

SEND-OFF AT TEMUKA.

31st REINFORCEMENTS.

Last evening the men leaving Temuka and district for camp on Monday next were entertained in the Drill Hall. Prior to the commencement of the proceedings the Temuka Brass Band and Pipe Band played selections outside the hall. The attendance was large, and the audience enthusiastic. The whole of the programme was in the hands of Geraldine friends, and was one of the best tendered at functions of the kind. Major Kennedy presided.

Mr C. Talbot, M.P., sent an apology as he was unable to be present.

In opening the proceedings Mr Gunnion said to-night they had one of the best companies in the South Island with them, under Major Kennedy. He hoped they would receive the welcome that they deserved. He then handed the conduct of the gathering into the hands of Major Kennedy.

Major Kennedy, in taking charge of the meeting, said at Geraldine they had had the pleasure of receiving a visit from a number of Temuka representatives on Thursday evening, and Mr Gunnion had presided over the proceedings in his usual capable manner, and they had had a most enjoyable time. He hoped all present would thoroughly enjoy themselves.

The National Anthem having been sung, the Geraldine Orchestra, consisting of ten performers, under the conductorship of Mr J. P. Cliff, rendered a selection, entitled "The Hammer," in splendid style, giving an excellent foretaste of the good things to come. Loud applause followed. Mr George Knibb who was in fine voice, sang "New Zealand will be there," receiving an imperative encore. In response he sang a humorous song, "The Department Store." The Misses Beattie and Campbell sang a pretty duet. "Sympathy," and were encored, and in response repeated the last verse. Mr E. White (with clarionet obligato, by Mrs Crowe), sang "The Golden Bar," and was loudly applauded. Miss E. Chapman (a little girl of thirteen years) recited "A Schoolgirl's Rambling," displaying much ability. She quickly established herself as a favourite, and was loudly encored, responding with a little piece, entitled "Willie." Mr J. P. Cliff next treated the audience to a violin solo, entitled "The Dance of the Dragon," one of the best musical items of the evening, receiving liberal applause. Mrs Nicholas followed with "Laddie in Khaki," one of the best rendered items of the evening. An imperative encore followed, to which she responded with "The Trail that Leads to Home." A pianoforte duet by the Misses Sherratt, "Irish Diamonds," was splendidly played, the performers being heartily applauded. The Misses Gimson (2), McGregor, and Beattie, dressed in pretty costumes, brought the first part of the programme to a close with a tuneful negro song, "Mississippi." They received a warm encore, and in response repeated the item. This piece was one of the most popular on the programme.

Major Kennedy, on behalf of the Temuka Patriotic Entertainment Committee, then called on Mrs E. T. Chapman to present the departing soldiers with the "holdalls." The men who are leaving are —

Garrett Allan, Rangitira Valley.

J. L. Bari, Temuka.

C. E. Biddford.

C. R. Booth, Clandeboye.

J. Burke, Milford.

M. Burke, Milford.

J. Brennan, Rangitata Island.

J. D. Hamilton, Temuka.

R. Pearse, Winchester.

T. D. Smith, Rangitata.

Walter Whitehead, Temuka.

In the second part the Orchestra opened with a very popular selection and were freely applauded. Mr G. Knibb scored another success with "Heroes and Gentlemen," in response to an encore giving "The Floral Dance." Miss Campbell then sang "The Faery Pipers," a beautiful song, and was encored, in response, repeating the last verse. Mr B. R. Macdonald, who always gets a warm welcome at Temuka, recited "My Boys," in fine style, being loudly encored, responding with another popular piece. Miss E. Chapman, who had recited in the first part, next came out in the role of a singer, and was again most successful, her choice being "It's Pleasant to be Kind," and she secured another encore. Mrs Nicholas sang "Rose of My Heart," a very pretty song, and in response to an encore, "There's a ship that's Bound for Blighty," the audience joining in the chorus of the last verse. Mr McGregor, accompanying himself on the piano and supported by Mr Gunnion, sang "A Maori Football Song," creating quite a furore. The Maoris assisted in the chorus. Mr McGregor received a double encore, and the applause was loud and prolonged.

This completed the programme, and Mr Gunnion rose and proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the performers, who had come all the way from Geraldine, not only to entertain the audience, but principally to do honour to the men who are doing their duty for us. He reminded them of the send-off to the men on Monday, and asked all to make it their duty to accompany the men to the train to bid them farewell. The public are asked to assemble at the Drill Hall at one o'clock. He also announced that he had received word that Private Herbert Williams was returning to Temuka by the 3.15 p.m. train on Tuesday, and asked the people to assemble in force to give him the hearty welcome that was his due.

The vote was carried by acclamation, and acknowledged by Major Kennedy, who said it was a pleasure to come to Temuka, and his party had been delighted to do so.

The National Anthem was then sung to the accompaniment of the orchestra, after which cheers were given for the boys at the front, and for the boys who were going away, and others for Major Kennedy, and Mr Gunnion.

The accompaniments were tastefully played by Mrs Crowe, Misses Sherratt and Gimson, and Mr White.

Temuka Leader. 26 June 1917 [31/12/2024]

31st REINFORCEMENTS.

FAREWELLED AT TEMUKA.

Yesterday the men from the Geraldine and Temuka districts, who are going into camp to join the 31st Reinforcements, were entertained at luncheon by the ladies of the Temuka Patriotic Entertainment Committee. There was a large and representative gathering, and everything passed off very pleasantly. The ladies provided a splendid luncheon, which was much enjoyed by the soldiers, their relatives, and friends, grace being said by the Rev. J. W. Griffin.

After full justice had been done to the repast, Mr Gunnion (chairman of the Temuka Patriotic Entertainment Committee) said he had much pleasure in again extending a hearty welcome to the Geraldine boys and the Temuka boys for turning up so well. Some unfortunately had not been able to be present. This was their first good-bye; the final would come later on when they returned from camp. Temuka was fortunate in having a railway station at their doors where they could see their boys start on their journey. Many places were not so fortunate. If it were not for the continued sending forward of reinforcements, from all over the Empire the Kaiser would get his way. He felt glad that prospects of success were bright, and if the Russians start again it must relieve the pressure on our men. Since our last send-off they had read of what the New Zealand boys had done at Messines. It must have made everyone's heart throb with pride.

The Patriotic Entertainment Committee sent a cable congratulating the New Zealanders upon their victory; unfortunately, many New Zealanders would not receive it, as they had made the supreme sacrifice in helping to achieve the victory. But they could not have died in a nobler or more righteous cause, and our sympathy was extended to the parents and relatives of these brave men. Those who came back will get a hearty welcome. Addressing the men who were leaving Mr Gunnion said we hoped they would have a safe journey, do their duty as Britishers and come back to us as sound and well as they are now.

At the call of Mr Gunnion, all joined in singing "For they are jolly good fellows."

The Rev. Canon Hamilton (Geraldine) said this was the first time he had been able to be present at a send-off to the men at Temuka, and he was very pleased to be able to attend, Temuka people were always well to the fore when anything was to be done. As to making a speech, it was quite evident, considering that these functions had been going on for so many months, that he could not say anything fresh. However, there was no need for him to say much, for this was the day for deeds, not words. If talking would knock out the Kaiser it would soon be done. But it was not so, and the only thing for us to do was, as Mr Gunnion had said, to go on sending Reinforcements month after month. When looked at in this light the continuous sending of Reinforcements must make an impression, for they had been sending men away for many months, and were still sending them. It was taking a lot to bring the Kaiser to his senses, but it had to be done, and a little country like New Zealand sending forward its men month after month must make an impression, even upon the Kaiser, and help to convince him that the Empire is going to finish the job. Those going to-day have great traditions to uphold. From the time of Anzac our men, though small in numbers, have shown that they are no "contemptible army," and the Kaiser is beginning to realise this. The men who are going to-day are going to walk in the footsteps of heroes. Those who had recently been fighting in France had shown that they were just the same men who fought at Gallipoli. Those who are going to-day will do the same. Every man who had gone had proved himself worthy of being called a New Zealander, and those going now would do the same. He would like to give them a word of farewell, and wish them God speed. He hoped they would be in at the end, and assist in giving the Germans the knock-out blow. He hoped they would bring back with them "peace with honour," and they could be sure of getting as hearty a welcome as they were now getting a hearty send-off. This was not a time to talk much. Some of them had sent and some of them had lost boys, but although they could not talk and sing much they felt very much for the men who were going to fight for them, and would give them a very hearty reception, when, under the providence of God, they returned.

Mr C. J. Talbot, member for the district, first congratulated the committee upon having such a fine gathering, and on the hearty way in which they were sending the men away month after month. One of the pleasantest episodes of their gatherings was that Geraldine and Temuka were "married" now indissolubly with regard to them. He was only sorry that Fairlie was so far away that they could not join them. He was proud that it was Fairlie that has inaugurated these "send-offs." Temuka and Geraldine followed, and now Timaru and Waimate were following suit. It was essential to send the men away with smiling faces, and it was quite right and proper that we should have send-offs to send them away with as good cheer as possible. To his mind those going away should be the ones to give advice, and we should be the listeners. Sometimes he wondered whether we could look in the faces of those who were going away, and say we are doing our best for them. It was impossible for us to share equality of sacrifice with them. They could depend upon it, however, that politicians would do their best to improve matters for them, and see that the Government did so too. When these men come back we will have to face a big responsibility, and he hoped it would not be very long before they came back. The fact that men have been going away for so long, and are still going away, makes us heavy in heart, but at the same time proud. There was one thing about the recent casualty lists. They were not

going on for a very long time, as they did at the Somme push. Those going forward now had high traditions to live up to, the traditions of Gallipoli, the Somme, and now Messines, but he knew that they would do their duty as the others had done, and when they come back they could be sure that they will be held in the highest esteem by those they are leaving here, and get a hearty welcome.

His Worship the Mayor said the war had been going on for close on three years. It had been pointed out that the unity of the county was going to be a great power in the winning of the war, and the lack of unity would be a very great weakness. As far as New Zealand was concerned it, had done wonders, sending about 60,000 men, out of a population of a million. He questioned whether the Home Country had sent the same percentage. The British Empire expects every man to do his duty in this war. We admire the men who are leaving to-day to train themselves as soldiers, and at the same time they leave behind many ready to back up any legislation that will tend to make equal the burden that is coming upon us. As their member had said, Legislators cannot grasp at once all that is needed in time of war. New Zealand had had very little experience in war yet, but this is going to be a great lesson, and New Zealand must get into better form to meet such emergencies as war. He trusted it was soon going to end, and it can only end in one way to be satisfactory, and that could only be attained by men fighting on till a lasting peace is won. He questioned whether any Britisher regretted that Britain had declared war. He did not think anyone would. Britain saw where her duty lay, and Lord Grey had seen it when war was declared. He hoped the men would have a successful career, and if they had to go to the war they would return safe and sound, when he could assure them they would get a warm welcome.

The roll was then called by Sergt. Major Lorrimer, after which a procession was formed, and, headed by the Brass Band, under Conductor Jackson, the men were marched to the railway station. Here more addresses were made by Mr Gunnion, Mr Talbot, and Major Kennedy, and Mr Torepe's Singing Company sang several songs, concluding with "God be with you till we meet again." The Band played selections, and as the train steamed in cheers were given for the boys who were going away and for those at the front. There was a large number of soldiers on board, returning to camp after leave, and as the train left the men were cheered again and again. The South Canterbury draft was in charge of Captain Chapman. The following are the names of those from the Geraldine and Temuka districts:

W. R. Addis.

G. Allan.

M. Burke.

J. Burke.

J. Brennan.

J. L. Beri.

C. E. Bradford.

C. R. Booth.

A. L. Deverill.

W. Earl.

J. D. Hamilton.

F. C. Hopping.

J. Pearse (Waitohi).

T. D. Smith.

F. D. Clarke.

M. Hall.

W. J. Whitehead.

S. S. Cargo.

Timaru Herald. 26 June 1917 [31/12/2024]

31ST REINFORCEMENT

YESTERDAY'S SEND-OFF.

TEMUKA'S FAREWELL.

Yesterday afternoon the Temuka and Geraldine men of the 31st Reinforcements were given a warm send-off to camp at Trentham. As usual luncheon was provided by the ladies of the Entertainment Committee for the soldiers and their relatives. Mr T. Gunnion (chairman of the Temuka Patriotic Committee), wished the men going away good luck, and said Temuka would give them a right royal welcome on their return.

Rev. Canon Hamilton, of Geraldine, who was the next speaker, said this was the time for deeds not words, if they would bring the war to a successful end. The men who were now going had great traditions to uphold as New Zealanders. He wished them God-speed, and that they would be in at the finish, help to give Germany the knock-out blow, and return safely with a "victory with honour." Mr C. J. Talbot, M.P., congratulated Temuka on again sending her share of men away. He would ask them to live up to the traditions of Gallipoli, the Somme and Messines, and he was sure they would do so.

His Worship the Mayor (Mr A. Frew) also spoke.

Headed by the Temuka Brass Band the men marched to the station, where a large crowd had congregated to wish the recruits farewell. Short patriotic speeches were delivered by Mr T. Gunnion, and Major Kennedy (Geraldine) and a troupe of Maoris under Mr Torepe sang their farewell song. On the call of Mr Gunnion three hearty cheers were given for the men as the train steamed out.

Temuka Leader. 7 August 1917 [02/01/2025]

There was a large number of people at the Temuka railway station at 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon to bid farewell to a number of soldiers who had been spending their final leave with their relatives and friends or were returning to their duties in camp. Those leaving were Privates Pearse, Hamilton, Cargo, King, **Allen**, Bradford, and Sergt. Davey. The Mayor (Mr A. Frew), in a short speech, tendering to them the town and district's best wishes, and hopes for their safe return, said the presence of so many men in khaki on the platform showed that the war was not yet over, but it also showed that courage to carry it on

was not waning. On Saturday night they had passed a resolution affirming that the war was to be carried on until the attainment of victory by Britain and her Allies, and the resolution would be carried out. — (Applause.) The Mayor also said Mr W. Jackson (conductor of the Temuka Brass Band) was leaving by the same train. He had often "tooted his trumpet" in honour of other people, but he had never heard him toot it for himself. He had been an esteemed resident of Temuka for many years, had been most unassuming in his ways, but always ready to help any good cause. However, he was leaving Temuka to take up a good position, and so they had to put up with his loss and wish him success in his new sphere. - (Applause.) Cheers were then given for the departing men, and as the train steamed away, at the call of Mr Gunnion, the men were cheered again and again, the men heartily responding.

Timaru Herald. 31 January 1919

BACK FROM THE FRONT

TIMARU MEN.

AN ENTHUSIASTIC RECEPTION.

By a special troop train yesterday between twenty and thirty soldiers returned from the war, and by the ordinary express about fifteen more arrived. The troop train reached here shortly before noon. Heavy rain was falling at the time, but notwithstanding this there was a very large crowd of people at the station to welcome the valiant defenders of the country, the railway station and its precincts being crowded by an eager, enthusiastic throng. The train drew into the platform to the accompaniment of ringing cheers, the waving of hats, and shouts of welcome. The Battalion Band under Conductor Schnack were in attendance and by their lively music imparted a martial air to the proceedings. In their excited eagerness to welcome the men in khaki, civilians crowded the station, and for some little time there was such a dense mass of humanity there that to move about was impossible. Some people found the crush inconvenient, but one of the returned men was heard to remark that it was the best welcome they could possibly be given, and in this light most people viewed it. Many more men than arrived were expected, some having missed the train. This accounts for the fact that more cars were in waiting than were actually required. It is impossible, however, ever to know exactly how many men will arrive. From the steps of the railway station the Mayor and Mr Craigie briefly addressed the returned men, extending to them a most hearty welcome and assuring them that the hearts of the people were full of gratitude for all that the soldiers had gone through on their behalf. Cheers followed the speeches, after which the cars took the men to their respective homes.

Those who returned yesterday were: Captain-Bristol, M.C., Captain Mathias, Sergeants Morton, Wilson, Watkins, and Wright, Corporals Bradley, McTague and Gillingham, Privates Erickson, Walker, Perkins, Ramsay, Beck, Kidd (2), Luke, Dalwin, Woods, Chandler, Francis, Fraser, **McTague**, Struthers, **O'Rourke**, Forrest, Slow, Macdonald, McKenzie, Burns, Seyb (2), Feilding, Caldwell, **Parr**, Robertson, and Cairncross. There was also a cot case, **J. Chapman** (Geraldine).

Those who lent cars were: - Mrs Adams, Miss McKenzie, Miss Howell, Miss Moore, Messrs Shirtcliffe, Taylor, Dick, O'Connor, Cameron, Rollinson, R. J. McKeown, Guinness, J. Craigie, MP., Robinson, Hope, A. C. Williams, Buxton, D. C. Turnbull, J. Turnbull, Baxter, Dawson, J. T. Lamb, A. L. Lamb, Storrier, C.F.C.A. (2), Stonyer, E. A. LeCren, W. K. Macdonald, Mangos, Yarr, S. Chapman, Begg and Co., Titheridge, C. H. Williams, F. Stowell, T. Scott, J. P. Murphy, Rickman, Pigott, J. Anstey, M.P., S. Mackenzie (2), Copland, Ott, and G. P. Wood.

Mr D. A. Morgan, hon. secretary to the Reception Committee, wishes to convey the best thanks of the committee to all who lent cars, whether they were used or not, and explain that though only half the number of men who were expected actually arrived, the committee could not know that this would be so, and provision had to be made for the full number expected.

Members of the Reception Committee — the Mayor (Mr Maling), the Deputy-Mayor (Mr W. Raymond), Messrs W. R. Pearson, H. Innes-Jones, W. Harper, W. H. Foden, P. E. Thoreau, W. Priest, W. D. Revell, and D. A. Morgan — had a strenuous time with the station arrangements, but everything was carried out in the happiest way.

“TEMUKA'S GREATEST DAY.”

Deputy-Mayor Gunnion's phrase aptly describes yesterday's proceedings, when, notwithstanding the adverse weather conditions, Temuka's citizens turned out en bloc to welcome home over twenty of the boys who left the district for the great war. Included in the

number were Private **Quinn**, M.M., and Second-Lieutenant **L. Bain**, who was the first trooper to enlist in the Temuka district.

On the railway platform the Temuka Pipe Band and the Juvenile Brass Band entertained the big crowd till the train arrived. As it rolled into the station a rousing cheer greeted the soldiers. After Temuka's contingent had disembarked and been greeted by relatives and friends, they were conveyed in cars, headed by the two bands, to the Post Office, where they were officially welcomed by the Mayor, Mr A. Frew who eulogized the work of the men.

Corporal **Maze** and Privates Opie and **Weir**, on behalf of their comrades, thanked the citizens for the splendid reception.

On the call of Deputy-Mayor Gunnion three rousing cheers were given for the returned men and three more for the boys who are still to come.

The men arrived in two sections, nine coming by the special train and twelve by the express, both lots being accorded the same reception. The owners of cars are worthy of a special word of praise, the supply far exceeding the demand.

Opportunity was taken, during the short time the train was in the station, to distribute fruit to the men on board who were going further south.

The following are the names of the men who returned: —

Private **Quinn**, M.M., Second-Lieutenant **L. Bain**, Sergeant **Barrett**, Corporal **Maze**, Rifleman **D. Brown**, King, Privates Fravin, **S. [G.] Huxford**, J. H. Prattley, Wareing, **G. Allen** [sic], Cairncross, Opie, J. Bennett, Moore, McClelland, O'Neill, **J. Aspinall**, Cross, W. Weir.

WELCOME AT GERALDINE.

Yesterday morning Geraldine put on a gay appearance with the many flags flown in honour of the soldiers who were expected home, and there was a large gathering waiting in the vicinity of the post office when motor cars arrived bringing back Staff Sergt-Major **Hawke**, D.C.M., Privates Stringer, **L. Turner**, T. Warne, R. Laing, W. Inglis, J. Campbell, and **G. Pithie**. The men were formally welcomed by the Mayor, Mr B. R. Macdonald, who said the men were returning in batches and they were very glad to welcome them. He said another draft was expected in the afternoon, and they purposed holding gatherings to welcome the men, and of these due notice would be given. The men were heartily cheered by the people and were individually welcomed by their friends.

In the afternoon arrived Lieut. Patrick, M.M., Staff Sergt-Major McPherson, Privates **Carver**, Hall, Maxwell and Jas. Turner and Scully. Private **Chapman**, who is a cot case, went on to Timaru. On arrival at Geraldine this second party were also welcomed by the Mayor and a large gathering, and heartily cheered. The Mayor on behalf of the townspeople, congratulated Lieutenant Patrick on gaining a commission on the field, and on obtaining the Military Medal. Lieut. Patrick thanked them for their welcome. Personally he had been in one of the side shows where the experiences had been exceedingly interesting, and he supposed they had helped to carry through. He thanked them heartily.

Private **T. Lyons**, Winchester, arrived home this week. This is the third son of Mr T. Lyons to return. Another son, Private **Jack Lyons**, is still in France.

Mrs Bain, Ashburton, has received advice that her son, Rifleman R. G. Bain, has returned invalided by the hospital ship Marama, and is proceeding to Hanmer for further treatment. Rifleman Bain left New Zealand with the 16th Reinforcements and before enlisting was farming in the Fairlie district.

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, Teniuka.

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.

Timaru Herald. 10 November 1919 [31/12/2024]

WAITOHI

A PATRIOTIC GATHERING.

PRESENTATION OF SOLDIERS' MEDALS.

One of the most memorable gatherings ever held at Waitohi took place last Thursday evening, when the ceremony of presenting gold medals to forty-five returned soldiers took place. The gathering was organised by the Waitohi Flat Presentation and Memorial Committee, of which Mr H. S. McCully is chairman, and Mr W. Moore hon. secretary. The schoolroom was beautifully decorated and all the arrangements made reflected credit on the Committee. The purpose of the meeting appealed to all the people of the district, and fully 300 were present, including visitors from other districts.

An enjoyable concert programme was provided, singers, instrumentalists, and monologists having been enlisted from various centres, and each and all were well applauded.

At the conclusion of the concert the returned soldiers were assembled in the front seats, and addresses of thanks and welcome home were made by Mr H. S. McCully, Mr Torepe (chairman of the Arowhenua Native Committee), and Mr Gunnion (Mayor of Temuka). Mr Gunnion, who thanked the Committee for giving him the honour of doing so, presented the medals which were pinned on the first three by Mrs Gunnion, the rest by various young ladies.

The following is a list of the returned soldiers whose names were called: - Privates **A. M. Allen, Garret Allen, Peter Allen**, John Baker, H. Chapman, Corporal Stewart D. Baxter, Privates C. E. Bradford, R. J. Cowles, Daniel Connel, Sergeant Ernest Davey, Privates G. M.

Elsom, M. Fitzgerald, D. Fitzgerald, R. Goodeve, F. Goodeve, G. J. Gould, Con Hannifin, Owen Hannifin, Jer. Hannifin, M. Hullen, James Hughes, J. S. Hughes, U. Harper, U. Hutchison, V. G. Johnson, G. M. Johnston, John Lamb, George Looker, Charles McAteer, James L. McAteer, D. Marshall, Lieutenant William G. McClintock, M.M., Privates Martin McGill, John O’Niel, Sergeant Harold O’Niel, Privates A. Overend, Lieutenant Warne Pearce, R. Pearse, J. Stratford, T. Stokes, A. Stokes, F. Talbot, C. Talbot, James Tilford, Harold Traves. One man had come down from Wellington to be present. In a few cases of absent men, the medals were received by relatives or friends.

After the presentations the company joined in singing “Soldiers of the King,” and “For they are jolly good fellows.”

Lieutenant Warne Pearce, on behalf of all the men, returned thanks to the committee, the speakers and the public for their kindness, and for their mementoes of the war. He also thanked the ladies of Waitohi for the much-valued parcels sent to the front and the chairman, Mr McCully, for keeping the patriotic spirit well alive.

The chairman announced that the Committee had collected about £160 during the last few weeks and had £100 in hand towards the cost of a memorial to the ten local men who had made the supreme sacrifice. Individual memorial certificates had been prepared and these would be delivered to the relatives of the fallen men. A meeting would be held shortly to consider the form of memorial.

The names of the men who had lost their lives are — Privates William John Davey, Rangitira Valley; Edward James Gould, Waitohi Flat; Henry Hullen, Waitohi Flat; Alexander Stewart McClintock, Temuka; William Overend, Timothy Perry, Waitohi; Cecil H. P. Rawstorn, Timaru; Stanley Joshua Smart, Waitohi; Second Lieutenant Arthur Ernest Talbot and Private Basil Herbert Talbot, Rangitira; Private John Wade, Winchester Road.

Mr C. J. Talbot, M.P., arrived after the presentation, was called upon for a speech, and he made a few remarks appropriate to the occasion, expressing gratification that the district was to have its own memorial, and congratulating the Committee on having such a fine gathering.

The chairman moved a vote of thanks to the concert performers, the speakers, and the Mayor and Mayoress of Temuka for their assistance. The ladies then served an excellent supper, after which the young people resumed dancing.