

Timaru Herald. 21 August 1919 (Papers Past) [26/08/2022]

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 filled 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 were 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. Just, Pvts. H. G. Lowry and J. C. McKellar, Spr. R. W. O'Connor, Pte. J. W. Ritchie, Rflm G. Robinson, Pvts. D. A. Hine, F. R. Sides, Riddell, 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, Connell, Arscott, Dunnill, Burrell, Christie, Burdom, Denehey, 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. Watts, A. Hamilton, J. Dynes, Geo. Reid, J. Howart, 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, J. Storrier, Allchurch and Co., A. Mackenzie, O. 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 their homes in cars kindly provided by Miss L. Brosnahan, Mrs Wareing, Messrs G. B. Cartwright, Ward, Tarbotton, Hally, G. Brown, T. Quinn, Stokes, Kellahan, C. Hammond, R. Lee, W. W. Frisby, J. G. Andrews, A. Martin, C. H. Priest.

The second special troop train brought a good 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. Daley, 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 ships 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.

Temuka Leader. 21 August 1919 (Papers Past) [28/08/2022]

HOME COMING OF RETURNED SOLDIERS.

WELCOME AT TEMUKA

Yesterday was one of the Red Letter days in the history of Temuka, for on it twenty-one of her sons, who had been battling for their country, for years, returned to their homes and kindred. The day was sunny and fine, and Nature seemed to be rejoicing on the occasion. Two troopships had arrived at Lyttelton, the Port Hacking and the Somerset, and the southern men were sent to their homes in special trains. The first train to reach Temuka arrived at a quarter to three o'clock, there being a large crowd, with the Municipal and Pipe Bands, at the station to welcome them. As the train pulled up the Mayor (Mr T. Gunnion) called for cheers for the returned soldiers, and these were heartily given. The ladies of the Temuka Patriotic Entertainment Committee distributed fruit and cigarettes among the men, and the Bands played welcoming airs during the train's stay. As

the train left the soldiers were again cheered, and they returned the compliment with vigour until the last carriage had left the station. They showed that they fully understood the little marks of appreciation that had been shown to them.

The local men were —

Gunner C, J. Hay.

Private G. W. Coppard.

Private S. G. Higginbottom,

Private W. T. Scott,

and they were driven to the Post Office, the Municipal Brass Band (under Bandmaster W. Benbow) and the Pipe Band (under Pipe-Major Edgar) preceding them, and playing appropriate music.

The Mayor said they had only got four out of thirteen expected, but the others would come by the train that was following, and would arrive in the course of another two or three hours. On behalf of the citizens he extended to the men a hearty welcome, and assured them that they were proud to have them back again. All knew that they had done their duty well and nobly. They had kept in safety and comfort those who remained at home. But for their soldiers the country would have been under German rule now. So there was good cause for thankfulness. He referred to the debt we owe to the Navy that had guarded our boys while they were in transit to the war. Not a vessel with New Zealand troops had been lost. On behalf of Temuka and the country he again thanked the soldiers for their services, and in conclusion called for cheers for them and for the Navy.

These were heartily given, after which Mr G. B. Cartwright, deputy-mayor, added his welcome. He said it gave him great pleasure to assist in welcoming their boys back. Hundreds of homes and thousands of hearts had been made glad that day because so many of their boys who went away full of courage and devotion had returned safely. These boys had held prominent positions in the community before they went away, they had occupied prominent positions while they were away, and be believed they would do the same again now that they had returned. Hardly a troopship came to New Zealand but brought with it some representatives of Temuka, which showed that Temuka had always been well represented in the Reinforcements, and that her sons had done their duty. That was why they had pleasure and joy in welcoming their boys back. There were some who said their boys and their deeds would soon be forgotten. (A voice: "Never.") He agreed, they would never be forgotten. How could they, when so many families had been bereaved, and the boys who returned would be taking up their work in the community again — in the town and on the farm. They would never be forgotten. Temuka extended to their boys their heartfelt thanks, and welcomed them home. It was a grand thing for fathers and mothers and relatives to have their sons and brothers home again, but there was more than that — we all looked upon them as "Our boys," and as such we welcome them, and if we are glad to get them back, they were glad too. He had said to one of them, "I suppose after all you have seen and done you are sorry to come back?" "Are we," was the reply, "New Zealand

is the best country in the world.” In conclusion, he wished the returned soldiers all joy and prosperity in the years to come. (Applause.)

Private Coppard responded for himself and his comrades. He thanked the Mayor and people for the great reception they had been given. They were all glad to be back, and by their presence the people of Temuka showed that they were pleased to see them. None could be more pleased to be home again than returned soldiers. (Applause.)

Further cheers were given for the returned soldiers, who were then driven to their homes.

Cars were kindly supplied by Messrs G. B. Cartwright, N. Ward, F. Tarbotton, W. Hally, G. Brown, T. Quinn, W. Kellahan, C. Hammond, R. Lee, W. Frisby, J. G. Andrews, Stoakes, C. H. Street, A. Martin, Mrs Wareing, and Miss Lucy Brosnahan.

Timaru Herald. 24 August 1921 (Papers Past) [28/08/2022]

OBITUARY

MR WILLIAM SCOTT.

There passed away at Temuka yesterday a much respected resident, Mr William Scott. The late Mr Scott was born near Dalkeith, Scotland, and followed the occupation of gardener. In 1885, at Polworth, Berwickshire, he married Miss Jane Watson, and immediately after the couple went to Chirnside, where Mr Scott became head gardener for Dr. Stewart, who was one of the best known horticulturists in the south of Scotland. In 1910 Mr and Mrs Scott came to New Zealand, arriving in Lyttelton in August, coming straight to Temuka, where he remained until his death. The late Mr Scott took practically no interest in public life, devoting the most of his time to his flowers. Of a quiet and unassuming disposition, he was very much respected by all who knew him. Mr Scott is survived by his widow and a family of four — Mr W. T. Scott, Hinds; Mrs Musgrove, Melbourne; Mrs Mackenzie, Featherston; and Mrs Ward, Kirwee.

The funeral took place yesterday afternoon, and was largely attended. The burial service was conducted by the Rev. Charles MacDonald, who in a short address referred to the sterling qualities of Mr Scott. The pall-bearers were Messrs A. W. Buzan, W. J. Keys, J. Cross, and J. Brown, and many floral tokens of sympathy were sent by sympathising friends.

Temuka Leader. 25 August 1921 (Papers Past) [28/08/2022]

OBITUARY.

WILLIAM SCOTT.

There passed away at Temuka on Saturday afternoon a much respected resident, Mr William Scott. The late Mr Scott was born near Dalkeith, Scotland, and followed the occupation of gardener. In 1885, at Polworth, Berwickshire, he married Miss Jane Watson, and immediately after, with his wife, he went to Chirnsde, where he became head gardener for Dr. Stewart who was one of the best known horticulturists in the south of Scotland. In 1910 Mr and Mrs Scott came to New Zealand, arriving in Lyttelton in August, coming to Temuka, where he remained until his death. For a time he was gardener for Mrs Cutten, the late Mr James, and Dr. Curtis. He took no interest in public life, devoting the most of his time to his flowers. Of a quiet and unassuming disposition, he was very much respected by all who knew him. He is survived by his widow and a family of four — Mr W. T. Scott, Hinds; Mrs Musgrove, Melbourne; Mrs Mackenzie, Featherston; and Mrs Ward, Kirwee. The funeral took place on Tuesday afternoon, and was largely attended. The burial service was conducted by the Rev. Charles Macdonald, who in a short address referred to the sterling qualities of Mr Scott. The pall-bearers were Messrs A. W. Buzan, W. J. Keys, J. Cross, and J. Brown, and many floral tokens of sympathy were sent by sympathising friends.