

*Timaru Herald*. 25 August 1915 (Papers Past) [10/07/2025]

Last Friday night the Chamberlain Bible Class and choir held a social and presentation, to bid farewell to Mr Ernest J. Keay, who is leaving the district to go with the 8th Reinforcements. Mr Peterson, in making the presentation of a wristlet watch, congratulated Mr Keay on the course he had taken and hoped that he would be spared to come back and join them again. Mr M. Laughton, on behalf of the employees of Opawa, also presented Mr Keay with a travelling rug, and said he had been held in high esteem by the employees of the "Opawa" estate. Mr Keay replied with a few well chosen remarks, thanking all for their kindness, and said he would try and uphold the honour that New Zealanders at the Dardanelles had won.

*Timaru Herald*. 17 November 1939 (Papers Past) [14/07/2025]

#### **Farewell to Bailiff**

Mr E. J. Keay, of the staff of the Timaru Magistrate's Court for the past six years, who has been promoted to the position of crier at the Supreme Court. Christchurch, [also] left for the north yesterday.

The Magistrate, Mr H. Morgan, who presided at a farewell gathering of the Magistrate's Court staff in Mr Keay's honour, said that he had carried out his duties in a most efficient manner, and wished him every success in his new work.

Senior-sergeant D. J. Hewitt added a tribute on behalf of the police.

Mr D. C. E. Webster (Clerk of the Court), said that he had heard of Mr Keay's ability as a Court crier before the speaker had come to Timaru, and he had found that Mr Keay's reputation had been fully justified. Personally, he was very sorry that Mr Keay was leaving Timaru.

Mr P. W. J. Cockerill (assistant Clerk of the Court) conveyed a message from Mr W. Harte, late Clerk of the Court and now of Napier, who took credit to himself that he had selected such a capable officer for the Department.

Mr G. C. Powell, of the Court staff, also paid a warm tribute to Mr Keay.

Mr Morgan then made the presentation of a suitcase to Mr Keay with the best wishes of the staff, and Mr Keay suitably acknowledged the tribute.

*Timaru Herald*. Wednesday, May 6, 1959 [30/03/2016]

#### **OBITUARY**

##### **Mr E. J. Keay**

Mr Ernest James Keay, the court crier and custodian of the Christchurch Supreme Court, died at his home on Monday aged 64. Mr Keay was due to retire in July. He became ill early this year, and has been on sick leave for some time.

After Army service in France during the First World War, he joined the Post and Telegraph Department in 1920, transferring to Justice Department in 1934. For two years Mr Keay was bailiff at the Timaru Magistrate's Court. He was appointed crier and custodian at the Christchurch Supreme Court in 1939.

*Press.* 6 May 1959 (Papers Past) [10/07/2025]

***Obituary***

**MR E. J. KEAY**

Mr Ernest James Keay, a popular and respected figure at the Christchurch Supreme Court, where he was court crier and custodian for 20 years, died at his home adjoining the Court yesterday afternoon. He was 64.

Mr Keay, who was due to retire in July, became ill early in the year and was on sick leave at the time of his death.

After Army service in France during World War I, he joined the Post and Telegraph Department in 1920, transferring to the Justice Department in 1934. For two years Mr Keay was bailiff at the Timaru Magistrate's Court. He was appointed crier and custodian at the Christchurch Supreme Court in 1939.

Known familiarly among barristers, Court officers, and reporters as "Ernie," he was renowned for his constant vigilance and example in upholding the dignity of the Court.