

*Timaru Herald.* 16 October 1917 (Papers Past) [08 September 2015]

#### TEMUKA'S FAREWELL.

The Temuka and Geraldine recruits of the 35th Reinforcements and their relatives were entertained to luncheon in the Drill Hall by the ladies of the Temuka Patriotic Entertainment Committee. During luncheon the Temuka Patriotic Orchestra played musical selections.

Dr. Paterson (Mayor of Geraldine), in a short speech asked the recruits to live up to the reputation of the men who had gone before. New Zealand soldiers had been paid high tribute by Sir Douglas Haig, and it thrilled all with pride to read of their praises from such a high quarter. He was quite sure they would not fail. On behalf of the Geraldine people he thanked the ladies of the committee for their hospitality.

Rev. C. MacDonald, the next speaker, said that while they were wondering how many more reinforcements would have to be sent, it would not do to take any risks, as more than one battle had been lost for the want of reserves. It is a long war and a stiff war, but a holy one, and the recruits were on the side fighting for the right.

Mr T. Gunnion wished the soldiers good luck and a safe return, and "For they are jolly good fellows" closed this function.

At 1.30 p.m. the Temuka Brass and Pipe Bands headed the march to the station, where a good crowd had assembled to bid them good-bye. A short address was given by his Worship the Mayor (Mr A. Frew). As the train came in Major Kennedy called for cheers for the men, and they were enthusiastically given.

The following are the men who left, under Captain Chapman — H. R. Burborough, S. C. Bennington (Air Service), M. McGill, A. Mitchell, W. C. Niles, J. Robinson, F. W. Stoakes, C. Hanifin, J. C. Trumper.

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### **35th REINFORCEMENTS**

#### YESTERDAY'S SEND-OFF.

Yesterday afternoon the Temuka and Geraldine quotas of the 35th Reinforcements were given a hearty send off prior to leaving for camp. At 1 o'clock, with their friends, they were entertained at luncheon by the ladies of the Temuka Patriotic Entertainment Committee, a splendid repast being provided. Mrs Hally's Patriotic Orchestral (Mrs Hally, Mrs Weir, Miss Swap, and Messrs Hally and Bilton) provided a capital musical programme.

Before the commencement of the proceedings Mr Gunnion, chairman of the Temuka Patriotic Entertainment Committee, said that word had just been received by Mr Aspinall that his son, Denys, had been killed in action in France, and Mrs Aspinall, who was always at the head of these functions, was therefore unable to be present. He knew that they all deeply sympathised with her and hers. Mr Aspinall had said that they should not sympathise with him; he felt rather that he was to be congratulated in having a son who had died in so noble a cause. Before they commenced he would ask them to stand and pass a motion of sympathy with Mr and Mrs Aspinall.

All stood in respectful silence.

Captain Hawkes (Salvation Army), having said grace, the bountiful luncheon provided by the ladies was partaken of.

At its conclusion Mr Gunnion called on Dr Paterson, Mayor of Geraldine, for an address.

Dr Paterson commenced his remarks by expressing the appreciation of the Geraldine visitors for the hospitality they always received at Temuka. It was a great pleasure to come. Geraldine boys who had gone to the front had written to say how pleased they had been with the kindness they had received in Temuka before going away. Those who were going away he would impress

to live up to the reputation of those who had gone before them, and day by day this reputation was being enhanced. The New Zealand troops had recently had a month's rest, and when they went back they had fought in such a manner as to win tributes from all — even from Sir Douglas Haig himself. This was praise that they could be greatly proud of. There had always been a friendly rivalry between Geraldine and Temuka, regarding the men going away, but he thought Geraldine had the best of it on this occasion, for they were sending away a flying man, Ross Brodie, of Rangitata. (Applause.) Temuka would have to wake up. In saying good-bye to the men they knew that those left behind would be watching all their records, but most of all would they watch the record of those who were going into the most dangerous section of the forces — the flying men — who took their lives in their hands, and whose work had very marked results; often more than that of the men at the guns. Dr. Paterson concluded by again thanking the Temuka ladies for their hospitality. (Applause.)

The Rev. Chas. Macdonald, in the course of a short address, said we were all wondering how many Reinforcements would have to go, and all were wishing that no more would have to go. But at the same time we must see plainly that it will not do for us to take any risks. We must just keep piling on men until the matter has been brought to a successful finish. (Applause.) There was nothing else for it whatsoever. They knew that more than one battle during the last few years had been lost through lack of reinforcements; owing to those in the van not having enough reserves behind them. They were not going to repeat these mistakes, but were going to push on until the war was won. (Applause.) Ho had not been in the habit of prophesying in the past, but he would indulge in one now, and it was that the war is not far from the end. (Hear, hear.) That was his view, after looking closely at the matter, and those who were now going were going to give the final push to the Kaiser's tottering throne. He was not a rich man, but he would willingly give £100 to be there when it was done. A letter had been received by a lady from a farmer in Belgium, who said it was not only that his family had been scattered, his buildings burned down, his horses and cattle carried away, but the appearance of the country had been so altered by shell fire, and other ravages of the war, that he would know where to look for his farm. And that was the sort of thing the men who were going were helping to save this country from. (Applause.) "It is," said Mr Macdonald, "a long and a stiff war, but it is a holy war, and you are going under the care of a holy God, and I hope He will bring you back safely, when you have done the work you have been appointed to do. (Applause.)"

Mr Gunnion said in reference to Airman Brodie, he had had only three weeks to pass his examination test, and he had done it well. Mr Wigram was in Temuka a few days ago, and he had told him that Brodie had done remarkably well. In his test he put his machine through the figure "8" three times, and landed a few feet from where he started. It was one of the cleverest feats done at the school, and they were all proud of the Rangitata boy. He wished Private Bennington the same luck. He wished the boys going away all success, and hoped they would do the same as Private McClintock, from Waitohi, who had won a D.C.M. (Applause.) A procession was then formed, and the men were marched to the Railway Station, the Brass and Pipe Bands leading.

At the Railway Station the Mayor said they had once more to bid goodbye to the boys who were going to the war, and wish them God-speed and a safe return. (Applause.) The hearts of the people were with them. Civilians and soldiers were prepared to see the war through to a satisfactory end. It was mentioned in the cables that day that Herr Herting speaking in the Diet, said the British were hard-hearted, calculating business men, and he thought they had had enough of the war. He (the Mayor) thought Herr Herting must have come to the conclusion that the Germans had had enough of the war. and he had no doubt that those at the back of Britain would see that Germany had enough of it. (Applause.) There must be no slackening until Germany is put down for good and all. That was the object of the war now, and the reason why their soldiers were still going to the front. If Englishmen were hard-hearted, New Zealanders

and Australians were the same, and ready to meet any Prussians or Bavarians that came forward. He wished the men all good luck.

Major Kennedy wished the men good luck and a safe return, and called for cheers for them, which were heartily given.

The men then took leave of their friends, and their places in the train, more cheers being given for them as they left the station.

The names of the men were: -

H. R. Burborough.

S. C. Bennington.

M. Connell.

M. McGill.

A. Mitchell.

W. C. Niles.

J. Robinson.

T. W. Stoakes.

C. Hanifin.

J. C. Trumper.

Captain Chapman was in charge of the South Canterbury draft.

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#### THE SECOND TRAIN.

The second troop train, which was at first expected at 3.30, and later at half-past 4 to 5 o'clock, arrived at a quarter to 6. It was a very long one, and was well filled. The men's relatives and the public had a long wait, but they put up with it cheerfully, and the Brass and Pipe Bands helped to while away the time by playing at intervals. There was a large crowd at the railway station, and as the train came in the Bands played, and the people cheered again and again. The Mayor extended a hearty welcome to the soldiers on behalf of the town and district, and the ladies of the Temuka Patriotic Entertainment Committee distributed fruit and cigarettes amongst them. The men seemed in splendid heart, and that they appreciated the reception was shown by the way they gathered near the bands, and their remarks. They even treated their hosts to a song, and as their train left after a long wait they cheered until they left the station.

The local boys expected were: —

Lance-Corporal J. H. E....

Rifleman G. Looker.

Private G. Cain.

Private F. T. King.

Private G. M. Sheldon.

Private R. H. Ward,

Private B. Watson.

Private P. Brien.

Private J. Breen.

Private T. W. Stoakes.

Private Reg. Pearse.

Trooper J. Macaulay,

Private C. Daily.

Private J. Davidson.

Private J. Hanifin.

Private J. McInnes.

Private A. Mitchell.

Private Frank Wells.

and we believe they all arrived. As soon as the train had left they were driven to the Post Office — preceded by the Bands — where the usual public welcome took place, there being a very large gathering of their friends and the public. The procession of cars through the streets was quite an imposing one.

In a short speech, similar to that delivered by him at the welcome to the previously returned men, and reported above, the Mayor thanked the men for their services, and welcomed them home. All were proud of what they had done, and delighted to see them home again. They had done their duty well and nobly, and he hoped they would with their comrades stick together and be the power in the country that they ought to be.

Lance-Corporal Looker on behalf of his comrades and himself, expressed their thanks for the welcome, They had not had a very bad time coming across and had got home all right, and were very glad to receive such a welcome.

Trooper Macaulay spoke to similar effect, and added that along the line they had seen nothing like the reception they had just received at Temuka, and at his call the returned soldiers gave three hearty cheers for the way they had been treated.

This concluded the proceedings, and the boys were driven to their homes.

The names of those supplying cars are given in our report of the first welcome.

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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 Lyttelton 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, McMurtrie, 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 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.