

The Ellesmere Guardian. 10 May 1916 (page 2) [19/05/2015]

THE *Ellesmere Guardian*.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 1916.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

With which is incorporated "The Ellesmere Chronicle."

Writing from "Somewhere in Egypt," on March 25th, Sapper A, Percy, who was at one time on the staff of this paper and enlisted with the Main Body of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force, says in a letter to a Southbridge friend that he had only got his mail the night before writing—six months late. He was wounded at Gallipoli on August 20th, and had just returned to duty. Sapper Percy has been four months in hospital in England with blood poisoning caused through his wounds, being shot once in the hand and twice in the leg. He was on the Peninsula four months previous to being wounded, and was in no less than five big "scraps."

The Ellesmere Guardian. 18 November 1916 (page 1) [19/05/2015]

ANXIOUS FOR HOME.

Lance Corporal Alf. Percy writes to a friend in Southbridge from France, dated September 24th. As follows: - "I met one of the Wallace boys here a few days ago. He came over with the I2ths His brother, the one who came over with the 10ths, was wounded rather badly about 7 or 8 weeks ago, and will now be probably on his way back to New Zealand. He is what I call very lucky. Here I am, came away with the main body, have been wounded twice, and am still fit to go back into it again. Still I have not given up hope of getting back to the old land again. Perhaps when I go up this time I will be more lucky and "get one" that will send me home. There will be a lot of vacant chairs in New Zealand after this is all over, but I suppose we cannot complain. Better that than have ourselves dominated by Prussianism."

The Ellesmere Guardian. 30 May 1917 (page 1) [19/05/2015]

THE *Ellesmere Guardian*.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 30, 1917.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

With which is incorporated "The Ellesmere Chronicle."

Private **A. E. Percy**, formerly of the "Guardian" staff, who went to the front with the main body of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force, writes from France under date March 12th, to a member of the staff, stating that he was "still amongst the living" and expected to take part in the spring campaign. He mentions having met Allan Shierlaw, Fred Howatson and Moffat Hampton. Howatson, he says, went into the hospital a few weeks before with an attack of influenza. R. Howatson had not arrived at the front, but was in training in England. Percy adds that he is looking forward to visiting his old friends in this district if he is "lucky enough to get through this issue."

The Ellesmere Guardian. 19 January 1918 (page 1) [19/05/2015]

Lance-corporal **A. E. Percy**, who was for some time on the "Guardian" staff, has been at the front since the first year of the war and is apparently still going strong, having joined the main body. In the course of a letter he says: "I have received the "Guardian" fairly regularly and have gleaned a good deal of interesting information about events in the Ellesmere district. Letters and news from home are always appreciated by the boys here. I met another Southbridge chap out here lately, young Fountain, who was following farming pursuits out Stoney Gully way. He was attached to my company from the infantry during the last operations we took part in. I suppose you have heard all about it before this. You people in New Zealand seem to hear more about the war than we do who are right on the spot. We had a pretty rough time of it, taking things all round. The weather was bad and that made things ten times worse. You cannot imagine what the mud was like."

The Ellesmere Guardian. 19 July 1918 (page 3) [19/05/2015]

Private A. E. Percy, formerly of Southbridge, writes to a friend as follows: “I have received the “Guardian” fairly regularly and I can assure you it is always welcome. We have had a fairly hard time of it the last month or so but things are not so bad now. I do not think the war can go on much longer. Fritz is beaten but the obstinate villain will not lie down.”

The Ellesmere Guardian. 17 November 1920 (page 3) [19/05/2015]

Mr A E Percy, a member of the **Guardian** mechanical staff, was taken to the Christchurch Hospital yesterday afternoon suffering from an injury to his hip.

The Ellesmere Guardian. 30 July 1921 (page 3) [19/05/2015]

Returned Soldiers' Ball

TO BE HELD ON AUGUST 24.

A well attended meeting of returned soldiers was held in the A. and P. Room, Leeston, on Thursday night, to arrange for the annual “diggers” ball. Mr R. T. Buchanan was voted to the chair.

It was reported that there was a sum of £1 5s in hand from the previous ball, after £14 had been given to the county memorial fund.

The following were elected a committee: Messrs T. G. Harper, C. F. Manhart, E. Hannaford, J. H. Jones, J. Boyd, T. Wood, C. Halliday, F. Stevens; H.-D. Jones, H. Nieholls, C. Tod, **A. E. Percy**, E. A. Edmiston, R. T. Buchanan and J. McVinnie. Mr E. A. Edmiston was elected secretary.

It was decided to hold the ball on August 24, and to engage Miss Macdonald's orchestra.

It was also agreed that a meeting of ladies willing to help in connexion with the supper arrangements should be held on August 10th in the Leeston Library. The committee agreed to meet on the same date after the ladies' meeting. It was decided to hand over the proceeds, if any, to be spent on comforts for the seven Ellesmere men in the military sanatorium at Cashmere.

To avoid crowding at supper time, it was decided to issue tickets of three different colours, each colour to represent one sitting. No one would know beforehand which colour would be called on first.

Diggers' Ball

A BRILLIANT FUNCTION,

Heartly congratulations are extended to the returned soldiers in the Ellesmere district upon the success that attended their annual ball, which took place at the Leeston Town Hall on Wednesday night. It was a brilliant function in every way, and the promoters have every cause to feel gratified with the measure of success that attended their efforts to make it worthy of the district and equal, from a social point of view, to any other similar function held in the district for a considerable period. The floor space was very heavily taxed throughout the evening, and there was not sufficient room to allow of all the couples present dancing at the same time. Every part of the Ellesmere county was represented and there were many visitors from other districts, all of whom spent a very enjoyable time. Lit up by electricity generated by the Pictures Committee's plant, the interior of the hall presented a brilliant spectacle, with its gay decorations of red, white and blue. There were six red, white and blue shields adorning the walls at different points and the whole effect was most pleasing to the eye. As for the floor, it was in great order, thanks to the energetic efforts of the committee, the members of which deserve to be complimented upon their efforts. No trouble was spared to give the guests a thoroughly enjoyable evening. To say that the music was supplied by Miss Macdonald's well known orchestra is sufficient to indicate that there was nothing lacking in regard to the quality of the dance music. There were four players, the principal instruments used being the piano, cornet, trombone and drums, though the drummer made harmony from quite a collection of instruments. The M.C's were Messrs H. D. Jones and J. Boyd, who performed their duties in a creditable manner. The supper arrangements were the subject of very favourable comment. A committee of ladies, whose services were greatly appreciated by the diggers, had the tables very nicely laid and decorated with spring flowers, etc. There were three sittings at supper, and the system adopted in determining who should constitute the different sittings was to distribute cards of three colours. The holders of one colour would be called, then the second and third in their order. The scheme worked very well. A delightful supper was served and thoroughly enjoyed. The grand march was led by Mr and Mrs R. T. Buchanan, and the secretarial duties were ably carried out by Mr E. A. Edmiston. The success of the ball was in large measure due to the efforts of the following committee: Messrs R. T. Buchanani (chairman), H. D. Jones, J. H. Jones, E. Hannaford, J. Boyd, F. Stevens, E. A. Edmiston, C. Manhart, C. Tod, C. Halliday, J. McVinnie, T. Wood, **A. E. Percy**, T. G. Harper and A. Nicholls.