

Timaru Herald. 4 April 1918 (Papers Past) [20/10/2021]

SEND-OFF AT TEMUKA.

A public send-off was tendered to the Temuka and district recruits of the 40th Reinforcements in the Dominion Theatre last evening. There was a large attendance. The Temuka Patriotic Entertainment Committee secured the services of the Euterpean Orchestra from Timaru to supply the evening's entertainment, and the Temuka Brass Band played selections outside the hall. The platform was tastefully decorated with flags, palms, etc. The soldiers on entering the hall had an enthusiastic reception.

Their names are — H. J. Chapman, M. J. Smith, A. Scott, **J. Brosnahan**, G Chalmers, T. H. Looker, T. O. Williams, and G. Washington.

Mr T. Gunnion presided, and in his remarks he referred to the new military crisis and the appeal for more men. He said New Zealand had done a good deal, but not enough. We must be prepared to send men until final victory is obtained.

Temuka Leader. 4 April 1918 (Papers Past) [20/10/2021]

40th REINFORCEMENTS.

SEND-OFF AT TEMUKA

The local members of the 40th Reinforcements were entertained in the Dominion Theatre, Temuka, last evening, the attendance, as usual, being large. Shortly before 8 o'clock a procession was formed at Gunnion's corner, and, headed by the Temuka Junior Band, marched to the Theatre. As the men entered the theatre the audience stood and cheered.

Mr T. Gunnion, chairman of the Temuka Patriotic Entertainment Committee, presided. In opening the proceedings he said they had met again to send more boys away. He was one of those who had hoped that the war would be over before this, and that no more of their boys would need to go. But they all knew of the terrible struggle that had recently taken place at the front, and was not yet over. So more must go. He had read a letter in a Dunedin paper saying that New Zealand had done enough, and America should now be let do the rest. The writer ought to be prosecuted for writing such stuff, and the paper also for publishing it. Such a letter was a disgrace at the present time. It has been said by some that all the young men had been sent away from New Zealand. That was a lie, for there were thousands at the Christchurch races, and while this was the case there were plenty able to go to the front. If they could attend races they could fight. These men should be fighting to protect their mothers, sisters, wives and children from the Huns. Many of them were probably of the S.D.W.G. Brigade — "some day we'll go." (Laughter). New Zealand would not have done her part until she had done everything she possibly could to secure victory.

The chairman was frequently applauded during his remarks, showing that he had the sympathy of his audience. He concluded by bespeaking for the Euterpean Band (which was to give the programme) a hearty response. The Band always came to his assistance when he wanted help, and he felt that Temuka was much indebted to it.

The programme was opened with an overture by the Euterpean Band which was thoroughly enjoyed. Miss Wheeler (Timaru), followed with a song, "Love of Mine," and received a well merited encore, responding with "I My Rose." Miss Rusbridge and Master John Shaw (in costume) danced an Irish jig. They gave a capital exhibition, and the item was very popular, the young performers being encored. Mrs Radcliff (Timaru), who is always a favourite with Temuka audiences, recited "Flora Bit", describing how a London flower girl gave all her stock in trade of flowers to some wounded soldiers, who had just returned from the front. She recited the story with much feeling and expression, and in response to an encore gave a humorous piece entitled "Two points of stew[?]," being again very successful. The Euterpean Band gave

a very fine rendering of "The Long Trail," receiving a vociferous encore, to which they responded. Mr Erich[?] (Timaru), gave a splendid rendering of "Drake's[?]," and as an encore he gave a splendid rendering of the "March of the ...[?] Men." Miss Rusbridge and Master John Shaw (in costume) danced a sailor's hornpipe, giving a very fine performance, and having to respond to another encore. The Band then played "Hanover," a well-known selection, the audience being greatly pleased. Miss Muriel Freeman (Timaru), another favourite, gave a recitation describing the human body. It was splendidly given and well deserved an encore. "The Minister's to tea," the story of a rather pre.....s little girl, created much amuse...

The chairman here read the following telegram from Mr Chas Talbot, M. P. for the district: "Please pay my respects to the reinforcements going to prepare to help our brave divisions in France. May they be in time to stem the German tide, and add to the lustre already surrounding our noble men. While they are opposing their bodies to the fore the least those who remain behind in safety and comfort can do is to find the needful money by investing in the "Liberty Loan." They are providing the man power. We are more than wasters and cowards if we fail to supply the financial power. Ake, Ake, C. Talbot."

The chairman went on to urge on all to support the loan. Thirteen shillings or sixteen shillings, or a week's wages would help. All should do what they could — they could not do too much. (Applause).

The Band played "Evening Hour" and "Habsburg," very popular selections.

The chairman next announced that the following men would be leaving for camp on Friday, in company with the Geraldine men: -

H. J. Chapman (Waitohi), (7th).

M. J. Smith (Seadown).

A. Scott (Winchester).

T. Brosnahan.

W. H. Chalmers.

J. H. Looker.

T. C[O?]. Williams.

The chairman commented on the fact that one of the men, H. J. Chapman, went away with the 7th Reinforcements, and had returned invalided, yet now he felt it his duty to go again. (Applause). We should be proud of such men.

Amidst applause Mrs Aspinall presented the men with their "holdalls" from the Temuka Ladies' Patriotic Committee.

The Band having played another selection, the chairman proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Euterpean Band and the other performers for giving them such a splendid entertainment. The vote was carried by acclamation, and acknowledged in fitting terms by the conductor, Mr O'Mara.

The National Anthem, sung by all, brought the entertainment to a close.

The Band was ably conducted by Mr Mara, and the entertainment was one of the best and most given in the long series of send-offs to the men going into camp. The accompaniments to the songs were nicely played by Mrs McGlashan. The takings amounted to £11 10s.

Temuka Leader. 6 April 1918 [07/02/2026]

40th REINFORCEMENTS.

SEND-OFF AT TEMUKA TO LOCAL MEN,
AND A WELCOME.

Yesterday the South Canterbury quota to the 40th Reinforcements left for camp, and at Temuka the Temuka, Geraldine, and district representatives and their relatives were entertained at luncheon in the Drill Hall by the ladies of the Patriotic Entertainment Committee. As usual, the ladies provided a bounteous repast, and paid the most careful attention to the needs of their guests. Mr Gunnion, chairman of the Temuka P.E.C., presided, and grace was said by the Rev. A. H. Norris, the hon. While the luncheon was in progress Mrs Hally's Temuka Patriotic ??? and discoursed very acceptable music, the applause being frequent.

After the meal had been done every justice the chairman said they had met to say farewell to some more of their boys who were going to the front, but had besides to welcome a soldier who had been to the war and had returned. They had the honour to welcome back Private Dixon, who went away with the 14th Reinforcements and was reported as "killed." He was not a Temuka boy — his home was in Dunedin — but he went away from Temuka. He (the chairman) was glad to welcome Private Dixon back, and hoped he would make his home here. The people were very proud to have him back, and he wished all who had gone to the war could come back. Private Dixon at present was not well, but he hoped he would soon recover, and be quite well again. He extended to him a hearty welcome, and expressed the hope that he would marry and settle down in Temuka. (Applause).

The Rev. A. H. Norris said he was exceedingly glad to have the opportunity of saying a few words of welcome to Private Dixon. He was afraid that on all occasions returned soldiers don't get all they deserve. Only a short time ago he heard of one, who was in plain clothes, who was with his mates, being asked "Why don't you put on uniform?" The man who asked such a question deserved tarring and feathering. However, that was only one case, and there were thousands of men and women who do appreciate and have some faint idea of what our soldiers have done for them. (Applause). He was exceedingly glad to see Private Dixon back. (Applause).

Private Dixon said he felt quite overcome by the welcome extended to him. The kindness that had been extended to him since his return from the front he would never forget. As to the acknowledgement of what he had done, he had done no more than their boys had done. When he went away he took that obligation, and he had done what he could. It was not always those who came back with decorations who had done the most valuable duty. There were many New Zealand boys who had done most valorous deeds which were never recognised. He was sorry to say it, but it was true. Private Dixon then referred to the farewell at the Temuka railway station, when he was one of the draft of men going away, and spoke in appreciative terms of the presence of the Mayor and the heartiness of the send-off. He only wished his comrades were with him at the welcome home. After a few further remarks, Private Dixon concluded by again thanking the chairman and the other speakers for the welcome accorded him, and sat down amidst applause.

The chairman then addressed the boys who were leaving for camp. He advised them as he had advised others who had already gone, to do their duty as men, and always behave as men, and come back as men, and all would be pleased to welcome them. The people were proud of them. He trusted they would all be spared to come back safely. He had just got a letter from a soldier, in which he stated that although they had their hard times they also had their very jolly times. As he had said the other night, New Zealand had done her part well and nobly, but she must still do more. The men who were leaving were going to fight side by side with those who are at the front now. The Allies had got to do more, and New Zealand had to do more to fight and defeat the enemy, who must never be allowed to come here. New Zealand had done wonderfully well. In conclusion the chairman said he hoped the war would soon be over, and that those who were leaving that day would come back safe and sound. (Applause). The Mayor (Mr Frew) said he thought the speech that appealed to them most was the daily news from the front. If they listened to that call they would all find a "call" to respond to. There had been

many soldiers from Temuka responding to the call of duty in the past, and another batch was going that day to uphold the honour of their country, their town, and their parents. He had every confidence that those who were going that day would act the same as those who had gone before them. We must all be true to one another, and stand shoulder to shoulder and show the enemy that unity exists amongst us. It was pleasing to hear that Private Dixon recalled with pleasure his send-off at Temuka, and he was sure he was pleased with the reception he had had that day. They would do the same for those who were going that day, and do their duty by them. They all knew the enemy they were up against. They saw their statesmen acting wisely and their soldiers fighting bravely, but there was also a call to the people who were not soldiers. At the present time there was a call for more men and more money. Let them all go forward in a united body and show the enemy that they meant to win! Let them show the enemy that they were going forward until Great Britain and her Allies got a righteous peace for the world! In conclusion the Mayor assured those who were going away that they had the best wishes of those they were leaving behind. All admired the course they had taken. (Applause).

In a few fitting words Major Kennedy proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the ladies who had so hospitably entertained them. Without the aid of the ladies the war could not be carried on. (Applause). He wished the boys who were leaving every prosperity as soldiers, and hoped they would return at some future time safe and sound.

The vote was carried by acclamation, and the singing of "God Save the King" brought the luncheon to a close.

A procession was then formed, and headed by the Pipers, and Captain Chapman carrying the flag, the men were accompanied to the railway station, where a large number of people had assembled.

At the railway station Mr Gunnion again welcomed Private Dixon, who replied in suitable terms. He gave the boys a few earnest words of advice, telling them that they would have to face many hardships and dangers, and have to deny themselves in many respects, and he urged them above all to be faithful, and trust in God. The Dominion which sent them forth would do its level best for

them, and it was up to them to reciprocate. He wished the boys every success and hoped they would get through unscathed and unmaimed. (Applause).

Mr C. Talbot, M.P., said the fact that they were that day sending away men to join the 40th Reinforcements showed that the war had now been going on for nearly four years, and how much longer it would go on only God knew. Those who knew him best knew that he was not a "Dismal Jimmy," nor a pessimist, but he did want to utter a note of warning to people. The country is

up against a serious position, and people will have to make much greater sacrifices in the future. What Private Dixon had said was quite true. People here did not really know what war was. As the war went on this country — owing to want of shipping - may not be able to send our meat and wool away, nor to get any wheat we may require. This contingency made it necessary to produce all the wheat we possibly could, and for everyone to be careful. The boys they sent away went away with smiling faces, and perhaps people hardly recognised the sacrifice they were making; but the sacrifice was a great one nevertheless. He wished the boys every success, and hoped they would help to stem the tide of the enemy's advance, and assist in gaining the victory. (Applause).

Hearty cheers were then given for the boys going away, and for those at the front, and as the train steamed away more cheers were given for them.

The following are the names of the men who left: -

T. Brosnahan.

W. H. Chalmers.

J. H. Greenaway.

T. E. Hall.
J. H. Looker.
C. Lyne.
M. J. Smith.
T. C. Williams. [T. O. Williams.?.]
H. J. Chapman.

Timaru Herald. 19 Nov 1919 [07/02/2026]
(ARAWA'S DRAFT)

A TEMUKA MAN.

Three soldiers were expected to come to Temuka yesterday afternoon, but only one arrived. This was Private T. H. Brosnahan. He was accorded the usual welcome, the Municipal Band being in attendance, preceding the motor which conveyed the soldier to the Post Office, where the Mayor, Mr Tom Gunnion, voiced the citizens' appreciation of duty nobly done. Private Brosnahan, in returning thanks, said that he fully appreciated the welcome, and he cordially thanked the people for what they had done for the soldiers when they were in France. Three hearty cheers were then given after which the soldier was motored home.

Temuka Leader. 20 November 1919 (Papers Past) [07/02/2026]

WELCOME HOME.

AT TEMUKA.

On Tuesday last another returned soldier — Private T. H. [sic] Brosnahan, of Kerrytown [sic] — one of the Arawa's draft, arrived at Temuka by the express train from the north, and was given a warm public welcome. Private Stewart, of Pleasant Point, also came by the train, and after being welcomed by the Mayor (Mr Gunnion), was driven home by his friends. Private H. Mills, of Milford, was also expected, but broke his journey at Christchurch. There was a large gathering of the public at the railway station, and as the train came in the Municipal Brass Band, under Mr Burtenshaw, played a welcoming air, and the ladies of the Patriotic Entertainment Committee were soon busy distributing cigarettes amongst the men who were going further.

As soon as the train had left Private Brosnahan was motored to the Post Office, the Band playing inspiring music.

The Mayor said it gave him the greatest pleasure to welcome Private Brosnahan — another returned soldier — home. This time they had only got one back, and he had expressed the wish not to have any fuss but had consented to come to the Post Office, and they were much indebted to him for doing so. They had expected two other boys. But the sisters of one had got hold of him, and carried him off, and he did not blame them in the slightest. Private Mills had left the train at Christchurch, and they extended to him just as hearty a welcome as they did to Private Brosnahan. They were much indebted to their soldier boys, and as he had often said nothing was too good for them. They had to thank these boys for saving the country, and it was due to them that we are here now. Addressing Private Brosnahan, the Mayor said they thanked him for the part he had taken in the Great War, and for the freedom and happiness that we now enjoy. He hoped he would enjoy many years of prosperity and happiness. (Applause.)

Cheers having been given for the returned soldier, Private Brosnahan said he had to thank them for their welcome, and also for all they had done for the boys during the war.

Further cheers having been given for the returned soldier, he was motored to his home.

Cars were kindly provided by Messrs Brosnahan and Hally.