

WAIMATE ENLISTERS.

21STS FAREWELL.

The 21st Reinforcements, as under, were farewelled at the railway station at noon to-day, the men, in charge of Sergt.-Major Johnstone, being played down by the Brass Band: —

L. W. Menzies.

D. R. Wishart

C. C. Stanley

H. B. Bills.

W. B. C. Corry

B. Flynn

G. R. Mahoney

G. Rogers

T. Phillips

A. S. Garland

J. J. O'Hara

D. Breen

J. E. Coskerie

M. J. Meehan

H. J. Ncylon

P. L. Simpson

S. F. Bailey

Cr Russell, after apologising for the unavoidable absence of the deputy-Mayor (Mr R. Inkster), said: It is quite unnecessary for me to go into details in explaining the purpose of our gathering here today. You are all well aware that this is the 21st occasion that we have assembled here on a similar errand — an errand that no doubt none of us likes, and although we are perhaps not at all sanguine about it, we hope and trust that this will be the last and that the 21st reinforcements will never have to leave New Zealand. I can assure you that I consider it not only a pleasure but a very great honour to be given the opportunity of saying a few words on an occasion like this, to have the privilege of addressing on behalf of my town and country, such men as these, men who have sacrificed everything to fight the battles of the Empire. Yes, your battles, and my battles. Do we, who are staying at home, realise to the full extent, what this means? Do we realise that these men have volunteered to protect our mothers, wives, and sisters? I am inclined to think that a great number of our citizens do not, otherwise we would have a much larger gathering on occasions like these. Surely the very least we can do to show the appreciation of the actions of these men, is to roll up and give them a hearty send-off. Men of the

21st Reinforcements! — I congratulate you upon your patriotism; I feel that it is scarcely necessary for me to offer you any advice. You have already shown by your actions in volunteering that you are able to think for yourselves and that you realise your own responsibilities. You know perfectly well the class of foe you will have to face and you also know how necessary it is that you should make the very best possible use of your training in camp. Should you ever get to the front I feel certain that you will give as good an account of yourselves as those who have gone before you. On behalf of the town and district of Waimate I wish you Godspeed and a safe and speedy return. (Applause).

Timaru Herald. 18 October 1917 (Papers Past) [27/06/2014]

Mr Robt. Mahoney, of Watlington, received word yesterday that his grandson, 36464, G.R. Mahoney, was killed in action on October 4th. This soldier was about 23 years of age. He was employed as engine driver by Mr Ruddenklau of Waimate, and left, with the 21st Reinforcements.

Press. 20 October 1917 (Papers Past) [26/07/2013]

Private Gordon Richard Mahoney (killed) was 24 years of age at the time of his death, and left New Zealand as a member of the 21st Reinforcements. Prior to that he was employed as an engine-driver by Mr Ruddenklau at Waimate.

Timaru Herald. 29 December 1917 (page 11) [26/10/2015]

THEIR DUTY DONE.

DEATH OF WASHDYKE SOLDIER

Mr R. Mahoney, of Washdyke, has received from Private T. R. O'Connor, who is on active service, the following letter regarding the death of the former's son, Gordon Mahoney, who was recently killed in action: —

France, October 30.—It is with profound regret that I convey to you the news of your son's death. Gordon and I were the closest of friends, and I can tell you I never lost a better soldier-mate in my life. He was always ready to do anyone a good turn and he was always cheerful. It was in the great assault on October 4 that your son lost his life. I went up to the trenches in the morning and had a chat with him. I said good-bye to him and went away. I had not gone two

minutes when I heard some one calling me. I went back and found that Gordon had been killed by a shell. He was sitting on the side of the trench, smoking, when a shell burst near-by and killed him and five others. We buried him and the Priest read the burial service. His remains lie on the battle scarred fields of Ypres. I cannot refrain from tendering you the consolation that may be found in the thanks of the country he died to save. I hope that your grief will be assuaged. You must feel proud at having made such a sacrifice on the altar of freedom. Gordon lived a good life, and he died as he lived—a hero.