

OFF TO CAMP. FORTY-FIRST REINFORCEMENTS ASHBURTON DRAFT ENTERTAINED

The departure of the draft of men from Ashburton and district for the Forty-first Reinforcements marked a new era in the despatch of reinforcements, inasmuch that the quota contained some of the married men balloted for in Class A of the Second Division.

The men were entertained at luncheon at the Drill Shed by residents of the Ashburton Gorge. Mr R. Galbraith (Mayor) presided. There was a good attendance of friends and relatives of the departing men.

The Rev. G. Miller briefly addressed the departing men, and said the County felt very grateful to the men who were leaving to face the foe and even death to protect our shores. The County was very proud of the men who had gone before, and who had upheld the traditions of the British race and proved that they were great fighters. The speaker advised the departing men to keep strong in body and keep away from companions who would drag them down, and to put their trust in the Almighty.

Mr H. M. Jones made a special appeal to the married men of the Second Division who were departing to get their wives to join the league and strengthen its ranks. He referred to the broken promise of the Government in regard to allowances. The league wanted the Government to make proper provision for the wives and families, and was determined to fight until that end was accomplished. He assured the gathering that the married men were not shirkers, and would do their duty, but would also see that the Government did its duty to the dependents of those men who had to leave these shores. He assured the gathering that membership of the league meant votes, and it was the votes that would count at the next general election. (Loud applause.),

The Mayor thanked the recruits on behalf of the town and district. He apologised for the absence of Mr C. J. Harper.

At the Mayor's invitation cheers were given for the residents of the Ashburton Gorge who had provided the luncheon.

The gathering concluded by singing a verse of the National Anthem.

On the march to the station, the recruits were escorted by the Eighth (South Canterbury) Regimental and Salvation Army Bands. A large crowd gathered on the platform to partake in the final farewell, and, as the train steamed out, there was considerable cheering. The names of the men comprising the draft were: —

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J. McQuilkin
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