#### Press. 7 January 1916 (Papers Past) [22/05/2016]

Private E. R. Foster left Timaru on Wednesday for Trentham to join the Eleventh Reinforcements. Private Foster is the third son of Mr W. Foster, of Timaru, to join the New Zealand Forces. Private A. G. Foster left with the Fifth Reinforcements, and went through much of the big fighting at Gallipoli, and was not wounded. He fell sick, and was sent to England, and is now on furlough in the Homeland. Private C. W. Foster left the Dominion with the First Liverpool's Own, and was probably in the recent fighting in Egypt.

#### Timaru Herald. 14 October 1916

Lance-Corporal Charles W. Foster, who was wounded on October 1st, left with the 7th Reinforcements. He saw fighting in Egypt before going to France. He has two brothers at the front, and his father is Sergeant W. Foster, of the 19th Reinforcements, who is at present in Timaru on final leave.

#### Timaru Herald. 11 November 1916

Mrs W. Foster, accompanied by Mrs R. J. Foster has gone to Wellington to say farewell to Sergeant W. Foster, who sails with the Nineteenth Reinforcements. Mr and Mrs Foster have three sons already at the front, one having been wounded.

#### Timaru Herald. 20 November 1916

The many friends of Sergeant W. Foster will be pleased to learn that he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant-Major previous to sailing with the 19th Reinforcements. Advice has been received by Mrs W. Foster, that her son. Lance-Corporal Chas. W. Foster, has been admitted to 3rd Southern Hospital, Oxford, England, wounded in the abdomen and back. He is progressing favourably.

#### Timaru Herald. 11 April 1919

Sergeant-Major W. Foster, of Rose Street, who recently returned from the front, has received word that his son Sergeant C. W. Foster is due to arrive about the 23rd in the lonic. Sergeant Foster left with the 7th Reinforcements, and went into action in Egypt on Christmas Day, 1915. He afterwards saw considerable service in France and was wounded three times, the last time being a few days before the armistice was signed.

# *Feilding Star*, 26 April 1919, Page 2 WITHOUT A SCRATCH.

The luck or chance in war is a very uncertain item. One soldier goes through Gallipoli to the finish without a scratch, another makes the supreme sacrifice at his first engagement. It is seldom, indeed, that all male members of one family came through without a scratch after several engagements (remarks the Timaru Herald) Such is the experience of Mr William Foster, recently returned, and his three sons. The youngest son first volunteered and fought at Gallipoli. The second enlisted later and fought chiefly in France, as also did the third son. The father then enlisted and fought side by side with a son at the Battle of the Somme, all four coming through the ordeal unscathed.

*Timaru Herald.* 22 July 1919 [Alfred George]

# NEW ZEALAND WELCOMES PEACE. PROCESSIONS AND REJOICINGS. CELEBEATIONS IN SOUTH CANTEEBUKY GREAT SUCCESS IN TIMARU.

The town's gay festival apparel and the sun, putting to flight the first grey mists and staying to irradiate the finery and happy crowds that moved in it, were worthy of the day. Timaru has been bedecked before but never with such profusion. Its streets were streets of trees and palms almost as much as wood and stones. Where the trees and foliage could not reach, staid old buildings laughed in festoons of colour. One might have thought that Birnam Wood had come to town to view the Peace procession, and that the town itself had put on the attire of some bright Eastern city. The broad arch spanning Stafford Street was such an improvement of its vista as to suggest the idea that not the worst of war memorials would be provided if it could always be there, in some more permanent, but not less glittering, fabric. Streamers of loyal colours also hung across the streets, and every window was ablaze with flags and colour. Visitors from the country who had not seen the preparations for this rejoicing, and whose numbers did not seem to be materially diminished by the obstacles to travel, flocked into a town transfigured.

If anyone in Timaru was thinking of the poor Germans and how they must be disappointed instead of the relief and safety and great gladness of this Peace Treaty there was no face which showed it. The procession was not so long as it was on Armistice Day, apart from the absence of the school children, who on this occasion were spectators, their active part in the celebrations being deferred till Monday, when a pageant of their own would be provided. The displays of firms were less numerous, but with the advantage of more time they had been more elaborately prepared. No pains nor expense had been spared by different firms to make the brightest, the most artistic showing; the displays were for their makers evidently the work of love. Promptly at eleven o'clock the procession moved off down Stafford Street from the Hydro corner, the Fire Brigade leading the way, its patent ladder projecting from the big engine like a bowsprit, astride which sat a piper, piping. Scotland does not say much, but it takes for granted, and the British world tacitly agrees, that it shall be in the van. The pipes give the best leading into battle; it was fitting they should load us into peace. Followed the Regimental Band and military, including returned soldiers and ex-South Africans, and then came the High School Band, High School cadets, Senior Cadets, and their Bugle Band. Gleefully appropriate to the occasion was one tune which the last played — "Johnny get your gun, it's a Hun," for no Hun will threaten Johnny again, or his sister or his mother or anything that is his. The Hun gnashes his teeth today. and thinks what a fool he has been. If he does not like the Peace Treaty, there is comfort

in the thought that he would not have liked any Peace not of his own making, in which it would have been worse for us than this Covenant is for him. The present Treaty he may learn to like, in the way of a nasty medicine, when he learns how good it is for hom. The women of the Red Cross Society, Lady Liverpool's Society, and Ambulance Nursing Division made a brave showing in their nurses' regalia, the Orthopedic Hospital sent a gay contingent of those who can never be too much honoured, and the Girls' Peace Scouts, in their khaki, stepped out sturdily. The Mayor and Councillors riding in the procession, were at their best.

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#### TORCHLIGHT PROCESSION.

An ideal night favoured the torchlight procession, neither moon nor stars penetrating the inky blackness. Thousands of people thronged the streets and made merry till a late hour. The torchlight procession left the Drillshed about 8 o'clock and marched through the main street and on to Caroline Bay. It was led by the Salvation Army Band which played en route (the Battalion Band being engaged at the Skating Rink), and it was followed by the Fire Brigade with their engine and appurtenances, then a lorry from which a continuous pyrotechnic display was given. Miss Strachan's dainty Japanese representation, which had been in the morning procession, followed at a respectable distance, and behind it rolled the giant tank from which a heavy fire was kept up without cessation. Clowns, and men and women in all manner of grotesque get-ups also found a place in and about the procession, and created no end of fun with their by-play.

Thousands of people, young and old, assembled on the main road and the promenade walks overlooking Caroline Bay to witness the promised display of fireworks, and to see the bonfire. Every vantage point was occupied. Sky rockets were sent up from the North Mole, from the sands of the Bay, from Benvenue Cliffs, and from fishing boats which were anchored in the Bay. The latter also sent up red and green lights; the harbour was lit up with red, white and blue lamps; there was a great bonfire on the sands of the Bay, another one of lesser dimensions on the beach at Waimataitai, and still another at Dashing Rocks. The whole effect was very fine, and everything passed off just as it was planned, and without accident. People watched the bonfires till the latter burned low, and then returned to resume their earlier parade of the town. Of fireworks in the streets there was an abundance, some of the basket bombs which the boys delighted in, fairly shaking the buildings. As the soldiers kept a cheerful heart all through their strenuous years of fighting, so also did the people who celebrated their victory, and the brighter side of things was presented by the strollers in fancy costume who knew no law for the day. Here Charlie Chaplin appeared with cigarette and walking cane; there was Fatty Arbuckle pushing his big "portmanteau" between the crowd; the lively Bing Boys were espied somewhere else; an organ grinder made his plaintive appeal at the street side, but when pennies were offered the giver was confronted with the notice that: "Owing to shortage of everything we kolect nodings"; the boys, and especially the women and girls, were startled by the sudden appearance of a man — monkey on a chain, but they were still more startled by an "ape" who, when occasion served — threw his arms around their necks. One was also startled by the appearance of his best friend dressed as a lady, and by the shapely forms of young women attired as men. These and many others all helped in keeping at high tension the risible faculties of the crowd.

A conspicuous "side-show" was a man who appeared in the complete dress of a German soldier — a dark uniform and spiked helmet which had been got at the front by Private Foster and brought home by him. He attracted much notice in Saturday night's crowd, and was attended by two of his sisters who were dressed in khaki uniforms.

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Evening Post. 30 October 1920 (Papers Past) [11/05/2023]

The wedding of Miss Minnie E. Cowley, eldest daughter of the late Mr. W. Cowley, of Hamilton, and Mr. E. R. Foster, son of Mr. and Mrs. Foster, of Timaru, took place at the residence of Mr. F. Lord, Chilka-street, last Monday. Miss C George, of Miramar, was bridesmaid, and Mr. J. Lovatt was the best man. The bride was given away by her brother, Mr W. Cowley, of Masterton. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Keith Ewen, after which Mr. and Mrs. Lord entertained the guests at breakfast.

*Timaru Herald.* 19 November 1920 (Papers Past) [22/05/2016] MARRIAGE

FOSTER-COWLEY-At the residence of Mr F. Lord, Ohulka Street, Wellington, on October 25th, by the Rev. Keith Ewan, Ernest Robert, third son of Mr and Mrs Wm. Foster, Timaru, to Minnie, eldest daughter of the late Mr W. Cowley, Hamilton.

### *Timaru Herald.* 20 November 1920 (Papers Past) [21/05/2016] FOSTER-COWLEY.

A very pretty wedding took place on October 25, at the residence of Mr and Mrs F. Lord. Wellington. The contracting parties were Mr E. R. Foster, third son of Mr and Mrs W. Foster, Timaru, and Messrs Minnie Cowley, elder daughter of the late Mr W. Cowley, Hamilton. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Keith Ewan. Miss C. George was bridesmaid, and Mr J. Lovatt attended the bridegroom. After the ceremony about thirty guests sat down to the wedding breakfast at the residence of Mr and Mrs Lord. The happy couple were the recipients of many handsome and useful presents, also of congratulatory telegrams from various parts of the Dominion.

Timaru Herald, 14 November 1921 (Papers Past) [13/05/2023]

# Passing of the War

DEPOSITING REGIMENTAL COLOURS.

SERVICE AT ST MARY'S.

One of the largest ceremonial parades, if not the largest, ever seen m Timaru took place yesterday morning, when the war colours of the 2nd (South Canterbury) Regiment were deposited in St Mary's Church for safe keeping. There were 19 officers and 521 of other ranks on parade, and they made an exceedingly fine showing. That interest in the military is still as keen as during the war period was seen in the way the people lined the streets along the route of march from the rendezvous the drill shed, and crowded into the church while seats were available. People commenced to take their seats in St Mary's at 10 o'clock, and by hall-past ten the church was packed except for the space reserved for the military. And in reserving this room the authorities greatly under estimated the numerical strength of the parade. To such an extent was this done that after delaying the starting of the service for some time an endeavour to find room for at least all the men in uniform, 200 of the latter failed to gain admittance, and

sat about on the lawns in the church grounds until the service was over. Such a state of affairs is unique in the history of Timaru.

While the parade was a bright ceremonial affair there was a note of sadness about it in that it marked the passing of the old second (South Canterbury) Regiment, which, under the new organisation has been merged in the First (Canterbury) Battalion with headquarters at Christchurch. In addition to those formally on parade there were many onlookers who attended to see, as they said, "the last of the good old regiment."

The parade was in charge of Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson, D.S.O., M.C., with Major L. M. Inglis, second in command, and Lieutenant **C. W. Foster** as adjutant, and Sergeant-Major G. G. Johnston (W.O.1.) as parade sergeant-major. The reserve of officers present included Colonel K. Mackenzie, Lieutenant **W. Foster** ("B" Company), Lieutenant J. P. C. Walshe ("C" Company), Lieutenant Cockroft ("A" Company), Major E. A. Holdgate, Captain A. N. Oakey, M.C., Major W. H. Foden, and Captain J. E. S. Jackson. The order of march was: — Troop "O" Squadron 1st C.M.R., (C.Y.G.), Band Second (S.C.) Regiment (under Lieutenant Tizard), officers of reserve and retired list, "C" Company, First Battalion Canterbury Regiment, Colours and Escort, "H" Company, First Battalion Canterbury Regiment, High School Band (under Sergeant-Major Brice), High School "A" Company Cadets, B Company Bugle Band (under Sergeant Leopold) and C. Company 8th Battalion Canterbury Regiment. There were also some M.R. men under Lieutenant Pennefather, and members or the R.S.A. in. civilian dress.

#### HANDING OVER THE FLAG.

Lieutenant Kirke, bearing the flag accompanied by a Colours guard, with, bayonets fixed first entered the church, and the leading companies in the parade followed until the 400 seats allotted to the parade were filled, and many were unable to enter. Printed slips of the service were provided for all comers.

At the commencement of the service the ceremony of presentation of the flag took place, the commanding officer saying: —

"We desire that this flag, the Colours of the 2nd South Canterbury Regiment, be handed to the care of this Church for safe keeping, in memory of the fallen, until such time as it may be again required."

The vicar, Rev J. A. Julius, as briefly, on behalf of the church authorities, accepted the flag for safe keeping, and placed it reverently beside the altar table until a permanent place is fixed for it.

The flag is similar in size and design to the Mounted Rifles flag which was fixed some nine years ago above the pulpit. The design of each flag is a Union Jack, in silk, with the St George's Cross broader than usual to give room for a golden crown in the upper bar and the name of the regiment on the right hand arm. The old S.C.M.R. flag bears the name of the regiment and "South Africa 1900-1902." The flag deposited yesterday has the crown, but does not bear a regimental name. It however is well marked with inscriptions of honour: — "South Africa 1900-2. Gallipoli 1914. Egypt 1914, 1915, 1916. France 1917, 1918. Germany 1918."

#### SERMON ON LOYALTY.

The Vicar took for the subject of his sermon Loyalty and for his text a passage in II Samuel 23. The chapter had been read as the Second Lesson, and the passage describes how three mighty men that David with him had broke through Philistine host to get water from a well in Bethlehem which David, being in straits for water, had expressed a desire for. When the water was brought David would not drink thereof, but poured it out unto the Lord, because, he said, it was the blood of the men that went in jeopardy of their lives to fetch it. By this sacrifice David showed how highly he estimated the loyalty and courage of the men who had risked their lives to get it for him. So that day the soldiers of Timaru had brought their flag — the emblem of their loyalty and courage, of severe toil and hard endurements, of the cause of

loyalty for which many gave their lives to be placed in religious safe-keeping, as too precious a thing to be kept in a drill shed or a town hall.

The preacher then went on to state and to answer various forms of denial that loyalty is a virtue. Some said loyalty to their country was rubbish. "Every man for himself and the devil take the hindmost," was their motto. If that were the motto of every man in the country the devil would get it, for it would be the hindmost country. Others said loyalty was a sham, an unnatural thing. The story of evolution, with its cardinal doctrine survival of the fittest, showed that the practice of mutual aid, loyalty to each other, amongst animals was a necessary condition of life for many of them. This was the case amongst primitive men. As civilisation developed the forms of mutual aid became more and more complex, and more and more it was seen that no man liveth to himself.

Some people said that was true, but loyalty should be loyalty to the race, that local and national loyalties were sundering things, a curse to the world, and that because of them the world had been deluged with blood and tears. Wars between nations and societies are wars between local loyalties. That was no doubt true, but it was true because these local loyalties were neither founded on nor led up to the supreme loyalty, loyalty to the well being of mankind. An illustration of this defect was seen in the intense nationalism of Germany that caused the late great war. Germany's local loyalty was defeated by the wider loyalty of other nations. Some said that we cannot be loyal to both our own nation and to mankind. They were wrong. We must first have loyalty in the smaller field, a sentiment that we can easily understand. Without this loyalty to mankind would be a vague idea, unrealisable. We must begin with loyalty to those about us, extend it to the nation, and then, by help of God. become loyal to mankind. St Paul was a conspicuous instance of a man whose mission embraced the whole world; yet when occasion arose he made proud boast of being a Hebrew, an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham. He had also said that if he could only bring about the salvation of his own people he would be willing himself to be lost. Jesus himself, the Saviour of the whole world, also showed by His grief at the coming destruction of Jerusalem that local loyalty is not incompatible with loyalty to the whole human race. But this greater loyalty, the preacher urged, can be attained only through complete lovalty to God. Father of all men.

At the close of the sermon the vicar announced that marble tablets to the memory of fallen soldiers would he dedicated in the church at an early date, and he hoped that as many as possible of those present would attend the dedication ceremony. The singing of the National Anthem closed the service.

After the service the parade was reformed and marched to Alexandra Square, where all were arranged on the grass, and Mr Havelock Williams took a swing-round photograph of the whole. The High School Cadets marched away in good order, and the remainder of the parade was dismissed. Mr Williams then took a group in twenty old Volunteers — fourteen in uniform and six in mufti. The oldest veterans of the group were Captain J. E. S. Jackson and Major W. H. Foden.

#### COLOURS FOURTEEN YEARS OLD.

The "Timaru Herald" of Friday, September 27, 1907 — fourteen years ago — contained a description of the ceremony of proclaiming "Dominion Day" in Timaru, and telegrams on the subject from other centres. In the presence of the Volunteers, officials of the Public Services, and a. small number of others, the Mayor (Mr J. Craigie) read from the Borough Council steps the King's Proclamation that the title "The Dominion of New Zealand" was substituted for "The Colony of New Zealand." An ensign was unfurled, cheers given, and the National Anthem sung." This was at 11 a.m.

In the afternoon a Volunteer parade was held on the Bay not a good muster, and as a nor'-wester was blowing the onlookers were fewer than good weather would have brought out in the march from the Drillshed to the Bay. Colonel Mackenzie led the way, and the disciplined parties were

S.C.M.R. (25), Major Bond and Captain Gresson; Garrison Band (25). Drum-major Elgin; the Mayor (Mr Craigie), the Chaplain (Ven. Archdeacon Harper), and Surgeon-Captain Dryden: S.C. Infantry (70), and High School Cadets (42), Mayor Beckingham: Staff-Captain and Adjutant Foden, and Captain Jackson: Timaru Marine Band; and Public School Cadets (nearly 200) under Major Montgomery. In the midst of the Infantry Volunteers marched Colour-Sergeant Higgins, bearing two "King's Colours," one for the Mounted, the other for the Infantry Regiment. The King's Proclamation was again read, the Mayor gave an address, and then came the ceremony of the presentation of the Colours. The flag for the Mounted Regiment had "South Africa" inscribed upon it. The Chaplain consecrated the flags as directed by the King's Regulations, and the Mayor then handed them to the officers appointed to receive them — Lieutenant Smith, for the S.C.M.R., and Lieutenant Holdgate for the S.C.I.V. The Colours were unfurled, carried through the ranks and saluted, and then formed a new feature in a ceremonial march past.

A paragraph in the Local Column states that there was a good deal of comment on the fact that the returned South African Contingenters were not present at the presentation ceremony. Inquiries showed that they had not been asked to be present. The Mayor said they ought to have been prominent. It was not his fault. The arrangements for the parade were made by the local Defence officers, and the omission to ask the Contingenters to take part in the affair was doubtless due to an oversight.

## *Timaru Herald.* 31 May 1928 (Papers Past) [May 2023] UNCONVINCING STORY. CHARGE OF PROCURING LIQUOR.

#### MAGISTRATE INFLICTS PENALTY.

The question of whether or not a prohibited person, Alfred George Foster, attended the annual re-union of the South Canterbury Returned Soldiers' Association and refrained from taking liquor there, was decided by Mr C. R. Orr-Walker, S.M., at a sitting of the Timaru Magistrate's Court yesterday. Foster was charged with procuring liquor during the currency of a prohibition order. He was represented by Mr G. H. R. Ulrich, and pleaded not guilty.

Constable Walden said that on May 12, at 11.45 p.in., he saw defendant and two friends coming down Stafford Street. They were under the influence of liquor, and were staggering. Witness asked defendant how long his prohibition order had been up, and received a reply that it had expired two months ago. Witness believed him, but on going to the police station he found that the order was still in force. He met the defendant and his companions at the police station that night, when they made a complaint against witness for molesting the defendant.

To Mr Ulrich: He was quite sure that defendant did not say that the order had some weeks to go. He did not say to defendant: "You look a bit 'spoofy' now," when he spoke to him at the police station. He would not say that Foster was drunk, but there was no doubt but that he had had liquor. Defendant may have said something about securing a doctor, but he took the view that Foster was not being charged with drunkenness.

Constable Watt said that he was in company with Constable Walden on the night of the offence. It was quite apparent that Foster was under the influence of liquor. When defendant saw them he pulled himself together to a certain extent.

To Mr Ulrich: Foster had a florid complexion at any time but on the night in question he was particularly flushed looking. There was no doubt that he had had liquor.

Defendant stated that he did not have any strong drink at the re-union. He confined himself to soft drinks — ginger ale, he thought. Constable Walden approached him in Stafford Street and molested him. He then went to the station to report the constable for his behaviour and again met him there. The constable said: "You look a bit 'spoofy' now." Witness replied: "If you are not satisfied get a doctor." Constable Marsh was in the watch-house, and witness proved to him that he was not drunk, by outstretching his arms and closing his eyes. He did this to his own satisfaction.

To Senior-Sergeant Gibson: He did not know how many gallons of beer were at the re-union. He had ginger ale, coffee and saveloys.

George Johnson, secretary of the Returned Soldiers' Association, said he saw Foster at the reunion before he left for home, and he appeared to be perfectly sober. He did not see him having any drink.

Leslie Storey, a companion of defendant on the night in question, said he joined Foster and the other men at the Empire Hotel corner. They were not staggering and not drunk. Witness had three "shandies," and a ration of rum at the re-union. He would say that Foster had not had any drink at the time.

Senior-Sergeant Gibson: "Your statement to the police on the night of May 12 was to the effect that you could not say whether Foster had had drink or not."

Witness said that, in his opinion, Foster had not taken any liquor. Defendant had a peculiar walk, and it was quite likely that a person might take it that he was drunk.

Senior-Sergeant Gibson: "I understand that you do not know Foster very well. How did you come to know about his walk?"

Witness: "I am not a personal friend of Foster's, but I have noticed that he walks in a peculiar fashion."

The Magistrate said that the charge against defendant was not that of drunkenness, but of procuring liquor. There seemed no reason for two constables wishing to make a charge against him if there was no necessity for such a charge but defendant, on the other hand, had called evidence and was anxious not to be convicted. The constables' evidence was quite straightforward, and showed that the man had had a drink or two. If defendant had called the two men sitting on either side of him to give evidence proving that he did not take liquor, that evidence might have carried some weight. He would be convicted and fined 20s and costs 10s. Mr Ulrich asked why the police had not called Constable Marsh to give evidence. Senior-Sergeant Gibson stated that they would have done so had Marsh not been in Auckland at present.

Below -Timaru Herald, 13 June 1959 (page 12) (Timaru District Council) [sighted 20 June 2016; scanned 18 May 2023]

