

**EIGHTEENTH REINFORCEMENTS.
ASHBURTON QUOTA FAREWELLED.**

There was a large attendance at the Ashburton Drill Hall yesterday afternoon, when the Ashburton quota of the men of the Eighteenth Reinforcements were entertained by the ladies of Lismore. Ashburton on this occasion not only sent away its full quota, but also supplied an additional 20 men to make up for a shortage in other places, making a total of 67 men who left last evening. His Worship the Mayor (Mr R. Galbraith) presided.

The Rev. W. E. Sleep, Lismore, in saying a few words of farewell to the men, said he considered it was a great honour to be present at the gathering. He was very proud of the men who had come forward and offered their services to their Empire, because he realised that they were all making great sacrifices. He congratulated the district on being able to raise such a large number of men. He trusted that those who were going away would be blessed with health and strength to go through the battle, and that they would return safely to their loved ones. He asked the men while on active service not to forget their parents, but to write to them on every possible occasion. He assured them that parents were always anxiously awaiting letters from their boys. The nation, he said, had undertaken a great task in the present war, and he was certain they were fighting on the side of the right. He also had a feeling of confidence that the Allies would be victorious, and that they had already reached the turning point. In conclusion he hoped that God would bless the departing men and spare their lives.

Mr J. R. Simpson expressed his pleasure at being present. He said he felt doubtful as to whether the war would soon be over. Recently he had read in a Home paper that in the North of Scotland they had been cutting down the plantations extensively, and shipping the trees to France, to be used in the trenches. He did not think the cutting down of those trees was an indication that the war was going to end at an early date. The speaker asked the men while away to put their trust in their Creator, and do what was right. He wished the men God-speed and a safe return.

The Mayor, in thanking the men on behalf of the town and district for volunteering, said he was authorised to state that Ashburton on this occasion had done more than its share in supplying men, and some 20 would go to help to make up the deficiency in some other district. Not only was this a record, but the attendance at the gathering was also a record, which showed that the friends of the men were taking an interest in the recruiting. He congratulated the ladies of Lismore on their excellent catering and the general arrangements for farewelling the men. He reminded the men that a fund had been established in the County for the benefit of those who left dependents behind in need of help. They had only to advise the Patriotic Committee, and the needs of their dependents would receive every consideration. He then called for cheers for the Lismore ladies, which were heartily given.

Cheers were also given for the departing soldiers.

The men were then allowed a brief interval to say good-bye to their relatives and friends before the whistle sounded to fall in. Headed by the Citizens' Defence Corps Band, they marched to the station, where a large crowd took part in the final farewells, and, as the train steamed out, the men were warmly cheered.

The names of those who left by the train were: —

S. W. Anderson, J. F. Aldridge, F. Butler, W. Bamford, , W. McGee, J. McGee, , J. O. McGinness [sic],

Ashburton Guardian. 16 September 1916 (Papers Past) [10/11/2025]

VALEDICTORY. SIX SOLDIERS FAREWELLED.

A very successful and enjoyable function, arranged by the Ashburton Catholic community, was held in the Masonic Hall last evening to bid farewell to Messrs J. Blackburn, P. Daly, J. Davison, W. Fitzgerald, J. McGuinness, and J. Whearty, who are shortly going on active service.

Mr M. J. Burgess occupied the chair, and there was a splendid attendance.

The following contributed to the very enjoyable programme: — Songs, Mrs O. F. Watson, Mr W. J. Cunningham, and Master P. Cullen; violin solo, Miss Cullen; pianoforte duet, Miss Cullen and Master Cullen.

In presenting each soldier with a useful article as a token of esteem, the Rev. Father O'Donnell spoke on the duties of a soldier, and gave them some advice which will be useful to them when in camp and on active service. In conclusion, he wished them God-speed and a safe return.

The gathering concluded with the singing of the National Anthem and "Auld Lang Syne."

New Zealand Tablet. 30 May 1918 (Papers Past) [11/11/2025]

ROLL OF HONOUR PRIVATE JAMES OWEN McGUINNESS.

Private James Owen McGuinness, who was killed in action on March 27, was the youngest son of Mr. Owen McGuinness, of Longbeach, Canterbury. The deceased soldier, who was 26 years of age at the time of his death, left New Zealand with the 18th Reinforcements. At the time of his enlistment he was engaged in farm work at Longbeach.