

Timaru Herald. 8 January 1917 (Papers Past) [19/08/2014]

SOLDIERS' FAREWELLS

AT KINGSDOWN.

A farewell social was tendered to W. Warnock and E. Westgarth in the Kingsdown School last Thursday. Private Warnock, of the 22nd Reinforcements, was down on his final leave, and Private Westgarth has just entered the military camp. A large number of friends and well-wishers of the departing soldiers assembled to honour them.

Mr A. Coster acted as chairman and after the National Anthem had been sung a short programme of musical items was given by Misses Davison, Stewart, Ballagh, Howie, Campbell and Munro. The accompaniments were played by Misses Munro and Stewart. Miss Ramsay also gave a patriotic recitation, and afterwards Mr Craigie, M.P., who made the presentation, commented on the absence of the sterner sex from the list of performers and offered to give two items himself, both of which were well received.

In his address Mr Craigie stated that the war had undoubtedly now entered on a new phase, when the Germans had themselves offered terms of peace, but there must be no half measures. It was fortunate for us that we had two prominent statesmen like Mr Massey and Sir Joseph Ward at Home just now, and would thus be represented in the drafting of peace terms. The speaker complimented the Kingsdown district on the large proportion of young men who had volunteered for the front. He did not think that any other district in New Zealand had a higher proportion. It was now quite likely that the war would be over next July or August, and we would be all glad to welcome the boys back again. Mr Craigie then, on behalf of the district, presented wristlet watches to Privates Warnock and Westgarth, who both briefly acknowledged the compliment.

The room was afterwards cleared for dancing and an enjoyable evening was spent.

Timaru Herald. 28 December 1917 (Papers Past)

KINGSDOWN SCHOOL.

ITS ROLL OF HONOUR.

The Kingsdown School picnic was held on Wednesday in the school grounds. Mr J. Simmons, chairman of the school committee, presided, and Mr J. Craigie, M.P., addressed the parents and children.

Mr Craigie briefly reviewed the progress of the war, and complimented those present on their patriotism. Few districts in New Zealand, if any, he said, were better represented at the front in proportion to their population. Two old pupils of the school had made the supreme sacrifice — Frank Averis, who was killed in action at Gallipoli, and Percy Stowell, who died of wounds received in France. Altogether 33 past pupils had gone to the Front. Strange to say not one of the 31 survivors had yet returned, although three went with the Main Body.

Mr Craigie read the following list of the names of old pupils still on active service: — Alec Craigie, Arthur Burness, James Campbell, Garfield Stewart (awarded Military Cross, now in Royal Flying Corps), John Campbell, Robert Campbell, Fred Stevenson (awarded Military Medal), Fred Burness, Joseph Hill, George Munro, George Simmons, William Simmons, Alister McKenzie, Lachlan McKenzie, Ross Davison, Charles Bee, John Bee, , Cecil Averis, Albert Averis, John Seyb, Harry Seyb, Ralph Dynes, Loughrey Hayward, Harold Wyatt, Derick LeCren, Fred Stowell, Alfred Savage, Sydney Maslin, Bertram Richards, Wilfrid Richards, Walter Lawson.

Mr Craigie also read a list of names of those who had been educated at other schools, but enlisted from Kingsdown, namely — William Grey (severely wounded, Gallipoli, and now returned), Martin Carter (wounded in France and also returned), Fred Foster (severely wounded in France, now in hospital), Lynton Daniel (now on active service in the Holy Land), Ernest Westgarth (in France, twice wounded, but recovering), Albert Fridd, William Warnock, William Ballagh, Clifford Coster (all on active service in France), Robert Thomson. It is understood that the names of two of Mr S. Hanson's sons should be added to the first list, and that one of these was awarded the Military Medal for distinguished service in France. Reference was also made to the presence of a returned soldier, Mr Drury, at the meeting, and he was welcomed with hearty applause.