

Timaru Herald. 18 April 1917 (Papers Past) [25 August 2014]

SOLDIERS' FARWELLED

AT KIMBELL.

The occasion of Private C. Halstead's final leave expiring was taken to tender him an opportunity to meet and bid good-bye to as many of his numerous Kimbell friends as possible last Friday evening, when the local school room was the scene of marked animation, by quite a crowded house assembling. The guest's old school mates availed themselves of the opportunity of making their late comrade a small gift, and at their request Mr Smith made the presentation. Addressing the company Mr Smith stressed the importance of every one leaving no stone unturned in doing what they could, both in lending assistance to the one great cause, and also giving their minds, to what those who were away at the front, and those who, like their guest of the evening, were going there, were doing for those who remained behind. Heroes all, destined by action and example to add to the fame of the British soldier, whose deeds had raised their flag to that position of pre-eminence, honoured and respected the wide world over, except by that vile depraved one exception, which was their duty to do or die in the removal of. On behalf of those present, he also addressed a few words of welcome to two returned soldiers present — Privates Bates and Alex Keeffe — and wished them a speedy recovery to their pre-war good health and strength.

During the evening for the intermittent dancing Messrs Clarkson Bros, Richmond and others supplied excellent music, which was much appreciated, as were also Miss Seigert's musical items, and the singing of "Soldiers of New Zealand" by a wee tot Meade. Mr J. Ogilvie acted as M.C., and Mrs A. Allan, acting hostess, helped not a little in stamping the brand of "highly satisfactory" on the whole function.