

Timaru Herald. 28 November 1917 (Papers Past) [04/05/2021]

FAIRLIE NEWS. PATRIOTIC SOCIAL.

A highly successful send-off was held in the Fairlie Public Hall last Friday evening to Privates B. Robinson, W. Coll and R. O'Brien. There was, as usual, a full attendance, the hall being well filled. The Rev. H. O. Hanby, chairman of the Patriotic Social Committee, presided, and there was not one dull moment during the whole of the evening. The programme for the evening consisted of songs and dances and the ball was kept merrily rolling till the usual hour of closing arrived shortly after midnight. Everything had been well arranged by the secretary, Mr W. J. Ormandy. Excellent music was provided by Messrs Foden (piano), J. Braddick (violin), and W. J. Ormandy (cornet). Extras were played by several volunteers. Songs were contributed by Mrs Young, Miss Collier, and Miss R. McKinnon, and by Messrs G. Andrews (Timaru), and Klee (Albury), while Mr H. Macdonald (Fairlie) gave a number of step dances. The singing of Mr Andrews of Timaru was much appreciated.

When the programme was half-way through farewell addresses were given by the Rev. Mr Hanby and Mr C. J. Talbot. Personal references were made to the departing soldiers and the hope was expressed that they would safely return to take their places again in the community after the war. The district could not afford to lose such worthy young men, who were, one and all, a credit to the place. Reference was also made to Cadet R. A. Guant, who had recently gained his certificate in the Sockburn Flying School. He was complimented upon his success and wished a brilliant career in the air service at the Front. He was the second airman from the district, Flight Lieutenant M. Buckley being the other. Cheers were given for the soldiers, and Mr J. Sherwin suitably replied by request, on their behalf. The proceedings ended as they had begun with the singing of the National Anthem.

Timaru Herald. 6 November 1918 (Papers Past) [04/05/2021]

MISSING

O'Brien, Richard P. (M. J. O'Brien, Timaru, b.)

Mr M. J. O'Brien, Highfield, has received official advice that his brother, Private. R. P. (Dick) O'Brien, who was on the Western Front, was reported missing as from 5th October last.

Timaru Herald. 11 December 1918 (Papers Past) [09/05/2021]

A private cable received by Mr M. J. O'Brien states that his brother, Private R. P. (Dick) O'Brien, who was reported missing on 4th October, has now arrived at Edinburgh, Scotland. It is assumed that he has been a prisoner of war and is now repatriated.

Evening Star. 19 December 1918 (Papers Past) [09/05/2021]

PREVIOUSLY REPORTED MISSING AND PRISONER OF WAR.
SINCE REPATRIATED.

—Rifle Brigade.—

O'Brien, R. P. (Mr M. O'Brien, Timaru, brother).

Sun. 20 December 1918 (Papers Past) [09/05/2021]

CANTERBURY DISTRICT

REPATRIATED

**Previously Reported Missing and Prisoner
of War, Since Repatriated.**

N.Z. RIFLE BRIGADE.

O'Brien, R. P. (M. O'Brien, Timaru, b.).

Timaru Herald. 29 April 1919 (Papers Past) [04/05/2021]

FAIRLIE NOTES

WELCOMED HOME.

The recent arrivals from the front have received very enthusiastic receptions from the people of the district on their arrival by train from their transports. The latest soldiers to return are: Privates J. Allen, M.M , Felix Siegert, R. Brien, Moir, and Gunner A. Farquhar. On each occasion the Fairlie Brass Band has turned out to enliven the proceedings with patriotic music, and a short address of welcome has been given by Mr C. J. Talbot, M.P. A crowd at the station has cheered the men again and again, only refraining when the soldiers had been driven to their homes in cars provided by the Reception Committee. On Saturday evening before the people dispersed an appeal was made for money for the purchase of music for the band, and in a few moments about £5 was raised for that purpose. The Band was heartily cheered for its welcome attendance on the station when the boys come home.

FAIRLIE NOTES

RETURNING SOLDIERS.

Last week was a very busy one among the soldiers. A big social was held in the Public Hall on Thursday evening in honour of Privates Andrew Grant, W. Moir, C. Willetts, W. Willetts (M.M.), Jas. McAlister, Sullivan, Staples, R. O'Brien, J. Allen, (M.M.), Troopers Felix Siegert, H. Caswell, and A. McKinnon. Several of the men could not be present owing to hospital duty, but it is hoped that they will attend at some future occasion. As usual the hall was bright with patriotic colours and the floor was in good condition. Mr Boulter again acted as M.C. to the satisfaction of all, and Mrs Wright presided at the piano in her customary able manner. She was assisted at intervals by the following volunteers: Miss Bray, Miss Hutchins, Mr T. Skinner and Mr P. Waters. Miss Collie contributed a vocal item very acceptably. A bountiful supper was provided by Mrs Clarke and dispensed by the Ladies' Committee with their accustomed expedition. During an interval the soldiers were paraded on the stage, and they received a vociferous volley of cheering. Mr C. J. Talbot, M.P. on behalf of the Reception Committee and the people of the district, gave them a very hearty welcome, and wished them prosperity in the future. Mention was made of the fact that Mr R. A. Grant, one of Fairlie's flying men, had returned to the district. At the conclusion of the address the men were accorded musical honours and more cheers were given them. Dancing was continued till after midnight, and the men took the opportunity of renewing old friendships and making new acquaintances.

ASHWICK FLAT.

PATRIOTIC COMMITTEE.

(From our own Correspondent).

The annual meeting of the Ashwick Flat Patriotic Entertainment Committee was held in the school on Thursday evening last when the following report was read: - Ten local boys have been publicly entertained, and have each received a wristlet watch, either prior to going into camp or when on final leave. They were: Lance-Corporal K. Anderson, Privates L. White, W. Dore, R. Cartwright, V. Symes, A. Ross, L. Saddler, K. Campbell, H. Baker, and B. Jones. In addition to those mentioned G. Morris and G. Moran, who were unable to attend a social, were handed watches by the committee. So far only three returned men have received presentations — Sergeant-Major J Dore, Privates J. Butters and R. O'Brien. Lance-Corporal A. Symes, Privates V. Symes, W. Coll, G. Moran, J. O'Dowd, Chris. Jones, have also been accorded a welcome home. R. Bain was also invited to attend, but his health at the present time would not permit him to do so. In conclusion the outgoing committee wish all returned or returning men who may be suffering from wounds or sickness a speedy and permanent recovery. This committee also express their profound regret at the loss this district has sustained in the deaths in action and from sickness of Captain Leslie O'Callaghan, Privates D. Coll, N. Maze, A. Farquhar, Lance-Corporal C. Campbell, A. Hornblow, and Samuel Jones. For the guidance of the incoming committee the following local men are mentioned as due to receive the customary welcome home social (and presentation to those who received no presentation on departing). Second-Lieutenant A. Farquhar M.C., Privates T. Harvey, R. Rapley, J. Coll, C. Howes, H. Bray, B. Wood, W. McKenzie, J. O'Neil, W. Elliss, C Holland, R. Harvey, J. Brosnahan, A. Caple, R. Saddler, J. Trumper, J. Wright, W. Allan, W McKay, J. Cotterill, and A. Cotterill. Since the committee's inception in March, 1916, thirty-six presentations have been made. The committee feel that too much cannot be done for the brave lads who have assisted to bring about the victory of the Allies.

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The matter of some suitable memorial of a lasting nature for those who had taken part in the war from this district was introduced. Among other schemes brought forward, was one that a suitable cairn of concrete and stone be erected at the cross roads, the cairn to bear the names of those who had fallen.

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Timaru Herald. 8 December 1919 (Papers Past) [20/12/2016]

A FATAL ACCIDENT.

ON BURKE'S PASS.

Mr Richard Patrick O'Brien, thirty-five years of age, brother of Mr O'Brien, solicitor, of Timaru, was the victim of a fatal accident yesterday. Mr O'Brien, who was employed by Mr Bourn, Fairlie, was driving a motor lorry loaded with timber near Burke's Pass. It is supposed that the gears slipped when he attempted to change them, and the lorry ran back down the hillside, capsized, and fell on him. An inquest will be held.

The late Mr O'Brien, who was unmarried, went to the Front with the Thirty-fourth Reinforcements after volunteering for the Ninth and being rejected. He was for two months a prisoner of war in Germany, nearly dying there from starvation.

Sun. 10 December 1919 (Papers Past) [04/05/2021]

ACCIDENTS AND FATALITIES. MOTOR LORRY CAPSIZES

Press Association.

TIMARU, December 9.

An inquest was held at Fairlie into the death of a lorry driver named Richard Patrick O'Brien, a returned soldier, who was for a short time a prisoner in Germany. He was taking a load of timber from Fairlie to Tekapo, and it is supposed, owing to a mishap in changing the gears in climbing out of the gully near Burke's Pass, that the lorry ran back and capsized, and he was killed by the timber falling on his head.

Southland Times. 10 December 1919 (Papers Past) [04/05/2021]

ACCIDENTS & FATALITIES LORRY DRIVER'S DEATH. (Per United Press Association.)

TIMARU, December 9.

At the inquest at Fairlie into the fatal accident by which a lorry driver Richard Patrick O'Brien, a returned soldier and for a short time a prisoner in Germany, lost his life, the evidence showed that he was taking a load of timber from Fairlie to Tekapo. It is supposed that he missed in changing gears climbing out of a gully near Burke's Pass. The lorry ran back and capsized and O'Brien was killed by the timber falling on his head. A military funeral will be held in Timaru to-day,

Colonist. 12 December 1919 (Papers Past) [04/05/2021]

At Burkes Pass, an accident occurred by which Mr Richard Patrick O'Brien lost his life. Mr O'Brien, who was employed by Mr Bourn, of Fairlie, was driving a motor laden with timber, and when approaching Burkes Pass it is surmised that something went wrong with the steering gear, with the result that the lorry backed down the hill and capsized, falling on Mr O'Brien and killing him. Mr O'Brien, who was 35 years of age, was a brother of Mr M. J. O'Brien, solicitor, Timaru. He saw service with the Thirty-fourth Reinforcements, and was for some time a prisoner of war in Germany.

Timaru Herald. 8 December 1919 (Papers Past) [04/05/2021]

DEATHS

O'BRIEN.—Richard Patrick, on 7th December, 1919, at Burke's Pass, result of an accident; aged 35 years. (Requiescat in pace.)

Timaru Herald. 9 December 1919 (Papers Past) [04/05/2021]

FUNERAL NOTICE

THE Friends of the late **PRIVATE RICHARD PATRICK O'BRIEN**, N.Z.E.F., are respectfully informed that his Funeral will leave the Catholic Church, TO-DAY (Tuesday), 9th inst., at 10 a.m., for the Timaru Cemetery. Requiem Mass 9 a.m.
J. RADCLIFFE,
Undertaker.

Timaru Herald. 9 December 1919 (Papers Past) [04/05/2021]

R.S.A.

ALL Returned Soldiers' are requested to Parade at the Drill Shed in Uniform, TO-DAY (Tuesday), 9th inst., at 9.30 a.m. to act as Pall-Bearers and Form Firing Party for Funeral of 6854S Rifleman R. P. O'Brien.

Returned soldiers are requested to parade at the Drill Shed to-day, in uniform at 9.30 a.m., to act as pall bearers and firing party at the funeral of the late Private R. P. O'Brien, who met with a fatal accident at Burke's Pass.

Timaru Herald. 10 December 1919 (Papers Past) [04/05/2021]

The funeral of the late Rifleman R. P. O'Brien took place at the Timaru Cemetery yesterday. Returned soldiers under Sergeant-Major Thatcher, acted as pall-bearers, and among those present was Major Hume, officer commanding the district. The Rev. Father Bartley, returned chaplain, conducted the burial service. Among the floral tributes received was a beautiful wreath from the Returned Soldiers' Association of Mackenzie County, where the late soldier was well known.

Temuka Leader. 11 December 1919 (Papers Past) [04/05/2021]

At the inquest on the body of Richard Patrick O'Brien, who was killed on Sunday morning, at the foot of the Long Cutting near the Sawdon Station gate, the evidence showed that deceased was a careful, steady driver. When found after the accident he was quite dead, and the evidence showed that he had probably been killed instantaneously by being thrown from the car on to his head, and that afterwards a quantity of timber fell over him. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death, with two riders attached, one urging that while not reflecting on the ability of the deceased driver in any way, they considered all drivers should be certificated by examination for public passenger carrying in the Mackenzie County; and the second, urging the Mackenzie County Council to place guards on the side of the dangerous dips at the foot of the Long Cutting.