

**RETURNED WOUNDED.
TURAKINA'S CONTINGENT.
WELCOME AT AUCKLAND.
INCIDENTS OF THE VOYAGE.
ENTERTAINMENT EN ROUTE.**

A further contingent of sick and wounded soldiers returned to New Zealand yesterday by the steamer *Turakina*, the draft numbering 85 in all — two officers, Captain A. E. Conway, in command, and Lieutenant J. W. Davidson, and 83 non-commissioned officers and men. The *Turakina* arrived in the stream shortly after 4 a.m., and was berthed on the eastern side of the Queen's Wharf at about 6.30 a.m. The medical and base records officers were in attendance at shed 17. The men were each given £3 on account of their pay, and a complete outfit.

The military portion of the proceedings took about four hours to complete, and at its conclusion a public reception was tendered to the men by the Mayor of Auckland, Mr. J. H. Gunson, in the same building. Light refreshments were handed to the returned soldiers by members of the Auckland Women's Patriotic League. The Mayor presided, and seats on the platform were occupied by the Mayoress, the Hon. A. M. Myers, Minister for Munitions, Mr. H. D. Heather, chairman of the Auckland Harbour Board, members of Parliament, city councillors and representative citizens.

The Mayor extended a cordial welcome home to the officers and men. He said it seemed but a few months since they had left to take their place as soldiers of the King in the defence of the Empire. They had earned renown and undying fame for New Zealand arms. If the greetings did not adequately express their feelings, those feelings were none the less deep and sincere, and would be interpreted in the practical and lasting gratitude of the public of Auckland.

Speech by Minister.

The Hon. A. M. Myers, Minister for Munitions, extended a welcome home on behalf of the National Ministry. After apologising for the absence of the Minister for Defence, he said that men of the main body were quick to realise that the Empire was fighting for the ideals of truth, justice and liberty. They returned to find the people of New Zealand unitedly resolute, along with the other people of the Empire, that there should be no inconclusive peace. There were things worse than death itself, and one was the domination of Prussian militarism. This they would never tolerate. The British people would rather suffer annihilation than become subjects of another nation.

While so many men had responded nobly, unfortunately there were some who did not yet realise their responsibilities. In conclusion, Mr. Myers said he sincerely trusted that those of the returned men who desired to get back into the firing line would be speedily restored to vigorous health. Looking at the men who returned maimed and crippled, they realised the price of our Empire's greatness and a nation's ideals, and he assured them that for their sacrifices they would for ever be New Zealand's most honoured citizens.

The proceedings terminated with cheers for the returned soldiers and their nurses.

Presentation from English Women.

The *Turakina's* contingent was mostly drawn from the New Zealand base at Hornchurch, and they left there on February 16. At Paddington Station, London, Captain Conway was presented with a silk flag and shield by Lady Smith-Dorrien, wife of General Smith-Dorrien. The shield bore the inscription: "To the New Zealand Heroes — Gallipoli — from the Women of

England.” Captain Conway has taken the flag and shield to Wellington, and will hand it over to the Defence authorities.

The contingent embarked on the Turakina at Plymouth on February 18, and the vessel left the same day. The first few days were rough, but afterwards the weather was fine.

A Victim of the Moewe

Near Teneriffe the passengers on the Turakina saw a ship sinking. It had fallen into the hands of the German raider Moewe, but they did not realise the fact at the time. The crew of the sunken vessel was in Teneriffe when the Turakina arrived.

The soldiers were liberally entertained at Capetown and Hobart. At the former port a banquet was arranged, but as the vessel arrived two days late, and on a Sunday, the refreshments for the banquet were sent aboard the ship. At Hobart the Red Cross Society entertained the soldiers at Government House. The Governor of Tasmania presided over the function. A motor drive followed. The returned men speak highly of the hospitality of the people of England, and also have many words of praise for the officers of the Turakina. Splendid progress was made on the voyage by the sick and wounded men, who all landed in good health.

The returned contingent is divided as follows: — Auckland 21. Port Chalmers 15. Wellington 35, Christchurch 14. Most of the Southern men left by last evening’s Main Trunk train.

THE MEN WHO RETURNED. COMPLETE LIST OF NAMES.

The following sick and wounded soldiers arrived in Auckland by the steamer Turakina yesterday: —

N.Z. FIELD ARTILLERY.

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N.Z. FIELD ENGINEERS.

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W. Horgan - B. Horgan, Christchurch.

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ARMY SERVICE CORPS. I

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N.Z. VETERINARY CORPS.

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N.Z. MEDICAL CORPS.

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AUCKLAND INFANTRY BATTALION.

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G. Webb - Andrew Webb, Temuka.

AUCKLAND MOUNTED RIFLES.

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Albert Fryers – James Fryers, Temuka.

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WELLINGTON INFANTRY BATTALION.

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WELLINGTON MOUNTED RIFLES.

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CANTERBURY INFANTRY BATTALION.

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C. Groves – C. Groves, Timaru.

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CANTERBURY MOUNTED RIFLES.

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J. Trotter - J. Trotter, sen., Fairlie.

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OTAGO INFANTRY BATTALION.

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OTAGO MOUNTED RIFLES.

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MAORI CONTINGENT.

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Press. 6 October 1938 (PP) [09/04/2023]

OBITUARY

MRS HELEN JANE WEBB

The funeral took place yesterday at Temuka of one of South Canterbury's oldest identities, Mrs Helen Jane Webb, who died at her home at Princes street, Temuka, on Monday, at the age of 78. Mrs Webb's parents, Mr and Mrs Waddel, were engaged in farming at Selwyn, and Mrs Webb, could remember the great flood of 1868 when both South Canterbury and Mid-Canterbury were inundated.

At the age of eight Mrs Webb saw stock being carried out to sea by the flood waters of the Waimakariri. It was after the flood that the family went to live at Milford. Mrs Webb was a regular exhibitor at the Temuka Horticultural Show about 30 years ago. She was the oldest pupil at the Milford School and cut the cake at the jubilee celebrations some years ago.

Mrs Webb is survived by her husband, Mr Andrew Webb, and seven adult sons and daughters. Five of her sons served in the Great War, one being killed in action. Her three daughters are Mesdames Hawke (Lowcliffe) Tregonning (Christchurch), and McNab (Matamata). There are 40 grandchildren and several great-grandchildren.

Timaru Herald. 17 January 1939 (PP) [09/04/2023]

OBITUARY

MR ANDREW WEBB

The death occurred at the Timaru Hospital on Saturday night of Mr Andrew Webb, one of the oldest settlers in the Temuka district. Mr Webb came to New Zealand in the sailing ship, St. Lawrence, landing in a surf boat at Timaru. He was a native of County Wicklow, Ireland, and after his arrival he gained recognition as an expert blade shearer, his services being much in demand. In 1879 he married Miss Helen Waddel at Temuka. For 17 years he was a member of the Temuka Volunteer Rifle Company, which was at that time under the command of Major Young, of Winchester. At one time in the early days of Temuka Mr Webb was employed on the Green Hayes estate and later occupied the position of head gardener to Mr James Guild at "Trevenna," a position which he held for some years. His wife died three months ago. He leaves five sons and three daughters.