. Mr Earl was born at Kakahu fifty years ago, and was the third and youngest son of Mr Job Earl. Upon his father's death he took over the homestead and farm which he successfully worked until the time of his death. He was of a quiet retiring disposition, and was very highly respected. He saw service in the Great War. He married Miss K. Collins, who with two daughters and seven sisters, survive him. The funeral, which took place yesterday morning, was very largely attended, the cortege being exceptionally long. Six members of the Geraldine Hibernian Society were the pall-bearers, and the Rev. Father Herbert, of Geraldine, officiated at the graveside. A great many floral tributes were received.