

New Zealand Times. 11 July 1918 (Papers Past) [29/12/2022]

Mr J. M. Willetts, of Owen Junction, has received news from the Minister for Defence that his son, Private M. W. Willetts, has been awarded the Military Medal for gallantry on the field of action. Private Willetts left with the 20th Reinforcement, and had been on active service up to the time of his being dangerously wounded on May 2nd. Mr Willetts has two other sons away — Private C. A. Willetts, who was seriously wounded at the battle of Passchendaele, and is now back in France, and Private J. F. Willetts, who left with the 36th Reinforcement.

Oamaru Mail. 30 July 1918 (Papers Past) [21/12/2022]

In a recent list of recipients of military honors appears the name of Private M. W. Willetts, son of Mr J. M Willetts, formerly of Fairlie, but now residing at Owen Junction, Nelson. Private Willetts has been awarded the Military Medal for conspicuous gallantry on the field of action. He left with the 20th Reinforcements, and was on active service until being dangerously wounded on May 2nd. He is well-known in the Awamoko district, where he received his education at the Awamoko School. Mr Willetts has two other sons on active service—Private C. A. Willetts, who also went with the 20th Reinforcements, was wounded at Passchendaele and is now back in France, and Private J. F. Willetts, of the 36th Reinforcements. All these lads were educated at Awamoko. They are the grandsons of Mr F. Henderson and the late Mr J. Henderson, very old and highly respected residents of Awamoko.

Timaru Herald. 6 May 1919 (Papers Past) [04/12/2022]

FAIRLIE NOTES.
(From Our Own Correspondent).
WELCOMED HOME.

On Thursday evening a party of five returned men were met at the railway station on the arrival of the evening train and were accorded a very hearty welcome. The Fairlie Band was in attendance and played a number of patriotic airs as the train drew into the station and the men stepped on to the platform. The party, consisting of Trooper C. McKinnon and Privates C. Willetts, Sullivan, Staples and W. Willetts, were conducted to the centre of the platform where they were briefly but heartily welcomed by Mr C. J. Talbot. The men were invited to a social to be held in their honour next Thursday evening, and were cheered, as they left for their homes. The notice received of their arrival had been very short, but a considerable

number of people met them on the station, and the Band is to be commended for the prompt way in which they turned out with little more than an hour's warning before the arrival of the train.

Timaru Herald. 14 May 1919 (Papers Past) [20/12/2022]

FAIRLIE NOTES.

RETURNING SOLDIERS.

Last week was a very busy one among the soldiers. A big social was held in the Public Hall on Thursday evening in honour of Privates Andrew Grant, W. Moir, C. Willetts, W. Willetts (M.M.), Jas. McAlister, Sullivan, Staples, R. O'Brien, J. Allen, (M.M.), Troopers Felix Siegert, H. Caswell, and A. McKinnon. Several of the men could not be present owing to hospital duty, but it is hoped that they will attend at some future occasion. As usual the hall was bright with patriotic colours, and the floor was in good condition. Mr Boulter again acted as M.C. to the satisfaction of all, and Mrs Wright presided at the piano in her customary able manner. She was assisted at intervals by the following volunteers: Miss Bray, Miss Hutchins, Mr T. Skinner and Mr P. Waters. Miss Collie contributed a vocal item very acceptably. A bountiful supper was provided by Mrs Clarke and dispensed by the Ladies' Committee with their accustomed expedition. During an interval the soldiers were paraded on the stage, and they received a vociferous volley of cheering. Mr C. J. Talbot, M.P., on behalf of the Reception Committee and the people of the district, gave them a very hearty welcome, and wished them prosperity in the future. Mention was made of the fact that Mr R. A. Grant, one of Fairlie's flying men, had returned to the district. At the conclusion of the address the men were accorded musical honours and more cheers were given them. Dancing was continued till after midnight, and the men took the opportunity of renewing old friendships and making new acquaintances.