

# 'Old Kaiser' replaces Guy Fawkes for Orari group

In this fortnightly column, Carol Bell looks at events as they were portrayed in *The Timaru Herald* as the world was engulfed by the Great War.

## November 7, 1914

Owing to numerous cases of cable messages containing code language composed of words from more than one authorised code, also messages containing words from codes other than the authorised codes, causing confusion and hampering traffic the public is warned by the Telegraph Dept that the use in any one cable message of words from more than one of the authorised codes, or the use in any one cable message of words from any code other than one authorised, will result in the stoppage of the message.

## November 9, 1914

Ten youngsters of Orari, imbued with a desire to help the poor Belgian children, kept Guy Fawkes Day in style; dressed as wounded soldiers, nurses and poor refugees, they paraded the district with the "Old Kaiser" in a barrow and were successful in collecting one pound, six shillings and fourpence for the Relief Fund. Needless to say they finished the day burning the "Old Kaiser" in time honoured style.

For some time past Mr James Craigie has been endeavouring to get the Post Office, Courthouse, and other Government buildings

in Timaru painted and repaired, to help the unemployed. Mr Craigie visited the Courthouse on Thursday, and as a result of his visit telegraphed to the Minister of Public Works asking that the Courthouse be painted. Mr Craigie has received the very gratifying reply that the work of renovating the Courthouse will be put in hand immediately.

## November 11, 1914

A farewell social to Mr W. McClelland, who is leaving with the Expeditionary Forces, will be held in the Hilton Schoolroom on Friday, November 13th.

*Sergeant William Thomas*



W.T. McClelland

*McClelland, son of Thomas William McClelland of Winchester joined up*

*with the 3rd Reinforcements of the Canterbury Infantry Battalion and embarked from Wellington on 14 February 1915. He was mentioned in despatches London Gazette, 4 January 1917, p261, Rec No132: "Action: Goose Alley, drop Alley, Flers Trench, West of Flers, 20th/21st September 1916. When the 2nd Canterbury Battalion was heavily counter attacked during the afternoon of the 21st September this non-commissioned officer stuck to his post under great pressure, and endeavoured to rescue a wounded man under heavy bomb fire." Sergeant McClelland was killed in action at Bapaume, France on 14*

*August 1918 and buried at Queens Cemetery, Bucquoy, Pas-de-Calais, France.*

## November 12, 1914

On Tuesday evening, the land agents of Timaru met at the office of Messrs Howden and Innes-Jones to bid goodbye to Mr Ben. Sparrow, who has volunteered for the front. Mr R. N. Hawkes, who presided, spoke of the energy and uprightness that had characterised Mr Sparrow's career during the seven years he had carried on business as a land agent in Timaru, and wished him all success and a safe return. Mr W. Angland, in a few well-chosen

remarks, then presented Mr Sparrow with a gold-mounted fountain pen.

*Driver Benjamin Sparrow joined the 2nd Reinforcements of the Army Service Corps and embarked at Wellington on 14 December 1914.*

□ The SC Museum, SC branch of NZ Society of Genealogists, *Timaru Herald* and volunteers are working on a database of SC participation in World War I known as SCRoll. Information or memorabilia relating to this period for inclusion in the project would be welcomed. Contact Tony Rippin at the museum or Carol Bell on carolbel@ihug.co.nz.