

Southland Times. 17 October 1910 (PP) [24/04/2024]

Staff-Nurse Searell, of the Southland Hospital, who was some months ago appointed District Nurse for Southland, will take up her duties on the 25th inst. A telephone is being connected with her house in Yarrow street, and she will be at the call of those requiring her services. Medical men or the public seeing the necessity for the nurse's services will communicate at once with the nurse or the Board's office in Tay street. Her services will be free to those unable to pay, and later on free medical attendance will also be given to charitable aid cases who are unable to attend at the Hospital. The public are asked to do all they can in assisting the nurse in her work, and promptly notifying urgent cases. Nurse Searell's long experience and training both here and at Timaru, where she passed highly successful examinations, will fit her for the work she has undertaken. As convenient she will also attend urgent outlying cases, and instruct the residents in attending to cases.

Southern Cross. 20 Feb 1915 (PP) [23/11/2021]

District Nurse Searell and Sister Millar have been accepted for service in Egypt or elsewhere. There will be about 50 nurses going from N. Z. Nurse Searell will be greatly missed, for she is doing valuable work amongst the poorer classes in town, and her services have been greatly appreciated, particularly in winter time.

Southland Times. 23 March 1915 (PP) [23/11/2021]

On Friday night the members of the Invercargill Girls' Hockey Club met Nurse Searell and presented to her as a token of their good wishes, a pair of field glasses. Nurse Searell has been associated with the club for some years and has been a very valuable member, but is now compelled to relinquish that association as her services have been accepted by the Defence Department, and she is shortly to leave for the front. The presentation was made by Miss M. Fleming, who expressed the hope of the members of the Club that Nurse Searell would in due time return to her many friends in Invercargill.

Southland Times. 25 March 1915 (PP) [23/11/2021]

VALEDICTORY

FAREWELL TO NURSE SEARELL.

Nurse Searell, who to-morrow leaves for the north to take up her duties as a nurse with the New Zealand Expeditionary Forces, was entertained last evening by the Territorial officers. After the toast of "The King" had been proposed and duly honoured, Major Gilkison, who was in the chair, proposed the toast of Nurse Searell, which Captain Lennie supported. Nurse Searell replied in a short, but very appropriate speech, which was loudly applauded. The toast of "The Ladles' Committee" was proposed by Captain Cushen, and was responded to by the ladles present rising and singing, "For they are Jolly Good Fellows." A guessing competition,

the replies necessary being military terms, was indulged in, the winners being Nurses Searell and O'Shea, Mrs Cochrane being awarded a special for the most original answers. Lieutenant Eustace Russell presented the prizes, and Lieutenant McClure responded on behalf of the recipients. Credit is due to Captain Cushen and Lieutenant Butcher for the carrying out of arrangements. At the conclusion of the very pleasant gathering cheers were given for Mrs Searell and Nurse Searell. During the evening songs were rendered by the Rev. Archdeacon Packe and the Rev. Mr Burrldge, and a recitation was contributed by Captain Prain. The Rev. Archdeacon Packe acted as accompanist.

Among those present were Majors Gilkison and Dunlop, Captains Bell, Lennie, Cushen and Prain, Chaplain Captains Packe, Ready and Burridge, Lieutenants Wilkes, Butcher, McClure, Christian, Haggitt, and Eustace Russell, Sergeant-Major Monteath, and Mesdames Brebner, R. A. Anderson, G. Mitchell, Jennings, Longuet, Dunlop, Snow, Haggitt, Ritchie Crawford, Bennie, Cochrane, R. J. Gilmour, Whitmore, Burridge, Prain, Searell, Nurses Searell, O'Shea, and Prycc, Misses Bell, McLeod and Jobson.

Apologies for non-attendance were received from the Mayoress (Mrs Duncan McFarlane), Lieutenant-Colonel Watson. Major Crowther, Major Hunt, Major Pearce, and Lieutenant Struthers.

Southland Times. 27 March 1915 (PP) [23/11/2021]

AU REVOIR

FAREWELL TO NURSE SEARELL.

THREE PRESENTATIONS.

“Wherever her higher officers put her, her thoughts will stray back to this part of the world, and she feels sure that your thoughts will be with her and that when she comes back you will be here to welcome her.” These words were uttered by Dr Ritchie Crawford on the railway station yesterday afternoon when about one hundred and fifty people had gathered to bid au revoir to Nurse Searell, who left by the second express en route for the front, where she is to enter upon her duties as a nurse with the troops. The presentations were made immediately prior to the departure of the train.

Colonel Henderson said that he had been asked to take the place of his friend Colonel Watson, who, as head of the Territorial forces in Southland, was to have fulfilled the duty now cast upon him (the speaker). He was sorry that Colonel Watson was not there because the duty would have been better fulfilled by his hands. They were there to say au revoir to Nurse Searell, who was going to the seat of war. He understood that when the Defence authorities asked for applications for the positions of nurses there was a very large response from the ladies engaged in that profession. It had been very gratifying to see the large number of men who had responded but it was much more gratifying to see so large a number of women offer their services to their country because it spoke of their patriotism, and he was sure that the example set them would stimulate the young men. Out of the nurses to be appointed Southland's quota was three, and Nurse Searell was the first to go to the front. When it became definitely known that Nurse Searell was going the Territorial forces determined that they would not let her go without some tangible manifestation of their appreciation of her good work. The token of their esteem took the form of a purse of sovereigns and in handing it to her he referred to her willingness to assist in all matters at all times. She was a worker and was inclined to undertake too much work (Hear, hear), but as they wanted her to come back he counselled her to perform only those duties which were within the limits of her strength. He asked that God's blessing would rest on her, and again assured her that when she got back she would receive the warmest welcome (Applause).

The Mayoress (Mrs D. McFarlane) said that it gave her great pleasure to be the medium of presenting to Nurse Searell a cheque from the Patriotic Committee and a cushion from the ladies' committee. Dr Crawford returned thanks on behalf of the recipient. He said that in doing so the pleasure he felt at being able to do something for Nurse Searell was tinged with regret. Nurse Searell wished him to assure them that she did not deserve the kind things that had been said of her, but on that score he wished to disagree with her. She regretted that Sister Miller was not present because to her also had fallen the honour of proceeding to the front. Dr Crawford concluded with the assurance quoted above, and at the call of Colonel Henderson cheers were given for the first nurse to leave Southland for the seat of war.

Southland Times. 27 March 1915 (PP) [23/11/2021]

At the function which was given in honour of Nurse Searell, on the eve of her departure to join the Expeditionary Force the following letter from Colonel Watson was read: — I am very sorry that I will be unable to be present at the gathering to say an revoir to Nurse Searell. Will you kindly convey my regret to the meeting and say how heartily I join in the compliment to Nurse Searell and how completely I desire to associate myself with all the good wishes that will be given expression to for Nurse Searell's welfare at the front and her safe return to Invercargill? We are sent us in the beneficent work of nursing the wounded and alleviating their pain. I am very glad that advantage is being taken of this little function to entertain the members of the Ladies' Committee who have done such noble work for the soldiers who have gone to the front from this district, in equipping them with so many essential comforts which they would otherwise have gone without. It is impossible to adequately thank these ladies for their sustained and self-denying labours. Their chief reward is in the whole-hearted gratitude of the men who have so greatly benefited by their unselfish work, but the whole community lies under a very heavy obligation to them. Owing to the state of my health, I was unable at the proper time to express on behalf of the 8th (Southland) Regiment our heartfelt thanks to these ladies for all their valuable and useful gifts to our comrades who have gone to the front, and I must thankfully take this opportunity of doing so. Wishing you all a very enjoyable evening.

Southland Times. 29 March 1915 (PP) [23/11/2021]

HOCKEY

Southland Ladies' Hockey Association annual meeting.

Southland loses an enthusiastic and capable player by the departure of Nurse Searell, who is leaving to do military hospital work with the troops on active service abroad. Miss Searell has been in the first rank of players for years past, has won representative honours on several occasions, and has captained the Southland team in interprovincial contests. The good wishes of the Association and of all players go with her on her noble mission.

Southland Times. 13 December 1916 (PP) [24/04/2024]

Writing to her people by the last mail, Sister Searell stated that she had just been transferred from Port Said to the No. 1 N.Z. General Hospital at Brockenhurst, and was feeling considerably cooler than at her previous station, where the temperature was frequently 120 degrees in the shade. On her voyage Home Sister Searell was a passenger, at different times, on quite a number of boats, no less than three of which were torpedoed soon after the Sister left them.

Southland Times. 21 February 1917 (PP) [23/11/2021]

Mrs R. Trist Searell has had word that Nurse Searell is now transferred to No. 1 N.Z. General Hospital, Brockenhurst, and in the letter she suggests that larger bed-jackets would be very much more convenient, with dome fasteners down top of sleeve and shoulder or under sleeve and under arms. Another thing they are short of is white caps for head cases. They have already had some and they are just splendid, but, the Nurse states, "probably you have people who have made dozens of them. They have several seams to give them shape, are split up for a few inches at the back, and a strip of calico is attached to act as a bandage to keep the cap firm on the head. These are also most convenient for stumps."

Southland Times. 16 March 1917 (PP) [24/04/2024]

CHRISTMAS IN HOSPITAL

A TEMPTING MENU.

The New Zealand troops who were the inmates of the No. 1 New Zealand General Hospital at Brockenhurst on Christmas Day, 1916, had no reason to complain of the treatment meted out to them whatever may have been the fate of their comrades who partook of Christmas dinner in the front-line trenches.

Writing to her mother, Mrs Searell, of Yarrow street, Sister Searell, of Invercargill, encloses a copy of the menu for Wards 1 and 2 at the hospital; and a glance down the list should serve to convince anxious and worrying mothers that their boys were well cared for on Christmas Day. The menus for the various meals are:—

— Breakfast. —
Porridge.
Kipper or Fresh Herring.
Bread. Butter.
Honey. Marmalade.
— Dinner. —
Roast Turkey with Sausage and Seasoning.
Ham.
Potatoes. Brussels Sprouts.
Plum Pudding.
Cream.
Cheese. Biscuits.
Oranges, Apples, Bananas, Grapes,
Raisins. Almonds.
Assorted Nuts. Bon Bons.
Ale, Lemonade, Cigars, Cigarettes
— Tea. —
Christmas Cake.
Sandwiches.
Assorted Cakes.
Bread and Butter.
Honey. Marmalade.
Tea.
— Supper. —
Cold Ham. Tongue.
Fruit Salad.

Bread. Honey. Jam.
Coffee. Tea.

The dining ward was prettily decorated in imitation of a New Zealand Christmas Day and numbers of the men declared that the Yuletide of 1916 was the happiest which they had ever spent.

Southern Cross. 17 November 1917 (PP) [23/11/2021]

Mrs R. T. Searell has received word that her son, Driver L. T. Searell, has been transferred to the N.Z. General Hospital, Brokenhurst, where District Nurse Searell, his sister, is at present stationed as sister of that institution.

Southern Cross. 29 December 1917 (PP) [23/11/2021]

District Nurse Searell, who is now on active service, has written home, giving her experiences in air raids in London. It is pitiful to see the poor people, in the underground tubes, and when the alarm is given there is a great rush to cover. The raids are only hardening the people up to making them more determined than ever to see it through. Her brother, Trist, was in hospital (gassed), but is improving, and hopes to be back in harness shortly.

Southern Cross. 12 April 1919 (PP) [24/04/2024]

Mrs Trist Searell, Yarrow street, has received official word that her daughter, Sister A. C. Searell, is returning to N.Z. by the Ionic, which is due about the 23rd April. Sister Searell left with the first N.Z. nurses some three years ago, and prior to that was District Nurse in this district. She has seen service in Egypt and on board several transports. Latterly she has been attached to the Brokenhurst Hospital staff. Her many friends will welcome her back.

NZ Herald. 13 October 1928 (PP) [23/04/2024]

A "NEW IDEA."
WORK FOR ALL MEMBERS.

An excellent "new idea" for members of the Herald Circles was sent forward by Shiela Quinn recently. She suggested that as the children in the King George Hospital at Rotorua took such a keen interest in "Boys and Girls," and as there were not enough pages to go the rounds, our members should save their pages each month, then sew them together, and send them to the little sick children. She also suggested that the pictures might be coloured, if members had time to do this, as it would make the pages much more attractive. I promptly wrote to the hospital authorities, and this week received a reply from the matron — such a nice letter I am printing it in full.

Dear Miss Morton:

I was delighted to hear that your young correspondents are anxious to do something for our little sick folk, and thus make their stay in hospital happier.

The suggestion that they colour and send the “Boys’ and Girls” page is excellent, and one that even the tiniest tots will appreciate. They just love pictures — many even prefer them to trains and dolls.

What do you think of the suggestion of your correspondents pasting the pages on calico before sewing them into book form?

Yours truly,
Alice Searell,
Matron.

I think the suggestion that the pages be pasted on calico is an excellent one, for then they will last very much longer, and can be handed about from one little patient to the other for a long time.

So get to work as soon as you can, boys and girls, and when you have four pages, paste them on calico, sew them together and forward to the Matron, King George V. Hospital, Rotorua.

I have written to the matron and asked her to let me have a list each month of those who have sent papers. This list will be published and book prizes awarded each month to the boy and girl who send in the neatest and prettiest gazettes.

We must have a name for these special pages, so we will call them “Boys and Girls’ Cheerio Gazette,” and I hope they will indeed bring good cheer to many little patients!

Important! No single pages to be sent. If you have four pages by you, send them now. If not, wait until you have.

Name, age and address of sender to be plainly written on each gazette.

No pages to be sent to Herald Office. All must be sent direct to King George Hospital.