

## **39th REINFORCEMENTS.**

### LOCAL MEN LEAVE FOR CAMP.

Yesterday the local members of the 39th Reinforcements, with their relatives and friends, were entertained at luncheon, in the Temuka Drill Hall, by the ladies of the Temuka Patriotic Entertainment Committee, prior to their departure for camp. There were sixteen men in the draft, 11 being from Geraldine, and nearly all embarked at Temuka. The ladies, in accordance with their usual custom, had provided a splendid luncheon, and were assiduous in attending to the wants of their guests. Grace was said by the Rev. C. Macdonald. While the meal was in progress a very enjoyable programme of appropriate music was played by the Temuka Patriotic Orchestra (Mrs D. Hally, piano; Mrs Weir, Miss Swap, and Mr Hally, violins; Mr O'Connor, clarinet; and Mr C. J. Bilton, piccolo), and were frequently applauded.

An apology was received from Major Kennedy, who at the last moment was prevented from attending.

At the conclusion of the luncheon, the Chairman of the Temuka P.E.C., Mr T. Gunnion, who presided, said they had come to another send-off to boys who were going into camp. They had had no big send off since November, and the one taking place that day was one of the biggest they had had. Amongst the boys were some of the finest lads they had sent away, and the speaker referred to one who was a returned soldier, one who had been to the war, done his bit, come back, and was now going again. (Applause.) Such men were men to be proud of. The men were leaving for the front, because many felt it to be their duty to do so, and that was one reason why Temuka was so proud of them. They were going to do battle with an unscrupulous and powerful foe, and all know that they would not be found wanting. He advised them to behave as men and "play the game," and he hoped that all would be spared to come back, and be welcomed home.

The Rev. Dean Bowers (Geraldine) said he had been requested to say a few words to the men, on behalf of the united districts of Temuka and Geraldine. Temuka and Geraldine had always been very good neighbours, and had often combined for various purposes, but they had never combined for a more worthy purpose than to give a send-off to the Reinforcements going to the war. From the outset their young men had come forward willingly, and had made a splendid record. Speaking of Gallipoli, the Dean said it had often struck him, when reading about, it, that in other great wars, they read of many instances of individual heroism, but here that was not the case merely; at Gallipoli the whole army was made up of heroes. He had no doubt but that the young men now going into camp that day would uphold the traditions of those who went before them. (Applause.) On behalf of the combined districts of Geraldine and Temuka he tendered those who were going into camp the best wishes of those they were leaving behind, and if they were privileged to welcome them back he could assure them that the welcome would not lack in cordiality and heartiness. The districts were very proud of them. He hoped they would be guided by Providence, and be under the protection of God wherever they might go. (Applause.)

The Rev. Canon Hamilton said he was pleased to be at Temuka once more to partake of the hospitality of the ladies, and do what little he could towards winning this great war. He thought meetings of the kind they were holding showed their determination to win the war, no matter how long it lasted. It was a rash thing to prophesy in regard to the length of the war, but some people did so. Some thought it would last for three months; others thought two years; but whatever time it took he knew our people were determined to go on, and would come out on top at last. (Applause.). That was why we were sending our men away, month after month. We don't like to send them away, and likely enough they don't want to go, but it was our duty to

send them, and theirs to go, and it was done willingly. (Applause.) As Dean Bowers had said, those who were going would uphold the traditions of those who had gone before them. They were proud of their men. They had made traditions to be proud of wherever they had gone. They had confidence in the men who were going, that they would do nothing to disgrace the country which sent them. They looked to them to lead clean lives, and do their duty, and when they returned they would get the warm welcome they deserved. (Applause.)

The Mayor of Geraldine (Dr. W. J. Paterson) said he had great pleasure in proposing a hearty vote of thanks to the ladies who had provided the luncheon. The ladies of Temuka from the outset of the war had set themselves to do everything they could for the boys leaving for the front. These luncheons were prepared month after month by them. It entailed a great deal of work, but they had kept it up. The visitors who came from Geraldine particularly appreciated their work. He had the greatest pleasure in proposing a hearty vote of thanks to them.

The vote having been carried by acclamation, Dr. Paterson said they were deeply indebted to the orchestra which had discoursed such beautiful music to them month after month. Their music had made the dinner much pleasanter. (Applause.) In conclusion, the doctor said people were rather too inclined to take a "blue" look of things. Whatever were their feelings people should see to it that they sent the boys away in as cheerful, hopeful, and happy a spirit as possible. (Applause.)

Hearty cheers for the boys, and the singing of the National Anthem concluded the proceedings. A procession was then formed outside the hall, and headed by the Temuka Brass Band, the recruits were accompanied to the railway station by a large crowd of people. There, Mr Torepe's Maori Singing Party sang a pretty farewell song, and as the train left very hearty cheers were given for the men, and they cheered vigorously in reply.

The following are the names of the local members of the draft: -

A. E. Arbuckle, Geraldine.

A. D. Bowman, Temuka.

V. A. Ellery, Belfield.

R. Frisby, Temuka.

H. Just, Woodbury.

C. B. Lynch, Geraldine.

R. McNab, Belfield.

P. A. Mulholland, Geraldine.

A. V. Paterson, Seadown.

J. Reid.

C. H. Smith.

C. E. Armstrong, Orton.

A. J. Darby, Winchester.

B. J. Rae, Orari Gorge.

G. Robinson, Geraldine.

F. C. Ward, Geraldine.

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## **39th REINFORCEMENTS.**

### **SEND-OFF AT GERALDINE.**

A farewell social was tendered at the Drill Hall, Geraldine, on Thursday evening to district members of the 39th Reinforcements prior to their entering on their training. The hall was, as usual at these functions, very prettily decorated with flowers and patriotic emblems. The South

Canterbury Orchestra, under the baton of Mr Dephoff, made its first appearance before a Geraldine audience, and the frequent applause which greeted the selections showed that their tuneful music found favour with their audience. It was a perfect orgy of orchestral music, for the company never left the stage, and played almost continuously for the greater part of the programme. Mr Moore gave a xylophone solo to the orchestral accompaniment, and Mr G. Knibb sang several songs, which earned him great applause and frequent encores. The Geraldine Brass Band was in attendance and played selections. The mayor, Dr. W. T. Paterson, presided, in the absence of the chairman of the Patriotic Society (Major Kennedy), and at the conclusion of the musical programme thanked Mr Dephoff and his orchestra for coming out from Timaru and giving them such a delightful concert.

#### WELCOMING RETURNED MEN.

The chairman said his next and pleasing duty was to welcome back our returned soldiers, Lance-corporal Tiplady, and Privates Pierce, Stewart and [Miller?]. He was pleased and delighted to see them back again.

Three hearty cheers were given for the returned men, on the call of the speaker.

Continuing, the chairman said his next duty was to say good-bye to the boys who were leaving the district to go into camp. There were ten leaving (Messrs A. E. Arbuckle, H. Just, C. B. Lynch, R. McNab, F. Tavener, B. J. Rae, G. Robinson, F. C. Ward, V. A. Ellery, and T. Mulholland, the two last-named not being present. The war was going on, and they had to keep up the supplies of men, so that their ultimate object could be attained. They were going away to do their duty — not one of them wanted to go for the love of it - but for duty alone, and all were going freely and willingly. He was sure no men had gone otherwise from Geraldine yet.

#### SOLDIERS' COMFORTS PRESENTED.

The Mayoress (Mrs Paterson) then presented each man, on behalf of the Home and Empire League, with a parcel of soldiers' comforts, asking them to regard the gifts as tokens of the interest women took in their welfare, and wishing them a safe return to their homes.

As the men filed off the stage hearty cheers were given, and the Band struck up "Soldiers of the King."

The chairman announced that the secretary of the Committee would be glad if men who wished to be motored to Temuka on Monday, would give in their names to him, so that cars could be provided. The cars would leave the post-office at 12.30 on Monday,

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### HOME AGAIN.

#### PORT HACKING AND SOMERSET DRAFTS.

#### WELCOME AT STATION.

A scene was presented at the railway station yesterday afternoon such as has not been seen for a good while in Timaru. The small platform was crowded with persons anxious to welcome back their soldier relations and friends returning on the troop train. The transports Port Hacking and Somerset berthed yesterday at Lvttelton about noon and the men from the Port Hacking entrained first. When they steamed into Timaru at 3.15, standing on the platforms and leaning out of windows, many singing and cheering lustily, they were greeted by a rousing shout of welcome by the crowd. The train pulled up, and then what a shaking of hands and exchanging of greetings! Many of the returned men were Gallipoli veterans, and hardly a breast was bare of ribbons. In some cases the King's Medal and Queen's Medal were side by side with the Gallipoli Star, and other decorations earned in the last campaign. The train was a long one and every compartment was well fitted with fine specimens of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force. On an occasion such as this one can realise why the New Zealand troops have created

such a fine impression overseas. All looked happy at the prospect of returning home, and seemed to bear everyone goodwill. Ladies of the Reception Committee found that the cigarettes and apples which they distributed were much appreciated. The local men said farewell to their companions, joined their waiting relatives and friends, and under the auspices of the Reception Committee went home.

The train pulled out amid a round of cheers and many persons on the platform consulted their watches, for the Somerset men were expected soon after. However the second train did not arrive until 6.30. This train, with its contents of singing soldier passengers, was cheered to the echo, an even larger crowd being in readiness to greet them. The local men were ushered into the cars, of which there was a long line, ready to take them home. A feature of the reception was the Fire Brigade's engine with a pyramid of uniformed firemen waiting to welcome a returning member. As he emerged from the station the firemen cheered lustily and the great machine rolled off with its siren howling triumphantly.

The following n.c.o.'s and men from the Port Hacking passed through the hands of the Reception Committee; others may have slipped away in the crowd unnoticed: — W. G. Allen (W.O.I.), Privates J. C. Ford and W. T. Harris, L.-Cpl. C. B. Gatchell, Dvr. H. Jush [sic], Pvts. H. G. Lowry and T. C. McKellar, Spr. R. W. O'Connor, Pte. J. W. Ritchie, Rflm G. Robinson, Pvts. D. A. Hine, F. R. Sides, Biddell [sic], Bayne (Fairlie), Besant, Tellanor, Stratford (Point), and Murphy (Fairlie), F. Squire (St. Andrews).

The men ex Somerset were: — Capt. J. B. McCullen, Lieut. J. P. C. Walshe, and Pts. Costigan, Cormack, Cook, Cooling, Brooks, Bracefield, Donnelly, Arscott, Dunnill, Burrell, Christie, Burdom [sic], Denehey [sic], Forest, McMaster, McLaughlan, McKenzie, Little, Hadlow, Langrish, Todd, Fox, McMurphy, Waters, Howe, Simpson, Moore, Taylor (2), Latta, McMurtie, Mills, Mitchell, Shine, Pearce, Grant, Lyons, Lowe, O'Brien, Roberts, Dewar, Godwin, Triggs, O'Hagan, Virtue, Nelson, and Feeley.

Cars for the conveyance of the soldiers to their homes were supplied by R. Wilson and Co., Bristol Piano Co., Messrs H. Rollinson, Geo. A. Hamilton, J. Dynes, Geo. Reid, J. Howard, Howard, B. Tripp, C. H. Tripp, D. Chisholm, W. Taylor, D. R. Tilson, S. Clare, Adams and Co. (2 cars), W. Cowie, W. K. McDonald, W. G. Geddis, E. Titherage, W. W. Baxter, H. M. Stonyer, R. Guinness, D. C. Turnbull, T. Storrier, Allchurch and Co., A. Mackenzie, C. E. Shallcrass, R. C. Rollinson, Dephoff and Lewis, J. Norton, Mesdames Williams, Kane, Misses Pringle, Auld, LeCren, Rev. Begg, C.F.C.A., and Mr Bernard Murphy. The cars on both occasions made a goodly array, but were not quite sufficient to carry all the men to their homes, notwithstanding that many whose homes were near at hand shouldered their swags and walked.

#### TEMUKA.

Yesterday afternoon the special troop train carrying the Port Hacking draft reached Temuka about 3 p.m. There were a large gathering of the public to welcome the men, and the Municipal and Pipe Bands were in attendance and played appropriate airs as the train steamed in. During the short wait at the station the ladies of the Patriotic Entertainment Committee distributed fruit and cigarettes among the soldiers on board. The men who detrained were Privates R. W. Coppard, C. J. Hay, S. G. Higginbottom and W. T. Scott. They were at once driven to the Post Office where the customary welcome home ceremony took place in the presence of a large attendance of the public. The Mayor, Mr T. Gunnion and Councillor G. B. Cartwright cordially welcomed the men home.

Hearty cheers were given for the returned men, after which Private Coppard, on behalf of his comrades and himself, returned thanks for the great welcome they had received. He said they were all very glad to be back in old New Zealand. More cheers were given, and the soldiers were then driven to homes in cars kindly provided by Miss L. Brosnahan, Mrs Wareing, Messrs

G. B. Cartwright, Ward, Tarbotton, Hally, G. Brown, T. Quinn, Stoker, Kellahan, C. Hammond, R. Lee, W. W. Frisby, J. G. Andrew, A. Martin, C. H. Priest.

The second special troop train brought a record number of soldiers. The following men detrained: — Lance-Corporal J. H. Looker, Rifleman J. Looker, Privates G. Cain, S. P. King, G. M. Sheldon, R. H. Ward, B. Watson, P. Brien, T. W. Stokes, J. Breen, F. Wells, C. Daly, J. Davidson, J. Hanifin, J. McInnes, A. Mitchell, R. Pearse, J. Macauly.

They were enthusiastically greeted at the Station and received the usual formal welcome at the Post Office by the Mayor, Mr T. Gunnion. Lance-Corporal J. H. Looker and Private J. Macauly returning thanks on behalf of their comrades, for the great reception accorded them.

#### GERALDINE.

Just before three o'clock yesterday Privates J. Waller, J. Burborough, Burrows, T. Tozer, all wearing the General Service Ribbon, reached the Geraldine Post Office, where there was a goodly assemblage. Major Kennedy, on behalf of the Soldiers' Entertainment Committee, said they were glad to gather to welcome home the boys who had done their duty, and the people were glad to see them back. He wished them many years of health and happiness within which they could tell their experiences.

The Mayor, Mr B. R. Macdonald, on behalf of the town and district, gave them a hearty welcome and expressed gratitude for what they had done. He then called for cheers for the men, which were given with a will.

It was announced that the men by the Somersetshire would not arrive till after 6 p.m.

#### PORT HACKING'S TRIP.

(Per Press Association.)

CHRISTCHURCH, August 20.

The transport Port Hacking left Liverpool on July 4th, and with the exception of two days of rough weather about a week out from Colon and another two days before reaching Lyttelton, fine weather was experienced during the whole voyage. There were 835 troops, under the command of Major Richardson, D.S.O., M.C., and the utmost harmony prevailed during the whole trip. The food throughout was regarded as good for a troopship, and the men had practically no complaints. The troops on the Port Hacking comprised a mixed draft, from the Main Body to the latest reinforcements, and every man appeared to be wearing the new General Service ribbon. Their behaviour throughout the trip was regarded by Major Richardson as excellent. The only port of call was Colon, where the usual hospitality was extended to the troops. Lectures, debates, and concerts were held each evening during the trip which was enlivened by the band of the 2nd Canterbury Battalion, which is the champion band of the New Zealand Division, having earned this distinction at St. Leger, France, in June 1918. The band is commanded by Sergeant-Major R. G. Owen, and consists of thirty-five men.

#### THE SOMERSET'S TRIP.

CHRISTCHURCH, August 20. The transport Somerset left Liverpool on July 2nd. A very pleasant trip was experienced during the whole voyage. Norfolk, Virginia, was reached on July 14, and the vessel did not leave until July 19, during which time the men were entertained royally by the Navy, Y.M.C.A., and the American people generally. Ample leave was allowed and everything possible was done to give the men a thoroughly good time. Colon was reached on July 26. The Somerset was in the fortunate position of having on board the band of the 2nd Otago Infantry Battalion, and the band, which is under the command of Sergeant-Major J. C. Williams, consisted of twenty-five players. The Somerset brought a big English mail, 600 bags, for the dominion.

#### PAINFUL INCIDENT ON THE WAY.

The troops on board the Somerset witnessed a terrible aeroplane accident. As they were entering Norfolk Harbour, Newport News, two aeroplanes had come out to greet them, and were circling low over the ship's bow, when they collided and fell with a crash into the sea. Four airmen were killed instantly, and one was saved. Many of the splinters from the aeroplanes fell on the vessel's deck. The accident happened only about twelve yards from the ship's bow, and if the collision had occurred a few moments earlier a large number of New Zealand troops would have been killed or injured. The aeroplanes were flying so low over the ship that the troops were able to speak to the airmen. If the accident had occurred earlier the aeroplanes would have crashed on top of a large body of troops who were congregated on the bow. It is stated that the aeroplanes were of a small type, and that the airmen were very daring in their methods of flying.