

Temuka Leader. 12 April 1917 (Papers Past) [25/06/2026]

28th REINFORCEMENTS.

SEND-OFF AT TEMUKA

Another of the send-offs to the men leaving for camp to prepare for going to the front was held in the Temuka Drill Hall on Tuesday evening. At the time people should have been making their way to the Hall, rain was teeming down, and this affected the attendance adversely. Still, between 200 and 300 persons - many of them of the gentler sex - were present and, besides honouring the soldiers, enjoyed one of the best entertainments yet organised by the Patriotic Entertainment Committee. There was not an indifferent item on the programme, and those, who stayed away lost a treat. The stage was extremely well decorated with boughs of trees, and looked very nice. A large arch of boughs and greenery was formed over the front of the stage, and sides were formed of the same material. At the back was a beautiful tree fern. During the evening Mr Gunnion said it was intended to get permission from the Chairman of the Domain Board to plant this in Temuka domain, as a tribute to the district boys who go to the front, putting a brass tablet at its base explaining its purport.

Mr Gunnion, Chairman of the Temuka Patriotic Entertainment Committee, presided. He said he did not need to explain why they had met. It was now a month since their last send-off, and more boys were going away. When they thought of what the boys who had gone were doing, and what those who were going would have to face, the Hall would be crowded to the doors if people only realised it.

Mr Gunnion then called for cheers for the "boys" who were going away. He went over their names — A. Davey, R. **Guilford**, A. Beattie, - Gregg, T. Harrison, J. H. Palmer, M. J. Fitzgerald, and A. A. Stoakes —making eulogistic remarks about each. Several of them had enlisted, been turned down, married, and were now leaving wife and children to fight for their country. The boys were going with Temuka's best wishes. May they go through the war and come back safely. He likened them to the silver tree-fern at the back of the stage, the leaves of which were rough on the edge, but white and silvery underneath. So their boys were, perhaps, rough on the surface, but they had pure hearts underneath their waistcoats, and would do nothing to shame their country. Referring to the programme, Mr Gunnion said they had had hard luck in preparing it, as so many people were away, but in the end they had good luck, and it was one of the best the committee had yet been able to arrange. Next month (on May 2nd) the Brass Band, assisted by local talent, would give the programme. He spoke of how the Band gave their time and talents in assisting at the send-offs to their soldiers, and for the good of the public, and said the Band would have the proceeds from their next send-off. They gave their time, but there was music to buy and rent to pay, and they must have funds. The public had filled the Hall for others, and it was now their duty to fill it for the Band.

The following programme was then given: Sapper Foster, who possesses a splendid baritone voice, of which he has perfect mastery, sang "A Son of the Desert am I," and in response to an encore, "As Deep as the Deep Blue Sea." Later on he gave another good song equally well. Miss Raine (Dunedin), who has a clear mezzo soprano voice, was very successful with her numbers. She sang "There's a Land," and in response to an imperative encore, "The Dear Land of Long Ago." In the second part she sang "Where My Caravan is Resting," very pleasingly. Mr Budd (Timaru), an established favourite, sang "Up from Zimmersset," bringing out the provincial dialect well. He was warmly encored, and responded with "Mother of Men," a fine song. Later in the evening he sang an old favourite, "The Admiral's Broom," with a new last verse describing the present condition of things in the North Sea, and the wish of the Navy that the enemy should come out and fight.

Mrs Tilbrook said she had been asked to speak, on behalf of the women, a few words of cheer and perhaps of advice from a woman's point of view. They had been holding send-offs for many months, and had now reached the 28th Reinforcements. This reminded them that they

had still those men who are able and willing and brave enough to go to the front. The women could not go to the front, but they could give of their best. Wives have their husbands, mothers their sons, and girls their sweethearts at the front, and they can work and pray for them. Women believed that men went as their protectors, and they believed that it should be so. They believed that God meant it to be so. When God made woman as man's companion and help-meet, he did not make her from a part of man's foot, or he might have been tempted to trample on her; nor from a bone from his head, or woman might have tried to domineer over man, but God took a bone from man's side, near his heart and near his arm, that he might love and protect her. Women wanted the men to know that they were worth loving and fighting for. They read from day to day of what women are doing. At one place a woman was digging potatoes, her husband having gone to the front; at another farm a woman was astride a horse herding cows, while the men were away, and the women were working hard in all sorts of ways. So the women say, "God speed you." Many sacrifices had been made; more was to be made, and you are going to do it. We would like you to quit yourselves like men. Be strong, be manly in character in doing your duty, and in all your dealings. Be strong to do right at all times; strong to resist evil and wrong. Sacrifices you are to make. One of the boys who had returned to them had struck a happy note when he said, being at the front was "not all bully beef and biscuits." They would find much to profit by if they sought to profit by what they passed through. A wounded boy, writing home, said he would not have missed his experience for all that money could buy. Women hoped those who were going would profit by their experience. They read that New Zealand is sending its best, and they knew that some who go to the war will make the supreme sacrifice, but they still had to remember that some will return, and that in the course of years it will be from these that the country's leaders will be chosen. Their Mayors, members of Parliament, and so on will be chosen from these men, so the better they performed their duties at the front the better they would be prepared to carry out the important duties they would be called on to perform later on. Mrs Tilbrook then spoke of the Testament presented to every soldier going to the front. They were not given for ornament. If they read them they would find them a help and comfort when darkness and difficulties confronted them, making them realise that God would give His angels charge over them, and keep them. We women hope that you will share in the fight that is so soon to come, and may you have a safe return. — (Applause.) Mrs Tilbrook then presented the men with their "holdalls," after which Miss Holgate (Timaru), another favourite with lovers of music in Temuka, sang "Sowing," and in response to an encore "Coming Home." Later on she gave "True Bird." Miss Holdgate was very fortunate in her selections, and was never heard to better advantage in Temuka. Mr Frederick (Christchurch) made his debut in Temuka as a reciter with "The Bashful Curate," and soon was on good terms with his audience. His other contributions were also humorous, "Snorkins" and "The Art of Kissing," doing full justice to each. The Rev. F. Copeland selected a topical song as his contribution to the programme. "Trentham" was well given and warmly applauded. Mr and Miss Davie delighted the audience with two pretty duets, "Whispering Hope" and "Flow on Thou Shining River," their voices harmonising perfectly. Another duet, and one equally popular, was "Larboard Watch," given by Messrs Davie and Build. Miss Radcliffe (Timaru) gave a capital recitation from "The Sentimental Bloke," entitled "Doreen," doing full justice to the racy descriptive slang of Bill describing his courtship. She received an imperative encore, and in response treated the audience to the "Sentimental Bloke's" first meeting with his future ma-in-law (Doreen's mother), and what followed. Miss Radcliffe knew her pieces and brought out the points splendidly. Mr Cameron gave one of his famous club swing exhibitions, drawing involuntary applause from those present as he gave some especially difficult movements. His effort was loudly applauded.

The Chairman moved a hearty vote of thanks to the performers for their services, and this having been carried by acclamation, the singing of the National Anthem brought the gathering

to a close. The accompaniments were tastefully played by Mrs F. Cooper and Misses Pearse and E. Twomey.

SEND-OFF AT GERALDINE.
TO MEN OF 28th REINFORCEMENTS.
TUESDAY NIGHT.

Despite a wet evening there was a very fair attendance at the Drill Hall, Geraldine, when a send-off was tendered to the men who were leaving for Trentham the following day. The Entertainment Committee had as usual decorated the hall with flags and flowers, and had made complete arrangements. Major J. Kennedy, who presided, stated that the small attendance was no doubt caused by the unpleasant weather conditions, but the rain would be very useful for other purposes. Those present would no doubt make up for the smallness of numbers by the warmth of the reception they would give the men who were going away. — (Applause.)

THE CONCERT.

The Geraldine orchestra opened the musical programme with the National Anthem, and afterwards played a selection. Mr McGregor gave a comic song "In the Only Way." He ... the house with an additional verse of ... received a recall, and brought down the same song. Little Miss Chapman gave a nicely rendered recitation, for which she received a well-earned encore. The best item was a song by Mr F. Trott, "Mother McCree," and he also had to respond to an encore. Mr and Miss McGregor next sang a duet, "Ye Banks and Braes o' Bonnie Doon." An encore was inevitable, and brought forth another old Scotch song, "Robin Adair," each of the favourite melodies being sung with good expression. The orchestra played another series of selections, which were well received, and proved all too short. Miss Chapman gave another recitation, and found such favour that she had to respond to a triple recall. Miss McGregor sang two songs (the second in response to an encore) and Mr McGregor gave "I loved a Lassie," the audience joining in the chorus of his encore song, "Roaming in the Gloaming." Both songs were rendered in Mr McGregor's best style, and proved very popular. The orchestra played another well-appreciated item, and this brought the concert to a close.

THE PRESENTATIONS.

Major Kennedy then asked the recruits to come up to the platform, and presented Privates G. S. Ayling and J. M. Howard. with wristlet watches, on behalf of the committee, and after apologising for the absence of Mrs Hislop, who was unable to be present, gave, on her behalf, to the two Geraldine boys, and Privates G. Sommerfield, G. Edgar, and A. G. Payne (who were also present on the platform) the parcel of soldiers' comforts which the Home and Empire League had supplied to all the men who have left. In doing this the chairman stated that as the President of the League had often told the boys, if they wanted anything else they had only to write to the League, and they would be supplied. Continuing, Major Kennedy said that it was action that was wanted to-day. Only that day they had been told by General Sir William Robertson, that men were wanted before anything else. He believed and trusted the gallant lads who were leaving, would uphold the honour of their town and country among the British regiments and those of their Allies, with whom they came in contact. Private Ayling had been in business in Geraldine for some years, and he had always been known as a straightforward fellow. Private Howard was also well known in Geraldine, and he also wished him good luck and a good time in the future.

Mr Trott, in the absence of the Brass Band, which usually played "Soldiers of the King," sang a verse of the song, and the men were heartily cheered as they left the stage.

Supper was then served to the soldiers, their friends and the performers, and a dance wound up a very pleasant evening.

The men left in motor cars on Wednesday at 2.15, being given hearty cheers as the cars moved off. The route taken was via Orari, where the men from that district were picked up.

The following are the names of the recruits leaving the district with the 28th Reinforcements: Privates G. S. Ayling, W. Earl, R. Fitzgerald, G. E. W. Griffiths, R. L. Hamilton, J. M. Howard, W. M. Buckley, A. G. Payne, C. Edgar, J. B. Ambler, H. Beattie, and G. Summerfield.

Temuka Leader. 10 October 1918 (Papers Past) [21/06/2026]

WELCOME HOME.

FIVE MORE RETURNED SOLDIERS ARRIVE.

AT TEMUKA.

Yesterday, several more of our boys, who had been fighting our country's battles, and been wounded, returned to their homes, to the delight of their relatives and friends. The troop train arrived at Temuka at 11.30 a.m., and although notice of its coming had been short, there was a large assemblage at the railway station to meet and greet them. Four soldiers left the train at Temuka: Privates Hobbs and **R. Guilford** (Temuka), Private Joseph Pearce (Rangitata) and Trooper W. Harper (Waitohi), all of whom had been wounded, but happily were far on the road to recovery. As the train came in the Temuka Juvenile Brass Band, assisted by some adult members, played a welcoming air, and the Mayor, Mr Gunnion (chairman), Rev. A. H. Norris, and other members of the Patriotic Entertainment Committee, met and welcomed the returned men. During the moment or two that the train stayed at the station lady members of the Patriotic Committee distributed cigarettes and fruit among those who were going further. The men and their relatives were then driven to the Post Office square, the band preceding them playing inspiring music.

Addressing the gathering from the Post Office steps, Mr Gunnion (chairman of the Temuka P.E.C.) said the men's arrival had been a little sudden, for they had expected them by the express train. They had to thank the stationmaster for letting them know that the special train was bringing some of their boys home. On behalf of his Committee and district he extended the boys Temuka's heartiest welcome. He thanked them for what they had done and suffered. All were proud to have them back. The war news was good, and there were prospects of an early peace. He thought the war would be over soon, and he hoped it would but if necessary the Allies would carry it on for another year, and put still more vigor into it. (Applause.)

Cheers were then given for the returned soldiers.

The Mayor said it was nice to have a pleasant surprise and the unexpected arrival of the men was one. On behalf of the citizens he thanked them for the services they had rendered. Peace appeared to be drawing near, and they had had a great hand in the work that had led up to it. He felt that General Fosse and his men would go through the enemies' defences as through a spider's web, and General Allenby was making a clean sweep of Palestine. There were great hopes of a satisfactory peace. He assured the men that they were welcoming them back with full and thankful hearts. (Applause.)

More cheers for the soldiers followed, after which Mr Gunnion announced that among the soldiers who had passed through in the train, was Mr Webber, a former teacher at Waitohi, and a number of Timaru soldiers. He thanked the people for attending in such numbers, the band, the trades-people, and the car owners, and cheers for the boys at the front concluded the welcome.

The returned soldiers were then driven to their homes.

Messrs Hally, Lovelock, Quinn, Bates, and Street kindly provided cars.

Timaru Herald. 21 January 1919 (Papers Past) [13/07/2014]

A very pleasant welcome home social was given to Privates J. Smith and **R. Guilford** last Wednesday evening in the Pleasant Valley Schoolroom. There was a very large attendance, people coming long distances to show their appreciation of these brave lads' work at the front. The evening was chiefly devoted to dancing, with songs interspersed. After an excellent supper had been served by the ladies, the chairman of the patriotic committee, with a fitting speech on the soldiers' service, presented each man with a framed certificate, and wished them good health and prosperity throughout their civil careers. Messrs Vucetich, Gale, and others added complimentary and congratulatory remarks. Privates Smith and Guilford thanked the Valley people for their presents and for turning out in such numbers to welcome them home again. "For they are jolly good fellows" was sung, followed by the National Anthem. There were many returned soldiers present, and visitors from Geraldine, Gapes Valley, Woodbury, Temuka, Kakahu, and Te Moana.

Temuka Leader. 21 January 1919 (Papers Past) [21/06/2026]

PLEASANT VALLEY.

A WELCOME HOME SOCIAL.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

A very successful welcome home social was given to Privates J. Smith and **R. Guilford** last Wednesday evening in the Pleasant Valley school-room. There was a large attendance, people coming from very long distances. The social commenced at 9 o'clock. The dance music was supplied by Messrs S. Heyder, G. Fletcher, and Scott Brothers. Mr R. J. Woods, of Geraldine, acted as M.C., and was assisted by Private G. Williams, a returned soldier. A halt was made at midnight for supper — an excellent one — which was handed round the room by ladies and gentlemen. After this the guests of the evening (at the invitation of the chairman) mounted the platform, and were introduced to the audience, being greeted with loud applause. The chairman then made a stirring speech in which he referred to the brave deeds of our soldiers, and presented Privates Smith and **Guilford** with well-framed certificates, at the same time wishing them the best of luck, and a speedy return to robust health.

Messrs Vucetich, G. Gale, and others also spoke, wishing the returned soldiers every happiness and prosperity. Privates Smith and **Guilford** replied, thanking the Pleasant Valley people for their handsome presents, and assured them that they would remember the evening as long as they lived. The musicians struck up "For they are jolly good fellows," and the rousing refrain was heartily sung by all. This was followed by the singing of the National Anthem.

Dancing was then resumed. Songs were given by Miss Lysaght and Mr S. Heyder, and were well received. The schoolroom was nicely decorated with flags. A large number of returned soldiers were present, and there were visitors from Geraldine, Gapes Valley, Woodbury, Temuka, Hilton, Kakahu, and Te Moana.