

*Timaru Herald.* 14 March 1917 [25/09/2023]

#### GERALDINE.

The Geraldine men leaving for Trentham were conveyed to Temuka yesterday afternoon by five cars which were provided for the purpose. The departing men included Messrs Davey, Walton, Pizzey, Chapman and Tiplady. They were cheered as they left.

On Monday night a social gathering was held at Geraldine to farewell **Mr J. Chapman**, who had volunteered for the front and was to leave on the following day for Trentham. Major Kennedy was in the chair. In proposing Mr Chapman's health the chairman spoke of the interest which he had always taken in anything affecting the welfare of the district, and eulogised his patriotism. He presented a wristlet watch on behalf of the committee. Mr Chapman suitably acknowledged their present.

*Temuka Leader.* 15 March 1917 [25/09/2023]

#### **THE 27th REINFORCEMENTS** DEPARTURE OF A FURTHER DRAFT. FROM TEMUKA AND GERALDINE.

On Tuesday afternoon another draft of men from the Temuka and Geraldine districts left Temuka to join the 27th Reinforcements, and in accordance with the usual custom they were entertained to afternoon tea by the ladies of the Temuka Patriotic Entertainment Committee in the Drill Hall. As usual the ladies provided lavishly, and the meal was a very pleasant one. The names of the men were: —

TEMUKA.

S. Bryson.

T. H. Davie.

J. W. Looker.

W. I. Looker.

D. T. Sugrue.

GERALDINE.

J. B. Pizzey.

H. G. Tiplady.

H. Riches.

O. Walton.

**John Chapman.**

After the tea Mr Gunnion said they had met to honour the boys who were going away. He asked them to act as men wherever they might go, wished them all good fortune, and assured them of a hearty welcome on their return.

Colonel Mackenzie said he was very pleased to be in Temuka, and on behalf of the Geraldine boys thanked the Temuka ladies for entertaining them. We are, he said, all proud of the men who are going away — (applause) — and as proud of them as of those who had gone before. He was quite certain that these men would do as well as their predecessors. In the course of a few months, or less, he believed they would hear of some great movements at the front. He had been told that 500 batteries of siege guns had been sent over to the front for the coming struggle. There might be six guns in each battery, but say there were four, and it meant that 2000 of the most powerful guns in the world had been sent, imagine the enormous pressure those guns will be able to bring to bear on the enemy as soon as the weather clears. Such guns can only be moved in dry weather, they are so heavy. Then there were other guns of deadly power, and he was sure that the Allies would be able to blast their way through the German lines. They also

had shells that will go 15 feet into the ground before they explode with terrible force, and would render the dugouts untenable. Altogether it was going to be very unpleasant for the enemy. He was glad to see signs of the end. The nation which has the biggest army in the field when the end comes will be able to dictate the terms. We know that the British Government are asking for men, and more men. He did not know that they would all be needed to go into the firing line; they wanted to have the men there to be used if wanted, but he hoped the war would be over before they were in the trenches. But they think that when the time comes to discuss peace they will be able to say to the enemy, "Well, we have the men to go on further." He wished the men a successful career as soldiers. Let them do their duty. Remember that they are soldiers, and that they are representatives of Geraldine and Temuka. He hoped they would all be there to welcome them back, (Applause.)

Major Kennedy said he was not going to make a speech, but on behalf of the Geraldine boys he wished to thank the ladies for entertaining them so kindly.

A procession was then formed and marched to the station, headed by the Brass Band, under Conductor Jackson, played martial airs. The streets were full of people, and a large crowd assembled at the Railway Station. After the roll had been called, the following speeches were made:

Mr Gunnion expressed his pleasure at seeing so many present to say farewell to the boys who were going away. They were going with the same determination as those who went to the war two years ago, to fight for their country. He felt proud of them, and he had no doubt that all who were present did so too. (Applause.)

The Mayor said he was proud to see the young men taking up the stand those were taking to whom they had met to say farewell. He hoped it would only be for a short time. (Applause.) It was, however, the strength of the young men that was going to win the war for us. He congratulated the people of Temuka for the way they had seen that the men who went away were given a good and cheering send-off, and he pointed out that it was in the unity that strength lies. These young men know that the war is to be finished. They are going to the front to help finish it. and we hoped to soon see them return after the victory has been won. New Zealand soldiers had set a high example. Their name was known all over the world, and he was sure that those who are going now will maintain the name won for honour and courage by those who had gone before. He wished them "good luck" from the bottom of his heart, and hoped to see them return safe and sound to receive a hearty welcome. (Applause.)

At the call of the Mayor hearty cheers were given for the men.

Major Kennedy being called on for an address, said he was very pleased to see that they still rolled up so well to send the boys away. These boys were going away to work, to fight for us, and it was the privilege and duty of all who could not go to do what they could to help them. (Applause.) The war we are engaged in is not a war of aggrandisement, nor to make a name for any individual or class of people. It was thrust upon us, and we are standing together to finish it off for the benefit of the British Empire and humanity. This was what Britain and her Allies were fighting for. We must not forget that "unity is strength." The men who were going away must be united, and do their duty under their officers and instructors. The lads who were going away were going to do their duty, and it was our duty to see that when they came back, having finished their work, they should not want, but be properly provided for, There must be no stigma resting upon the country owing to its people having failed in its duty to its soldiers. Speaking directly to the boys, Major Kennedy said they were leaving civilian life and taking up the life of a soldier that day. They would be brought under discipline, and might at first find it irksome, but never mind, it was for their good. General Birdwood, in addressing the men had said they were to remember that courage might take them over parapets, and perhaps to the third line of German trenches, but it was discipline that would keep them there. He urged them to strictly obey the orders of their officers, and they would thereby be better and more useful

members of the great army of which they were a part. They must always remember that “they were not the only pebbles on the beach,” but there were other men quite as good. He urged them to show respect to everyone, especially the women of the countries they were going to. Let them comport themselves as true soldiers. They had to uphold the grand traditions of the British soldier, and should be proud to be part of the British Army. When the war was over, and they came back, they would be sure of receiving a warm welcome. (Applause.)

The Rev. A. H. Norris said he was glad to see the way the people had turned up to do honour to and farewell the men who were going away. There ought to be no abatement of enthusiasm. Some of the men who were going had tried to go months ago. The men had had so much good advice, that he did not think it was necessary for him to give them any more. They were going to fight against a foe that had descended to the lowest depths of infamy, and he knew they would fight as true men, and because they were going to fight in His cause, he hoped that God would bless them and strengthen them in their work until the end. (Applause.)

Mr Gunnion announced that the next “send-off” of the kind would be held on the 11th April, and he hoped that more would attend in the hall to see the boys have their tea, and hear the speeches. They had missed a good one that day.

The Band then played, and the men had a few minutes with their relatives and friends. As the train left, the men were again heartily cheered, and the Band played “Soldiers of the King.”

Captain Chapman was in charge of the South Canterbury men.

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#### A SOCIAL EVENING.

##### MR JOHN CHAPMAN FAREWELLED.

**Mr John Chapman**, Geraldine’s latest volunteer for active service, was given an enthusiastic send-off at the Crown Hotel, Geraldine, on Monday evening, the eve of his departure for Trentham. Mr Chapman only made up his mind to go on the previous Thursday, but he managed to break through the bands of red tape and get away with the men who left on Tuesday. There was a large attendance, which was presided over by Major J. Kennedy, while prominent among the audience were the Mayor (Mr Hislop), Colonel K. Mackenzie, Dr Paterson, and Mr P. R. Flatman.

The Chairman, in proposing the health of the guest of the evening, said Mr Chapman was getting off quickly, but he was too good a citizen and too good a fellow to be allowed to go away without their showing appreciation of his actions. Mr Chapman had always been to the fore when anything was being done to benefit the town, and especially was he a supporter of sports of every description. He trusted that the watch which was being given to him would be useful to him in his career as a soldier, and that he would have an opportunity later on of comparing its time with the town clock at Berlin. (Laughter.) Mr Chapman had been one of the first to interest himself in giving farewells to the boys who were leaving for the front, and he hoped he would be spared to be present at another function given in his honour on his safe return from the war.

Mr Chapman, in responding, said he had not enlisted in order to escape the ballot. He had made up his mind to go on Thursday, and had his papers put through on the next day, enabling him to get away on Tuesday. A number of his mates had been sportsmen enough to hire a motor car, and come out and say good-bye to him on the Wednesday evening. He had got up and gone to work on Thursday morning, but he had suddenly made up his mind to go too — (applause) — and had gone into Timaru and obtained leave to go on Tuesday with the rest of the boys. He was going to do his best to obey orders and get down to discipline, and he hoped that he and those who were now gone would be able to uphold the honour of the empire as those who had gone before him had done. (Cheers.)

During the evening songs and recitations were given by Messrs D. Macgregor, T. White, Lyons, Irving, and Knibb, and Mr W. Pike gave a Maori haka. The singing of Auld Lang Syne brought an enjoyable evening to an end.

*Timaru Herald.* 23 November 1917 [25/09/2023]

### GERALDINE ROSE SHOW COMPLIMENTED BY JUDGE.

Contrary to anticipations caused by the wet and changeable weather, yesterday's rose show at Geraldine was a particularly good one. Not only were the roses very fine, but the sweet peas and other cut flowers were all excellent. Mrs J. P. Cliff with one stand of six roses took four prizes—first in the class for amateurs, first for best red rose in the class, champion rose in the amateur class, and champion rose in the show — an extremely good record. In the open class Mr G. A. M. Macdonald took the honours. **Mrs Chapman** sent for exhibition only a fine collection of roses on behalf of her son, **Private J. Chapman**, a former exhibitor, and Mrs J. Bennington also sent some fine roses for exhibition only.

*Timaru Herald.* 31 January 1919 [25/09/2023]

### BACK FROM THE FRONT TIMARU MEN. AN ENTHUSIASTIC RECEPTION.

By a special troop train yesterday between twenty and thirty soldiers returned from the war, and by the ordinary express about fifteen more arrived. The troop train reached here shortly before noon. Heavy rain was falling at the time, but notwithstanding this there was a very large crowd of people at the station to welcome the valiant defenders of the country, the railway station and its precincts being crowded by an eager, enthusiastic throng. The train drew into the platform to the accompaniment of ringing cheers, the waving of hats, and shouts of welcome. The Battalion Band under Conductor Schnack were in attendance and by their lively music imparted a martial air to the proceedings. In their excited eagerness to welcome the men in khaki, civilians crowded the station, and for some little time there was such a dense mass of humanity there that to move about was impossible. Some people found the crush inconvenient, but one of the returned men was heard to remark that it was the best welcome they could possibly be given, and in this light most people viewed it. Many more men than arrived were expected, some having missed the train. This accounts for the fact that more cars were in waiting than were actually required. It is impossible, however, ever to know exactly how many men will arrive.

From the steps of the railway station the Mayor and Mr Craigie briefly addressed the returned men, extending to them a most hearty welcome, and assuring them that the hearts of the people were full of gratitude for all that the soldiers had gone through on their behalf. Cheers followed the speeches, after which the cars took the men to their respective homes.

Those who returned yesterday were: Captain-Bristol, M.C., Captain Mathias, Sergeants Morton, Wilson, Watkins, and Wright. Corporals Bradley, McTague and Gillingham, Privates Erickson, Walker, Perkins, Ramsay, Beck, Kidd (2), Luke, Dalwin, Woods, Chandler, Francis, Fraser, McTague, Struthers, O'Rourke, Forrest, Slow, Macdonald, McKenzie, Burns, Seyb (2),

Feilding, Caldwell, Parr, Robertson, and Cairncross. There was also a cot case, **J. Chapman** (Geraldine).

Those who lent cars were: - Mrs Adams, Miss McKenzie, Miss Howell, Miss Moore, Messrs Shirtcliffe, Taylor, Dick, O'Connor, Cameron, Rollinson, R. J. McKeown, Guinness, J. Craigie, MP., Robinson, Hope, A. C. Williams, Buxton, D. C. Turnbull, J. Turnbull, Baxter, Dawson, J. T. Lamb, A. L. Lamb, Storrier, C.F.C.A. (2), Stonyer, E. A. LeCren, W. K. Macdonald, Mangos, Yarr, S. Chapman, Begg and Co., Titheridge, C. H. Williams, F. Stowell, T. Scott, J. P. Murphy, Rickman, Pigott, J. Anstey, MP., S. Mackenzie (2), Copland, Ott, and G. P. Wood.

Mr D. A. Morgan, hon. secretary to the Reception Committee, wishes to convey the best thanks of this committee to all who lent cars, whether they were used or not, and explain that though only half the number of men who were expected actually arrived, the committee could not know that this would be so, and provision had to be made for the full number expected.

Members of the Reception Committee — the Mayor (Mr Maling) the Deputy-Mayor (Mr W. Raymond), Messrs W. R. Pearson, H. Innes-Jones, W. Harper, W. H. Foden, P. E. Thoreau, W. Priest, W. D. Revell, and D. A. Morgan — had a strenuous time with the station arrangements, but everything was carried out in the happiest way.

#### “TEMUKA’S GREATEST DAY.”

Deputy-Mayor Gunnion’s phrase aptly describes yesterday’s proceedings, when, notwithstanding the adverse weather conditions, Temuka’s citizens turned out en bloc to welcome home over twenty of the boys who left the district for the great war. Included in the number were Private Quinn, M.M., and Second-Lieutenant L. Bain, who was the first trooper to enlist in the Temuka district.

On the railway platform the Temuka Pipe Band and the Juvenile Brass Band entertained the big crowd till the train arrived. As it rolled into the station a rousing cheer greeted the soldiers. After Temuka’s contingent had disembarked and been greeted by relatives and friends, they were conveyed in cars, headed by the two bands to the Post Office, where they were officially welcomed by the Mayor, Mr A. Frew, and the Deputy-Mayor, Mr Gunnion, who eulogized the work of the men.

Corporal Maze and Privates Opie and Weir, on behalf of their comrades, thanked the citizens for the splendid reception.

On the call of Deputy-Mayor Gunnion three rousing cheers were given for the returned men and three more for the boys who are still to come.

The men arrived in two sections, nine coming by the special train and twelve by the express, both lots being accorded the same reception. The owners of cars are worthy of a special word of praise, the supply far exceeding the demand.

Opportunity was taken, during the short time the train was in the station, to distribute fruit to the men on board who were going further south.

The following are the names of the men who returned: — Private Quinn, M.M., Second-Lieutenant L. Bain, Sergeant Barrett, Corporal Maze, Riflemen D. Brown, King, Privates Fravin, S. Huxford, J. H. Prattley, - Wareing, G. Allen, Cairncross, Opie, J. Bennett, Moore, McClelland, O’Neill, J. Aspinall, Cross, W. Weir.

#### WELCOME AT GERALDINE

Yesterday morning Geraldine put on a gay appearance with the many flags flown in honour of the soldiers who were expected home, and there was large gathering waiting in the vicinity of the post-office when motor cars arrived bringing back Staff Sergt-Major. Hawke, D.C.M., Privates Stringer, L. Turner, T. Warne, R. Laing, W. Inglis, J. Campbell, and G. Pithie. The men were formally welcomed by the Mayor, Mr B. R. Macdonald, who said the men were returning in batches and they were very glad to welcome them. He said another draft was expected in the

afternoon, and they purposed holding gatherings to welcome the men, and of these due notice would be given. The men were heartily cheered by the people and were individually welcomed by their friends.

In the afternoon arrived Lieut. Patrick, M.M., Staff Sergt-Major. McPherson, Privates Carver, Hall, Maxwell and Jas. Turner and Scully. **Private Chapman**, who is a cot case, went on to Timaru. On arrival at Geraldine this second party were also welcomed by the Mayor and a large gathering, and heartily cheered. The Mayor on behalf of the townspeople, congratulated Lieutenant Patrick on gaining a commission on the field, and on obtaining the Military Medal. Lieut. Patrick thanked them for their welcome. Personally he had been in one of the side shows where the experiences had been exceedingly interesting, and he supposed they had helped to carry through. He thanked them heartily.

Private T. Lyons, Winchester, arrived home this week. This is the third son of Mr T. Lyons to return. Another son, Private Jack Lyons, is still in France.

Mrs Bain, Ashburton, has received advice that her son, Rifleman R. G. Bain, has returned invalided by the hospital ship Marama, and is proceeding to Hanmer for further treatment. Rifleman Bain left New Zealand with the 16th Reinforcements and before enlisting was farming in the Fairlie district.

*Temuka Leader.* 1 February 1919 [02/07/2023]

**HOME AGAIN.**  
WELCOMING RETURNED SOLDIERS.  
AT TEMUKA.  
THE MORNING'S PROCEEDINGS.

Thursday was a day that will be long remembered in Temuka, for it witnessed the arrival home of two of the largest drafts of soldiers from the front that have yet returned to their kindred and friends in this district. A string of flags was suspended across King Street, and flags were flown on numbers of buildings. There must have been over a thousand people present at the morning welcome. The railway station was thronged with people, from a quarter to 11 o'clock, and it was half-past 11 before the troop train arrived. The Temuka Juvenile Brass Band (which was strengthened with several adult players) was at the south end of the station, and the Pipe Band at the north, and as the troop train steamed in the soldiers got a rousing reception of band music, cheers, and shouts of welcome. Advantage was taken of the stay of the train to distribute a few cases of fruit among the soldiers travelling further. The local soldiers were soon found by their relatives and friends, and as soon as the train had proceeded on its way, they were driven to the post office, preceded by the Bands, where a great crowd gathered to hear the speeches of welcome.

The men who arrived were —

Private G. Allan, Temuka.

Rifleman D. Brown, Ohape.

Private M. F. Brown, Temuka.

Private G. P. Crowe, M.M., Temuka.

Rifleman D. M. King, Orakipaoa.

Corporal John Maze, Ohape.

Private J. H. Prattley, Temuka.

Private Ryan, Temuka.

Private Jas. Wareing, Temuka.

Trooper G. W. Huxford, Milford.

Trooper Ellis, Temuka.

Mr T. Gunnion, chairman of the Temuka Patriotic Entertainment Committee, said this was one of Temuka's greatest days. He remembered the time when they were sending away 29 men at a time, and now they were getting them back. (Applause). Temuka had kept up its end until the "bitter end." Some of those who had now returned went away with the First and Second Reinforcements. "Just fancy some of us being away from our homes for three years! Think what these men have suffered, while we were suffering and lacking nothing." Those who remained at home had had plenty to eat, drink, and wear, and a good bed to sleep in. He had great pleasure on behalf of his committee, in welcoming the boys home. (Applause).

At Mr Gunmon's call hearty cheers were given for the returned men.

The Mayor said Mr Gunnion had delivered a very enthusiastic speech, and he took it from the gathering before him, that the whole of Temuka was glad to see the men back. (Applause). They had done their duty, and brought back victory, and when they thought of what the New Zealand soldiers had done in assisting in the re-establishment of the rule of freedom and justice he thought it spoke much for the future of the country. (Applause). The war was practically finished, and Germany had been conquered. Britain was again in the ascendant. They had been told that Britain was feeding Austria. This was in accordance with Scripture. "If thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink"; but he hoped that Britain would make the enemy pay. We must now go about our work and produce all we can, so that we shall be able to feed ourselves and our enemies — to our own profit. He hoped that the future of the world would be better than the past. Referring to the Peace Conference, the Mayor said they had the wisest men in the world sitting in conference doing their best to settle the many important matters that had to be settled after the war, and he hoped they would come to wise and just decisions. He had great pleasure on behalf of the citizens, in welcoming the men home. (Applause).

At the call of the Mayor further hearty cheers were given for the returned soldiers.

Corporal John Maze, being called on to speak, said personally he would much rather go "over the top" than make a speech, but on behalf of his comrades and himself he thanked all very heartily for the welcome they had received. (Great applause).

Trooper Ellis also thanked all for the hearty reception given his comrades and himself.

Corporal Shelley, M.M., being called on, said he belonged to Timaru more than Temuka, but he had friends here. He did not know how to thank them for the welcome given to his comrades and himself, but it was fully appreciated. It seemed like old times to be back home again. Since they had been away they had had hard times and they had had good times, and they had made the best of both. He thanked all for their kind reception. (Applause).

The boys then mingled with their friends for a few moments, and were afterwards driven to their homes.

#### AFTERNOON PROCEEDINGS

In the afternoon there was another large gathering to meet more returned soldiers, who were, for various reasons, prevented from travelling in the troop train. The express train on which they travelled, was about 35 minutes [late], and the two bands were again in attendance, and played at intervals until the train arrived. As the train reached the railway station the Bands played welcoming airs and the people cheered. Heavy rain was falling, and as soon as possible the men were driven to the post office from the steps of which the Mayor and Mr Gunnion addressed the large crowd assembled.

The names of the returning men were: —

Private I. Aspinall, Teniuka.

Sergeant J. Barrett, Temuka.

Gunner J. H. Bennett, Temuka.

Private W. Cairncross, Temuka.

Private W. C. Niles, Temuka.  
Private Harold Opie, Taranaki.  
Private W. G. Weir, Temuka.  
Private McClelland, Rangitata.  
Private J. Quinn, M.M., Temuka.  
Sergeant J. O'Neill, Temuka.  
Second-Lieutenant Bain, Winchester.  
Private Cross, Maungati, Timaru.  
Private F. Maze, Temuka.  
Private C. J. Moore, Temuka.  
Private Darby, Temuka.

In the course of his remarks Mr Gunnion (chairman of the Patriotic Committee), thanked the men for what they had done. They had been willing to shed their blood for their country, and all were very thankful to see them back. Nothing could be too good for them, and he hoped that the Temuka people would see that their services were not forgotten. (Applause).

The Mayor said the sight of the men had brought smiles to the faces of all. They had met to do honour to the men who had proved themselves "neither laggards in love nor dastards in war." (Laughter and applause). They had brought back victory with them, and some of them had brought back wives too. That was all right. He hoped that the daughters of the Mother Country would find life very pleasant in New Zealand. It was good to see such a large turn-out on such a wet day to honour the men, to whom he extended a hearty welcome. (Applause).

Hearty cheers were given for the returned soldiers.

Private O'Neill said he was one of the old returned boys. On behalf of his comrades and himself, he thanked all for the hearty reception they had given them that day. (Loud applause). Mr E. O'Neill said his son had not only gone to the war once - but twice. (Applause). After he had returned and recovered his health, he enlisted again. He told him that he had done enough, but he replied not until the Huns are put down. Now that had been done, and he thanked God that his son had turned again. (Applause).

Private H., Opie said he was very glad to be back and to be one to receive such a reception. They had "only done their bit," and nothing more could be said. (Applause).

Sergeant Barrett said they were all glad to be back, and the only thing they were sorry for was that they had left their best men behind. Their home-coming was a joy to some, and a sorrow to others. He thanked them for the warm reception they had received.

Private Weir also expressed his thanks.

Cheers were given for the boys who have yet to come home, and this brought the proceedings to a close.

There was a splendid response to the appeal for motor cars, among those who kindly supplied them being W. Hally (2), R. J. Thistleton, J. Andrews, W. Kellahan, C. H. Street, Sir Rupert Clarke, Geo. Ward, M. McLeod, Miss Guild, Mrs P. Wareing, R. J. McCallum, T. Sheen, J. J. Ellis, Dr Hastings, W. Holwell, Rev. Griffin, T. Quinn, J. Cooper, T. Frisby, P. A. Acheson, L. Story, T. Edwards, Hammond, L. Grant, M. D. Grant (Winchester), R. Maddren (Winchester), W. Palmer (Winchester), S. McCully. There were others at the station, but we were unable to ascertain the names of their owners.

#### TWO MORE ARRIVALS.

Yesterday Privates Rippingale (Temuka) and Brien (Kerrytown), who could not come on Thursday, arrived by the express train from Christchurch, and were cordially welcomed by Mr Gunnion, chairman of the Temuka Patriotic Entertainment Committee.

AT GERALDINE



Soon after 11 a.m. on Thursday the first batch of returned soldiers from the Geraldine district, who came in the Briton, arrived by motor cars, and were welcomed at the post office steps by the Mayor B. R. Macdonald and Major Kennedy (chairman of the Patriotic Society).

The men who were welcomed were —

Staff-Sergt. A. R. Hawke, D.C.M.

Private J. Campbell.

Private L. Turner.

Private T. Warne.

Private R. Lang.

Private W. Stringer.

Private W. Inglis.

Private G. Pithie.

There was a big crowd assembled to meet the boys.

Major Kennedy gave the men a very hearty welcome back, and said he was very glad to see them home again. He had done his best to give them a hearty send-off when they went away, and now felt proud to give them a hearty welcome on their return. He then asked the Mayor to address the assemblage.

Mr Macdonald said this was indeed a red-letter day for Geraldine, for he had pleasure in welcoming a larger number of soldiers than at past welcomes, though they were glad to welcome them back however they came, and however difficult it had sometimes been to meet everybody, that was fully compensated for, for they all were glad to do honour to the men who had been fighting their battles for them, and winning military honours, while one of them wore the D.C.M.

The Mayor then called for three cheers for the men, which were lustily given.

In the afternoon

Lieutenant R. T. G. Patrick, M.C.

Sergeant-Major N. McPherson

Private J. Turner

Private J. Hall

Private W. Scully, and

Private G. Maxwell

arrived by the express. There was a very big crowd assembled to welcome them, though the rain had been pouring down in torrents for many hours.

Major Kennedy called for cheers for the returned soldiers, which were given most heartily, and the Mayor also extended a welcome home to them. He drew a picture of what might have happened had the men not fought so valiantly, and said that they might now be welcoming them back as vanquished instead of as victors. Lieutenant Patrick was, he said, the first man who had left the district who had been given a commission, and he also had gained the M.C.

More cheers were given, and then Lieutenant Patrick, speaking on behalf of his comrades, thanked the people for their cordial welcome which they appreciated. So far as the war was concerned he personally had been in one of the side shows, but they had carried on, and he hoped that they had done their bit too. (Loud cheers).

Private **J. Chapman** (of Geraldine) came through by the express, but being still in need of hospital treatment was taken on to Timaru.

*Temuka Leader.* 1 March 1919 [14/07/2017]

Members of the Geraldine Anglican Church choir met on Thursday evening at a social gathering to welcome home one of their members, **Private J. Chapman**, who has returned wounded from the war. The vicar (the Rev. Canon Hamilton) spoke extending a welcome to Private Chapman on behalf of the choir, and expressed their pleasure from having him back amongst them again. Mr G. H. Patrick also spoke in a similar strain. Cheers were given for the returned soldier, and "For he's a jolly good fellow" was enthusiastically sung. After this, games and competitions were indulged in, and a pleasant musical evening was spent.

*Timaru Herald.* 1 March 1919 [25/09/2023]

On Thursday night the members of the Geraldine Parish Church Choir gave a social evening to welcome home one of their number, **Private J. Chapman**, who was wounded. The Rev. Canon Hamilton and Mr G. H. Patrick spoke, welcoming the soldier on behalf of the choir, and the evening was very pleasantly spent with music, competitions and games.

*Timaru Herald.* 6 February 1943 [26/09/2023]

## **GERALDINE**

### **"THIS ZONING MUDDLE" Criticism Expressed Invalid Returned Soldier Threatened With Ruin**

"This zoning muddle continues," said the Mayor of Geraldine (Mr D. C. McKechnie) yesterday, "and the latest effort of the Transport Department threatens to ruin a returned soldier of the 1914-18 war who has courageously carried on with a market gardening business since his return in spite of ill-health, the loss of an arm, and an injured leg which has required frequent hospital treatment.

"I cannot speak for other places," said Mr McKechnie, "but there has been a muddle and a complete absence of efficiency on the part of the Transport Department ever since zoning was introduced in this district."

Mr Langford, as zoning officer, had visited Geraldine in the closing months of last year, said Mr McKechnie, when he requested verbally, and later by letter, that a zoning committee be set up with the Mayor as chairman. The Geraldine Borough and County Councils appointed representatives, and a representative was appointed by the grocers. Under instructions from Mr Langford, the Geraldine and Temuka retailers met, and after four hours of discussion hammered out boundaries which met with the unanimous approval of all present. This plan was adopted by the zoning officer, with small exceptions.

Conflicting reports appeared in the newspapers about how zoning was to be applied in the separate zoning areas, Mr McKechnie continued, but contact with the Post Office (sub-zoning officers) and the Transport Department, failed to elicit any clear or written instructions as to what was required. The next "bombshell" was a completed scheme for the district, made out in detail by the zoning officer or his staff in Christchurch, without any consultation with the Geraldine Zoning Committee or its chairman. The committee met and considered the scheme unsatisfactory and asked the chairman to meet the zoning officer in Christchurch to ask him to visit Geraldine, as the scheme was considered unsuitable for country conditions and

departmental stores. "Mr Langford treated me with courtesy and made adjustments," said Mr McKechnie, "but made it clear that he was not prepared to meet the Geraldine Committee. General dissatisfaction with the zoning scheme was expressed, and resolutions were carried at a meeting in Geraldine, but at that time Mr Langford gave up his office as zoning officer and no subsequent appointment has been made. Much of the trouble had been caused by the attempt to apply, under vastly different conditions, a resolution of the New Zealand Federation of Grocers obviously meant for town conditions, Mr McKechnie said.

"Greengrocery deliveries were never discussed by the Geraldine Zoning Committee or submitted in any plans by the Department," said Mr McKechnie, "but a Gazette notice is issued preventing **Mr J. Chapman**, of Geraldine, from carrying on his normal and long established business of selling his vegetables and fruit from home to home. He has no shop and his gardens are 1½ miles out from the Post Office. Old people and invalids, and mothers with families whose fathers are serving in the Forces, who have collected their own bread from the depots cheerfully as a war effort, are becoming concerned. Must they collect their own fruit and vegetables and their own meat as well?" he asked. "What I would like to know, is on whose recommendation Mr Chapman has been prevented by the Minister of Transport (the Hon. J. O'Brien) from making deliveries, whether Mr O'Brien wishes the Geraldine Zoning Committee to continue to function, and whether he appreciates the excellent work busy men have done voluntarily in the past? If so, can he say why the committee has been completely ignored in these matters of local importance?"

"I understand Mr Chapman has taken the matter up with the Transport Department but has received no reply," Mr McKechnie concluded. "I have advised him to continue with his deliveries meanwhile and am writing to the Minister of Transport myself."

*Timaru Herald*. 10 February 1943 [26/09/2023]

## GERALDINE

### **ZONING MUDDLE Allegations Denied By Mr Langford No Instructions Sent Out**

A denial of allegations of a "zoning muddle" by the Mayor of Geraldine (Mr D. C. McKechnie) was made by Mr T. H. Langford, who was until recently South Island zoning officer. Mr Langford also replied to Mr McKechnie's statements about a returned soldier, Mr J. Chapman, who was conducting a market gardening business.

"No instruction was sent out by me or the zoning officer cutting out Mr Chapman's deliveries," said Mr Langford. "My knowledge of the position indicated that it would be absurd to have done so, because Mr Chapman lives at the extreme south end of the borough and the Raukapuka residents would have to travel two or three miles to make contact with him. In any case, the regulation regarding greengrocery deliveries generally may be well relaxed (a statement by the Minister on this subject was published on January 27), and the people of Geraldine will be able to continue getting their previous service and there will be nothing to prevent Mr Chapman from carrying on his long-established business. It is a pity that Mr McKechnie who communicated with me on so many occasions in regard to zoning did not refer this particular matter to me. No letter or communication has come to the district office of the Transport Department in this connection."

Denying the alleged muddle, Mr Langford said that no complaints had been made to his office from Geraldine.

“Mr McKechnie telephoned me, and I told him that if they were not satisfied with my scheme I was prepared to drop it and apply the recommendation made by the New Zealand Master Grocers’ Federation to the district. I am certain that the tradesmen of Geraldine have got a fair deal and appreciate the fact. Mr McKechnie says that I refused to go back to Geraldine; but I had the whole of the South Island to deal with at that stage and could not possibly make the trip. Admittedly I refused to allow Geraldine grocery vehicles to go down to Winchester, where there were two stores adequately stocked to supply the needs of the people. I did allow a grocery vehicle to continue its service to Rangitata Island and extended the number of times of delivery — on representations from Geraldine and on grounds of hardship.”

### **Mayor Repeats Charges**

“I repeat that there has been muddle and inefficiency on the part of the Transport Department in dealing with the zoning at Geraldine,” said Mr McKechnie yesterday. “I did not criticise Mr Langford, but Mr Langford’s statement confirms my complaints,” he said.

“From Mr Langford’s statement it is apparent that neither he nor the local zoning committee knew anything about the Gazette notice which appeared on December 16 over the name of the Minister of Transport preventing Mr J. Chapman from delivering fruit and vegetables, and Mr V. Simmons from delivering meat. That is just what my complaint is about,” he said. “On whose recommendation did the Minister sign the Gazette notice blocking deliveries by **Mr Chapman**? Surely it would have been wise to consult the local zoning committee first?”

“Mr Langford says that no letter has been sent to the district office of the Transport Department in this connection. He forgets that there has been no zoning officer in Christchurch for some time until the appointment of Mr N. E. Jory yesterday. **Mr Chapman** wrote to the Transport Department in Wellington and received no reply, and I wrote to the Minister (the Hon. J. O’Brien).

“The kernel of my criticism is that a local committee was appointed, and before it could obtain clear instructions from either the Transport Department or the Post Office as to its duties, the zoning was carried out in Christchurch or Wellington by people who knew little or nothing of local circumstances.

“I cannot understand what Mr Langford means when he says that no complaints were made to his office from Geraldine,” said Mr McKechnie. “I spent an hour with him in Christchurch endeavouring to make adjustments for people whose businesses were being ruined by zoning, and I asked him on behalf of the committee to come to Geraldine, which he refused. I also know of at least two local storekeepers who approached Mr Langford personally in Christchurch with complaints.

“Mr Langford says: ‘I told him that if they were not satisfied with my scheme I was prepared to drop it and apply the recommendations of the New Zealand Master Grocers’ Federation.’ It would be more to the point to say Mr Langford threatened this, because he added, over the telephone, ‘and they will be much worse off.’

### **Monopoly Zones**

“That is the complaint of the Geraldine business men,” Mr McKechnie continued. “Conditions in rural centres have not been taken into account by the New Zealand Federation of Grocers who have viewed things from a big town point of view. There was no need for the creation of monopoly zones, which is a pernicious system,” said Mr McKechnie, “and Mr Langford has avoided reference to blocking deliveries to Orari and Belfield district less than three and four miles from Geraldine. To the big town, the country means only a little extra trade, but the rural centre grew to serve the farmer. It cannot live on itself, and its trade with the farmer is its very life blood.

“I doubt if anyone is satisfied with zoning at Geraldine,” said Mr McKechnie, “and we have been waiting patiently for the Minister to appoint a new zoning officer to whom we can take our complaints.

“The relaxation on the restriction of meat deliveries (announced yesterday) and the relaxation on the deliveries of vegetables and fruit, will be welcomed by the public,” said Mr McKechnie.

*Timaru Herald.* 12 February 1943 [26/09/2023]

**GERALDINE**

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**Zoning of Deliveries**

Approval of the action of the Mayor (Mr D. C. McKechnie) in protesting about the zoning muddle was expressed by councillors when a copy of a Gazette preventing the delivery of bread, meat, and greengroceries was received from the Transport Department, Wellington.

Cr. P. H. Davis said that they should thank the Mayor for the stand he had taken in connection with local deliveries. He had heard nothing but favourable comment on the way he had fought the zoning.

Cr A. J. Burmester: It needed something like that to bring the matter to a head. It was decided that a letter be sent to the Minister of Transport (the Hon. J. O'Brien) stating that the Council objected to the stoppage of meat deliveries in the Geraldine township and that the Mayor's action in the case of deliveries by Mr J. Chapman be supported.