

Timaru Herald – 26 June 1919

AROWHENUA PA

WELCOME TO RETURNED SOLDIER

On Tuesday a welcome was tendered to Privates P and R. Thomas by the Maoris of Arowhenua Pa in the Maori Hall. There was a good attendance considering the unfavourable weather conditions, and among those present was 1st Lieutenant H. Pohio, of the Pioneer Battalion. Excellent music was provided by Master Torepe and Misses Hopkinson and Gray while extras were kindly played by Mr Len Donnithorne. Mr Rehu acquitted himself efficiently as M.C. A bountiful supper was supplied by the ladies, after which the presentation of gold medals to the guests of the evening took place.

Mr J. Paiki apologised for the absence of the chairamn (Mr H. H. Torepe) who was away from the district, and called on Mr Gunnion, Mayor of Temuka to make the presentations. Mr Gunnion warmly eulogised the work of the boys at the front, and said that on "behalf of their Maori friends he was very glad to present them with well-deserved gold medals." "For They are Jolly Good Fellows" was sung, after which Private Percy Thomas, on behalf of his brother and himself, heartily thanked their Maori friends for their kindness.

Dancing was then resumed and continued for several hours. The social was successful and reflected much credit on the organisers, Messrs J. Paiki and W. Torepe and their willing helpers.