

Ernest Wilfred BELCHER, 15863 (1893-1974)

Timaru Herald. 5 April 1916 (Papers Past) [31/03/2025]

FIFTEENTH REINFORCEMENTS.

SOUTH CANTERBURY'S QUOTA.

LEAVING FOR CAMPS TO-DAY.

South Canterbury's quota for the 15th Reinforcements, now only three short, leaves for the military camps today by the second express north. The Mounted Rifles, Artillery and Army Service Corps proceed to Featherston; the Infantry and Engineers to Trentham, and the Ambulance to Awapuni. The quota, returned men, and men on leave, will be entertained by the Ladies' Patriotic Committee at luncheon in the Stafford Tea Rooms, at 12.30 p.m.

The men will fall in at the Drill Shed at 3 p.m. The public will be admitted at 3.30 when the men will be addressed by the Mayor (Mr E. R. Guinness), Mr Jas. Craigie, M.P., and the Rev. Dean Tubman. The 2nd South Canterbury Regimental Band will be in attendance, while the High School Cadets and the Hon. Territorials will form a cordon at the railway station.

The following are the names of the recruits: —

INFANTRY.

C. Maxwell, Beautiful Vallev.

J. F. Baker. Ashburton.

S. J. K. McDowell, Hinds.

E. W. Belcher, Arundel.

T. S. Selater, Waterton.

R. J. Fifield, Woodbury.

E. J. Inwood, Rakaia.

P. Osborne, Timaru.

A. Mitchell, Mayfield.

J. W. S. Tait, Waterton.

S. R. Furby, Timaru.

T. Pennal, Allenton.

J. S. Weeks, Hinds.

T. Karton, Timaru.

W. Parker, Timaru.

C. M. Hight, Timaru.

J. W. Henry, Dunedin.

G. A. Wilson, Methven.

J. P. Jackson, Christchurch.

H. Parris, Timaru.

G. r. Wooding, Woodbury.

S. F. Farnie, Four Peaks.

C. E. McAnulty, Rakaia.

J. Bowman, Timaru.

J. Street, Rakaia.

C. R. Tovey, Ashburton.

A. Waugh, Waimate.

J. Fyall, Studholme.

J. Barclay. Ashburton.

J. B. Ellery, Eifflerton.

J. H. Parsons, Eiffleton.
E. T. Dillon, Albury.
F. M. Edwards, Waimate.
J. Dolan, Waitohi Downs.
J. F. Howe, Waituna.
J. S. Hughes, Waitohi.
S. G. Ellery, Ealing.
A. Scott, Kerrytown.
T. P. Rickus, Fairlie.
S. Wade, Temuka.
J. Gardyne, Timaru.
J. D. Hopkinson, Temuka.
W. J. Parsons, Timaru.
A. V. Timewell, Timaru.
W. H. Hailridge, Timaru.
H. McNeill, Methven.
R. Scott, Pareora.
J. F. Hume, Ashburton.
F. H. Knight, Ashburton.
A. Boyd, Methven.
A. L. Butterick, Wakanui.
L. A. Nicholas, Temuka.
W. W. Blair, Timaru.
A. Crago-Clark, Willowbridge.
A. McKellar, Fairlie.
J. C. McKellar, Fairlie.
R. C. Killworth, Waimate.
A. Laurence, Maungati.
M. Patrick, Hilton.
P. Morland, Rakaia.
E. P. Tilley, Methven.
S. Jones, Carew.
T. T. Murray, Timaru.
W. Annis, Burke's Pass.
H. C. Ross, Kimbell.
T. B. Smith, Fairlie.
D. J. Preece, Waihao Downs.
A. W. Pearce, Arundel.
E. Archer. Temuka.
D. M. King, Temuka.
G. D. King, Temuka.
J. F. Ryan. Temuka.
R. Hall, Geraldine.
W. Elliott, Arno.
J. Wade, Fairlie.
A. J. Munro, Te Moana.
J. T. Laffey, Tinwald.
S. R. Dickson, Willowbridge.
G. L. Templeton, Ashburton.
J. J. Robinson, Four Peaks.

E. Donn, Ashburton.
T. Keay, Fairlie.
J. Billings, Winchester.
J. Maze, Temuka.
W. J. Cairncross, Temuka.
L. H. D. Hight, Timaru.
A. W. McKendry, Lyndhurst.
C. F. Stills, Ashburton.
T. Twomey, Methven.
M. A. Twomey, Hilton.
J. Small, Wheatstone.
D. Stumbles, Levels.
C. J. McAteer, Temuka.
G. S. Lyall, St. Andrews.
F. R. Beale, Temuka.
J. Englebricht, Makikihi.
M. R. McAteer, Temuka.
S. H. Gilson, Timaru.
A. Wilson, Timaru.
P. Thorpe, Fairlie.

ARTILLERY.

W. M. Turner.

ARMY SERVICE CORPS.

W. McGillivray.

ENGINEERS.

E. L. Hughes.

AMBULANCE.

S. E. Fee.

T. A. McD. Shearer.

MOUNTED RIFLES.

J. Baxter.

A. Haywood.

P. H. Miller.

R. Maxwell

M. W. O'Neill.

D. Ross.

A. W. Walton.

The following also leave to-day for Trentham as non-commissioned officers in the 17th Reinforcements: — R. B. Bell, H. E. Curtis, J. A. Elliott, R. S. Goodman, C. McKeegan, D. O'Connor.

Ashburton Guardian. 5 April 1916 [Wednesday] (Papers Past) [31/03/2025]

FAREWELLS AND PRESENTATIONS AT EALING.

On Thursday evening last, at the invitation of the Ealing Ladies' Patriotic Guild, Mr Macdonald's granary at Ealing was packed with a large and representative concourse of people from all parts of the surrounding districts, to bid farewell to Messrs **E. Belcher**, D. Campbell, G. Ellery, and A. Pearce, who are leaving shortly to go into camp.

Mr Wallace, who presided, referred briefly to the object for which they had assembled, and expressed his gratification at seeing such a large gathering.

After the singing of the National Anthem, a musical programme, interspersed with dancing was carried out. Musical items were contributed by the following: — Messrs Belcher Bros., Miss Forsyth, Messrs. Beckley, Bishop, Ellery, and Miller.

During the evening speeches were made by Messrs Wallace, Bishop, and Acton, congratulating the men on their splendid response to the Empire's call, and thanking them on behalf of the Ladies' Guild for their liberal support.

Mrs Wallace, President of the Ealing Ladies' Patriotic Guild, then presented each of the departing guests with a parcel containing two pairs of sox, a pair of mits, a Balaclava, and a "house-wife," all the work of the guild. In each parcel there was also a scarf, given by Mrs Clement. Each of the recipients briefly thanked the Ladies' Guild for its useful gift and good wishes, and expressed his willingness to uphold the honour of our country and to do his share to keep the old flag flying. Three cheers were given and "For They are Jolly Good Fellows" was also sung.

An excellent supper, provided by the ladies, was then partaken of, after which dancing was indulged in to an early hour. Mr McNab acted as M.C.

Cheers were again given for the "boys," and also for the Ladies' Patriotic Guild, the performers, and the musicians. The gathering then broke up with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne."

Ashburton Guardian. 6 April 1916 (Papers Past) [31/03/2025]

OFF TO THE FRONT.

FIFTEENTH REINFORCEMENTS.

ASHBURTON QUOTA FAREWELLED

The Ashburton quota, consisting of 35 men for the Fifteenth Reinforcements, were entertained at the Drill Hall yesterday afternoon by the ladies of Fairfield. A number of relatives of the departing men were also present. His Worship the Mayor (Mr R. Galbraith) presided.

The Rev. W. T. Todd, of Rakaia, in farewelling the men, stated that it was a great honour to him to be present and say a few words to those who were going away to serve their country. The speaker referred to the atrocities in Belgium, and stated that the men were going to fight for liberty, life, and love. In fighting for liberty they were not only fighting for the liberty of Empire, but for the smaller states who were unable to protect themselves. They were also going to fight for the sake of the refugees who had been driven from their homes, and who were anxious to get back to them again. They were also showing that they were prepared to make a great sacrifice for the love of freedom and Empire. It was their privilege now to fight for the freedom of the weak and for the lives of their fellow men. When men went forth on a task so gigantic, it was only natural to expect that they could not all save themselves, and it said a great deal when men were prepared to sacrifice themselves for the cause of others. He hoped that as their reward many of them would come back having gained a V.C., or that they

would be mentioned in dispatches for distinguished bravery. The shirkers who remained behind could not hope for such reward. When the men came back they would be able to say, like Nelson, "Thank God I have done my duty." They would also find satisfaction in their own hearts that they had done their duty. He hoped that God would keep and preserve them and bring them back safely.

The Hon. G. A. C. Hardy said that he felt it an honour to be permitted to address the departing men. He regretted that his age prevented him from enlisting, otherwise he would be with them, and they would have a jolly good time together. However, he had a son in camp, and he had asked him to look out for the Methven and Rakaia boys who were going with the Fifteenth Reinforcements. He wanted to take the opportunity of saying a few words on recruiting. First of all he wanted to know how many of the women in the Ashburton County had cold feet? It was all very well to blame the boys who were not coming forward to offer their services, but he also had a word to say against some of the mothers. Personally he blamed some of the mothers for their boys not going. If they could not influence their sons to go and fight for freedom and the right, it was far better for them that they never had a son. He felt sure that this quota of men would show them at the front what New Zealanders could do. He advised them to do their duty, and when they returned they would be assured of a good welcome.

Mr Galbraith then thanked the men for offering their services. He also returned thanks to the Fairfield ladies for providing the refreshments. At his invitation cheers were given for the ladies and the departing men.

The men were then allowed a brief interval to enjoy a cigarette, and say farewell to their friends before the whistle sounded to fall in.

Headed by the Citizens' Defence Corps and Salvation Army Bands combined, the procession marched to the station, where a large crowd of people had gathered. Cheers were given for the Mayor, and as the train steamed out the recruits were also warmly cheered.

The names of the men who formed the quota are as follows: —

Infantry — C. McAnulty, A. L. Butterick, J. S. Baker, J. Barclay, A. Boyd. E. W. Belcher, . .

. .

Mounted — J. Baxter, D. Ross.

Waimate Daily Advertiser. 12 May 1916 (Papers Past) [13/08/2020]

WAIMATE BOYS AT TRENTHAM
OCCUPANTS OF HUT 123.
(Specially written for the Daily Advertiser).

At Hut one-two-three, Seddul Bahr Road
Five of the Waimate boys hang out, so we're told;
There is jolly Jack Howe
Just fresh from the plough, Eager to do his bit;
Also Dug. Preece,
(Keen after stripes, to say the least)
Then comes **Bill Elliot** —a fine stamp of a man,
But a terror after the gooseberry jam.
There's Kilworth, better known as "Curly,"
Who's chief objection is rising early;
But we guess this is a bit of a sham
For we know he's the right sort of man.

Last but not least, we have the "Disturber of Peace" —
 Edwards, or "Scotty" of the printing game,
 Which he trusts later on to resume again.
 There's Ellery and **Belcher**, both from "Carew,"
 Always at hand looking for stew,
Tom Keay, from Fairlie, with the ginger knob,
 To see him in uniform is well worth a bob.
 We now come to Parris, who came off a mill,
 Who had the misfortune of feeling ill;
 So the doctor thought he must give him a pill;
 If this doesn't cure him the d--d stew will.
 Next on the list is big **Bert Hall**;
 He says he comes from Gape's Valley—
 At any rate he's first up at reveille.
 Now, just a little more before we close:
 The sergeant-in-charge is Leslie Rose
 And a more decent fellow would be hard to find,
 For he's willing, able, and very kind.

Ashburton Guardian. 5 Sep 1917 (Papers Past)

CAREW.

Soldiers' Christmas Parcels.

A very successful gift afternoon was held at the Carew School last Thursday, in order to help to supply comforts for the soldiers in the trenches. A programme of musical items, as well as recitations, was given by the pupils, and every item seemed to be thoroughly enjoyed by the audience. During the interval a Roll of Honour, presented by the chairman, Mr Howard Barton, was unveiled by the senior pupil, Miss Cissie Fairburn. As each soldier's name was called out he was accorded a round of applause. The Rev. Mr Feron delivered a patriotic address, and eulogised the work done by the ladies during the war.

Towards the conclusion of the programme votes of thanks were passed to the ladies who provided the refreshments, to the mistress (Miss A. Pollock-Smith), and to all the friends who helped to make the gathering a success. Then three ringing cheers were given for the soldiers. When afternoon tea had been dispensed, Mr Barton, who made a very good auctioneer, put the following goods up for gift auction: — A pair of fowls from Mrs H. Pratt brought in £4, and the birds were finally handed to Miss Pollock Smith. Miss Dora Sim presented a pot plant and stand, and after some sporting bids, which altogether realised £3 12s, they were bought by Mrs Barton. A teapot full of sweets, and a bunch of heather in a vase, given by Mrs Andrew Sim, apparently touched the hearts of the Scots present, for they realised £2 10s, and were finally purchased by Mr Barton. The sale of sweets and violets by the pupils also brought in a fair amount.

At the conclusion, a New Zealand flag, presented to the school by the committee, was unfurled, while the children stood to attention and sang "Rule, Britannia."

The names of the following soldiers as representatives of the Carew district at the front were inscribed on the Roll of Honour: — Trooper David Pearce, Main Body; Private Philip J. Reeves, Second Reinforcements (wounded at Gallipoli, invalided home); Captain James M. Barton, Fifth Reinforcements (Military Cross); Private William James Reeves, Seventh Reinforcements; Private William Ernest Clement, Ninth Reinforcements; Rifleman Ernest Belcher, Fifteenth Reinforcements; Rifleman Arthur Walter Pearce, Fifteenth

Reinforcements; Private Douglas H. Clement, Sixteenth Reinforcements; Signaller David Campbell, Eighteenth Reinforcements; Lance-Corporal W. J. Marshall, Eighteenth Reinforcements; Private Thomas Boughton, Twenty-fifth Reinforcements; Private George Wellesley Spencer, Twenty-Sixth Reinforcements; Private Robert James Hampton, Twenty-seventh Reinforcements; Private Ronald McLaughlan Twenty-seventh Reinforcements; Private John Ritchie, Twenty-third Reinforcements ; Private Nathaniel Brown, Twenty-third Reinforcements.

Substantial gifts were received from Mr and Mrs Howard Barton, Mr and Mrs Robert Sim, Mr Andrew Sim, Mrs Andrew Sim, Master Hughie Sim, Miss Dora Sim, Miss Jean Metier, Miss May Withell, Mr William Price, Mr H. Pratt, Mrs H. Pratt, Mr R. J. Anderson, Mrs R. J. Anderson, Mr K. Sim, jun., Master Norman Sim, Mr and Mrs Geo. Kennington, Mrs Andrew Reid, Mrs T. Belcher, Mr Lester Belcher, Mrs Geo. Ross, Miss K. Ritchie, Miss G. Ritchie, Master Keith Cormack, Miss Pollock-Smith, Miss J. Vogun (Christchurch), Ethel, Archie, and Helen Barton, Mr Geo. Campbell, Mrs Geo. Campbell, Harry, Fred, Vena, and Arthur Pratt, Master Lester Reid, Miss Winnie Clement, Miss Iris Clement, Master Hector Sim, Miss E. Jones, Mrs C. W. Godwin, Miss Cissie Fairburn, Mrs H. Gallettz, Janet, Henry, Edith, and Ian Anderson, Mrs J. Fairburn, Rev. Mr Feron, Miss Rutherford, Miss Jean Blackwood, Mrs Reeves, Miss Reeves, Harry and Tom Reeves, Mrs Jones, parcel of sanitary shirts from schoolgirls, also cash donations from Mr Howard Barton £1 1s. Mrs Donald McLeod £1, Miss M. Hampton 10s 6d, Mr George Ross, 5s, Mr W. Cormack 5s, and Mr Jaine 10s. Altogether, the afternoon realised three cases of gifts and £16 in cash.

Temuka Leader. 4 December 1917 (Papers Past) [31/03/2025]

GLIMPSES OF A SOLDIER'S LIFE.

A LETTER FROM THE FRONT.

Mr D. McGregor, ex President of the Geraldine Football Club, has handed us for publication the following interesting and humorous letter from one of the many members of the club at present on duty on the Western front: -

It is now some hundreds of years since we have been away — or so, it seems — and as much has happened — and in large chunks too — during those centuries, I'll endeavour to enlighten you in the true facts of warfare and ups and downs, and ins and outs, a soldier is liable to come in contact with, although to go back to the prehistoric ages, when we first landed, and try to memorise events of lesser importance is vague. Nevertheless, we will never forget our initiation into Sling, on a cold and foggy winters night — wet, weary, tired, sleepy, and footsore. Yes! my friend, sadness had set in — dinkum.

.....

Well, Mac, as many of my Geraldine cobbles are near the end of their convalescent career (including myself), and will be stirring up mud and tripe in Belgium in a few days I would like to mention that Bill Scully, Chas. McDonald, Ernie Belcher (Carew), Chas. Johnstone (Arundel), Ken McKay (Point), P. L. Cullen (Ashburton), are recuperating here, and run a big risk of going across the Channel with men a week or two It is also a disgrace to send the hundreds of unfit men now being sent, only to be rejected on landing here, and sent back to New Zealand. It appears that as long as the quota is kept up anything will do; and again, it is made that hot for others who are physically unfit, who do not complain of their physical defects on examination, knowing full well they can obtain "board for N.Z." here, and go back a returned hero.

.....

Well, kind regards and best wishes from all the local lads; and we hope to meet again in the land of the pig-islanders, and do justice to a drop of "Black and White." Kia ora. — Yours, etc.,

NED.

Timaru Herald. 25 February 1918 (Papers Past) [31/03/2025]

LETTERS OF SYMPATHY

Mrs Ellery and family, of Belfield, have received a letter from Private E W. Belcher, N.Z. Machine Gun Corps, dated Grantham, Lincolnshire, Dec. 16 1917, expressing sympathy with the family in loss by the death in action of their son George, who had been his constant companion and closest friend from the time they went into camp up to the time the writer left France for Blighty. "From all information I can gather he fell in the attack on the Heights of Abraham, Passchendale, Ypres, on the 12th October, while gallantly leading his section against the enemy, and I hope you will find some consolation in the fact that he died doing his duty, and with his face to the enemy. I am going back to France next month, and will endeavour to find out where he was buried, and further particulars if possible." Prior to the receipt of the above letter the only information received by the family concerning Lance-Corporal F. S. G. Ellery was that he was reported missing on October 12.

Temuka Leader. 26 February 1918 (Papers Past) [31/03/2025]

Mrs Ellery and family, of Belfield, have received a letter from Private **E. W. Belcher**, N.Z. Machine Gun Corps, dated Grantham, Lincolnshire, Dec. 10, 1917, expressing sympathy with the family in loss by the death in action of their son George, who had, been his constant companion and closest friend from the time they went into camp up to the time the writer left France for Blighty. "From all information I can gather he fell in the attack on the Heights of Abraham, Passchendale, Ypres, on the 12th October, while gallantly leading his section against the enemy, and I hope you will find some consolation in the fact that he died doing his duty, and with his face to the enemy. I am going back to France next month, and will endeavour to find out where he was buried, and further particulars if possible." Prior to the receipt of the above letter the only information received by the family concerning Lance-Corporal F. S. G. Ellery was that he was reported missing on October 12.

Timaru Herald. 13 May 1919 (Papers Past) [31/03/2025]

ARUNDEL.

SOLDIERS WELCOMED HOME.

There was a large gathering at the Howard Hall, Arundel, on Friday night, to welcome home three returned soldiers, Privates J. Ritchie, E. Belcher and R. Hampton, and amongst those present were residents of Christchurch, Woodbury, Mount Somers, and other places. The hall was tastefully decorated with flags and evergreens.

In presenting medals to the returned men Mr Upritchard spoke with his usual effectiveness, and he apologised for the absence of Mr J. M. Tripp. The audience joined in singing "For they are jolly good Fellows," and the soldiers suitably replied. The chairman then asked all

present to stand in silence as a mark of respect to the fallen, and this was done, after which the National Anthem was sung.

The grand march was led by the soldiers, and all the ladies carried small flags. Mr W. Lewis made an efficient M.C., and the music was supplied by the Misses Ashby, extras being played by Mrs Mulholland, Messrs R. Johnston and F. Beckley.

During the evening songs were contributed by Mr R. Palmer and Mr Uprichard brought down the house with a sailors' hornpipe. A very enjoyable evening was brought to a close at 1.30 a.m. with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne."

Timaru Herald. 19 July 1919 (Papers Past) [31/03/2025]

A very enjoyable welcome home social was held in the Arundel Hall on July 9th for the purpose of welcoming home Messrs H. Jaine, E. Belcher, J. Ritchie, W. Reeves, N. Brown, and P. Hampton. Mr H. O. Barton presided and the Carew school children under the guidance of Miss Gardner rendered several items efficiently. The speakers were Rev. Feron, of Hinds, and Col. McKenzie of Geraldine. Both addresses were much appreciated by the audience. The chairman on behalf of the Carew Patriotic Committee and friends thanked the returned men for helping to keep the good old flag flying, and presented each with a suitable gift. The recipients suitably responded. Supper was handed round and the rest of the evening was spent in dancing for which Mr Lewis kindly acted as M.C.

Ashburton Guardian. 22 July 1921 (Papers Past) [30/03/2025]

**THEIR NAME LIVETH.
EALING'S ROLL OF HONOUR.
THE UNVEILING CEREMONY.
A WORTHY REMEMBRANCE.**

(From Our Travelling Reporter.)

"The hero's deeds and hard-won fame shall live." The ceremony at Ealing yesterday of unveiling the Roll of Honour was certainly the district's fulfilment of these words written by the Roman poet, Virgil, 2000 years ago. In the words of various speakers, the Roll of Honour stands first as a memorial to the honourable sacrifice of the men who gave their lives in the Great War; next, as a record of all the district men who served in that testing time; lastly, as a reminder to those who remained at home of what they owed their defenders, and as an incentive to the coming generation to uphold the district's honour as bravely in years to come.

The gathering in the Ealing Hall yesterday afternoon was a very large one, and fully representative of a community eager to pay honour to its representatives who went on active service. In addition, a large number had come from a distance to share in this ceremony of remembrance. Included among the visitors were Mr T. D. Burnett, M.P., whose electorate (Temuka) includes Ealing; Major E. H. Orr, D.S.O., president of the Ashburton Returned Soldiers' Association; Mr C. Reid, chairman of the Ashburton County Council, supported by Messrs W. T. Lill, W. G. Gallagher, and H. O. B. Withell, representing the Longbeach and Rangitata ridings of the County; and the Revs. G. H. Harold and R. J. Liddell and Mr Webber, who jointly conducted the religious observances in connection with the ceremony. Captain H. Wallace presided over the assembly as chairman of the local patriotic committee.

The Ealing Roll of Honour is a piece of work worthy of the occasion arranged for its unveiling. The main body of the memorial is in solid oak, with a central brass shield on which are inscribed the names of the fallen. Below, on an oak tablet devised as an open book, are inscribed the names of those district boys who were fortunate enough to be able to serve their country and to return to it to enjoy the peace they had won. The memorial was erected at a cost of over £50, the committee responsible for the collection of this amount and subsequent arrangements being Captain and Mrs H. Wallace, Miss Knox, Messrs James Gallagher, H. C. B. Withell, D. Clement, and J. Withell.

“These Gave Their Lives.”

“These Gave Their Lives” is the simple but sufficient inscription which heads the list of the fallen, which is as follows, the scene of the action which proved fatal being given in parentheses — T. Boughton (Passchendaele), J. Brookes (Passchendaele), P. J. Daly (Messines), G. S. Ellery (Passchendaele), F. Forsyth (Esnes), A. McBride (Baupaume), G. O. Wilkes (France). The words chosen by Mr Rudyard Kipling to be inscribed on the Imperial Cenotaph in Whitehall are those selected to close this little company: “Their name liveth for evermore.”

The names of the men who went on active service from the district are as follow: — **E. W. Belcher**, J. Bishop, **L. N. Brown**, D. Campbell, D. H. Clement, M.M., W. Clement, W. P. Forsyth, J. Guinness, R. Guinness, J. King, T. C. McKay, J. Montgomery, A. Pearce, E. Reeves, P. Reeves, W. Reeves, J. N. Ritchie, S. Rowe, G. R. Tarbotton, E. Templar, R. Tilson, T. Tilson, and J. Withell.

The unveiling ceremony included a short service and secular addresses. The proceedings were opened by the singing of the National Anthem and the hymn, “O God, Our Help.” Later, Kipling’s “Recessional” was sung, and Piper Scott played the Highland lament, “The Flowers of the Forest.” Prayers were offered by Messrs Liddell and Webber, and Mr Harold read Psalm 46: “God is our Refuge.” An impressive ceremonial was fittingly closed by the sounding of “The Last Post” by Bugler R. McKenzie.

The purpose of the gathering was outlined by the chairman, who said they had met to show their appreciation of the 30 boys who went out to fight for them. Their loss was the gain of those who remained, and although those present might think the current year was a very hard one, it was paradise compared with what their soldier boys had endured on active service. The example of the soldiers should ever live with them that they might make true and honourable use of the peace which their boys had won for them. (Applause.)

Mr Burnett’s Remarks.

Prior to unveiling the Roll of Honour, Mr Burnett said he was proud to take part in such a notable occasion, which was also of a sacred character. They were present to place on record for all time the names of those district men who went overseas to uphold the honour of the British Empire. He heartily approved of the sentiment which inspired the raising of these district memorials, for the least that they could do was to remember in their own community those men who literally went down into hell on their behalf. He knew that the soldiers did not serve in the Great War that they might be crowned with the laurel of heroism at its close, but, nevertheless, it was fitting that their names should be proudly enscrolled as had been done in the present case. But that was not enough, nor should patriotism end in these symbols of appreciative remembrance. They should also see that the men who returned did not ask sympathetic help in life as a small return for what they had done. He believed the Government had done, and was doing, much in this direction. (Applause.)

Mr Burnett expressed his belief that one of the greatest services rendered to the British Empire in those first, uncertain years of war was given by men not of British stock. He referred to the late Louis Botha and to General Smuts, who were deserving of all honour because more than to most was it given to them to hold the Empire together. They had saved

the key-arch of the Empire — South Africa. The Empire owed much to them and to the British statesman, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, whose vision and broadmindedness had awarded self-government to South Africa, and thus had set it firmly as one of the brightest jewels in the Imperial Crown. This illustration showed how breadth of vision brought its sure reward, and had appealed for such a tolerant spirit of problems of to-d . . . the Roll of Honour would prove an incentive to duty in the future and an inspiration to do whatever was within their reach to consolidate the Empire.

In conclusion, Mr Burnett referred to the beautiful custom of the Highlanders in playing a martial lament for those of their warriors who would never return. He thought it particularly appropriate that that custom was to be observed at the ceremony. “Flowers of the Forest” was a fitting estimate of the character of their youth who had gone forth to die for them and their country. (Applause.)

Soldiers’ Representative.

Major Orr, on behalf of the Ashburton Returned Soldiers’ Association, acknowledged the honour done it, by inviting its representative to so important a ceremony. Speaking of the last days of the war, Major Orr said he had visited a French cemetery at Caudray, near Cambrai, which was typical of many burying-places in France. But in one corner there was a small section bricked off from the rest, and, in this quiet place apart from God’s acre, he had discovered the graves of some of the original “Contemptibles” who were killed in the retreat from Mons. What was so touching was that these inhabitants of Caudray, during the terrible four years of the German occupation, had tended and cared for these graves of a few heroic Englishmen. They had set up a tablet stating that these graves would be respected and maintained for ever. It was a small incident, but a striking one which served to set off much that was said of the meanness of the French peasantry. (Applause.)

Mr Reid spoke of the purpose of the gathering — to honour their brave boys. There was nothing too great to do to honour these men who, coming out of their pleasant homes in a happy land, had suffered such privation and made such sacrifice as the conditions of active service demanded of them. These brave men should always be remembered. The British race was unconquerable, and had always fought the battle of freedom, as in the late war. Mr Reid expressed his sympathy with those who had lost their sons and brothers, but the cause was the great justification for that sacrifice. But those who had returned should not be forgotten. He hoped the true patriotic spirit would always persist in New Zealand, not the spirit of militarism, but the pure love of country and liberty; that caused men to fight and die in their defence. New Zealand could never repay the great debt of gratitude owed their soldier sons. (Applause.)

Mr Gallagher expressed his sense of privilege at witnessing the unveiling of so splendid a tribute to the memory of brave Ealing boys. It was gratifying to those who had lost sons to have their loss placed on record and their son’s memory kept evergreen. The action of Ealing that day was in strong contrast with Ashburton’s failure to do anything in like manner. He did think Ashburton had done very poorly indeed. It had not done its duty by commemorating its heroic dead, and he hoped Ealing’s example would spur Ashburton to activity. Ealing had done its due share in the war, and now its appreciation of its soldiers’ services was put in tangible form. But they should not forget those who won the war at home, the women of the district, who, in countless ways, and especially through the Red Cross Society, did so much to bring the war to a successful issue. (Applause.)

At the close of the ceremony those present were entertained at tea by the Ealing ladies, whose hospitality was suitably recognised by Mr Burnett. Counter-cheers were given for the speakers and visitors.