

LIFE IN THE TRENCHES LETTER FROM PRIVATE WILSON.

A letter has been received by Mrs J. Wilson, Morgan's Road, Timaru, from her son Private Colin E. Wilson, who left with the 8th Reinforcements, and is now "Somewhere in France." It describes how well men are cared for in the trenches, and goes on to say: -

On June 26 we were taken for a dip, and very fine it was. There are special hot baths supplied, and also clean clothing and socks; everything is washed clean, and the socks darned; this saves us a lot of trouble and work. I am not too fond of washing and darning even yet; it takes a lot of getting used to, but still when one has to do it one never thinks much of it. We are also supplied with steel helmets, which are a bit heavy at first, but we soon get used to them. I have just witnessed a great sight. The enemy have what are called observation balloons. These balloons are just the same as ordinary ones, only shaped like a big sausage, and are fastened to the ground by long ropes. In each basket tied to the bottom of the balloon is the observer, whose duty it is to find out all about our trenches, and where our big guns are stationed. Well in about half the time in which it has taken me to tell this, two of our aeroplanes darted over to the enemy's lines and dropped some kind of liquid fire on to three out of four of these balloons. It was a great sight to see them burst into flames and drop to the ground. I only saw one man get clear of his balloon. I don't know how he got on. The other day one of our balloons of the same kind broke from its moorings and floated away from us, but our two men came safely to the ground in their parachutes'. The aeroplanes are playing a great part in this war; only the other night I counted as many as sixteen flying over our heads at the same time. The enemy fire a terrible lot shells at those planes, and the surprising part of it is that they never seem to get hit. I have seen a clear sky absolutely covered, the same as clouds, with the smoke from the bursting shells.

We receive the paper from London a day after it is printed. The Germans are terrors to knock churches about. There was a church not far from our trenches, and the other morning they fired at it until it was demolished. The second shot they fired rang the bell, and the next knocked the tower over. The shells whistle over our heads all day, but we soon got accustomed to them. This is our fourth week in the trenches, and we are not quite sure when we are going to get a rest. At any rate it does not matter as one is just as safe in the trenches as in town, and when we are out we have to work just as hard as when we are in. We get paid pretty often in the trenches, and we usually get somebody who is going into town to buy us chocolates, cakes and dainties, but our wages don't go very far. Ted Fairbrother, Bill Annand, Reu Logan, Charlie Munro, Walter Shaw,

and many other Timaru boys are all quite well and enjoying the life, although they are not able to walk about and enjoy the lovely sun-shine.

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ANZAC DAY.

OPEN-AIR SERVICE.

IN TIMARU.

Anzac Day was fittingly celebrated in Timaru yesterday, when an open-air service was held in King George's Place, and a solemn tribute paid to the honoured dead. From a cold, grey sky rain fell at intervals, the sombre atmospheric conditions being in keeping with the solemnity of the occasion. There was a large assemblage of people, and the proceedings, which lasted an hour, passed off in a manner befitting the occasion.

A large wooden cross was erected on a rockery, which was made for the occasion, on the grass plot adjoining the municipal buildings. Laurel leaves were interspersed between the rocks, and a large laurel wreath, bearing the words: "In memory of our fallen comrades," was placed by the Returned Soldiers' Association on the rockery, at the foot of the cross. Immediately after the service the rockery was covered with wreaths placed there by parents, brothers and sisters, and friends of deceased soldiers.

From a dais in front of the Council Chambers an address was given by Pastor Nicholls. On the dais stood the Mayor (Mr Wm Raymond), the Rev. T. Wilson Potts (president of the Ministers' Association), Pastor Nicliolls, Councillors T. W. Satterthwaite, J. E. Hurdley, G. J. Sealey, J. P. Murphy, H. Allchurch, A. M. H. Shirtcliff, A. Washer, and J. P. Hughson. Mr H. W. Scott secretary to the R.S.A., the Town Clerk being also present.

The military were present in strong force. The procession was marshalled at the Drill Shed shortly after 1.30, and the parade was in charge of Lt.-Col. Newman Wilson, D.S.O., M.C. Prior to marching off, Lt.-Col. Wilson addressed the returned soldiers on parade, and expressed his pleasure at seeing such a representative attendance. He referred to the military training of the territorials and cadets, and hoped that some of the returned men would interest themselves in the territorial movement, as their steady influence would do a power of good amongst the men and boys at present undergoing training. He complimented the returned men on their steadiness on parade, and expressed the

hope that Anzac Day in the years to come would be even more largely attended than it had been in the past. The parade was marshalled by Staff- Serpts. Major (W. O.) H. Frank and A. M. Thatcher, under Captain H. D. McHugh, M.C. and bar, adjutant, the Reserve of Officers present being Majors Foden and Dryden. Captains Oakey, M.C., Marriott and Jackson, Lieutenants Casserly and Pennyfeather, and the following officers in charge of units: A Coy, 2nd South Canterbury Regiment—Lt. W. A. Stead, (35), 43 Coy, Cadets, Captain W. Fossey (35), 44 and 45 Coy.'s Cadets, Lt. J. P. C. Walshe, (50), High School Cadet Coy., Lieuts. Cockcroft and Hind, (130), while the 2nd (South Canterbury) Regimental Band, High School Band, and the Bugle Band also took part in the procession. The returned soldiers on parade numbered about 150, and the Orthopaedic Hospital car, with members of the staff followed in the rear of the procession. The firing party of twenty returned soldiers was in charge of S.S.M. A. Mathieson. The Boy Scouts were also in attendance, and distributed the sheets on which the order of service was set out.

In his address Pastor Nicholls paid a warm tribute not only to the men of Anzac, but to all who had gone forth so valiantly to fight that we might live in peace and safety. Of those who had given their lives lie remarked it could be truly said: "They saved us, but themselves they could not save." The speaker explained the derivation of the word "Anzac," and then showed how the letters composing the word could be otherwise applied—' 'Ascribing New Zealanders a commemoration," "asking New Zealanders a confession" and. "among New Zealanders are Christians." Each of these interpretations of the word Pastor Nicholls used as the basis for a dissertation on the heroism of the brave fellows who had given their all for others, and the resultant cause for thankfulness, admiration, and gratitude on the part of those who were now living in peace and comfort. The speaker also voiced a warning against the materialistic leanings of the age, of sin in all its forms, and said that we could best honour the dead by so shaping our lives as to show that their great sacrifice had not been made in vain. After the address; the hymn, "The Nameless Graves" was sung. This was followed by "The Dead March," (played by the Battalion Band); then the burial service was read by the Rev. T. W. Potts, after which a firing party ranged on either side of the cross, fired three volleys,, the Band played the "Last Post," and the ceremony closed with the National Anthem.

During the playing of the Dead March, the wreaths were arranged at the cross by Corporal Davie. Wreaths were sent in memory of W. A. McQueen, Rifleman George Hill, Rifleman C. Burgess, officers, non-commissioned officers and cadets of Nos. 43, 44 and 45 companies Senior Cadets, B. C. Collings, E. Davis, A. Small, S. Corrigan, A. Muir, W. Kingour, R. Girdwood, O. Halliday, J. Templeton, J. Dow, J. Anderson, D. Dow, D. Anderson, J. Barklay, Jack Mansell and Walter Harte, Tim and Gordon Langrish, Norman Stuart Young, Corpl. C. W. Saunders, Mark Saunders, Albert Bennet Saunders, Sergt. O. E. Davie, Sergt. E. Fairbrother, M.M., Lt.-Col. C. E. Thomas, Wilfred Turner,

Lieut. Neville S. Joyce, A. H. Austin, D. Hodgson, Major David Grant, Edward Edginton, **Colin Edgar Wilson**, Donald and Miller Dickson, William B. Walton, Col. Bauchop and other Port Chalmers boys, Geraldine boys, Dug. Hodgson, Leonard Cecil Hight, floral tributes to. the memory of the fallen by the ladies committee of the R.S.A., the Mayor and Mayoress, the Orthopaedic Hospital, Mr and Mrs E. Roland Guinness, Celtic Football Club, Zingari Football Club, Timaru Boys' High School, Y.M.C.A., Miss McLean, besides several others bearing no name but "To the memory of the fallen."

REFERENCE IN THE CHURCHES.

Appropriate references to Anzac Day were made in the churches yesterday. At St. Mary's, where the Mayor and Councillors Satterthwaite, Hughson, Allchurch were present, the service was conducted by the Ven. Archdeacon Jacob. Mrs P. W. Rule sang "I know that my Redeemer liveth," the congregation sang the National Anthem, and "The Last Post" was played by Bugler Segar.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS FROM SOLDIERS.

LETTERS TO MRS GUINNESS.

The following letters have been received from members of the 17th. Reinforcements who have received gifts sent by Mrs E. R. Guinness as president of the Lady Liverpool Fund (Tiinaru Branch): -

Mrs Guinness. Dear Madam, —"I have great pleasure in writing you these few lines to let you know that I was the lucky one to receive your lovely gift of a fine leather waistcoat. Since receiving it I have been told you have given a great deal of your time towards making gifts to cheer the soldiers. I am sure that all the New Zealanders are proud of the way in which the ladies have been looking after them. They never seem to tire in their efforts to do all they can to help us. Once more thanking you. I will close with the best of good wishes to you and your helpers, from a thankful soldier boy. Private C. Wilson, J. Company, 17th Reinforcements."