

FIGHTING THE SENUSSI.

A 6TH ROYAL SCOT'S THRILLING EXPERIENCES.

Writing to his brother in Waimate, under date 30th April, 1916, Private Lothian, B. Company, 6th Royal Scots, Composite Infantry Brigade, Western Frontier Force, Egypt, describes the part his battalion took in the two fights against the rebel Senussi. He says: —

The campaign commenced on Saturday, 11th December, when a small reconnoitring party were attacked by some Senussi, and badly cut up. Being cut off from the base, the unfortunate men required food, so, as a first-class fighting battalion, it became the duty of the 6th Royal Scots to make an attempt to reach the little party. On Sunday, 12th, at 12.30 p.m. we started off, and after one of the roughest journeys of our lives (every man carried 220 rounds of ammunition, his greatcoat, and rations) during which with rifles loaded, we constantly expected attack, our lads arrived at our destination about 9.30 p.m., amid cheers from the men of the little camp. I obtained a very little amount of rest that night, being detailed sentry-over-arms, while the remainder slept, with only a greatcoat to cover them, which against the terrific cold of a winter night in Egypt affords very little protection. Up at 5.30 the following morning, the battalion was on the move by 8 p.m., on a reconnoitring expedition. Before we had covered two miles, however the Scots played into the enemy, and then the excitement began, I was on rearguard action, and was attached to the extreme left flank. Being in a rather advanced position at the time, I soon discovered to my dismay I had, with two others, been cut off from the remainder of my platoon. To the left, behind a sheltering hill, lay the body to which I was attached. On the right, also behind a rise, I lay with my two comrades. Between lay a huge gully, with a clear space of 100 yards in full view of the enemy, who manned the heights at the head of the gully. Undecided as to the course to adopt, our minds were soon made up on receiving a signal from the colonel to run for it. And we did. With the preparative “ready-up” to the other two lads I sprang to my feet and raced down the steep slope of the gully, the others hard at my heels. Crack, crack! —whiz, whiz! The bullets flew all around, raising little clouds of dust, where they billeted themselves in the ground, often within an ace of our feet. A machine gun blended viciously with the ever increasing hail of lead, and one lad gave a gasp as a bullet passed through his hand. Then with bullets whizzing within an inch of our ears, we sank exhausted into the welcome shelter of some boulders, to regain breath, before starting the ascent on the other side of the gully. Composure regained, we raced up the steep side, and attached ourselves to the main party, without further mishap. All day long the crack of rifles and machine guns, blended with the roar of artillery (two guns had been sent at full speed from the base to aid us), and by dusk the Senussi had been driven off, with considerable loss. It was during that fight we got a gleaning of the manner of humanity with which we had to deal, by the terrible treatment meted out to one of our wounded who having been rendered unconscious by a bullet, had been pulled into the enemy lines, while yet dazed. I have no wish to say too much on the matter, but, owing to the maltreating the poor fellow had been subjected to, his body, when discovered, was wholly unrecognisable, and it was only through his disc being left that his identity was ascertained. That night I was on outpost duty, and again secured little or no sleep, and at 4.30 p.m. the following day all were preparing for the return to the base. On the move by 6 a.m., our battalion escorting the artillery, etc., reached the base by 2.35 p.m., and that night raging lions would not have disturbed our sleep.

Waimate Daily Advertiser. 20 February 1917 (Papers Past) [17/09/2024]

FAREWELL TO REINFORCEMENTS.
A DOZEN MEN FROM WAIMATE TO-DAY.

A large crowd gathered at the Railway Station at noon to-day to farewell the Waimate men who are going to the front. The Brass Band and some members of the Highland Pipe Band played the soldiers to the station.

The men were as follow: -

J. Atwill
Wm. Black
B. A. Buckley
P. H. Cochrane
K. Finlayson
B. J. Horgan
Wm. F. Hutt
E. Lothian
F. B. Moore
R. Moore
L. Mann
G. McKee

Cr. Dash addressed them. He said: "Gentlemen of the reinforcements, to me has fallen the honour of saying good-bye and thank you; and thank you is no light word. We have a very great respect for the reinforcements — men who make not only the sacrifice of a well-paid billet somewhere, but also the sacrifice of their lives. We particularly respect this reinforcement. A man is perfectly justified in going as far as the Appeal Court and asking, 'which is the best way I can serve my country?' I have no fear as to how you will act when you get into the firing line. The men who responded to the call of the fiery cross in Scotland fought none the less valiantly because they were pledged to it. During this war 15 million has been spent for war purposes, but 10 million has been spent on liquor. Ladies and gentlemen — you who remain behind — it is up to you to watch things while the boys are fighting. Men of the reinforcements — God bless you."

Rev. Mr. Stockwell then spoke. "It falls to my lot to bid you farewell and God-speed. You are going to a more hopeful battle; the news we have had lately has been more cheering. I know that you will do your duty bravely, but your future may be decided within a few hours of entering camp — never take your uniform where it would dishonour it to be found. If you want to be a true defender of your country, you must withstand temptations. As to the discipline of camp life — you will find out what it means when you get there; but, remember, the men who left Waimate earlier, and who fought and died so bravely, had to learn discipline. God is on our side, and you have a country worth fighting for. 'Who dies if Britain lives? Who lives if Britain dies?' How can men die better than for the ashes of their fathers, and the temples of their Gods? God bless you and speed your safe return."

Timaru Herald. 16 November 1927 (Papers Past) [13/11/2022]

WAIMATE HIGHLAND PIPE BAND.

The Highland Pipe Band came into being on 5th March, 1903. On that date a meeting was held in the Royal Hotel, when the following were present: — Mr Newbury, chairman; and Messrs Donald, J. McDonald, N. McDonald, J. Cooper, A. R. Cooper, F. Cameron, T. Sinclair, Hogan,

White. Lundon, J. Mines, T. Gardyne. Messrs A. R. Cooper and J. Symon were appointed secretary and treasurer pro. tem.

The band started with twelve members, but four had left within the first month of chanter practice, so that it was not until 4th July, 1903, that the band gave its first public performance. Shortly afterwards the following officers were elected: — J. Symon, Chief; J. Mines, Drill Instructor; B. Presland, Drum Major; A. R. Cooper, Pipe Major; J. Smith, Corporal; T. Gardyne, Drum Sergeant; A. R. Cooper, secretary; J. Symon, treasurer; and Pipers, Messrs S. Smith, T. L. Smith, F. Cameron, J. McDonald and N. McDonald.

In order to raise funds to purchase uniforms for band members, the lady supporters of the band organised and successfully conducted a bazaar, which was held in May, 1905. Fifteen uniforms of the McGregor tartan type were later secured for the sum of £220. The cloth was made by the Kaiapoi Woollen Mills, and the uniforms, which are still in use, were made by Wm. Waddell, Oamaru.

In 1906 the band journeyed to Dunedin to perform at the Caledonian Sports and subsequently played in association with the Dunedin Pipe Band at the Oamaru New Year gathering.

Being no longer able to devote adequate time to the band, Drum-Major Presland resigned in November, 1906, and was seconded by J. Torrance, who remained with the band until June, 1908. It was during his term as Drum-Major that the band took part in the 1907 Christchurch Exhibition Pipe Band Contest, held under the auspices of the Scottish Society. There the band tied with Ashburton Pipe Band for first place, winning the sum of £40.

On Drum-Major Torrance's relinquishing his position, he was succeeded by Mr E. Clelland, who remained with the band for several years, before Mr A. Segar assumed the position which he still holds.

The band had many practice rooms during the first eight years of its existence, during which they "rang the changes" on St. Augustine's School Room, Oddfellow's' Hall, Fire Brigade Station, Murdoch's Building, Arcade, Twomey's shed, and a shed at the County Council yard. Becoming tired of gipsying about, the members decided to have a room of their own, and, as they readily secured the assistance of the ladies, who dearly love a kiltie, another bazaar loomed quickly on the horizon, so that, in a short time, the band had a room of their own. Thanks to the efforts of the Pipe-Major, a piano was purchased from the Bristol Piano Coy. This instrument has been a great asset during the various functions held at the hall. In 1925, the hall was enlarged at a cost of £100, so that the band now possesses everything it could wish for.

Owing to Mr A. R. Cooper, the Waimate people have had the pleasure of hearing that fine Scottish soprano, Jessie McLachlan, who was ably assisted by Messrs McLinden, Young and Buchanan. On the first occasion the heavy vain prevailing did not prevent the filling of the hall to the doors. The rain came in torrents during the performance, and, owing to the number of perforations in the roof of the old building, many people in the audience put up their umbrellas. The Pipe-Major later secured the services of the Canadian Kiltie Band, which played on the racecourse during the progress of the Studholme Mounted Rifles annual sports, and in the evening of the same day at the Oddfellows' Hall.

With the exception of an interregnum of twelve months, Pipe-Major A. R. Cooper has been actively associated with the hand for twenty-four years, and for varying periods has held the positions of Pipe-Major, secretary and treasurer.

In 1919, J. Borthwick was elected Pipe-Major, but shortly afterwards relinquished the position owing to his transfer to another location.

The band now have in contemplation the renewal of their uniforms, which have done duty for over twenty years. The members of the band who served in the Great War are J. Sutherland, H. B. Sullivan, W. White. J. Borthwick. A. Fyall, **E. Lothian**, E. H. Jamieson, F. Martin, J. Duncan; and W. White paid the Supreme Sacrifice.

The band now consists of the following members: President, —Mr F. Pollock; vice-presidents, Messrs P. Hunter, J. H. Mitchell and T. Twomey; Drum-Major, A. Segar; Pipe-Major, A. C. Cooper; Sergeant, J. Borthwick; secretary and treasurer, A. Dobbs; and Pipers J. Bain. R. Smilie T. Ramsay, R. Wilson, R. H. White, H. B. Sullivan; and Drummers A. Fyall, G. Campbell and R. Baxter.

Evening Star. 26 June 1937 (Papers Past) [18/09/2024]

4ZR CLOSES DOWN.

Last night, South Otago's broadcasting station closed down after being some six years in operation, the station having been purchased by the Government. Mr B. R. Renton originated and constructed the station, which secured a license to broadcast in 1931, and with the assistance of Mr M. Morrison and Mr **E. B. Lothian** as announcer, successfully carried on for 18 months. Mr Morrison's interests were then taken over by Mr C. G. Clark, and the station was remodelled, and broadcasting took place from Grant and Clark's shop, Balclutha. Some 18 months ago a South Otago Broadcasting Association was formed, with Mr G. M'Bride as president, and a new and more up-to-date plant was installed in Sinclair's Buildings, Clyde street. During its existence, "The Melodious Voice of South Otago" has been heard on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, and on two occasions on Sundays, and listeners-in have greatly enjoyed the programmes presented. Announcers who have been associated with the station have been Miss E. Downes ("Aunt Edith," who conducted a children's session), Messrs **E. B. Lothian**, A. Hayward, C. G. Clark, and G. Ridgwell, and their services have been much appreciated. Last night as a finale an extended programme was "put over the air," announcers and operators being in attendance. They each conducted a short session, and signed off after a few appropriate words of farewell, the session closing down at midnight.

Wanganui Chronicle. 25 August 1947 (Papers Past) [18/09/2024]

OHAKUNE TOWN CLERK ACCEPTS NEW POST

Mr. E. B. Lothian, town clerk of Ohakune and secretary of the Ohakune Fire Board, has been appointed town clerk of Morrinsville.

Mr. Lothian, who is a member of the New Zealand Institute of Accountants, has been town clerk at Ohakune since February, 1943. Previous to that he had been town clerk at Balclutha for many years and, for a short time, town clerk at Stratford.

Mr. Lothian served his cadetship in the office of the Waimate County Council. Since coming to Ohakune he has interested himself in educational matters. He is an ex-chairman of the Ohakune District High School committee and is at present a member of the Wanganui Education Board, representing the north ward. He is an ex-chairman of the board of governors of the South Otago High School. An elder of the Presbyterian Church, Mr. Lothian, has frequently taken the services at Ohakune and Raetihi. Mr. Lothian is officer in charge of the Ohakune-Raetihi A.T.C. He was instrumental in reforming the Ohakune Library and its incorporation in the country library service.

Mr. Lothian expects to take up his new position in about a month's time.

Wanganui Chronicle. 29 August 1947 (Papers Past) [18/09/2024]

OHAKUNE NOTES

TOWN CLERK'S RESIGNATION

(O.C.)

Ohakune, Aug. 28.

Tendering his resignation at a special meeting of the Ohakune Borough Council held on Monday evening, the town clerk (Mr. E. B. Lothian) said that he would like to express his hearty appreciation of the attitude of the councillors towards him, personally, as well as in an official sense, throughout the past four-and-a-half years.

He said he had endeavoured to effectively discharge his duties along the lines of the council's policy, and was happy to feel that, although claiming no credit, he was leaving the town a better town, municipally, than he had found it. He believed that with wise and prudent municipal guidance Ohakune would have a bright future. He assured the council that he would watch the progress of the town with interest and always feel proud that he had played a small part in its civic development.

His Worship the Mayor (Mr. H. Delamar) said they were sorry to lose Mr. Lothian, especially at the present time, but was sure they all wished him success in his new position. He hoped to be able to say more later. All councillors spoke in eulogistic terms of Mr. Lothian's services to the borough in various fields of activity and regretted his departure.

Mr. Gould referred to the valuable and untiring work done by Mr. and Mrs. Lothian in connection with the local patriotic work during the war years.

Mr. Pearce said that as chairman of the finance committee he had always received invaluable help and advice on financial matters.

Cr. Rush said he had received much assistance from Mr. Lothian as a new councillor, nothing was a trouble to him.

It was resolved that the resignation be received with much regret, and that the council place on record its appreciation of Mr Lothian's services to the borough. It was decided that applications for the position be invited forthwith, closing in a fortnight.

Wanganui Chronicle. 17 September 1947 (Papers Past) [18/09/2024]

OHAKUNE NEWS

At the conclusion of the service at the Ohakune Presbyterian Church on Sunday, Mr. C. Hay presented Mr. and Mrs E. B. Lothian with a tea set on the eve of their departure for Morrinsville. Mr. Hay referred to Mr. Lothian's active services during the past 4½ years as church manager and senior elder. He said that when the church fell on evil times it was due to Mr. Lothian's determination and work that the church had been able to carry on. The position was now quite sound, and this was in no small measure due to Mr. Lothian's activity. The church would miss Mr. and Mrs Lothian and family, and also the hospitality of their home which was always available when required.

In acknowledging the gift and good wishes expressed Mr. Lothian said he had had his reward in other ways for the services which he had been privileged to give to the Ohakune Church. He was convinced that the Church, under the spiritual leadership of a suitably qualified minister, who was soon to be appointed, would have a bright and fruitful future. The service was taken by Mr. Lothian who preached a "Battle of Britain" service dealing with world peace and its relation to the individual. An anthem "Be Thou our light" was sung by a quartette comprising Mrs. Mackintosh. Miss Mayer and Messrs. C. Hay and E. B. Lothian.

Ohakune Farewells Town Clerk

(O.C.)

Ohakune, Sept. 25.

On Monday evening the Ohakune Borough Council, staff representatives of outside local interests and friends, gathered in the Municipal Chambers to farewell Mr. Lothian, town clerk, and Mrs Lothian. The evening took the form of a *conversazione* and social, with Mr. Holman and Mrs. Kirkby leading the singing. The toast of the guests and other toasts were heartily honoured. Good entertainment was provided by reminiscences of past council meetings provided by members present.

Before presenting Mr. and Mrs. Lothian with a water-colour painting of Mt. Ruapehu, the Mayor (Mr. Delamar) introduced the speakers, who all congratulated Mr. Lothian on his advancement. Mr. Delamar referred to Mr. Lothian's public-spirited work in the community in church work, patriotic work, as member of the Wanganui Education Board and the local school committee, as member and secretary of the Lakes Scenic Board, as secretary of the Ohakune Fire Board, officer commanding the A.T.C., etc. Mrs Lothian had done valuable service on the local dental committee and in the Plunket Society and, during the war, on the Patriotic Committee. He regretted losing the services and sound advice of Mr. Lothian, whose efficient management and wise guidance had been largely responsible for the present satisfactory position of the borough finances. He hoped the token of their appreciation and esteem would always find an honoured place in his home, and serve to remind him of his sojourn in Ohakune. Mr. W. Mahony, deputy Mayor, said Mr. Lothian's work had always been sound, and he had been of great assistance in advising councillors on matters under deliberation. Mr. Lothian's balance-sheets had always been free from audit tags. He wished Mr. and Mrs. Lothian all the best for the future.

Mr. Pearce (chairman of the Finance Committee of the Ohakune Fire Board) conveyed the good wishes of the board members, and expressed his thanks for the ready assistance which Mr. Lothian had always been so willing to give.

Cr. Rush said that as the youngest member, he had received much help and advice from Mr Lothian, who was an authority on local body affairs.

Mr. L. Fieldes, postmaster, spoke for outside interests, and enumerated the many activities which had engaged the willing services of Mr. and Mrs Lothian for the welfare of the town. He extended best wishes for the future.

Other speakers were Crs. Gould, Thomas, Miss J. Delamar, head assistant, Mr. Woodward, electrical engineer, Mr. T. Edwards, foreman, Mr. T. Kirkby, Public Works Department, Mr. S. Townson, Fire Brigade.

Musical honours were accorded the guests prior to Mr. Lothian's reply. He said the picture presented would always have an honoured place in his home and also in his heart. It would serve to remind him of the happy hours spent on the mountain's rugged slopes. No gift could have been more acceptable. Saying good-bye to friends was one of the most poignant of human experiences, and he was leaving behind many friends he would miss. He would always be proud that he had taken some part in the development of the town which, he felt, had a bright future in store. He said that relations between himself and councillors had always been most cordial, and he was happy if he had been able to assist them to a better understanding of council work. He thought the remarks made during the evening very kind, and trusted he was deserving of them. The wishes expressed were most gratifying to Mrs. Lothian and himself. He thanked the staff for their loyalty and co-operation. Mr. Lothian concluded by thanking all present for their gift and expression of good wishes, and expressed the conviction that he would be visiting Ohakune again in future years, when he and Mrs. Lothian hoped to renew old friendships.

Refreshments and supper were served, and the happy function later concluded with the singing of Auld Lang Syne.

Mr. and Mrs. Lothian left for their new home on Tuesday evening. At the residence of Mrs. J. J. Macdonald last Friday afternoon, a number of lady friends met to do honour to Mrs. E B. Lothian prior to her departure for Morrinsville. A pleasant social afternoon was spent, and a most dainty afternoon tea was served. On behalf of the ladies present, Mrs. A. Collin presented Mrs. Lothian with a tasteful sweets dish and expressed the sincere hope that she would be happy in her future home and that she might later return to visit her many Ohakune friends. Mesdames Macdonald and Collin were joint hostesses.