

## Temuka Leader – 25 October 1917

### HOME AGAIN WELCOME TO PRIVATE S. RICKUS

Another of our boys, Private Sydney Rickus, a son of Mr and Mrs James Rickus, Wilkin Street, Temuka, returned home quite unexpectedly on Tuesday last by the express train from the north, consequently no arrangements had been made to welcome him, and he proceeded quietly to his home. A little later however, Mr T. Gunnion, Chairman of the Temuka P.E.C., made up for the omission, and the returned soldier and his friends were driven to the Post Office in Mr Hally's large car, Mr Alex. Cooper preceding them playing on the bagpipes. At the Post Office there was quite a representative gathering to take part in the proceedings.

Mr Gunnion explained that until five minutes before the express train arrived he had no idea that Private Rickus was on the train, or even that he had arrived in the Dominion on Sunday. He went away with the 14th Reinforcements, and had been fighting side by side with our soldiers. He was wounded in the arm, and sent home. He was one of those who had been through the fighting, and done their duty well. He could be thankful that he was out of the heavy fighting that had been going on lately. He extended to him Temuka's heartiest welcome, and hoped he would long be spared to enjoy life.

At Mr Gunnion's call, hearty cheers were given for the returned soldier

Private Rickus said he was no speaker, but he could assure them that he was glad that he went when called, and had done what he could. He was very glad to be home again, and he hoped he would for long enjoy the company of his friends.

Mr Barrett (Kaiapoi) on behalf of the Maoris of Temuka and the South Island, said they were glad to have Private Rickus back again. He was in the fighting early, and was in the great Somme battle, one of the biggest of the war. He was the first Temuka Maori boy who had returned to Temuka from the front, and he (Mr Barrett) was sorry he was unable to bring his mates with him. He hoped he would long be spared to his relatives and friends.

Private Rickus was then driven to his home.