

# War calls Canterbury's young

In this fortnightly column, Carol Bell looks at events as they were portrayed in *The Timaru Herald* locally, nationally and internationally as the world was engulfed by the Great War.

## 7 October 1914

Two of the Waitaki Maoris have been selected to go to the war as members of the native contingent. They are T Peneamene Benson of Glenavy, and J Peneamene Benson of Morven. A commission has been offered to a third Maori in that district.

*(Private Tieke Peneamene 16/283, son of the late Maaka and Hohepa Peneamene of Waihao joined A Company, 1st Maori Contingent and embarked on February 14, 1915 for Suez. He was wounded on August 8, 1915 at Gallipoli but later served in France. He contracted influenza in December 1918 but returned to New Zealand in April 1919 and was discharged in May.*

*Private Tumarū Peneamene 16/284, son of the late Maaka and Hohepa Peneamene of Waihao joined A Company, 1st Maori Contingent and embarked on February 14, 1915 for Suez. He died of disease in the United Kingdom on September 18, 1915, having been removed there from Gallipoli.)*

## 8 October 1914

Mr W Cochrane of the Canterbury Farmers Co-operative Assn Heaton St staff, who has been accepted for service in the Expeditionary Force, was made the recipient of several presents from his fellow employees. The gifts, which consisted of a fountain pen, carrying belt, knife, wristlet purse and wristlet watch, were presented on behalf of the staff by Mr D L Forman (head storeman). Mr Forman regretted the departure of Mr Cochrane, who had been a most capable and popular member of the staff. He had obeyed the call of his country, and all joined in wishing him God speed and a safe return. Messrs W Jaquier, TW Pratt, and V Wilson supported Mr Forman's remarks, and Mr Cochrane suitably replied.



Members of the Canterbury Mounted Rifles join those from the Canterbury Infantry Regiment on board HMNZ Transport No.4, Tahiti, and HMNZ Transport No 11, Athenic, at Lyttelton on September 23, 1914.

Photo:Archives New Zealand (Archives Ref: AEGA 18982, PC4/1569)

## 17 October 1914

Mr T Buxton, MP, telegraphed yesterday from Wellington to a friend in Timaru: "Just returned from Heads after seeing our boys away. South Canterbury boys were in grand form, cheering and singing *It's a long way to Tipperary* and flying a flag 'Timaru to Berlin'."

## 21 October 1914

Yesterday afternoon, by the second express north, a large detachment of volunteers for the reinforcements to the Expeditionary Force, left Timaru for the concentration camp at Trentham. There were 46 infantry under Lieutenant N R Wilson, and 40 mounted men under Lieutenant Nancarrow. There was a great crowd of townspeople on the platform to see them off, and the 2nd South Canterbury Regimental Band turned out and played patriotic airs. The men were all in mufti and the send-off was informal. At Temuka 17 volunteers joined the train and her also much enthusiasm was shown.

*(Lieutenant Newman Robert Wilson, was an accountant, husband of Mrs Beatrice Ann Wilson, and gave his address as Rugby St, Timaru on enlistment, although he later lived at 9*



## Database

The SC Museum, the SC branch of NZ Society of Genealogists, *Timaru Herald* and volunteers are working on a database of South Canterbury participation in the First World War known as SCROLL. Information or memorabilia relating to this period for inclusion in the project would be welcomed. Contact Tony Rippin at the museum or Carol Bell on [carolbel@ihug.co.nz](mailto:carolbel@ihug.co.nz)

*Selwyn St. He left for Gallipoli on December 14, 1914 and also fought in the Western European campaign where he was gassed four times. He was finally discharged in June 1919. His rank by then was Major. He had been awarded the DSO and Military Cross for his service in the field.*

*Lieutenant Vincent Fosbery Nancarrow, son of Richard and Phillipa Nancarrow of Christchurch, was living at Mt Hutt, Methven when he enlisted. He left for Gallipoli on December 14, 1914 and died at Malta of enteric fever on August 4, 1915.)*