

Timaru Herald. 24 July 1917 (Papers Past) [08/09/2021]

32ND REINFORCEMENT

TIMARU'S SEND-OFF.

The men comprising the South Canterbury quota of the 32nd Reinforcement left Timaru by the north express yesterday, and were given a farewell send-off at the Drill Shed. Here they were paraded at 12.30, and put through a few preliminary movements by Lieutenant Hopkins and Sergeant-Major Robinson. After the distribution of gift parcels from the ladies of the Patriotic Society, the draft was drawn up facing the balcony, from which they were addressed.

The Mayor (Mr J. Maling) said that he had had the privilege of addressing some of the men at the social held the previous week, but he felt it a privilege to be permitted to say a few more words to them. Two years ago few people would have believed that they would be sending the 32nd Reinforcement away. Notwithstanding the fine physique of the men of previous drafts, it was pleasing to note that the standard had not fallen. The Minister of Defence had informed them that 86,000 men had been sent from New Zealand or were in training, and they would all agree that they must continue to send men away to keep the Main Body up to the required strength. The country would not willingly see our men being reinforced by men from other countries. New Zealand must keep up its own reinforcements. They could not agree to have America reinforcing New Zealand troops; America would have plenty to do in keeping up her own reinforcements. Pleased as they were to fight with the Americans, they could not think of the New Zealand boys being reinforced by them. As Mayor of the town, and on behalf of the citizens, it was his duty to give them a hearty send-off, and to wish them good luck, and a safe and speedy return to Timaru. (Applause.)

The Rev. J. H., Rogers, acting-vicar of St. Mary's, told the boys that this was the chance of their lives — the chance to have their names inscribed with those which would go down to history as representing some of the finest men of our day. And this opportunity to add their names to the list of those who would never be forgotten was one not to be missed. In order to avail themselves of this grand opportunity they had four things to do: (1) fight for honour; (2) fight for truth and uprightness; (3) fight for the keeping of promises; and (4) fight for the protection of the weak. And to do this must honour themselves. He would to God that every man who went forth to fight would keep, deep down in his heart, the thought: "I have got to honour myself." Every man had a right to honour himself for was he not the finest handiwork of God. They would have temptations, the first of them in Wellington, where he hoped most earnestly that they take a determined stand and decline to allow themselves to sink to the level of a brute. If they honoured themselves, they would be fortified against all temptations. Mr Rogers also spoke of the need for discipline, and for obeying those who were set over them, and said that without this nothing could be accomplished. The Anzacs had set a fine example in this and other respects, they had kept their power of initiative and their individuality and at the same time had obeyed those set in authority over them. The old proverb: "Jack's as good as his master," was too often misunderstood in that the fact that Jack had a master was forgotten. Nothing could be accomplished without discipline; they all were under orders of some sort. He wished also to impress upon them that they should honour God. When they found the shells flying over them they would think of Him, but it would be rather late then; the time to do it was now. Let them go forward without cant or hypocrisy and say "I am going to fight God's battles and I am going to look to Him to protect me." They could scarcely expect God to be on their side if they were not on God's side. Their greatest soldiers and statesmen had not been ashamed to stand boldly out on God's side; and his parting words to those before him would be: "Honour God, honour yourselves, honour those over you, and your names will go down to posterity with the best. God bless you, boys."

The roll having been called, the soldiers were marched outside, where they were photographed by Mr Milne Allan, after which, headed by the Band of the 2nd (S.C.) Regiment under

Bandmaster Schnack, the draft moved en route for the railway station. There was a good number of people about, and they gave the men rousing cheers as they passed along the street. Arrived at the Strathallan Street crossing, where also there was a good number of friends assembled to partake in the farewell, the soldiers boarded the express, which left amid the cheers of the people.

Captain E. P. Chapman, of Temuka, and Sergt-Major H. W. Robinson have charge of the draft till it reaches Trentham. Some men were picked up at Temuka and others at Ashhurton. The following are the names of the men who proceeded to camp: -

Aitken, L. L.

Bain, W., Breslin, J., Burgess, W. J., Bates, T., Bennett, J., Barbeau, T. L., Beaven, C., Brassett, E. S., Barker, F.,

Cahalan, D., Cowles, R. J., Cunningham, J. W., Clear, W. T., Cotter, T. M., Cox, J., Collier, S. F., Corbett, I. A. C.

Doran, T. J., Daily, M., Down, F. P., Dale, P.

Elkis, T. G.

Fitzsimmons, S. W., Fallon, W., Fitzsimmons, W., Flynn, M., Francis, W. J.

Gilliam, W. C., Griffiths, M. T. W., George, G., Gould, G. G., Graham R. G.

Hume, N. S., Hullen, J. M., Hammond, A, **Hoare, J. H.**, Hicks, L., Hastings, D., Home, J. E., Hodges, H. W., Hall, J. H.

Iles, O. H., Inwood, G. L.

Kirby, T.

Lindsay, F. B., Luscombe, E. E., **Lyons, J. M.**

Jones. R. M. S., Jackson, W. R., Jaine, J. F.

McFarlane, L. G., McGirr, F., Morgan, J. M., Mitchell, W., Major, J, McLraith, W. L., Martin, J. O.

Noster, W. S.

O'Brien, T., O'Shea, M., Orr, P. L.

Richards, L. S., Rennett, A. D., Ryder, C. E.

Stoddart, W. T., Smith, M. R., Simpson, G. H., Smith, H. H., Squire. F. E., Shallcrass, R. E. Telford, W.

Prendergast, J.

White, W. F., Waters, E. A., Wilson, J., **Wade, J.**

Young, W. J.

These men comprise infantry, mounted rifles, artillery, engineers, and men for the officers' camp.

The W. R. Jackson mentioned is a returned soldier proceeding to camp to take up home service duties.

TEMUKA'S FAREWELL.

Yesterday afternoon, at the Drill Hall, Temuka, the Temuka and Geraldine quota of the 32nd Reinforcement and their relatives were entertained at luncheon by the ladies of the Temuka Patriotic Entertainment Committee. During the luncheon musical selections were given by Mr and Mrs

Halley and Miss Swap, and songs were also sung by Mrs Halley. Speeches were delivered by Mr T. Gunnion (chairman of the Temuka Patriotic Entertainment Committee), and Col. McInnes, Salvation Army.

Mr Gunnion said we must keep the home fires burning, and the men now going into camp were going to help to keep the old flag flying. All are proud of the men who were going to fight for freedom and wished them the best of luck. "Behave as men right through, and we will give you a hearty welcome back."

Col. McInnes, in a stirring address, said the men were going to fight in a righteous war. There were some things more precious than life to a Britisher, and one of them was liberty, and these men were going out to fight for that liberty. He wished them God speed and was sure they would put up a good fight as other New Zealanders had done. In a few words of advice to the men he said that when they entered their new sphere they would have to face new difficulties and new temptations. They must be on their guard, choose the right kind of companions in the beginning and stick to them right through. "Play your part like men and all will be well. Don't forget to write to your people at home; keep up your correspondence; it will be one way to keep you in remembrance of your homeland."

Apologies were received from Major Kennedy (Geraldine), Father Kerley, Mr R. A. Guild, Mr C. H. Street, and Mr C. J. Talbot, M.P., wishing the recruits the best of luck.

Promptly at 1.30 the men, led by the Temuka Brass and Pipe Bands, marched through the town to the railway station, where, despite the wet ground, a fair crowd had assembled to wish them farewell. Speeches were delivered by his Worship the Mayor (Mr A. Frew), and Mr T. Gunnion. The Maoris of Arowhenua Pa sang their farewell song, and as the train moved off cheers were given for the soldiers.

The following men left under the charge of Captain Chapman — R. G. Graham, J. P. Burke, T. Bates, R. J. Cowles, T. G. Elkis, G. G. Gould, J. A. Hammond, **J. M. Lyons**, **T.[J.?] O'Brien**, W. Telford, **J. Wade**, W. Wharton, J. Bennett.

Timaru Herald. 31 August 1917 (Papers Past) [26/03/2026]

SOLDIERS FAREWELLED AT KIMBELL.

On Tuesday last the local Patriotic Entertainment Committee tendered a farewell social to Privates G. Waters and **Willie Bain**. There was a large attendance, the departing soldiers being very popular young men.

The Rev. H. O. Hanby delivered a happy little speech, and offered his hearty congratulations to the guests, for whom he bespoke success on the field of action and a safe return to the district. A presentation was made by Mr R. Cowan, on behalf of the people of the district, the presents being two wristlet watches. These were fastened on by two young ladies, amidst prolonged applause and musical honours.

The presentations were followed by a very enjoyable dance, for which the arrangements were perfect. The ladies of the district excelled themselves in the abundant supply of excellent refreshments which they provided.

Mr Cowan, in the course of his remarks when making the presentations, referred sympathetically to the fact that Rifleman H. C. Ross, of Kimbell, had returned as a cot case. They were all pleased to know, however, that he was making an excellent recovery; and hoped to have him back amongst them in a few weeks. (Hear, hear.)

The Rev. Mr Hanby took occasion to refer to the War Loan, and expressed the hope that every person who could possibly do so would contribute to it.

FAIRLIE.

A SOLDIERS' SOCIAL

A combined reception and send-off was held in the Fairlie Public Hall on Friday evening, when Private **Bain**, of Kimbell, was welcomed home, and Chaplain Hanby, of Fairlie, was farewelled. The Hall was well filled, and the social was one of the best of the season, being exceptionally bright and sociable. The gathering was thoroughly representative, many coming from a distance to honour the coming and to speed the parting guest. The room was prettily decorated with patriotic emblems, and all the arrangements were carried out in the Entertainment Committee's usual complete manner. Mrs J. H. Wright assisted by numerous volunteers supplied music for the dances, and songs were sung by Mesdames E. Macdonald and C. J. Talbot, Miss Campbell, Rev. Handy, and Messrs F. Buckley and H. Davie. The piano accompaniments were played by Miss Piper, while Mr F. Buckley also assisted as violinist.

Mr C. J. Talbot, on behalf of the committee and the people of the district, warmly welcomed Private **Bain** to his home. He spoke of the varied experiences the soldier had gone through, including a trip that was almost world-wide in its extent. Unfortunately Private Bain had been seriously wounded but he had made a recovery that was little short of marvellous, and though he was still far from his old form he was daily growing stronger. Mr Talbot was sure that all would help Bain to regain his former health, and to forget some of the sufferings and hardships that he had gone through. Cheers were enthusiastically given for the returned man.

Referring to Chaplain Hanby's departure from the district to take on work among the returned men at Rotorua, Mr Talbot detailed the steps that Mr Hanby had taken, almost as soon as the war broke out, to get away with the boys. Physical disability had stood in the way, and the best that Mr Hanby could get at present was service within the Dominion. Perhaps it would lead to something wider and bigger. As chairman of the Patriotic Social Committee Mr Hanby had been indefatigable, and his wife had assisted him in all his patriotic work most assiduously. He had taken a keen interest in the doings of the district generally, but his forte was the soldiers, and he would be at home among them at Rotorua. They wished him well in his work, and if he should decide to return to his parish at the end of his six months leave of absence from the congregation he would receive a warm welcome.

The Rev. A. C. W. Standage added his good wishes, and on behalf of the district, gave expression to the appreciation of the Mackenzie County for the work done by the committee and the chairman, Mr Hanby. He also added his welcome home to Private Bain.

Mr Hanby on behalf of Private Bain and himself thanked those present for their expressions of good will and esteem. Referring to his own work on the Patriotic Committee, he said that it had made him many friends home and abroad, and if for nothing else, he would like to return to Fairlie at some future time, so as to meet those friends and to work again among them. His ..hear.. was with the [boys], and he would like to go away with them to the other side of the world, but the call had come nearer home, and he felt that he could not refuse to answer it. He knew his new position would not be exactly a bed of roses, but he would try to do his bit, and trusted that he would succeed till someone more entitled to minister to returned men could be found. Referring to the work of the Patriotic Social Committee Mr Hanby paid a high tribute to the work of the secretary, Mr W. Ormandy, and remarks made regarding the work of Mrs Hanby for soldiers at home and abroad.

Supper was then handed round, and shortly after midnight the assembly broke up with cheers for the boys on all fronts. W. C. Boulter had charge of the floor during the evening, and allowed no slack moments to obtain.