

Timaru Herald. 15 December 1915 (Papers Past) [18 February 2017]

Mrs Wirenui Karetiana, of Elizabeth Street, Timaru, has received a letter from her son, Private John Koruarua, who left New Zealand with the 2nd Maori Reinforcements. He wrote from "mid-ocean" on October 4th, and says that the health of the boys who left Wellington on September 18th was excellent, and all were pleased with the life and thoroughly enjoying themselves. He mentions a pleasant visit to Albany, and assures his mother that he and his comrades are having a good time, and are never in need of anything. He also says that their officers are very kind, and treat the men just as well as themselves. The letter concludes: — "Mother, this is what we call the soldier's life, and it is one of the best. Do not worry about me; you know we all have a duty to perform, and some one must do it. I must now bring this letter to a close, with love and kisses; also aroha nui to all at home."

Timaru Herald. 17 January 1916 (Papers Past) [18 February 2017]

Mrs Wiremu Karetiana, of 55 Elizabeth Street, has received word from the Base Record Office that her son, Private John Koruarua, has been wounded and invalided home, and is coming by the Willochra, which is expected to reach Dunedin at the end of this month. This is the first notice Mrs Karetiana has had of her son being wounded. Private Koruarua celebrated his 19th birthday on his way to the front. He is a descendant of the great Maori warrior Maru.

Timaru Herald. 31 January 1916 (Papers Past) [18 February 2017]

**WELCOMED HOME.
INVALIDS EX WILLOCHRA.
FOUR SOUTH CANTERBURY MEN.**

There was but a small gathering at the railway station yesterday afternoon to welcome the Canterbury soldiers ex Willochra, who came up from Dunedin by special train. No public notice was given of the probable time of arrival of the train at Timaru. The only hint given was that the train was to leave Dunedin at 9 a.m., and assuming that it would travel at express speed, this gave the time of arrival at Timaru shortly before 2.30 p.m. As a matter of fact the train travelled much faster than the express and reached Timaru about 1.30 p.m.

His Worship the Mayor received word on Saturday night that the train would arrive about 1.30, and he informed officials of the Honorary Territorials, consequently some of these were present. The 2nd Regimental Band mustered at short notice, as the Mayor could not communicate with them till 11 a.m. The reception of the arrival was, therefore, much quieter than usual, but the Band, by its music, relieved it from tameness.

The train was not a long one, there being only about five-and-forty soldiers and some thirty relatives aboard. When the train drew up at the platform, the Mayor, who was accompanied by the Mayoress, gave a brief address of welcome. He felt it a privilege, he said, to give a hearty welcome back to New Zealand of soldiers who had shared in the glorious deeds of which all had read with pride. The people of New Zealand knew what sacrifices they had made, and heartily appreciated them. Some would carry to the grave the marks of what they had gone through but they were honourable scars and would remind others as well as those

who bore them, of the gallant deeds that had been done at Gallipoli. He hoped that with rest and careful nursing all would soon be restored to full health and strength.

Mr Guinness then asked for cheers for the soldiers, and these were heartily given with an added one for the Mayor. The train stopped only about a quarter of an hour, fruit and cigarettes were handed to those going further and they were given a parting cheer. The party were in charge of Captain Matthews, N.Z.S.C., Assistant Staff Officer.

Those who left the train at Timaru were: —

6-3138. Rennie, Andrew F., Canterbury Infantry (Timaru).

16-968, Koruarua, John, Private, Divisional Headquarters Staff (Timaru).

The two men who disembarked were conveyed by car to their homes by Mr D. C. Turnbull and Mr Gladstone Robinson, and before they left the station the Mayor gave them a special welcome home on behalf of the people of Timaru. He assured them that the people who stayed at home fully appreciated the sacrifices they had made and would never forget them.

AT TEMUKA.

At Temuka two returned soldiers left the train, and received an ovation from a large crowd assembled at the station. These were: —

7-912, Trooper Alex. Hall, Canterbury M.R., of Fairlie.

10-3138. Private J. J. O'Neill, Wellington Battalion, of Waitohi.

The men were driven in cars to the Post Office, the Temuka Brass Band heading the procession and enlivening the scene with martial music. On arrival at the Post Office, speeches of welcome were made by the Mayor, Mr Frew, and Mr D. Ferguson.

Trooper Hall received shrapnel wounds in leg, arms and back, while Private O'Neill was wounded in the thigh, and was also stricken with fever.

OTHERS TO COME.

Other South Canterbury men who returned by the Willochra are: —

6-1735. Tasker, Ernest N., Canterbury Infantry (Ashburton).

7-1358. Hawke, Henry W., Canterbury M.R. (Waimate).

7-1263. McKay, Benjamin, Canterbury M.R. (Ashburton).

Also 22-191 Nurse Mabel Alice Jessop (Ashburton).

THE ARRIVAL AT DUNEDIN.

DELAYED BY FOG.

Per Press Association.

DUNEDIN. Jan. 30. After

being delayed outside heads all day by mist the Willochra, with 196 convalescents, came alongside the wharf at Port Chalmers on Saturday night, when the men were given a cordial welcome. The Medical Board at once commenced its work, which was concluded by midnight. This enabled the Canterbury men to leave Dunedin by special train at 9 o'clock this morning.

The remainder of the men were accorded a public reception in the Art Gallery Hall this afternoon, when speeches were given by the Hon. T. Allen and Mr Clark, Mayor of Dunedin, after which they were entertained by the Otago Women's Patriotic Committee.

The North Island contingent and Southland section leave Dunedin tomorrow morning. The majority of the men are suffering from the effects of enteric fever.

HOME ONCE MORE.
INVALIDED SOLDIERS RETURN.
THE WILLOCHRA'S CONTINGENT.
SPECIAL TRAIN FROM DUNEDIN.
MOSTLY ENTERIC CASES.

With joyous anticipations at shortly being back in their homes again after many months of adventure in distant parts of the world, the North Otago and Canterbury members of the Willochra's complement, to the number of 41, together with Nursing Sisters A. D. Campbell and C. Morris, yesterday boarded a special train at the Dunedin railway station at 9 a.m. After brief stops at various stations en route to set down soldiers returning to their homes in those localities, the train drew up at the Christchurch railway station at 4.45 p.m. With the soldiers on the special journeyed, in many instances their nearest relatives, and there were also aboard Captain Matthews, N.Z.S.C., and Mr A. C. Maxwell, of the C.D.C., who was sent to Dunedin by that organisation to look after the interests of the men, and to make various arrangements on their behalf. At the Dunedin station, the Hon. James Allen, Minister of Defence, and the Mayor (Mr J. Clark) were present to see the men off. At Oamaru, Timaru, and Temuka, bands were drawn up at the station and played patriotic airs; at Timaru and Ashburton, addresses of welcome were given by the Mayors of those boroughs, Messrs E. R. Guinness, and R. Galbraith respectively. Gifts of fruit were presented to the soldiers.

At the Christchurch station there was a large crowd to greet the jaded warriors, and a short address of welcome on behalf of the city was made by the Mayor (Mr H. Holland). Thanks to the arrangements made by Mr Maxwell and other officials of the C.D.C., accommodation was provided at various hotels for men going further afield than Christchurch. There was a large assemblage of members of the Motor Reserve and the Canterbury Automobile Association with their cars to convey the soldiers and their relatives to their destinations; one man, Trooper Joblin, with his wife and child, being motored out to Little River.

THE MEN WHO RETURNED.
PICTURES OF HEALTH.

The men who returned home yesterday comprised representatives of every force from the Main Body to the Seventh Reinforcements. Enteric was the cause of practically everyone of them being invalided home. Some had been at the front for months, ever since the landing on April 25th, miraculously escaping death or injury but finally falling victims to enteric; others had been attacked by the fever before they could leave Egypt. To say that these latter were disappointed at their apparent ill-luck is to express their attitude mildly. Some of the men had been wounded in action, but had recovered from their injuries. Enteric, however, had finally laid them low. There were no cot cases aboard. No one appeared with an arm or leg missing, bandages were conspicuous by their absence, and the only apparent sign of injury was that of a man with an eye missing. The men, despite the bout of fever that had attacked so many of them, looked bronzed and healthy, and very few showed visible signs of the strenuous times they had passed through.

Following are the names and destinations of the Canterbury and North Otago men who returned yesterday: —

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Trooper A. Hall, 7-912, Timaru.

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Saddler. H. W. Hawke, 7-1358, Waimate.

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Private J. J. O'Neill, 10-1604, Timaru.

.....

Private John Kornarna [sic], 16-968, Timaru.

.....

Private A. F. Rennie, Timaru.

There also returned: —

Nursing Sister A. D. Campbell, 22-110, Christchurch.

Nursing Sister C. Morris, 22-143, Amberley.

The Nelson and Marlborough men will leave for the North by to-night's boat.

Temuka Leader. 22 May 1920 (Papers Past) [05/12/2023]

WELCOME HOME.

AND PRESENTATION OF ILLUMINATED ADDRESSES.

On Thursday evening a very enjoyable welcome home social was held in the Maori Hall, Arowhenua, to welcome Private T. Whitau, a member of the Maori Pioneer. Battalion, present him with a gold medal, and present illuminated addressed to every local Maori soldier who had returned, and to the relatives of two others who had lost their lives in the Great War. The Hall was nicely decorated, and there was a large attendance. Among those present was Mr Pitama (president of the Tuahiwi Patriotic Committee) and Mr Teaika (representing Mr W. H. Uru, member for the Southern Maori District). Excellent music was provided by Misses V. Hopkinson and M. Gray, Mr Jas. Elder rendering material assistance with the "bones." Mr Joe Solomon carried out the duties of M.C. in his usual capable manner. During the evening Miss Ruby Marsh favoured those present with a song, and had to respond to an encore. Dancing was commenced shortly after 8 o'clock, and was kept going spiritedly until shortly before 11, when there was a break to allow of

THE PRESENTATIONS

to be made. Mr H. Paiki. having briefly introduced the Mayor (Mr T. Gunnion) and Mr Pitama, the Mayor expressed his regret that he had not been at the Temuka railway station on the previous day to welcome Private Whitau, but he had gone to Timaru with the Renown men, and had overlooked the fact that the returned soldier was expected. He had great pleasure in being present that evening. Private Whitau had gone away with the Maori Pioneer Battalion five years ago and had only just returned. No doubt if Private Whitau liked he could tell a most interesting story and one that would astonish his hearers. As he had said before, the Maoris of Arowhenua could well be proud of the fact they had given to the war as a volunteer every boy capable of bearing arms, and he understood it was the same at Kaiapoi. These were records that the Maoris could justly be proud of. There was a time when the Maoris and pakehas were fighting but that was long ago, and now they were a united people, true and loyal to their King. (Applause.) Private Whitau and the other Maori boys who had gone to the war had proved their loyalty. The Mayor then referred to the testimonials to be presented by Mr Pitama, and after thanking Private Whitau for his services, said to him: "On behalf of your Maori friends in Temuka, I have much pleasure in presenting you with this beautiful medal in recognition of what you have done for us."

Miss Taipana pinned the medal on Private Whitau's coat amidst great applause, and the little ceremony was followed with the singing of "For he's a jolly good fellow," and cheers. Mr H. Torepe's company then sang a waiata very sweetly, and had to respond to an encore.

Private Whitau briefly responded, thanking the Mayor and his Maori friends for the evening and medal. He would never forget them. (Applause.) (The medal is very handsome and neatly engraved. On one side is the inscription "Private T. Whitau. From friends," and on the other the initials "T.W.")

Mr Pitama, chairman of the Tuahiwi Patriotic Committee, said it had been decided to present an illuminated address to each boy in the South Island who went to the war. This should have been carried out twelve months ago, but in compliance with requests from various pas who wanted the presentations to take place at the welcome to the last boy, the ceremony had been deferred. It had been hard to wait for so long. At the end of the great crisis everyone wanted to settle down to work as in pre-war times. At the beginning of the war they had presented each boy with a medal, but it had been found that they did not always keep them, and it was decided to give the addresses, which could hardly be given away, and which, when the boys married and got homes of their own, could be hung on the walls and show the part they had taken in the Great War. The addresses were a mark that the people of Tuahiwi appreciated what the boys had done that those who stayed here, who were unfitted to go, might have good homes.

Amidst applause Mr Pitama then presented addresses to the following: — T. Whitau, Wm. H. Torepe, Wm. Rickus, Thomas Percival Rickus (the two latter were received by Mrs Rickus), R. Nopera, T. Reihana, T. Whaitiri, Jack Rickus, John Koruarua, Leslie Hopkinson, James Hopkinson, William Taipana.

Mr Pitama said during the war some had had a terrible time. Words could not express his feelings. Mothers had had to grieve for the loss of their sons. Some of the boys "went west." In one case here two members of one family had died, and both parents were dead. Their relatives had their deep sympathy. He was not going to say anything further about the boys who made the supreme sacrifice, but would ask all to join in singing a verse of a hymn.

The audience stood, and the verse was sung with bowed heads after which Mr presented P. Whitau's address to his aunt, Mrs Kemara, and A. K. Whitau's address to L. Whitau, his uncle.

Mr Pitama expressed his thanks for having been allowed to present the addresses, saying the duty had been a great pleasure to him, and Mr W. H. Torepe, on behalf of the boys of the Maori Pioneers, thanked Mr Pitama and the Tuahiwi Patriotic Committee for the beautiful illuminated addresses. The boys appreciated them very much. Mr H. Torepe's company then sang "Haere tohu Tuahuriri and Aroha whenua" ("Till we meet again") very tunefully and sweetly. A nice supper, supplied by the ladies, was then handed round, after which dancing was resumed and kept going for several hours. The successful function reflected great credit on those who arranged it, Messrs H. Torepe, H. Paiki, and K. Kemara,

Timaru Herald. 25 May 1920 (Papers Past)

AROWHENUA PA

SOLDIERS' SOCIAL AND PRESENTATIONS.

A successful welcome home social and presentation was tendered to Private T. Whitau, of the Maori Pioneer Battalion, in the Arowhenua Hall last week. The Tuahiwi Patriotic Committee also presented framed and illuminated addresses to all the Maori soldiers who have returned, and to the next of kin of two others who made the supreme sacrifice in the late war. The building, which was filled to its utmost, was beautifully decorated. Among the visitors were Mr Pitama (president of the Tuaihiwi Patriotic committee), and Mr Teaike, representing Mr W. H. Uru, M.P. The dance music was supplied by Misses V. Hopkinson and V. Gray,

assisted in the “effects” by Mr J. Elder. Mr J. Solomon was M.C. Two songs were capitally sung by Miss Ruby Marsh.

The presentations were made by the Mayor of Temuka and Mr Pitama.

Mr Gunnion said that he was pleased to welcome home one of the first boys who went away from the pa, and saw almost five years service. The Arowhenua Maoris’ record was a proud one, every eligible lad had been a volunteer – it was a credit to the native race.

Mr Gunnion presented the medal to Private Whitau, and amidst cheers, Miss Taipani pinned it on. “For he’s a jolly good fellow” was sung, and Mr H. Torepe’s company sang a waiata, and had to repeat it.

Private Whitau suitably expressed his thanks.

Mr Pitama said that about a year ago the Tuahiwi Patriotic Committee decided to present an illuminated address to all the native boys who had returned, but at the request of the various pas it was decided to delay the presentation until the last man had returned. During the early part of the war medals were given to each boy, but in many cases they were not kept. The framed address could be retained for all time, and could be hung up on the wall at home to show the part they had taken in the great war.

The following were presented with addresses: — T. Whitau, W. H. Torepe, W. Rickus, T. P. Rickus, R. Nopera, T. Reihana, T. Whaikiri, Jack Rickus, J. Koruarua, L. Hopkinson, J. Hopkinson, W. Taipana.

Mr Pitama then made feeling references to those mothers who had lost sons in the war, in one instance in Temuka two sons of one family had died, and both parents were dead. Their relatives had his deepest sympathy. At his request the audience stood and sang a verse of a Maori Hymn, after which Mr Pitama presented Private Whitau’s address to Mrs Kemara and A. K. Whitau’s address to Ti Whitau, his uncle.

Mr W. H. Torepe on behalf of the Maori Pioneer Boys thanked Mr Pitama and his committee for their handsome presents.

Mr Torepe’s company then contributed several Maori items, after which a dainty supper was handed round by the ladies. Dancing was then resumed and kept going until an advanced hour.

The function was one of the most enjoyable held at the pa, and much of its success was due to the excellent arrangements made and carried out by the promoters, Messrs H. Torepe, H. Paiki and K. Kemara.