

*Timaru Herald*. 2 August 1915 (page 9) [28/04/2015]

## **SOLDIERS' LETTERS.**

### AT THE DARDANELLES

Mr D. Bain, of "Stumps" Farm, Orari, has received a letter from his brother Trooper L. Bain, who is with the Main Expeditionary Force at the Dardanelles. The following are some extracts: —

"As this is one of my days out of the trenches I will scribble a note in reply to all those letters you meant to write to me but could not because you were too busy. I find this shooting of Turks more interesting than duck shooting, but a little more dangerous. Besides being in the trenches we have had a couple of smacks at the enemy in the open. In the first go two Temuka boys lost their lives. There was a Regiment of Wellington men cut off for a while about a mile away and two troops of us (S.C.M.R.) and a troop of Nelson men were sent out to help them in. We had to go over a piece of ground covered by a machine gun and several rifles. Talk about going for your life. Alex dodging the willow tree was not in it. He was stripped to the singlet, while we were carrying our packs and rifles and ammunition. It was at this place where George Moore was killed. After a hundred yards of that we had to go sneaking and crawling up gullies and

round hills, with Turks all round us, till we got to the trench where the Wellington M.R. were. They came out of the trench and removed their wounded and we went in. Here we had another hot half hour and some of us narrow escapes. . . . However we accounted for a good many of the enemy. When the Wellington men got well away we retired from the gully as intended. When the Turks found we had left they came down after us, and if you can imagine 500 beagles and a few huntsmen's horns you will have some idea of the noise they made. When we thought they had come far enough we climbed a bit of a hill and to a trench and pasted them. "We gave them 'Allah, Allah!' I got separated here from poor Huxford and never knew he was hit till near daylight, when they told me he was dead. I had walked over his body lying in the bottom of the trench, twice in the night, carrying messages and did not know it was him. He was a good fighter, a hit too keen if anything, exposing himself too much. It was sad coming back to the dug-out and nothing left of poor Huxford but his pack. He and I had slept side by side ever since we left Temuka, and he was as good a mate as ever any man had. . . . .

The infantry chaps are getting far more to do than we are. Dave Scott's a Lance Corporal, and Wattie Oldfield a Sergeant. . . .

We are very well oft here as far as food is concerned. We get half a tin of tobacco, two packets of cigarettes and a box of matches a week, and a nip of rum in bad weather. Not going had, are we? -----

I'd better stop or the censor may think I'm making it too hot, and stop the whole jolly lot."

*Temuka Leader*. 9 January 1919 [16/12/2020]

Word was received yesterday that 7/4 Second-Lieutenant Lachie Bain, is returning home in troopship 208, expected to arrive about the 20th inst. Lieutenant Bain left with the Main Body, being the first man to enlist in the mounteds in this district. He went right through the Gallipoli and Palestine campaigns, has never missed an engagement through sickness or any other cause, and has never been wounded.

*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 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.

*Timaru Herald.* 31 January 1919 [03/05/2015]

## **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. . . . .

#### **"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 Pst 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 a large gathering waiting in the vicinity of the post office when motor cars arrived . . . . .

*Temuka Leader.* 18 February 1919 [31/03/2026]

#### **DISTRICT NEWS.**

##### **MILFORD.**

#### **WELCOME TO RETURNED SOLDIERS.**

(From our Own Correspondent).

A very successful welcome home to Lieutenant L. Bain, Corporal Maze, Trooper Huxford, and Privates Maze, Aspinall, Brown, Harris, and Wareing, was held in the Milford School on Friday evening last. Unfortunately Private D. King, who was also expected, had to go into hospital in Timaru.

Mr J. F. Hayhurst presided, and called on Mr A. R. Guild, who, after a neat little speech of welcome, presented those soldiers who had not already received one, with the Patriotic Society's medal of honour.

Mr T. Gunnion, of Temuka, also spoke words of welcome, and in a characteristic speech referred to the too liberal treatment that was apparently being meted out to the Germans. He prophesied trouble if sterner measures were not adopted.

During the evening capital songs were given by Messrs Kilgour and Walsh; and for a most enjoyable dance, controlled by the ever courteous M.C., Mr W. Lawlor, inspiring music was played by the Misses Brown and Hopkinson, and Messrs Gregan, Rickus, and Johnston.

*Timaru Herald.* 19 February 1919 [03/05/2015]

A very successful welcome home to Lieutenant L. Bain, Corporal Maze, Trooper Huxford, and Privates Maze, Aspinall, Brown, Harris and Wareing, was held in the Milford School on Friday evening last. Unfortunately, Private D. King, who was also expected had to go into hospital in Timaru. Mr J. F. Hayhurst presided and called on Mr A. R. Guild, who after a neat little speech of welcome, presented those soldiers who had not already received one with the Patriotic Society's medal of honour. Mr Tom Gunnion, of Temuka, also spoke words of welcome and in a characteristic speech referred to the too liberal treatment that was apparently being meted out to the Germans. He prophesied trouble if sterner measures were

not adopted. During the evening, capital songs were given by Messrs Kilgour and Walsh, and for a most enjoyable dance, controlled by the courteous M.C., Mr W. Lawlor, inspiriting music was played by the Misses Brown and Hopkinson, and Messrs Gregan, Rickus, Johnston and Boulter. The ladies of Milford provided a dainty supper.