

Temuka Leader – 19 February 1918

SOLDIERS' LETTERS

Mrs D. Hopkinson, Temuka, has received two letters from her son, Private James Hopkinson. The first was written in No. 4 Stationary Hospital, France, and is dated 21st Dec. He was expecting to be discharged on the following day, and to be sent to the Base for a while. He expresses his delight at getting news from home, and thanks his mother for a parcel of cigarettes. He also acknowledges receipt of a present of a postal note from the Maori ladies at Arowhenua. He says: "it was very kind of them to send it, and it came in handy. Please convey to them my sincerest thanks for their kindness in sending it to me."

The second letter from the N.Z. Base Depot, France, and is dated 30th December, 1917. He had arrived there a week previously, and was in good health. He had had a lovely Christmas, and enjoyed it immensely. "It made me wish," he says, "that Christmas came once a week instead of once a year. The orchestra played a choice selection of music while we were at dinner, so you see that we kept up Christmas in some style. We also had a lovely tea. In the afternoon we were given cigarettes, chocolates, fruit, cakes, and tea at the Y.M.C. A. On Boxing Day we had indoor sports in our concert hall. Snow prevented the sports being held in the open. Concerts are held here nearly every night and there are a couple of picture cinemas fairly close by, so we get plenty of amusements. Arty Martin, Joe Dwyer, and Jack Quinn are at the Base, and they are doing fine. I believe the boys at the line are getting along fairly well."

Mrs. N. Campbell, Temuka, has received a letter from her nephew, Private T. Whitau, written from a hospital in France, dated the 22nd December, in which he states that he is suffering from a very bad leg which will bring him home, but that he had to go before a Medical Board for examination. He expected it to be some time before he would be able to walk again. He acknowledges the receipt, with thanks, of a parcel from Mrs. Campbell, containing a cake (which he says he greatly enjoyed) and 10s from some friends. He sends his regards to all friends, and wishes all a prosperous New Year.