

Press. 26 May 1917 (Papers Past) [October 2021]

GERALDINE.

There was a large gathering in the Drill Hall on Thursday night to farewell the local members of the 30th Reinforcements. Major Kennedy presided, and the members of the contingent present were Messrs P. Billings, J. F. Carver, J. Fifield, T. Y. Loach, W. McPhedran, J. McKay, G. Knowles and F. Sercombe. Apologies were received from Messrs W. Belcher, L. Bate, W. Elson, P. O'Sullivan, J. Rosengrave, and J. Wright. The chairman stated that since their last gathering of a like nature, news had been received that the supreme sacrifice had been made by Captain Roy Priest, Private Jenkins, and Private Stuart Farnie. The audience stood to evince their sympathy with the relatives of the men. Major Kennedy, on behalf of the committee, presented each of the Geraldine men with a wristlet watch, and Mrs Paterson, the Mayoress, on behalf of the Home and Empire League, presented each man with a parcel of comforts, and wished them a safe return. During the evening a concert programme was presented, the vocalists including Mrs Le Cren (Timaru), Misses Campbell, Beattie, Gimson (2) and Macgregor. Messrs G. Jones, F. Trott, E. White, and Knibb. The Geraldine Band and the local orchestra played selections.

Timaru Herald. 28 May 1917 (Papers Past) [October 2021]

SOLDIERS FAREWELLED

AT GERALDINE.

There was a large attendance at the Drill Hall, Geraldine, on Thursday night, to do honour to the boys of the Thirtieth Reinforcements. The chair was taken by Major Kennedy. A capital concert occupied the first part of the evening, the vocalists including Mrs LeCren (of Timaruj, Misses Campbell, Beattie, Gimson (2), T. Macgregor, Messrs Knibb, Trott, E. White and Gus Jones (of Timaru), and the Geraldine Band and the Orchestra contributed selections. Every item on the programme was received with hearty applause, and the visitors from Timaru met with a great reception.

Major Kennedy said that since their last gathering they had received word that Captain Roy Priest, Trooper Jenkins and Private Stuart Farnie had made the supreme sacrifice, and he invited all to show their sympathy with the relatives and friends of these men by standing, whereupon all rose to their feet.

On the chairman calling upon the men of the 30th to ascend the stage, Messrs P. Billing, J. F. Carver, J. Fifield, J. Y. Loach, W. McPhedran, J. McKay, F. W.

Sercombe and Geo. Knowles complied, and they received hearty rounds of applause. Apologies were received from Messrs W. Belcher, T. Bate, W. Elson, P. O'Sullivan, T. Rosengrave and J. Wright.

Major Kennedy said the present was not a time for talking, but of doing. These men were doing their duty, and they all wished them well. He then presented each of the Geraldine men with a wristlet watch.

Mrs Paterson, the Mayoress, on behalf of the Home and Empire League presented each man with a parcel of comforts, and on behalf of the League as well as personally she wished them all a safe return.

Maio Kennedy thanked the performers who had given them all so much pleasure and particularly the ladies and gentlemen from Timaru, remarking that local talent was always ready to help them. He said their Temuka

Timaru Herald. 29 May 1917 (Papers Past) [04/10/2021]

30TH REINFORCEMENTS YESTERDAY'S SEND-OFF.

AT TIMARU.

The South Canterbury quota of the 30th Reinforcement consisting of 58 men, left Timaru by the north express yesterday, and were given a very hearty send-off at the Drill Shed, and at the Strathallan Street crossing.

Owing to the new railway time-table the men were assembled at 12.30 at the Drill Shed, and were put through some elementary drill movements by Staff-Sergeant-Major Johnstone. The men appeared in the best of spirits. The draft, facing the balcony, was addressed by the Mayor of Timaru (Mr J. Maling), and by the Rev. J. H. Rogers.

The Mayor told the men that one of the first ordeals they had to go through was to listen to a speech by the Mayor of the town. He felt sorry for them on this account, but it was all a part of the military discipline they had to go through. (Laughter.) Proceeding, Mr Maling referred to a speech in which Mr Lloyd George had said that we were living in one of those rare epochs when within a few fleeting years the destiny and character of the race were being determined for countless ages. Mr Maling said it was to assist in forming that character and making that destiny, that the men before him were going away. There was no question but that they would sustain the high standard of those who had gone before them, and assist in upholding those ideals which in this country of free institutions were held so dear. No country in the world possessed such a free Constitution as New Zealand, and in a spirit of determination to uphold it and all that made life worth living, they were going forth to gain the mastery over the

enemy. On this noble mission he wished them luck and a safe return. (Applause and cheers.)

The Rev. J. H. Rogers also spoke spiritedly to “the boys.” He told them that they were going to assist the Empire, and that in giving themselves for that purpose they were making a noble gift. They were going to be trained to fight and to conquer. If in the fighting, they should be killed they would die the most glorious death that any man could die. They could take it for certain that the Church would pray for them constantly, and that loving hands would minister to their needs in health and in sickness. In going away they would take with them the love, the care and affection of many who would watch anxiously for news of them, and who would ever be solicitous of their welfare. What did they stand for? They stood for the Cause — the cause of honour, of liberty, and of justice, the protection of the weak. Was there ever a nobler cause or any more nobler principles that a man could fight and if necessary die for? He thought not. Then they should remember that at the back of the Cause was God — the God of liberty, the God of mercy, and the God of justice. When they had left these shores he would like them to remember the words of an old man when he asked them to live for the Cause as well as be prepared to die for it. He would ask them to be men of absolute honour, of tenderness, and men with sympathy for the weak, men who would show what truer liberty meant — the liberty of those who could control and quit themselves as men. He would also ask them to think, even if they did not say it aloud, that they were soldiers of God, and that He trusted and cared for them. If they went in this spirit all would be proud of them, and God would protect them in life and in death, and when they returned they would be justly proud of having stuck to the Cause and helped it to conquer (Applause, followed by cheers for the speaker.)

After the addresses the men were marched outside and were photographed by Mr Milne Allan. Then, headed by the 2nd (S.C.) Regimental Band under Conductor Schnack, the column moved off to the station. A large number of people lined the route and gave the men rousing cheers as they passed. At the crossing there were more people than there have been at the send-offs for some time, and in spite of a half-hour wait in the cold they gave the men a very cordial farewell, the train steaming out followed by the cheers of the crowd, and the answering shouts of the departing soldiers.

A large number of men joined the train at Temuka and Ashburton, and there were eleven men on the express when it arrived, they having come from Waimate.

The recruits were in charge of Captain Chapman and Sergeant Major Thatcher, who will accompany them to Trentham.

The following are the names of the 21 who joined the train at Temuka: - [sic] Aitken, J. P., Ablett, F. G., Allfrey, J. C., Armstrong, A. J., Aldridge, A. E., Billings, P., Bartrum, O. B., Bennewith, G. J., Bowering, C. A., Bonnington, R. C., Bennett, G. W., Boyd, P. H., Bowkett, J. C., Batchelor, J. M., Bate, L. F., Buchanan, F. W. Junr., Bell, G. E., Black L. S., Bell, G. A., Baker, L. J.

Crawford, W. J., Coulbeck, W., Crocome, A. J., Cormack, A. L., Childs, E.
 Carver, J. F. F., Clarke S., Collins, H., Cairns, W.
 Dawson, D., Dolan, W. P., Davison, K. R., Dallard E. E., Dunn, A., Dyson, C.
 F., Dunneen, G. H.
 Elliott, G. M., Elsom, W. J.
 Fifield, F., Forrest, R. H., Finch T. H., Fahey A. C., Freak, D. E.
 Gill, M. D., Graham, J., Griffiths, M. T. W., Gillespie, E. B.
 Harrison, T., Holmes, R., Hedges, W., Harris, J., Howard, J. L., Henderson, J.,
 Hawkins, R., Hyndman, W., Hill, J. G., Hoskin, C. L.
 Jack, H. F.
 Kirk, O. J., King, J., Kirby M., Knowles, G., Kennard, D. McN.
 Lyons, T. Junr., Laurenson T. P., Loach, T. V.
 Martin. F. D., Milne T., Moore, W. G., Muller, O. M.
 McKenzie, R., McBride, A., McDouough, M., McPhedran, W. N.,
 McLaughran, A. W., McKay. J., McKeever, W. B., McCallum, D. G.
 Neill, D. W. J., Nelson, R., Nolan, J. J., Nicholas, A. D., Needham, L.
 O'Sullivan, P.
 Pinkerton, R., Prendergast, E., Purdom F. H., Pearce, F. W., Powell, T. A.,
 Parsons, J. W. M.
 Rees, D. H., Rosengrave, J., Reith J. I., Rolls, G. W., Robinson, W.
 Soal, G. C, Shackleton, A. J., St John, P., Stewart, J. D, Sheehan, M. B., Stamp,
 T. R., Sercombe, F. W., Sellars, F. A., Scollard. G., Simpson A., Sutton, A. E.,
 Spring, F., Scott, J. E., Smyth, J.
 Tanner, W. J., Telford, J., Thew, C, T., Thomas, F.
 Watson, F. W. M., Wilson, M. J. Wade, R. N., Watson, J., Williams, M.,
 Wright, J. T.
 Young, J.

Temuka Leader. 29 May 1917 (Papers Past) [05/10/2021]

30th REINFORCEMENTS.

SEND-OFF FROM TEMUKA

The men from the Temuka and Geraldine districts going into camp to join the 30th Reinforcements were given one of the "send-offs" from Temuka, which have now become famous. At half-past 12 the men and their relatives and friends assembled in the Drill Hall, where they were entertained at luncheon by the lady members of the Patriotic Entertainment Committee. As usual the ladies had provided a splendid spread, and the day being cold made it all the more appreciated, particularly by those who had come from a distance. The ladies were most assiduous in attending to the wants of their guests, and the luncheon was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

After the luncheon a few addresses were made. Mr Gunnion, Chairman of the Temuka Patriotic Entertainment Committee, said he had received apologies from Mr C. J. Talbot, M.P., Dr Rugg (Chairman of the Red Cross Committee), and Captain Chapman, who had had to go to Timaru. He continued, that he had to extend Temuka's heartiest welcome to their Geraldine friends once more, and to their local friends who had accepted their invitation. He then called on all assembled, with the exception of those going into camp, to rise and sing "For they are jolly good fellows," and his request having been responded to right heartily he continued his remarks. The boys were "jolly good fellows," for they were leaving comfortable homes to go and live in the "trenches" in weather such as we had on Saturday and Sunday nights, and they were going to protect those left behind. They would take with them Temuka's best wishes. He then referred to the superb behaviour of the troops who went down with the Transylvania, as described in that day's cable news. Those who were going away were going away as men, and he asked them to be "men" all through their lives. They were going to face dangers, some might perhaps lose their lives, but as one of the boys had said here a few nights ago there was no more glorious death than to die fighting for the right. He assured the men that people were just as proud of them as of those who had gone before, and he trusted they would come back safely. He hoped that time would not be long, and when it came the men would get the welcome they deserved. (Applause.)

Dr. Paterson (Mayor of Geraldine) said when he came down he was reminded of the reception given to the Imperial troops in New Zealand twenty years ago. They were loyally entertained wherever they went, and at Dunedin one of them had remarked that Dunedin should have been called "Neverdoneeating." Something of this kind might be said of Temuka. On behalf of those who had come from Geraldine, he thanked the ladies who had provided them with such a splendid luncheon, and which had been highly appreciated. To the men who were going away, he said they had already no doubt heard many speeches and listened to much good advice, but, he wished them to understand that a gathering of this sort was intended to convey to them that wherever they may go they have an inner circle of friends who will follow them with their best wishes and prayers. About 15 men were going from Geraldine and with those from Temuka the draft would be well up to the average. Between the two towns they had a platoon of their own. They were all well set up young fellows, and when they had gone through the training in camp, they all knew that they would carry out the traditions of the men who had gone previously, and every one would do his bit, and do his utmost to bring this wretched war to a conclusion. The whole district greeted them with the utmost enthusiasm, but it was not a tithe of the enthusiasm with which they would be received when they came back. On behalf of the district he wished them "God speed," a good time as soldiers, and a safe return to their native land and their district; if it should be their luck to go to "Blighty" they would get a good time there. (Applause.)

Rev. J. C. Tockcr (Geraldine) after a few preliminary remarks said that these men were going forth to help to accomplish a high and religious task. Men never went forth with a higher purpose than were the men who were going to the war. It would be no light task, but a stern one. He rather thought that the men would see some serious fighting, and now that the war was being waged so bitterly, and that the efforts of the Empire and the Allies seem to be reaching a climax, it was a good reason why we should throw in the weight of all our resources. This was a time when we should do our utmost. He hoped that the men who were going away that day would remember that. It they go in the sense that they are going to a “crusade,” and that they are fighting for religion and honour, and all that was right and good, they would be able to do some good for their country. He wished them “God speed” and every success in their mission. (Applause.)

The Mayor (Mr Frew) said he thought there was a major and minor tone when he saw the goodly number of young men going forward to the front that day. They were going to fight in the cause of right and obedience to laws, and he highly commended them for their courage and the honourable step they had taken. They were going to fight in a righteous cause. He had been looking up what this little district had done, and had counted up the names of those who had gone to the front from it as they appeared in the local paper. He had found that 618 men had gone from Geraldine and Temuka to the front. (Hear, hear, and applause.) Temuka had sent 372 and Geraldine 216. He had used the word “sent”; that was wrong, the men had gone themselves. He pointed out that it was because of the breaking of treaties by Germany that Great Britain had had to buckle on the sword and go to war. The “minor” tone was that 63 out of those who had gone had lost their lives in a good cause, fighting for liberty and freedom — 35 from Temuka and 28 from Geraldine. In conclusion, he said it behoved soldiers to remember that they were really fighting for liberty and righteousness. (Applause.)

The Rev. C. Macdonald said they had all hoped that this summer would see, if not the end of the war, at least the beginning of the end, and that their boys would not have to endure another winter in the trenches, but now that Russia had jibbed on it that did not seem likely. Now that America had come in there was no doubt as to the end. Personally he never had had any doubt. America had to make an army the same as ourselves, and that took time. However, there was one thing that had to be done, and that was to pile on men and munitions. That would solve the whole problem. It was no use to read about famine and troubles in Germany and expect that to end the war. We had to beat Germany completely. He wanted to see them beaten on a fair field, and if they would come out and stand up to it they would be bowled over the “ninepins,” and we would soon see the end of the year. The men going that day were going to do their bit, and going to do it well. They were going as soldiers of the King, with splendid traditions staring them in the face, and he was sure they would all do their very best to help to put the finishing touch on the war. (Applause.)

This terminated the proceedings, and the men were lined up in the street, and, headed by the Temuka Brass Band under Conductor Jackson, a procession was formed, and marched to the station. There a large crowd had assembled, and further speeches were made by the Mayor, Mr Gunnion, and Major Kennedy. Mr Torepe's Maori singing company sang several farewell songs and the Band played a number of appropriate airs. The men were cheered again and again, and as the train left the station the soldiers on board were cheered, and they warmly responded.

The South Canterbury draft were under the command of Captain Chapman.

The following are the names of the men forming the draft: -

D. A. Nicholas.
P. O'Sullivan.
F. W. Pearce.
J. Roseingrave.
J. F. Wright.
C. Knowles.
F. E. Sercombe.
P. Billings.
W. T. Belcher.
L. F. Bate.
F. W. Buchanan.
J. F. F. Carver.
W. J. Elsom.
F. Fifield.
T. Harrison.
J. R. Lyon.
T. V. Loach.
W. N. McPhedran.
J. McKay.