

ANSWERING THE CALL YESTERDAY'S FAREWELL.

The men comprising the South Canterbury quota of the 34th Reinforcements left Timaru by the north-bound express yesterday. At one o'clock they were paraded at the Drill Shed, where, after the roll had been called, parcels containing articles useful in camp, the gift of the ladies of the Patriotic Society, were handed round, and the draft was drawn up facing the balcony from which they were addressed by his Worship the Mayor (Mr J. Maling) and the Rev. J. H. Rogers. There was a fair attendance of relatives and friends in the Drill Shed, and the men were very cheerful, happy, and orderly.

The Mayor said that at the invitation of the Defence Department, he had again the privilege of addressing a departing draft. When they had first addressed the soldiers who were leaving, they did not think that they would be called upon to farewell the 34th Reinforcements. The fact that they were sending away that draft showed the determination of the Dominion to assist in carrying on the great struggle in Europe. The men before him should remember those who had gone before, and live up to the high reputation they had made. They should keep themselves fit above all things, and should shun the many pitfalls that would beset their path in camp and in other countries to which they might be sent. In conclusion he wished them, on behalf of the people of South Canterbury, the best of good luck, and expressed the hope that it would not be very long before they would return to New Zealand. (Applause).

The Rev. Rogers said that there was very little to be added to what the Mayor had said. When they said goodbye to the Reinforcements time after time, they said practically the same to each, but they felt all that was said. What they felt for one draft they felt for all. The New Zealanders had shown themselves to be men — essentially men. They were going forth with the determination of being men, and they were giving up a lot to serve their country. He had three thoughts he would like to convey to them. First, they must be true to themselves, and unless they did that, they could not prepare themselves for the battles through which they would have to pass during their lives as soldiers. They must be straight, white, clean and self-governed. Second, they must be true to their country. They had splendid traditions, and they would have to live up to those traditions, which had been made by the men who had gone to the front in previous drafts. He would not say that the New Zealand troops were better than any other troops in the world, because they were not; but he would say that they were as good. He was sure that those going now would be as good as any other men on the field. The third point he wished them to remember was to be true to God. They should always look to Him for help, and they should not be ashamed to pray. He hoped they would come back and be able to say that they had acquitted themselves as men. (Applause.)

The speeches over, the men were marched outside, where, after being photographed, they were formed up, and, headed by the Band of the 2nd (S.C.) Regiment, under Conductor Schnack, started for the railway station. The route was well lined with spectators who gave the men a rousing farewell, and at the crossing there was a good number of people. While waiting for the arrival of the express the Band played several selections. The train left the station accompanied by cheers called for by the Mayor, and to the strains of the National Anthem, played by the Band.

Captain Chapman of Temuka took the draft away.

The name of **D. J. Bain** should be added to the list of men who left, and H. V. Collett and M. J. Donovan also proceeded to camp to take up homo service duties. [ref. TH, 15 Sep 1917.]

Timaru Herald. 21 November 1917 (Papers Past) [29/03/2026]

SOLDIERS' SOCIALS.

FAREWELL AT KIMBELL.

A farewell social was given to Private Donald Bain at Kimbell on Friday evening, November 16. Being well known and popular, friends from far and near attended and a very enjoyable evening was spent. On behalf of the people of Kimbell Mr Cowan, in a neat appropriate speech, referred to the manly, upright character of Private Bain. He had always taken a great interest in him, as he had had the training of him as a cadet in sheep farming. He was sorry to part with him, but felt sure that he would nobly do his part in the great struggle. Mr Cowan then presented Private Bain, on behalf of the Kimbell people, with a wristlet watch, and called on Miss Scott to fasten it on his arm. (Applause.)

Mr Struthers also spoke of the fine character of Private Bain, who in reply thanked one and all for their kind wishes and handsome present. He hoped to return to Kimbell after the war and be able to enjoy many years of life among his friends there. (Applause.)

Cheers were given lustily for him, and dancing was then indulged in till morning. Messrs Cartwright and Braddock (violins) and Doyle (piano) supplied the music, while extras were played by Miss E. Macdonald.

Timaru Herald. 3 January 1918 (Papers Past) [29/03/2026]

FAIRLIE NEWS.

SOLDIERS' SOCIAL.

On Friday evening a very successful social in honour of men on final leave was held in the Public Hall. Heavy rain was falling, but that did not prevent the attendance being large. The chairman (Rev. H. O. Hanby) and the secretary (Mr Ormandy) of the Reception and Social Committee, had as usual made very complete arrangements, and the entertainment was a highly enjoyable one. Mr C. Boulter had charge of the dancing portion of the programme and the ball was kept merrily rolling till shortly after midnight, to excellent music provided by Messrs H. Foden (piano), J. Braddick (violin), and W. Ormandy (cornet). A number of volunteers helped out with extras. Songs were sung during the evening by Miss Collier, Miss Miller and Mr Fred Suet, the two last named being visitors. Encores were the order of the evening, and Mr Suet, who renewed his last year's acquaintance with a Fairlie audience, received a hearty welcome. The guests of the evening, Privates McKinnon, H. Waters and D. Bain, were invited on to the stage and speeches of a valedictory and patriotic nature were given by the Rev. Mr Hanby and Mr C. J. Talbot, M.P. Cheers were given for the departing men and for the troops at the Front. A motion of sympathy was also passed to those who have lost relatives and friends in the recent engagements. (The district, during the last few weeks has had to mourn the loss of many fine and promising young lives.) The supper arrangements were in the hands of the Ladies' Committee and everything in that connection was all that it should be.

KIMBELL SOLDIERS' SOCIAL.

Another very successful function was run by the Kimbell Entertainment Committee on Friday evening last. It was the more fittingly a pronounced success, since it took the dual form of being the final one, the guests on this occasion being the last local boys and also members of the oldest and most widely esteemed residents of the district, viz., Trooper H. Waters, who had been prevented from attending earlier, Corporal Gus Waters, and Rifleman D. Bain, who returned last week. Early in the evening weather conditions were far from inviting, nevertheless there was an excellent attendance, and certainly were well repaid. The committee of management had made very full arrangements, and one and all fulfilled their part capitally. During the evening, songs and recitations were contributed by Miss Clark, Messrs Slow and Siegert, while several extras played by Mrs K. Hammond and Miss Siegert were heartily acknowledged. As an orchestra, Messrs S. Richmond (piano), R. Braddock (violin), were ably assisted by Mr Ormandy (cornet). Mr L. Siegert had charge of the floor, and as usual the baskets of local ladies provided more than ample supper. The whole affair was a fitting tribute to the popular care of Secretary Thompson. During the interval Mr Ormandy, of Fairlie, by request presented medals to the guests of the evening, with a short, pithy address of appreciation to the men. The speaker's remarks were heartily supported by the audience, who applauded each recipient as he stepped forward for Mrs McDonald to pin on his medal. These trophies, procured from Mr Sheeran, Fairlie, were much admired. The soldiers were very happy indeed in their acknowledgment of the presents. At the termination of the social Mr Siegert's many responses to the Society's call for assistance were acknowledged by three hearty cheers, and the singing of "For he's a jolly good fellow."