

Press. 16 June 1915 (page 7) [27/05/2015]

THE FALLEN AND WOUNDED. PERSONAL NOTES.

SERGEANT O. E. DAVEY.

Sergeant Oral E. Davey (Canterbury Battalion, killed), was employed in the Timaru Borough Council Chambers, and was 25 years of age. He was educated at Timaru South School, and from there commenced work with the Council. He was on the general office staff, and was a young man of much promise. Unassuming and unostentatious, he was most popular with all who know him, and his obliging and thorough business-like methods made him a general favourite at the Council Chambers. He was the eighth son of Mr and Mrs W. Davey, James street, Timaru, and his brother, Private F. H. Davey, is at present in a convalescent camp at Alexandria, recovering from wounds sustained at Gallipoli. Sergeant Davey was a keen volunteer, and his eagerness and soldierly bearing made him a most desirable recruit. When the call came he was among the first to offer, and left with the First Contingent.

Otago Daily Times. 17 June 1915 (page 4) [27/05/2015]

Otago Witness. 23 June 1915 [07 April 2020]

SERGEANT DAVEY.

Sergeant O. E. Davey was a member of a well-known Timaru family. He was educated in Timaru, and as a boy obtained a position in the Borough Council's office. He was a very capable clerk, and rose to a position of responsibility in the office, his work always winning the complete approval of his senior officers. When the first call came for men to serve the Empire, Sergeant Davey, who was an enthusiastic Territorial, was among those who responded, having decided immediately that it was his duty to do what he could for the Empire's cause. He was only 23 years of age, and unquestionably had an honourable career before him, but he was content to sacrifice this if duty required it.

ANZAC DAY.

THE HONOURED DEAD.

A TOUCHING CEREMONY.

A touching ceremony, and one than which there could have been no nicer of its kind, took place in Timaru yesterday, when those heroic souls who gave their lives on far-off Gallipoli were paid a fresh tribute. It was Anzac Day, and the town observed a half-holiday from noon. Many country people observed a whole holiday in order to be present at the placing of a wreath on a cross which was erected in King George's Place. Some thousands of people assembled to pay silent tribute, to the honoured dead. For the occasion a cross was erected on the pretty little grass plot adjoining the Municipal Chambers. It was a stout wooden cross surrounded by rubble, the base of the latter being fringed with a corded streamer in red, white and blue.

The Returned Soldiers' Association (Messrs Davey and Dunn acting as bearers) placed a large wreath of laurels on the rubble and reared it against the cross, both wreath and cross bearing the inscription: "In Memory of Our Fallen Comrades." The Mayor and Councillors and Town Clerk, and Mrs Maling and Mrs Wm. Raymond stood by the cross while the wreath was being placed on it, the military being just outside the enclosure, while the general public filled King George's Place. Following the placing of the wreath, by the Returned Soldiers' Association, other wreaths were laid on either side of it, after which the South Canterbury Regimental Band, under Bandmaster Schnack, played "In Memoriam" (Stretton) very artistically and feelingly, and the ceremony concluded with the touching music of "The Last Post," which was played by four cornets - Bandsman Mara, Rissell, Segar, and Taylor—and the National Anthem.

Lieut. Colonel Mackenzie was in charge of the parade, other officers present being:— Major Matthews. A.Q.M.G., Canterbury District, Staff Officer Captain Oakey M.C. Major Foden (second in command) Lieut. A. E. Dendy (Adjutant), S.S.M. (W.O.) A. M. Thatcher, parade Sergt-Major, Captain J. E. S. Jackson, retired officer, Major E. A. Holdgate, Major A. Boys, Captain Arthur Rhodes, and Lieut. Hind, Lieut. Harwell, M.M., Lieut. Satterthwaite, returned officers, and the following ranks: - Returned Soldiers 78, Ex-Contingenters 3, A. Comp. 2nd Regt. 25, No. 7, 2, A.S.C., 20, Nos. 43, 44, and 45 Senior Cadets 87, High School Cadets 150, Nursing Division St. John Ambulance 20, S.S.M. Johnson, S.S.M. Patchett. S.S.M. Gracie, Girl Scouts 20, South Canterbury Regimental Band 25, High School Band 27, Bugle Band 21. The Mayor and Councillors walked with the procession which marched from the drill shed via Stafford, Cannon, and Sophia Streets, to King George's Place. After the ceremony the military marched via Perth, Sophia, Cannon, and Stafford Streets to Alexandra Square, where the parade was dismissed.

Wreaths were placed on the cross by the Mayor and Councillors (on behalf of the citizens), by Mrs Maling (on behalf of the Ladies' Patriotic Society), and others in memory of the following soldiers: —Major David Grant, Lieut. Guinness, Lieut. F. D. Maurice, Sergt. **Oral E. Davey**, Privates R. E. Watkins, Donald McK. Dixon, Millen S. Dixon, Walter Harte, and Jack Mansell. There were two other wreaths which bore no name.

ANZAC DAY.

OPEN-AIR SERVICE.

IN TIMARU.

Anzac Day was fittingly celebrated in Timaru yesterday, when an open-air service was held in King George's Place, and a solemn tribute paid to the honoured dead. From a cold, grey sky rain fell at intervals, the sombre atmospheric conditions being in keeping with the solemnity of the occasion. There was a large assemblage of people, and the proceedings, which lasted an hour, passed off in a manner befitting the occasion.

A large wooden cross was erected on a rockery, which was made for the occasion, on the grass plot adjoining the municipal buildings. Laurel leaves were interspersed between the rocks, and a large laurel wreath, bearing the words: "In memory of our fallen comrades," was placed by the Returned Soldiers' Association on the rockery, at the foot of the cross. Immediately after the service the rockery was covered with wreaths placed there by parents, brothers and sisters, and friends of deceased soldiers.

From a dais in front of the Council Chambers an address was given by Pastor Nicholls. On the dais stood the Mayor (Mr Wm Raymond), the Rev. T. Wilson Potts (president of the Ministers' Association), Pastor Nicliolls, Councillors T. W. Satterthwaite, J. E. Hurdley, G. J. Sealey, J. P. Murphy, H. Allchurch, A. M. H. Shirtcliff, A. Washer, and J. P. Hughson. Mr H. W. Scott secretary to the R.S.A., the Town Clerk being also present.

The military were present in strong force. The procession was marshalled at the Drill Shed shortly after 1.30, and the parade was in charge of Lt.-Col. Newman Wilson, D.S.O., M.C. Prior to marching off, Lt.-Col. Wilson addressed the returned soldiers on parade, and expressed his pleasure at seeing such a representative attendance. He referred to the military training of the territorials and cadets, and hoped that some of the returned men would interest themselves in the territorial movement, as their steadying influence would do a power of good amongst the men and boys at present undergoing training. He complimented the returned men on their steadiness on parade, and expressed the hope that Anzac Day in the years to come would be even more largely attended than it had been in the past.

The parade was marshalled by Staff-Sergts. Major (W. O.) H. Frank and A. M. Thatcher, under Captain H. D. McHugh, M.C. and bar, adjutant, the Reserve of Officers present being Majors Foden and Dryden. Captains Oakey, M.C., Marriott and Jackson, Lieutenants Casserly and Pennyfeather, and the following officers in charge of units: A Coy, 2nd South Canterbury Regiment — Lt. W. A. Stead, (35), 43 Coy, Cadets, Captain W. Fossey (35), 44 and 45 Coy.'s Cadets, Lt. J. P. C. Walshe, (50), High School Cadet Coy., Lieuts. Cockcroft and Hind, (130), while the 2nd (South Canterbury) Regimental Band, High School Band, and the Bugle Band also took part in the procession. The returned soldiers on parade numbered about 150, and the Orthopaedic Hospital car, with members of the staff followed in the rear of the procession. The firing party of twenty returned soldiers was in charge of S.S.M. A. Mathieson. The Boy Scouts were also in attendance, and distributed the sheets on which the order of service was set out.

In his address Pastor Nicholls paid a warm tribute not only to the men of Anzac, but to all who had gone forth so valiantly to fight that we might live in peace and safety. Of those who had given their lives he remarked it could be truly said: "They saved us, but themselves they could not save." The speaker explained the derivation of the word "Anzac," and then showed how the letters composing the word could be otherwise applied — "Ascribing New

Zealanders a commemoration,” “asking New Zealanders a confession” and “among New Zealanders are Christians.” Each of these interpretations of the word, Pastor Nicholls used as the basis for a dissertation on the heroism of the brave fellows who had given their all for others, and the resultant cause for thankfulness, admiration, and gratitude on the part of those who were now living in peace and comfort. The speaker also voiced a warning against the materialistic leanings of the age, of sin in all its forms, and said that we could best honour the dead by so shaping our lives as to show that their great sacrifice had not been made in vain.

After the address, the hymn, “The Nameless Graves” was sung. This was followed by “The Dead March,” (played by the Battalion Band); then the burial service was read by the Rev. T. W. Potts, after which a firing party ranged on either side of the cross, fired three volleys, the Band played the “Last Post,” and the ceremony closed with the National Anthem.

During the playing of the Dead March, the wreaths were arranged at the cross by Corporal Davie.

Wreaths were sent in memory of W. A. McQueen, Rifleman George Hill, Rifleman C. Burgess, officers, non-commissioned officers and cadets of Nos. 43, 44 and 45 companies Senior Cadets, B. C. Collings, E. Davis, A. Small, S. Corrigan, A. Muir, W. Kingour, R. Girdwood, O. Halliday, J. Templeton, J. Dow, J. Anderson, D. Dow, D. Anderson, J. Barklay, Jack Mansell and Walter Harte, Tim and Gordon Langrish, Norman Stuart Young, Corpl. C. W. Saunders, Mark Saunders, Albert Bennet Saunders, **Sergt. O. E. Davie** [sic], Sergt. E. Fairbrother, M.M., Lt.-Col. C. E. Thomas, Wilfred Turner, Lieut. Neville S. Joyce, A. H. Austin, D. Hodgson, Major David Grant, Edward Edginton, Colin Edgar Wilson, Donald and Miller Dickson, William B. Walton, Col. Bauchop and other Port Chalmers boys, Geraldine boys, Dug. Hodgson, Leonard Cecil Hight, floral tributes to the memory of the fallen by the ladies committee of the R.S.A., the Mayor and Mayoress, the Orthopaedic Hospital, Mr and Mrs E. Roland Guinness, Celtic Football Club., Zingari Football Club, Timaru Boys’ High, School, Y.M.C.A., Miss McLean, besides several others bearing no name but “To the. memory of the fallen.”

Timaru Herald. 26 April 1921 (Papers Past) [06/05/2022]

**TOLL FOR THE BRAVE.
THE COUNTRY’S TRIBUTE.
AN HISTORIC ANNIVERSARY.
A PEOPLE’S GRATEFUL REMEMBRANCE.**

IN TIMARU

A DIGNIFIED CEREMONY.

Anzac Day was fittingly celebrated yesterday by a memorial service which was held in King George’s place, commencing at 2.15 p.m. It was a cold, grey day, which, though unpleasant, seemed not inappropriate to the solemn occasion. People attended in large numbers, town and country being well represented at the ceremony, which was organised and carried through by men who took part in the great war, was of a dignified and very impressive character. A dais

was erected in front of the Municipal Chambers for the speakers, and as in former years a wooden cross, surrounded by a rockery, was placed in the centre of the little grass plot adjoining the Municipal Chambers. On the cross appeared the words "In Memory of the Fallen," and the rockery around it bore a profusion of wreaths, the largest one being made of laurel leaves, and placed there by the Returned Soldiers' Association. In the background was spread a large New Zealand flag bearing the names of the four battlefields on which New Zealanders had fought — Anzac, Palestine, France and Egypt. On the speakers' platform were: — Major J. H. Inglis (president of the Returned Soldiers' Association), who took the place of Colonel Newman Wilson owing to the latter being unexpectedly called away to Dunedin, the member for Timaru (Mr J. Craigie, M.P.), the Mayor (Mr Wm. Raymond), the Rev H. Benny (who is a returned soldier), Councillors J. P. Murphy, H. Allchurch, A. Shirtcliff, T. W. Satterthwaite, J. Donnelly, P. C. Vinnell, A. Washer, G. J. Sealey (Deputy-Mayor), and M. T. Reece (secretary of the Returned Soldiers' Association).

There was a military parade, of which Major Inglis was in charge, Captain Parkinson being adjutant, and Sergeant-Major Franks parade sergeant-major. The following was the parade state:-

Reserve of officers, 6; staff, 1 officer and 4 other ranks; 2nd (South Canterbury) Regimental Band, 1 officer and 36 men; returned soldiers (under Captain A. N. Oakey) 5 officers and 107 men; P. and T. Engineers 9; A Company Second Regiment, 1 officer and 32 men; High School Cadet Band, 25; High School Cadets, 3 officers and 136 cadets; Bugle Band, 24; 43 Company Senior Cadets, 1 officer and 48 men; 44 Company Senior Cadets, 4 officers and 97 men.

The service opened with Chopin's Funeral March, played with much feeling by the Battalion Band, under Bandmaster A. Schnack. This was followed by a brief but pointed address by Major Inglis, who said: -

"On this day throughout the Dominion, in solemn gatherings, with fitting music and prayer, the people of New Zealand honour 17,000 of their countrymen who fell in the war of 1914-18. Let it be quite clear in all our minds that Anzac Day is not sacred to Gallipoli alone. It is the day which marks the first great act of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force in a foreign field of war in the British Empire's cause of liberty; and on each 25th of April we pay tribute to every man who fell during the four and a half years, be it in Egypt, Gallipoli, in France, in Palestine, or at sea.

"Each one of us whose lot it was to fight, mourns to-day not one, but many of the finest comrades it is possible for men to have. Most of those whose lot it was to remain here mourn some we loved exceedingly well. There are many among us whose lives are cut across by a grave. It seems sometimes as though no family were without its dead. In our hearts there are winters which make all the summers cold.

"Now it is good that we should set apart this day in each year to remember these things so that we may each and every one of us keep firmly fixed within him the determination that the victory won at such a cost shall not be a barren one — that the lessons it has taught us and the conditions it has created shall not be turned merely to profit our immediate and selfish interests, but to the benefit of humanity.

"It is neither necessary nor desirable to forget the war when by the simple act of remembrance we can recapture something of the glow kindled in human nature by the sacrifices of that conflict. I need not remind you of the horror and blunders of the war. I need not remind you of the terrible sum of misery and pain endured by those who fell, or were maimed. Nor need I remind you of the women who, though not combatants, succeeded in smiling while they wept blood inwardly. It has been our privilege during our lifetime to be lifted out of the commonplace — to be lifted above the ordinary level of life, away from the small and petty things of our existence into the realm of really great things and deeds.

Unfortunately there is always a tendency in human nature after a great effort to fall back to the lower levels and the humdrum things of life. Throughout the Empire and throughout the world this tendency is apparent. But it is in the interest of humanity and of the world that the great spirit of comradeship, and of self-sacrifice, which was born in the events of the war should be promoted, stimulated and perpetuated.

“It is not to mourn with vain regrets that we this day honour our dead, but to remind ourselves of these things of which I have just spoken in order that we may not in our forgetfulness render their sacrifices a vain one.

“Let us bring to the difficult tasks of Peace those same splendid qualities which brought civilisation through the purging fires of war – loyalty to things which are good and true, faith in the destiny of our race, and above all a large charity towards our weaker fellow men.”

Following the address the hymn “The Nameless Grave,” was sung, after which came the touching music of “The Dead March in Saul,” by the Band, and then followed the reading of the burial service by the Rev H. Benny, representing the Timaru Ministers’ Association. Following this, volleys were fired over the improvised grave by a squad of 14 returned men under Sergeant-Major Matheson, and finally “The Last Post” was sounded by Bugler Jennings.

Wreaths were sent by the Returned Soldiers’ Association, the Mayor and Mayoress, Mr and Mrs E. R. Guinness, the South School, the Y.M.C.A., Celtic and Zingari Football Clubs, Colonel Beauchamp and Port Chalmers men, and others on behalf of the following deceased soldiers: — W. A. McQueen, D. Hodgson, W. Edginton, L. and C. Hight, R. B. Glanville, D. and N.[M.] Dickson, B. C. Collings, A. R. Dobier, W. Turner, **O. E. Davey**, F. W. Boucher, B. J. Collins, F. D. Maurice, N. S. Joyce, R. C. Fairbrother, A. Burgess, G. Hill, T. and G. Langrish, C. W. and M. Saunders, W. and A Morgan, L. Leah, W. E. Varcoe, A. A. Austin, and Major Grant. There were in addition about 20 wreaths sent in memory of soldiers, but bearing no definite signatures.

Timaru Herald. 26 April 1924 (Papers Past) [07/05/2022]

“TO MEMORY ECER DEAR” HEROIC DEEDS OF ANZAC RECALLED. Commemoration Services in Timaru

“Oh may I join the choir invisible,
Of those immortal dead, who live again
In minds made better by their presence; live
In pulses stirred to generosity,
In deeds of daring rectitude, in scorn
For miserable aims that end with self,
In thoughts sublime that pierce the night-like stars,
And with their wild persistence urge man’s search
To vaster issues.”

— George Eliot.

When the Great War ended in 1918 it was oftentimes said, and it has often been repeated since, that the heroism, and courage, and faithfulness to duty of our soldiers would soon be forgotten, but though some years have passed since then, the great deeds of the gallant men who left these shores has not been forgotten; and judging by the very large assemblage of South Canterbury people in King George's Place yesterday afternoon, when the Anzac Memorial Service was held, the honoured dead are still held in affectionate remembrance.

The weather was beautifully fine, and the commemoration service, which was arranged by the R.S.A., was a most impressive one. Starting at half-past two it concluded at half-past three. The Rev. H. J. Odell (ex-member N.Z.E.F.), was to have presided, but owing to the death of a near relative he was called out of town yesterday, and in his stead the Rev. H. G. Goring (ex-member, N.Z.E.F.), presided. Others on the speakers' platform were: Mr F. J. Rolleston, M.P., His Worship the Mayor (Mr G. J. Wallace), Rev. G. V. Gerard (ex-member B.E.F.), Mr F. Milner, M.A. (Rector of Waitaki Boys' High School), and Messrs R. B. Bell, R. S. Goodman, and M. T. Reese (representing the R.S.A.)

THE PARADE STATE.

The parade fell in at the Drill Shed at 2 p.m., and marched via Stafford, Church and Sophia Streets to King George's Place, where the men were formed up facing the speaking balcony. The parade state was as follows: — Officer in command, Lieutenant-Colonel Newman Wilson, D.S.O., M. C.; Staff Officer, Captain H. D. McHugh, M. C., N.Z.S.C.; Adjutant, Lieutenant L. A. Clements, N.Z.P.S.; Parade Sergeant Major, C. S. M. Ball. Unattached officers: Major Foden, Captain J. E. S. Jackson, Lieutenant W. M. Hocking, Lieutenant I. W. O'Connor, Lieutenant P. Tizzard; South Canterbury Regimental Band (29 under Conductor Schnack, and Drum Major Stevenson), South African veterans, two officers and 18 men; Returned Soldiers (70 under Major E. A. Holdgate), C. Squadron, 1st N.Z. M.R., Captain A. E. Pennefather, D. C., and 35 other ranks, C. Coy. Headquarters Platoon and the 1st Battalion, Canterbury Regiment, Major L. M. Inglis, M.C., O.C., Captain S. D. Mason, and Lieutenants W. P. Jacques, P. McDougall, J. Torlesse, P. Nicoll, and 117 other ranks. Senior Cadets: i Major Curtis (2nd in command), O.C. Band of A Coy (T.B.H.S.) 2nd (Cadet) Bn. (30); A. Coy. and 2nd (Cadet) Bn., Lieutenant Hind, M.C., O.C., Lieutenant Horwell, M.M., Lieutenant Macdonald and 258 other ranks; B. Coy. 2nd (Cadet) Bn., Lieutenant W. Foster, O.C., and 68 other ranks; C. Coy. 2nd (Cadet) Bn., Lieutenant J. P. C. Walshe, O.C., Lieutenants C. Foster, de Joux, Beekman, Malcolm and 149 other ranks Parade total: 26 officers and 777 other ranks.

The firing party was supplied by C. Coy. 1st Battalion Canterbury Regiment, under Sergeant-Major Patchett, N.Z.P.S., and comprising 13 rank and file.

“Our ceremony to-day, in mourning our loss, in celebrating their achievements, is symbolic of the whole vast sacrifice of the Empire. The war demonstrated to the world the spiritual unity of our Empire. The cynical predictions of the Germans, this amorphous, sprawling Empire of ours would disintegrate when the tocsin of war sounded was answered by the most inspiring response the world has ever seen. That Imperial comradeship of arms numbered 400,000 Canadians, 300,000 Australians, 100,000 New Zealanders, 75,000 South Africans, and contingents of 250,000 from India, as well as thousands from the Crown Colonies. The British Empire demonstrated its unity and remains the most outstanding development of modern history. It needs not even Masfield's glorious prose epic on Gallipoli to make us value the high part the Anzacs played in that historic campaign and again on the Somme and in the cruel travail of Passchendale.”

Here the speaker referred to the glowing tributes paid to our men by Sir Douglas Haig, Sir Ian Hamilton, Sir Richard Allenby, Sir Archibald Murray, and General Birdwood; and passing on he answered the query: Was the war in vain? The idealism of the late President Wilson was

frustrated at the Peace of Versailles, of self-interest and the intrigues of politicians. The idealistic expectations of the world were nullified, and in the minds of many the aftermath of the war, with the existing international situation begets pessimism. There is a vicious excess of insular nationalism, and French chauvinism is leading to the Balkanisation of Europe, but correctives to despondency are found in the League of Nations and the Anglo-American Entente. With the Washington Pact and the Pacific International Court of Arbitration, the growing sense of internationalism needs less existence of national rights and more on national duties or social service to humanity, science and commerce annihilating spread of national insularities. There is a strong apprehension that the diabolical ingenuities of science, enlisted in the activities of man will destroy civilisation, if the latest developments of aerial torpedoes, Lewis guns, bombs, 100-mile range guns, etc., are allowed to be used. It is for mankind to say whether science is to be limited to ameliorative agencies, or to destroying its masters. There is happily a growing revulsion against war, and this should be encouraged in our educational institutions.

In conclusion Mr Milner said that all wars henceforth would be civil wars. No nation could live alone. They must teach history from the social and constitutional side, and give the young people a correct background. What was required was a cult of impassioned humanism. The Right Hon. Herbert Fisher (ex-Minister of Education at Home) recently said: "Wars are made in the class rooms." They needed a new orientation of mind, and they must eliminate jingoism, the depreciation of other nations from the class room, teaching the growing kinship of the world, and combating the false glamour which attached to war. They should teach a wise and sane patriotism and devotion to the Empire, and instil a tolerant view of the common kinship of humanity. (Applause).

THE SERVICE.

The South Canterbury Battalion Band opened the service with the "Garland of Flowers." This was followed by a prayer in commemoration of the fallen, offered by the Rev G. V. Gerard. The hymn, "O Valiant Hearts" was led by the Band. Psalm 90 was read by the Rev. G. H. Goring, after which the address was delivered by Mr F. Milner. "Kipling's Recessional," especially appropriate to the occasion, was sung.

After "The Dead March," three volleys were fired. "The Last Post" and the National Anthem concluded the ceremony.

FLORAL TRIBUTES.

Wreaths were placed on the improvised grave by the following: - Mr and Mrs F. J. Rolleston, Mrs Major Grant and family, Star Football and Cricket Clubs, Mr and Mrs Gliddon, Zingari Football Club, Mr and Mrs Hutcheon and family, Girls' High School, Mr and Mrs Fridd and family, Mr and Mrs Leah and family, the West School, Mr and Mrs Latimer and family, Mrs Gibb and family, Mr and Mrs King, Timaru South School, Mr and Mrs Gow and family, Mr and Mrs Cox, J. Ballantyne and Co., Mr and Mrs McQueen, Flora and Edna Hutchison, the South Canterbury Regimental Band and the R.S.A. Wreaths were also sent by relations of the following soldiers: — W. A. McQueen, Gordon Wright, A. H. Austin, Colin Wilson, R. H. Whyte, W. Nicol, Mark and Charles Saunders, Lance-Corporal Boucher, Bruce, George and Harry Pelvin, Gunner Edginton, A Cain, Donald and Miller Dickson, H. Bryant, Colonel Bauchop, T. and G. Langrish, John Thomson, Cecil Hight, F.[T.] S. and G. H. Logan, Sapper and Sergeant Morgan, and **Sergeant Davey**.