Waimate Daily Advertiser. 17 November 1915 (Papers Past) [06 July 2022]

SEND-OFFS TO SOLDIERS
FAREWELL SOCIAL AT WAIHAU DOWNS

(Own Correspondent).

On Monday evening last an enthusiastic send-off was accorded to five of our young men who left or are leaving the district to fight the battles of their King and country. Namely: — Messrs. M. St. L. Cleary, F. Bonella, H. Kortegast, H. Mewburn, and R. B. Cotton. The first three mentioned left for Trentham Tuesday. The two others are leaving later.

The Rev. C. C. Oldham made a neat speech saying that it was with pleasure though mingled with regret that they were met together to bid farewell to these friends who would all be so much missed, and making special mention of Mr. Cotton who as engineer of the new railway construction works had made himself very much respected and liked by everyone, He also mentioned Mr. H. Mewburn whom he referred to as the "baby" of the company who was the oldest resident here of the five and who had grown up amongst us and looked upon by everyone as a universal favourite. He then asked them all to come forward and receive each a small token of remembrance in the form of a silver tobacco pouch, and Mr. Cotton (who is a non-smoker) a purse. He concluded by calling for three cheers, which were lustily given, and "For they are jolly good fellows," followed by "Tipperary," were sung by the crowd.

Mr. Cotton suitably responded for himself and the others saying that they would always look back with pleasure on the time they spent in Waihao Downs.

Supper was then partaken of and dancing was kept up until about 1 a.m. The music was supplied by Misses Michelson and Foley.

Waimate Daily Advertiser. 12 January 1916 (Papers Past) [06 July 2022]

SEND-OFFS TO SOLDIERS
WAIMATE ENLISTERS

W. H. Bacon
E. H. Payze
C. H. Hertslet
J. W. Bletsoe
H. Mewburn
W. Woods
G. A. Pelvin
A. Mackenzie
W. Fltzmaurice
A. F. Liddell
D. T. McMeeking
G. W. Batchelor
J. Crone
Private W. Brien
W. Merry.

The above men (except Payze who is joining en route), marched to the railway station to entrain on the noon express to-day, the Brass Band leading a concourse of well-wishers. The crowd at the station numbered several hundreds.

The deputy-Mayor (Dr Hayes), speaking from the railway steps, and addressing Mrs Francis (the Mayoress) and the recruits and public said: — Once more we have met to say farewell to

another lot of brave lads from our town and country who are going to fight on the side of liberty and justice. The Motherland is in danger, and her sons have rallied to help her. In going forth on their noble errand they are sacrificing everything in order to fight for you and for me. They are sacrificing their prospects in life, their homes, and everything they hold dear; and they are going to face death for us. We cannot honour them enough. Reading Sir Ian Hamilton's despatches describing the super-human bravery of our lads on the Gallipoli Peninsula one feels glad that he is a New Zealander. These boys have made history, and have rendered the name of New 'Zealand immortal. They have created a high standard — a new standard of bravery and endurance, and have covered themselves with glory. But these men will sustain that standard. We are all confident that when the time comes you will do your duty and do it nobly. We all hope that you will return safely to us, covered with honour and glory, and when you do so a warm welcome will be awaiting you. On behalf of our town and country I wish you God-speed and a safe return. (Applause).

Rev A. S. Morrison, M.A., spoke for the Ministers' Association. He said: Men who are going out. I feel it a privilege to, speak a word on this occasion. You are — you must be - brave because you know you are not going to a picnic I look at you men with great respect when I think that, judging by the record the other New Zealanders have put up, you have the making in you of the bravest and best soldiers that the world has ever known We want you to feel an inch taller if you can. We want you to magnify your stature, as the Apostle Paul felt he might do. You are going to fight against the most ruthless enemy ever known. You are going to fight against the principle — if you can call it a principle — that might is right; for that is the Prussian boot-jack in international dealings It is a terrible thing for men to go forward and risk their lives at the caprice of a sovereign, such as the Bulgarians have done at Ferdinand's behest; but you are going forward to suffer for a great cause for which anyone might count it well to lay down his life if God should call him. Lowell says that sometimes civilisation does get forward on a powder-cask. We have in Germany and Austria — and especially in Prussia — a ruthless destroyer of the world's peace There are a great many in this district who have been praying for you and will be still praying for you. I hope you will be able to hold up the flag and fight a good fight. May God bear you up! Think of your mothers and sisters — and I know some of you think a good deal of some other body's sisters, too (Laughter),which is perfectly natural. Think of the old saying of the Rugby field and the cricket oval, "Play up, play up, and play the game!"

Cheers were given for "the boys," and one for the Mayoress.

Mr Allister Mackenzie responded. He said: Mrs Francis, and Dr Hayes, I wish on behalf of the men here to thank you. Although we are going a little late, I think we will be able to hold our own and do as others have done.

When the train moved off further cheering took place.

Waimate Daily Advertiser. 27 November 1917 (Papers Past) [06 July 2022]

In a letter just received, "Jack" Harrow, who is serving in North Sea with the Motor Boat Reserve, speaks of having met "Bunny" Mewburn at Dunkirk. Mewburn had been on a R.N.A.S. boat taken over from the Motor Boat Reserve, and had experienced a bombardment a few days previous, and had a narrow escape. A shell struck an ammunition wagon on the quay alongside, and he said that railway metals, truck axles, and wheels were flying in all directions, and a piece wcighing perhaps 1 cwt. dropped between him and the quay wall; it missed him by inches. The writer mentions also that Radford from the Premier Garage, Waimate, was stationed at Queenstown, Ireland, and had met quite a number of U-boats.