

Temuka Leader. 19 March 1918 (Papers Past) [07/02/2026]

COMING HOME TO-DAY.

Transports. No. 147 and 148, bringing returned soldiers, arrived in Wellington from Auckland on Monday morning. The southern quota on board transport No. 149 had been transferred at Auckland to No. 147 and 148 and arrived by these vessels. The South Island quota were to leave for Lyttelton on Monday evening, arriving on Tuesday, morning.

The following are the names of the local men: -

Geraldine — J. Bennett, W. J. Clark, (Orari), A. J. Hopping (Gapes Valley).

Temuka — L. Boulter, G. Curry, T. D. Elder, H. T. Hobbs, L. Heap, D. G. Henry, S. D. King, G. G. McGillan, C. Mackenzie, J. P. O'Connell, R. J. Wallace, O. Wareing, and S. D. Webb, Moran, Sergt.-Major Story, Corporal Kay.

Kerrytown—**B. B. Brosnahan.**

Pleasant Point — J. M. Pye, S. Cullimore, L. Lawrenson.

Captain J. G. Stewart, Lieut. W. A. Stead; Medical Service — Captain J. G. Crawford, Captain Elizabeth Gunn, Staff-Nurse J. Munro (Otaio), twenty-nine Timaru men, and four Albury, Fairlie, and Sutherlands men will also be on the train.

With such a number of our boys coming home there will no doubt be a very large assemblage to meet them. The Temuka Band will turn out, and it being sale day the country will be particularly represented. We hope the weather will be fine for the occasion.

A special train with the returned soldiers will arrive at Temuka at about 2.50 this afternoon. Several motor cars are still wanted at Temuka to convey the soldiers to their homes, and offers of such will be thankfully received by the Patriotic Committee. Owners of cars are asked to communicate with the chairman of the Patriotic Committee (Mr Gunnion) as early as possible to-day. Gifts of ripe fruit for the soldiers going further on will also be very welcome, and it is requested that these will be sent to the Parish Hall before 2 o'clock, so that the ladies may be able to have them ready for distribution when the train arrives.

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BACK FROM THE WAR.

A WET-DAY WELCOME.

TRAIN BEHIND TIME.

A special train conveying returned soldiers for South Canterbury, Otago, and Southland reached Timaru about 5 p.m. yesterday. On Monday evening it was announced that the train would reach here at 3.5 p.m., and various arrangements were made for meeting the detraining men with cars and providing tea for those going further. In spite of a steady rain a considerable number of people went to the station at the appointed time, to learn that the train would be half an hour late. Then other intimations of delays succeeded one another, and it was nearly 5 o'clock before the train came in. The platform was fairly full of waiting friends and others, suggesting that there would have been a crush had the weather been fine. On Station Street was a fine array of cars, the owners of many of which had a tedious "wait" in the dismal weather. The executive of the Reception Committee had everything well arranged for the conveyance of the men, yet a considerable time was required to get them all away. The soldiers going further were supplied with fruit, a supply of warm tea being made impracticable by the long wait.

The Mayor, Mr Maling, addressing the men, said that they were pleased to be able to welcome them home. They were pleased to welcome not only the Timaru men, but all those who had detrained here but belonged to various parts of South Canterbury. He was sorry the weather was so wet, but that would no doubt not affect the men one little bit. He concluded by calling

for three hearty cheers for the soldiers, and these were given lustily. The following are the names of those who arrived, as checked by the Reception Committee: — Captain J. G. Stewart, Lieutenant W. A. Stead, Lieutenant Green, Nurse Howell.

E. W. Arscott, D. J. Bergin, B. L. G. Cole, G. Dawson, A. L. Dunnill, W. G. Granger, R. S. Hall, B. H. Howell, S. E. Johns, N. J. Meehan, J. E. Ryder, P. St. John, N. Smith, J. Wood, - Hill, - Collins.

The foregoing belong to Timaru. There were also — G. A. Makeig (of Pareora) and J. R. Wall (of Sutherlands).

The Fairlie train was delayed till after 5 o'clock to pick up one or more soldiers for that line. Cars were lent by the following: — Mrs J. E. P. Cameron, Mrs H. Corbett, Mrs Newman, Miss Pringle, Miss Evans, Miss LeCren, Messrs R. Berti, A. Copland, J. R. Davison, G. T. Dawson, H. R. Harris. Edgar Jones, E. G. Kerr, T. J. Lamb, Morton and Pearson, A. C. Murray, J. McPherson, W. McCullough, S. Mackenzie, W. Panton, Gladstone Robinson, F. A. Raymond, C. E. Shallcrass, Hugh Stewart, Bernard Tripp, C. H. Tripp, W. H. Walton, T. Yarr, Adams Ltd., S. Aitcheson, H. Holdgate, W. K. MacDonald, T. Black, R. J. McKeown, E. Rutherford, F. Carlton, R. Irving. G. Watts, J. Maling, and L. Wood.

TEMUKA'S WELCOME.

Despite the very wet weather a large crowd assembled at the Temuka railway station to welcome a number of Temuka soldiers. The train was two hours late, and the Temuka Brass Band to pass the time played some selections. Owing to the disagreeable day Mr T. Gunnion (chairman of the Temuka Patriotic Entertainment Committee) officially welcomed the men at the station, instead of proceeding to the Post Office. As the special train steamed out the other soldiers were given a cheer.

Mr Gunnion said that Temuka was proud to welcome the men back, and best thanks were due to the soldiers for what they had done for us. He trusted that they would be soon restored to health and strength.

The men were then taken to the cars in attendance and headed by the Temuka Brass Band marched to the Post Office, and the cars then left with the soldiers for their homes.

The following were the men who returned –

Staff Sergeant-Major L. Heap, Privates H. T. Hobbs, R. Wallace, J. Currie, D. Henry, **Brosnahan**, O'Connell, McKillin, Boulter.

The following supplied cars: — Messrs T. Sheen, R. Brookland, A. Martin, G. Ward, M. McLeod, T. Tarbotton, W. Halley (2), T. Frisby, I. Wedlake, J. Gaffaney, W. Moore. J. Brown, J. J. Ellis, P. A. Acheson, W. Fitzgerald, R. J. Thistleton, G. Watts, A. Shaw, A. C. Buist, G. Cartwright, C. Bates, R. Maddren, and P. Wareing.

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HOME AGAIN.

WELCOME TO RETURNED SOLDIERS.

AT TEMUKA.

On Tuesday last thirteen more of our soldier boys returned to Temuka from the war. Sixteen were expected but three were unable to come. The weather was very wet, rain pouring down the whole of the day, but this did not prevent a large turn-out of the public to welcome the boys home. Flags were flown from stalls and business places in the town and at the railway station. The men and their relatives came by special train, and it was unfortunate that the train was unable to run to timetable time. It was at first expected at Temuka at a quarter to three o'clock,

but it was half-past four o'clock, before it arrived at the station. There was a very large gathering at the railway station, and as the train — a long one — steamed in, the Temuka Juvenile Brass Band, under Mr. Burtenshaw, struck up a welcoming air. The Temuka Entertainment Committee had made very complete arrangements for the occasion. Several cases of fruit had been made up into parcels, and a number of ladies and gentlemen distributed these among the soldiers and their friends who were going further south. Mr Gunnion, chairman of the Temuka P.E.C, called for cheers for the men who had been fighting valiantly for their King and country, and these were given with zest, those on the train acknowledging them with cheers.

The local men were warmly welcomed by their relatives and friends, and by Messrs Gunnion, Street, and Rev. A. H. Norris, on behalf of the Entertainment Committee, and they were then escorted to the motor cars in waiting to receive them.

Speaking from the platform, Mr Gunnion said on account of the rain it had been decided that the welcome should take place at the railway station instead of at the post office. He assured the returned soldiers that all were very glad to see them back. They thanked them for what they had done for them. They had been far away fighting for those who remained at home, and braving the perils and trials of this terrible war. Temuka honoured them, and hoped they would soon all be well again and be long spared to live happily with their friends. He hoped that the State would do its duty by them and see that they were well cared for if they needed it. (Applause).

At the call of Mr Gunnion, hearty cheers were given for the returned soldiers, who were then driven to the post office by way of Railway Terrace and Wood and King Streets, the Band preceding them.

It was unfortunate that a change was made in the usual procedure, for a still larger crowd had assembled at the post office anticipating the usual addresses there. However, the heartiness of the welcome was apparent to all.

Speaking from the post office steps the Mayor (Mr A. Frew) said it would take a long speech to express the feelings of those assembled to welcome the returned soldiers. They were all very glad to have the men back. They had been doing their duty for their country, and it was for the State to see that men who had fought and suffered in the war should be well provided for in the future. (Applause).

The men were then driven to their homes.

Those who returned were —

Sergeant-Major L. Heap

Private L. Boulter

Private G. Curry

Private H. T. Hobbs

Private D. G. Henry

Private S. D. King

Private C. G. McGillen

Private C. Mackenzie

Private J. P. O'Connell

Private P. J. Wallace

Private S. D. Webb

Private C Moran

Corporal Kay.

Those who kindly provided cars were: — W. Hally (2), C. Bates, P. Wareing, T. Sheen, R. Brookland, A. Martin, Geo. Ward, M. H. McLeod, T. Tarbotton, - Wedlake, T. Frisby, J. Gaffaney, W. Moore, John Brown (Riverslea), J. J. Ellis, P. A. Acheson, W. Fitzgerald, R. Thistleton, G. Watt, A. Shaw, R. Maddren, A. C. Buist, and Geo. Cartwright.

Very acceptable gifts of fruit for the soldiers passing through in the train were received from Mrs R. Brookland, Mrs Hayhurst, and Mr Philp (Winchester).

YESTERDAY'S WELCOME.

Yesterday three more men arrived at Temuka and were met and welcomed by the Mayor and Mr Gunniom. Their names were —

Private D. T. Elder

Private B. B. Brosnahan

Private C. Wareing

Mr Bates, Mr Tarbotton, and Mr Wareing provided cars to convey the soldiers to their homes.

WELCOME AT GERALDINE.

A large number of residents of Geraldine and district assembled on Tuesday afternoon to welcome home the returned soldiers who were expected to arrive. The Mayor (Dr Patersoru), together with members of the motor reserve met the train (which was two hours late) at Orari, and Mr Morrison drove Mr T. Bennett to his home. Mr W. Pye, of Raincliff, was the only other soldier to arrive, but as the rain was pouring down it was thought advisable to postpone any official welcome to a more favourable opportunity.