

33rd REINFORCEMENTS.

SEND-OFF AT TEMUKA.

The send-off to the local and district members of the 33rd Reinforcements took place in the Dominion Theatre, Temuka, on Friday evening. It had been arranged that the entertainment should be given by Mrs Chapman's party from Ashburton, but owing to the serious illness of a relative, Mrs Chapman was unable to attend, and the assistance of a number of local performers had to be involved, and needless to say they gave their services most willingly at very short notice. The attendance was large, the theatre being well filled. The recruits marched to the theatre, headed by the Brass Band, and at the theatre were greeted by Torepe's Maori Troupe, and given a welcome haka.

Mr T. Gunnion, chairman of the Patriotic Entertainment Committee, presided, and, briefly explained that the proceeds of the send-off were to go to the purchase of gifts for the soldier lads. He was sorry that they had been compelled to alter their programme, and for this reason a collection was being taken up at the door instead of charging 2s and 1s for admission as advertised, Mrs Chapman had had to go to Dunedin to a sick relative, and he was sure all would deeply sympathise with her. They knew how ready - how glad — she was to come to Temuka to do what she could for the boys, and when she was ready to travel 4- or 50 miles to do so, it showed that her heart was in it. — (Applause.) He had received an apology from their member Mr Talbot, who telegraphed, "Sorry my duties in Wellington prevent my presence at your send-off. Wish the boys good luck. Hope on their arrival overseas they will find the Germans in retreat and victory in sight."

The following programme was then given: — Maori song, "Soldiers of the King," Hermione Torepe's Party; song, Mr Chapman (Ashburton), "My Molly," encore "Where are the Boys"; song, Miss Smith (Ashburton), "Sons of the Empire," encore "Anzac"; haka, Hermione Torepe's Troupe, encored and re-repeated; humorous song, Miss Glover, "Here Comes the Married men," encore "We'll Meet You, Kaiser Billy, in Berlin."

At this stage the Chairman read out the names of the men leaving on Monday, saying the draft was one they could well be proud of: —

J. H. Bennett.

G. W. A. Bradshaw, Winchester.

L. T. Hopkinson, Temuka.

F. W. Gaby.

W. H. Davey.

A. Donnithorne.

S. M. Clinch.

A. E. Darby.

H. F. Earl.

T. E. Taylor, Clandeboye.

J. Greelish.

W. Larcombe.

P. Allan.

G. W. Huxford,

G. D. Murray (returned).

J. L. McAteer.

J. J. O'Neill.

Mr Gunnion said among those going away were two returned soldiers who were going again. — (Applause.) Five of them were boys of 20 or under who had volunteered. Amongst them was a boy who was one of a family of seven, all of whom volunteered, and two of whom had

returned wounded. The mother of this family was Mrs A. K. Bradshaw, Kaikorai, Dunedin. — (Applause.) He then invited the men on to the platform to receive their holdalls.

As the men marched on to the platform the audience sang “For They Are Jolly Good Fellows.” Mrs Aspinall then presented them with their holdalls, the audience applauding.

A little later ex-Private Bradford, a returned wounded soldier, entered the theatre, and was invited on to the platform, and welcomed back to Temuka by Mr Gunnion, who said he was sorry that he had been by some means overlooked when he returned. On behalf of the Temuka he extended to him Temuka’s heartiest welcome on his return from the war. — (Great Applause.)

The Rev. A. H. Norris gave the men and their parents and relatives some very useful advice regarding the cabling of money to the men. He said he envied the men who were going away, for they were going to see life, a life which was absolutely full of excitement and thrill. He would just give them a word or two of advice. When the time[s] comes, as we believe it will soon come, to meet the enemy on the battlefields of Germany, it would be in their bounden duty as Christian men, to strike and strike hard. — (Applause.)

The programme was then continued as follows: Song, Corporal Winspen (Winchester), “Loeh Lomond,” encore “When you come home; song, Miss Co’mer, “Soldiers of the King,” encore “Mary”; recitation, Mr Chapman, ‘How McDougall Topped the score’, encore “The Flying Men”; Maori song, Hermione Torepe’s Party, encored and responded to; quartette, Misses Comer, Green, Proudlock, and Bates, “The Long, Long Trail”; song, Miss Smith, “God Send You Back to Me”; Club Swinging, Mr M. Cameron, encored, and responded to with an exhibition of axe swinging; song, Mr Chapman, “Cassidy, V.C.” In response to a vociferous encore Mr Chapman gave a humorous song, and was again encored, giving in response “The Skippers of St. Ives.” Song, Miss Glover, “Roses.” All the numbers were well given and thoroughly enjoyed, the performers being rewarded with applause and encores.

The Chairman moved a vote of thanks to Mr Chapman and his party and the local performers, and gave the men a word of advice to deport themselves like men; to do right; withstand temptation; to behave like men, and come back men. — (Applause.) He wished them a safe return. — (Applause.)

In conclusion he announced that the takings amounted to £17 12s 3d, with some more to come from tickets, and he thanked the audience for their liberality. It was to help the fund for the purchase of Christmas gifts for the boys at the front, and it would be much appreciated by them. In responding to the vote Mr Chapman thanked the audience for their kindly reception, and to the Maori and other local performers who had come to his assistance in making up the programme. He wished to compliment the Temuka people on the “send-offs” they gave to their men. He had not seen their equal in any other place.

The Maori Party then sang their “Farewell Song,” after which the “National Anthem” was sung. The accompaniments were very tastefully played by the Misses E. Twomey, Hancox, and Gray. Cheers for the boys who are going away and those at the front terminated the proceedings.

YESTERDAY AFTERNOON.

Yesterday afternoon, the men and their friends were entertained to luncheon by the ladies of the Temuka Patriotic Entertainment Committee, who as usual put on a splendid meal.

Mr T. Gunnion presided over a gathering of fully 100 people. Grace was said by the Rev. G. D. Hunt, of Geraldine, and while the meal was in progress some very enjoyable patriotic music was contributed by Mr and Mrs W. Hally and Miss Swap.

Mr Gunnion said that another four weeks had flown since their last send-off, and once more they had assembled to say farewell to the boys who were leaving for camp. He had received an apology from the Rev. Father Kerley, and also one from Major Kennedy, who wired: - “Sorry cannot be with you apologise for me; wish the boys good luck.” It was with very mixed feelings he was speaking, for he was pleased to see a fine lot of men come forward, yet he was sorry

that they had to go away. As a man had remarked to him they were sending away too many for a small district like Temuka and Geraldine. But the boys had felt it to be their duty. Among those going away were two or three who had been before — (applause) — but had felt it their duty to go again, and several boys who just come of age, and did not want to wait until they were called in the ballot. — (Applause.) They were sending away the greatest draft they had sent since the war began, and while this was very good it was also very hard. These boys were going to fight for our children, and for all of us, and to keep the old flag flying and to help to down German militarism. He hoped they would do their duty like men, and come back safely to get the welcome they deserved. — (Applause.)

Mr Paterson (Mayor of Geraldine) remarked that while speakers could say little that was new, those who had had the privilege of speaking to British audiences would not be doing [their] duty unless they kept hammering away, reiterating the truths that the great war now going on was in the end going to profit not only the British nation but the whole world. It was not going to help only the British nation and our Allies but even our enemies — Germany, Austria, and Turkey — for they were going to be emancipated from the despotism under which they are living. We are not fighting Germany but Prussian Militarism. Our enemies are as yet by no means vanquished. They are at the zenith of their power, and from now on there will be a decline and weeping and wailing, and now is the time for us to put all our energies to work in meeting them. This was the critical time of the war. They had to send their men away month after month until the awful menace of German Militarism was destroyed. The doctor told a story to illustrate his remarks. Those who were going away were the pick of the country, and it would take years to replace them. Those who came back do not come back as they went. Some never come back at all, and some came back maimed, but they felt that the sacrifice they were making was for freedom, and if life was worth living it was that of absolute freedom. Those who were leaving them that day had got to live up to a high standard, for the men who had gone before had set up a high standard. They had behaved like gentlemen, and he was sure that those who were going now would do the same. He wished them God-speed, and hoped that in the near future they would be back again to receive a joyous welcome home. — (Applause.)

The Rev. G. P. Hunt, of Geraldine, said he was pleased to have the opportunity with the other speakers of saying good-bye to the young men who are leaving for camp. He understood that there was a fairly large contingent going away. Three of those going from Geraldine he knew personally so he could speak specially for them, and say they are fine fellows, and he had every confidence in sending them away, feeling sure that they would live up to the high standard referred to by the previous speakers, and make a name for themselves in the future. The men were going in response to national needs, which were not supplied yet. We still wanted more men of the right type of character to go forth to fight our battles, to fight for the children and the rising generation, in order that they may enjoy freedom. The First Division was now nearly exhausted, and the time was not far distant when a call would be made on the Second Division, and proposals had been made whereby something might be done to postpone it. One proposal was to lower the age. As one of the Second Division he would not like boys to be called up to save his skin. When the time came for him to be called up he was ready to go, and he felt that was the position of the Second Division generally. They would [want] to go before the boys were called on. While they wanted men they also wanted money. No doubt they had all heard something about the Liberty Loan and it was well to keep it in mind. Some men cannot go and fight, but they can help the war by using their money in a right direction, and investing it [in] the Liberty War Loan. Those who had a fat purse should certainly do this. Had he the money he would certainly feel it his duty to invest it in the loan, and so help to win the war. Another thing necessary to win the war was religion and it was well to keep that in mind too. He was not going to enlarge on this point, but he would say that if there was one thing the nation needed

to-day it is God, and we cannot win the war without God. We want righteousness and true religion. He hoped the boys going away will keep this in mind, wherever they may be, and they will be sure that there is a Power above them and with God's presence they will come forth conquerors. — (Applause)

Miss Edgar sang "There's a Land," and was heartily applauded.

The Mayor (Mr Frew) also gave a brief address, in course of which he spoke of the stakes nations and individuals had in the war. The men who were going away that day were staking their lives. They did not know that they would come back from the war, but he hoped that they would be crowned with victory. The Liberty Loan had been mentioned. The men who were going that day were the richest physically, so they were taken first, and he thought the men who were the richest financially should be taken first when it came to finding money. Their wealth would be as good a stake in the war as it would be possible to get. The ladies had a great stake in the war, and were doing splendid work for the Red Cross and other war purposes. They had before them that day an instance of the splendid work the ladies were doing to help to win the war. Now is the time when our very strongest effort should be made to bring the war to a satisfactory end. There was an old saying that the "hotter the war the sooner peace." The strong draft going forward that day showed that their young men were not getting war weary. He wished them a successful career as soldiers and a safe return.

Dr Paterson, in a few felicitous words, spoke of the hospitality of the Temuka ladies in entertaining the Geraldine lads and their friends, and how highly it was appreciated, and concluded moving a hearty vote of thanks to them, this being carried by acclamation.

Cheers for the men concluded the proceedings.

A procession was then formed in front of the Hall, and preceded by the Brass and Pipe Bands, with Mr E. O'Neill carrying the flag, the men marched to the railway station under Sergeant-Major Lorrimer, a large crowd accompanying them. At the station there was a very large assembly, where Colonel Mackenzie and the Mayor gave further addresses. The Brass Band played selections, and just as the train came in Hermione Torpe's Maori Troupe sang a Maori farewell song. Cheers given for the boys who were going away, and for those at the front. There were a large number of men on the train going into camp, and the train left amid hearty cheers. The following are the names of the men who left yesterday: -

J. H. Bennett, G. W. A. Bradshaw, L. T. Hopkisson, F. W. Gaby, W. H. Davey, A. Donnithorne, S. M. Clinch, A. E. Darby, H. G. Earl, W. Greelish, W. Larcombe, F. Allan, G. N. Huxford, J. L. McAleer, J. J. O'Neill, G. D. Burrows, A. S. Sherratt, T. Rusbridge, J. N. Ritchie, L. N. Brown, S. J. Gould, G. A. Murray, and D. J. Histen.

Captain Chapman was in charge of South Canterbury draft.

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, Temuka.

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.

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 Gegan, 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, inspiring music was played by the Misses Brown and Hopkinson, and Messrs Gegan, Rickus, Johnston and Boulter. The ladies of Milford provided a dainty supper.