

## SOLDIERS' RETURN.

### WELCOMES AT TEMUKA.

### ENTHUSIASTIC RECEPTIONS.

The Troopship Tahiti, with 950 soldiers, arrived at Port Chalmers at daylight on Sunday. The vessel had a fine voyage with the exception of two or three days after leaving Liverpool. The voyage occupied 40 days. The men had a very warm welcome at Panama and are greatly indebted to the people there for their kindness. During the voyage physical training was conducted with excellent results.

A large number of the men travelled to their homes by the express train for the north on Monday, arriving at Temuka at 10 minutes past 2 o'clock, and among them were

Private A. J. Kennedy, Temuka

Private W. T. McLeod, Temuka

Private J. L. McAteer, Waitohi.

Although the soldiers were expected to travel by the troop train arriving at ten minutes to 5 o'clock, there was a fairly large number of the public at the Station to welcome them and they were driven to the post office.

Mr Gunnion, chairman of the Temuka Patriotic Entertainment Committee, said they had assembled to welcome some more of the boys back. They were not expected to arrive until a few hours later, and that was the reason why the Band was not there. He had not received advice of their coming until after 12 o'clock, and it was then too late to make other arrangements. However, they were very pleased to have the men back, and on behalf of his Society he extended to them a very hearty welcome. We are, he said, proud of what you have done for us and the Empire. You have done your duty; we are proud of you, and we hope you will soon be restored to your usual good health.

Cheers having been given for the soldiers, the Mayor said it was rather a surprise party, but all were very glad to have the men back again. One of the most important things in connection with their home-coming was that they had brought back victory with them. (Loud applause). We appreciate your services, continued the Mayor, and we thank you for what you have done.

Further cheers were given for the men, who were then driven to their homes. When the troop train arrived, shortly before 5 o'clock, there was well on to a thousand people, from all parts of the district, awaiting it. The train steamed in amidst the cheers of those assembled and the strains of a welcoming air played by the Juvenile Brass Band. The Band kept the music going while the train remained, the soldiers who were going further showing their pleasure in an unmistakable way. The soldiers who arrived were

Second-Lieutenant J. A. D. Iverach, Military Cross, Temuka  
Sergeant-Major W. J. Husband, Temuka  
Private C. H. Elsom, Military Medallist, Winchester  
Private J. T. Brosnahan, Kerrytown  
Private F. D. Clarke, Orari  
Private C. F. Edgeler, Temuka  
Private G. G. Gould, Rangitira Valley  
Private G. A. Harris, Orakipaoa  
Private T. Harrison, Winchester  
Private J. Morgan, Temuka  
Private E. M. Twomey, Temuka  
Private G. S. Walters, Temuka  
Private R. Jones, Temuka

And with the soldiers who arrived earlier in the afternoon, and headed by the Band, playing inspiring music, they were driven to the post office, where a thousand or more people soon assembled. It was as happy a gathering as was ever seen in Temuka.

Mr Gunnion said it was one of the greatest “welcome homes” that Temuka had had. They had had some good send-offs too, and they always tried to do their best. He did not know how to express his feelings of gratitude. He could only say we are proud of you, and we are glad to see you back again. On behalf of the Temuka Patriotic Entertainment Committee he thanked them for what they had done. (Loud applause).

Cheers having been given for the boys who had come home, the Mayor (Mr A. Frew) said it seemed to him that his speech might go without delivery. The people by their presence showed that they were proud to have the men back, and so was he. They had come back with victory. (Hear, hear), - and one of the great points, it seemed to him, was that they had been living by war, and now they had come to live by peace; as they had been successful in war, so he hoped they would be successful in peace. They wanted to see justice done to the men who had fought for the preservation of our homes and principles. It was important that all should think out these things for themselves, so that all could join in working for the good of the men, who were coming home and for the country. They saw on the Continent nothing but confusion, and Bolshevism getting rampant. Let us in our country try to see justice done to one another. In conclusion the Mayor again welcomed the men home again on behalf of the citizens, and more cheers were given for them.

Lieutenant Iverach, M.C., who was received with applause, said on behalf of his digger comrades he thanked them for their hearty welcome. He assured them that they were very glad to be back and to see their old town again, and now that the job which they went to do was practically done, they hoped very soon to get into their civilian clothes and do civilian work again. (Applause).

Sergeant-Major Husband, being called on, also said a few words. He endorsed all that Lieutenant Iverach had said. They were all pleased to be home again — there was no place like it. He thanked all for their hearty welcome home.

Cheers for the men who had gained decorations and more for the boys who have yet to come back, brought the welcome to a close, and the men were driven to their homes.

The following gentlemen kindly provided cars: —W. Hally (2), W. Kellahan, Street, Sheen, G. Ward, J. Cooper, P. A. Acheson, J. South, T. Harrison, Dr Hastings, R. Lee, T. Quinn, J. C. Kelland, John Brosnahan, Rev. Griffin.

*Temuka Leader*. 30 January 1919 Papers Past [22/03/2022]

In a letter dated 3rd December, the Home Correspondent of the Press gives some details (in brief) of some of the decorations won by New Zealand soldiers. Among those mentioned is Second-Lieutenant J. A. D. Iverach, of Temuka, of whom it is said — “Second-Lieutenant John A. D. Iverach, 2nd Battalion, Canterbury Regiment, made repeated reconnaissances to the front under difficult conditions and heavy fire, and brought back the information that was required. His behaviour has always been conspicuous for gallantry and devotion to duty, and he has set a fine example to his men.”

*Temuka Leader*. 20 February 1919 Papers Past [22/03/2022]

A welcome home and farewell social was held in the Presbyterian Sunday School on Tuesday evening. Mr H. Smith occupied the chair. The two Bible Class workers, who had returned from active service were Messrs Methveu and Iverach. A very good number rolled up to welcome the boys home, and the frequent applause and cheering that followed the speeches showed the spirit of appreciation of those present. After a few opening remarks from the chairman, Mr A. Calder, in a happy speech, welcomed Messrs Iverach and Methven back again home, and hoped that a Sunday afternoon would be set aside for the boys to tell some of their experiences at the front. Miss Mills, leader of the Young Women’s Bible Class, also welcomed the boys home again, after which all joined in singing “For they are jolly good fellows.” Mr Iverach, in a modest and cheerful speech, thanked them for the hearty reception social that had been arranged on their return amongst them. He felt that in going into active service they had only done their duty —nothing more. His opinion was that the mothers of the soldiers had put up the greatest fight of all. Those who went to the front had done their duty, and now it was a pleasure to be amongst them again. Mr Methven also thanked the friends for the hearty welcome extended to them. Occasion was taken to bid farewell to Mr D. Blyth, who is leaving Temuka to reside in Dunedin. Mr Smith, on behalf of the school workers, presented Mr Blyth with two well-bound volumes of Milton and Dickens’ works, and referred to the active part he had taken in the school, having filled the positions of librarian and secretary. Mr Blyth feelingly replied, and assured them he would try and find similar services to perform where he was going. During the evening items were given by Mrs Scrimshaw and Miss M. Calder.