

Temuka Leader – 5 January 1918

LEAVING FOR THE FRONT

SEND-OFF TO PRIVATE L. HOPKINSON

Last evening there was another large attendance at the Arowhenua Hall, when the ladies of the Ngati Huirapa Committee entertained Private L. Hopkinson, prior to his departure for camp on Monday. Visitors were present from Timaru, Geraldine, Pleasant Point, and all the surrounding districts. Excellent music was supplied by Mrs W. Walker (piano), and the important duties of M.C were performed by Messrs Te Au and Breen.

Mr T. Gunnion, Chairman Temuka P.E.C., sent an apology.

About 10 o'clock two presentations were made to Private Hopkinson by Mr A. Frew, Mayor of Temuka. After expressing his pleasure at being able to be present, and to see such a large gathering of people enjoying themselves, Mr Frew said he had been asked to apologise for the absence of the Rev. A. H. Norris, who was unable to be present, but would see Private Hopkinson on Sunday and Monday. The evening's proceedings would, he was sure, mark a bright spot in the career of Private Hopkinson. It was very pleasing to see the young men in New Zealand taking the part they are in this war. It was a life and death struggle ;if our nation was to go under, life for us would not be worth living. The nation was depending on the loyal stand the young men were making, and it was splendid to see the Maori and Pakeha standing side by side for the same principle. (Applause) He sometimes felt that they were so much indebted to these young men that we don't fully realise the great services they are rendering. They are the strength of the British nation at the present time, and we are entirely dependent on the young men of Great Britain and her colonies. He was proud to see Pakeha and Maori – hand-in-hand, and heart-to-heart - fighting in the way they are at the present time. On behalf of the Ngati Huirapa Committee, Mr Frew, in a few well chosen words, presented Private Hopkinson with a "shaving outfit" (but which, Mr Frew said, in reality was a complete barber's-shop), and a knife, fork and spoon, which he would no doubt find very serviceable and useful. On behalf of Private Hopkinson's cousins, Misses Victoria and Doris Hopkinson, he had to present him with a little article of jewelry, a greenstone harp. His cousins wished him a successful career, happy times, and a safe return, and he was sure that all present wished him the same. (Applause.)

Amidst applause, Miss Victoria Hopkinson pinned the harp on Private Hopkinson's coat.

A friend replied on behalf of Private Hopkinson. He thanked the ladies for the very pleasant evening they had given him, and their useful presents. He also thanked his cousins for their pretty gift and His Worship the Mayor for his kind remarks. He would never forget the evening - it would always be a bright spot in his memory, and, if God spared him, he hoped to return, to them again. (Applause)

Dancing was then resumed, and shortly after, supper, provided by the Ngati Huirapa Ladies Committee, was served and was very thoroughly enjoyed.