

*Timaru Herald.* 29 May 1917 (Papers Past) [04/10/2021]

## 30TH REINFORCEMENTS YESTERDAY'S SEND-OFF.

AT TIMARU.

The South Canterbury quota of the 30th Reinforcement consisting of 58 men, left Timaru by the north express yesterday, and were given a very hearty send-off at the Drill Shed, and at the Strathallan Street crossing.

Owing to the new railway time-table the men were assembled at 12.30 at the Drill Shed, and were put through some elementary drill movements by Staff-Sergeant-Major Johnstone. The men appeared in the best of spirits. The draft, facing the balcony, was addressed by the Mayor of Timaru (Mr J. Maling), and by the Rev. J. H. Rogers.

The Mayor told the men that one of the first ordeals they had to go through was to listen to a speech by the Mayor of the town. He felt sorry for them on this account, but it was all a part of the military discipline they had to go through. (Laughter.) Proceeding, Mr Maling referred to a speech in which Mr Lloyd George had said that we were living in one of those rare epochs when within a few fleeting years the destiny and character of the race were being determined for countless ages. Mr Maling said it was to assist in forming that character and making that destiny, that the men before him were going away. There was no question but that they would sustain the high standard of those who had gone before them, and assist in upholding those ideals which in this country of free institutions were held so dear. No country in the world possessed such a free Constitution as New Zealand, and in a spirit of determination to uphold it and all that made life worth living, they were going forth to gain the mastery over the enemy. On this noble mission he wished them luck and a safe return. (Applause and cheers.)

The Rev. J. H. Rogers also spoke spiritedly to "the boys." He told them that they were going to assist the Empire, and that in giving themselves for that purpose they were making a noble gift. They were going to be trained to fight and to conquer. If in the fighting, they should be killed they would die the most glorious death that any man could die. They could take it for certain that the Church would pray for them constantly, and that loving hands would minister to their needs in health and in sickness. In going away they would take with them the love, the care and affection of many who would watch anxiously for news of them, and who would ever be solicitous of their welfare. What did they stand for? They stood for the Cause — the cause of honour, of liberty, and of justice, the protection of the weak. Was there ever a nobler cause or any more nobler principles that a man could fight and if necessary die for? He thought not. Then they should remember that at the back of the Cause was God — the God of liberty, the God of mercy, and the God of justice. When they had left these shores he

would like them to remember the words of an old man when he asked them to live for the Cause as well as be prepared to die for it. He would ask them to be men of absolute honour, of tenderness, and men with sympathy for the weak, men who would show what truer liberty meant — the liberty of those who could control and quit themselves as men. He would also ask them to think, even if they did not say it aloud, that they were soldiers of God, and that He trusted and cared for them. If they went in this spirit all would be proud of them, and God would protect them in life and in death, and when they returned they would be justly proud of having stuck to the Cause and helped it to conquer (Applause, followed by cheers for the speaker.)

After the addresses the men were marched outside and were photographed by Mr Milne Allan. Then, headed by the 2nd (S.C.) Regimental Band under Conductor Schnack, the column moved off to the station. A large number of people lined the route and gave the men rousing cheers as they passed. At the crossing there were more people than there have been at the send-offs for some time, and in spite of a half-hour wait in the cold they gave the men a very cordial farewell, the train steaming out followed by the cheers of the crowd, and the answering shouts of the departing soldiers.

A large number of men joined the train at Temuka and Ashburton, and there were eleven men on the express when it arrived, they having come from Waimate.

The recruits were in charge of Captain Chapman and Sergeant Major Thatcher, who will accompany them to Trentham.

The following are the names of the 21 who joined the train at Temuka: - [sic]  
Aitken, J. P., Ablett, F. G., Allfrey, J. C., Armstrong, A. J., Aldridge, A. E.,  
Billings, P., Bartrum, O. B., Bennewith, G. J., Bowring, C. A., Bonnington, R.  
C., Bennett, G. W., Boyd, P. H., Bowkett, J. C., Batchelor, J. M., Bate, L. F.,  
Buchanan, F. W. Junr., Bell, G. E., Black L. S., Bell, G. A., Baker, L. J.  
Crawford, W. J., Coulbeck, W., Crocome, A. J., Cormack, A. L., Childs, E.  
Carver, J. F. F., Clarke S., Collins, H., Cairns, W.  
Dawson, D., Dolan, W. P., Davison, K. R., Dallard E. E., Dunn, A., Dyson, C.  
F., Dunneen, G. H.  
Elliott, G. M., Elsom, W. J.  
Fifield, F., Forrest, R. H., Finch T. H., Fahey A. C., Freak, D. E.  
Gill, M. D., Graham, J., Griffiths, M. T. W., Gillespie, E. B.  
Harrison, T., Holmes, R., Hedges, W., Harris, J., Howard, J. L., Henderson, J.,  
Hawkins, R., Hyndman, W., Hill, J. G., Hoskin, C. L.  
Jack, H. F.  
Kirk, O. J., King, J., Kirby M., Knowles, G., Kennard, D. McN.  
Lyons, T. Junr., Laurenson T. P., Loach, T. V.  
Martin. F. D., Milne T., Moore, W. G., Muller, O. M.  
McKenzie, R., McBride, A., McDouough, M., McPhedran, W. N.,  
McLaughran, A. W., McKay. J., McKeever, W. B., McCallum, D. G.  
Neill, D. W. J., Nelson, R., Nolan, J. J., Nicholas, A. D., Needham, L.

O'Sullivan, P.

Pinkerton, R., Prendergast, E., Purdom F. H., Pearce, F. W., Powell, T. A.,  
Parsons, J. W. M.

Rees, D. H., Rosengrave, J., Reith J. I., Rolls, G. W., Robinson, W.

Soal, G. C., Shackleton, A. J., St John, P., Stewart, J. D., Sheehan, M. B., Stamp,  
T. R., Sercombe, F. W., Sellars, F. A., Scollard. G., Simpson A., Sutton, A. E.,  
Spring, F., Scott, J. E., Smyth, J.

Tanner, W. J., Telford, J., Thew, C. T., Thomas, F.

Watson, F. W. M., Wilson, M. J. Wade, R. N., Watson, J., Williams, M.,  
Wright, J. T.

Young, J.

#### WAIMATE.

The Reinforcement which left Waimate yesterday consisted of eleven men. They were entertained at luncheon at Willett's tea rooms, the Mayor, Mr G. Dash, dining with them. A large crowd gathered at the railway station to bid the men farewell. The men are apparently not very keen on send-offs as only about half of them turned up at the station, the others joining the train at Studholme. On behalf of the district His Worship the Mayor farewelled the men, and expressed the confidence of all that they would do their duty nobly, and trusted they would return safe to those dear to them.

The Rev. A. S. Morrison also spoke, and hoped that they would be men in every way. They were going to face dangers and overcome them, but their biggest danger would be found in their idle hours, and they would no doubt guard against idleness. He knew they would play the game. He wished them God speed and a safe return.

Cheers were given for the men, and a selection was played by the band, and the train left the station to the accompaniment of hearty cheers.

#### AT TEMUKA.

Despite the very disagreeable weather the Temuka and Geraldine soldiers of the 30th Reinforcements were given an enthusiastic farewell at Temuka. The soldiers and their relations were entertained at luncheon in the Drill Hall by the ladies of the Temuka Patriotic Entertainment Committee.

After the luncheon, Mr Gunnion extended a hearty welcome to the Geraldine soldiers and their friends and to all the best wishes the Temuka people.

Dr. Paterson, Mayor of Geraldine, thanked the ladies of Temuka for their hospitality. He said the men who were going that day were well up to the standard of previous reinforcements, strong, active fellows, and he was and all were sure they would live up to the traditions set by those who had gone before. He wished the men God speed and a safe return. Rev. C. J. Tocker said, speaking as a minister of religion, that they were going away on a highly religious task. It would be a stern task, and they would see severe fighting, but God would be with them.

The Mayor (Mr A. Frew), said that 618 men had now gone from the Temuka and Geraldine districts — 372 from Temuka and 246 from Geraldine — and 63 had made the supreme sacrifice. Still they had young men ready to go. Rev. C. MacDoamld also spoke.

At 1.30 the men, headed by the Brass Band, marched to the railway station, where a large crowd had assembled. Further short speeches were delivered and a number of Maori women under Mr W. Torepa sang farewell songs. As the train steamed out three hearty cheers were given for the soldiers.

### GERALDINE

The Geraldine members of the Thirtieth Reinforcements were motored to Temuka. Some eight or ten cars were provided by residents of the district and the men were cheered as the cars moved off.

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### **30th REINFORCEMENTS.**

#### SEND-OFF FROM TEMUKA

The men from the Temuka and Geraldine districts going into camp to join the 30th Reinforcements were given one of the “send-offs” from Temuka, which have now become famous. At half-past 12 the men and their relatives and friends assembled in the Drill Hall, where they were entertained at luncheon by the lady members of the Patriotic Entertainment Committee. As usual the ladies had provided a splendid spread, and the day being cold made it all the more appreciated, particularly by those who had come from a distance. The ladies were most assiduous in attending to the wants of their guests, and the luncheon was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

After the luncheon a few addresses were made. Mr Gunnion, Chairman of the Temuka Patriotic Entertainment Committee, said he had received apologies from Mr C. J. Talbot, M.P., Dr Rugg (Chairman of the Red Cross Committee), and Captain Chapman, who had had to go to Timaru. He continued, that he had to extend Temuka’s heartiest welcome to their Geraldine friends once more, and to their local friends who had accepted their invitation. He then called on all assembled, with the exception of those going into camp, to rise and sing “For they arc jolly good fellows,” and his request having been responded to right heartily he continued his remarks. The boys were “jolly good fellows,” for they were leaving comfortable homes to go and live in the “trenches” in weather such as we had on Saturday and Sunday nights, and they were going to protect those left behind. They would take with them Temuka’s best wishes. He then referred to the superb behaviour of the troops who went down with the Transylvania, as described in that day’s cable news. Those who were going away were going away as men, and he asked them to be “men” all through their lives. They were going to face dangers, some might perhaps lose their lives, but as one of the boys had

said here a few nights ago there was no more glorious death than to die fighting for the right. He assured the men that people were just as proud of them as of those who had gone before, and he trusted they would come back safely. He hoped that time would not be long, and when it came the men would get the welcome they deserved. (Applause.)

Dr. Paterson (Mayor of Geraldine) said when he came down he was reminded of the reception given to the Imperial troops in New Zealand twenty years ago. They were loyally entertained wherever they went, and at Dunedin one of them had remarked that Dunedin should have been called "Neverdoneeating." Something of this kind might be said of Temuka. On behalf of those who had come from Geraldine, he thanked the ladies who had provided them with such a splendid luncheon, and which had been highly appreciated. To the men who were going away, he said they had already no doubt heard many speeches and listened to much good advice, but, he wished them to understand that a gathering of this sort was intended to convey to them that wherever they may go they have an inner circle of friends who will follow them with their best wishes and prayers. About 15 men were going from Geraldine and with those from Temuka the draft would be well up to the average. Between the two towns they had a platoon of their own. They were all well set up young fellows, and when they had gone through the training in camp, they all knew that they would carry out the traditions of the men who had gone previously, and every one would do his bit, and do his utmost to bring this wretched war to a conclusion. The whole district greeted them with the utmost enthusiasm, but it was not a tithe of the enthusiasm with which they would be received when they came back. On behalf of the district he wished them "God speed," a good time as soldiers, and a safe return to their native land and their district; if it should be their luck to go to "Blighty" they would get a good time there. (Applause.)

Rev. J. C. Tockcr (Geraldine) after a few preliminary remarks said that these men were going forth to help to accomplish a high and religious task. Men never went forth with a higher purpose than were the men who were going to the war. It would be no light task, but a stern one. He rather thought that the men would see some serious fighting, and now that the war was being waged so bitterly, and that the efforts of the Empire and the Allies seem to be reaching a climax, it was a good reason why we should throw in the weight of all our resources. This was a time when we should do our utmost. He hoped that the men who were going away that day would remember that. If they go in the sense that they are going to a "crusade," and that they are fighting for religion and honour, and all that was right and good, they would be able to do some good for their country. He wished them "God speed" and every success in their mission. (Applause.)

The Mayor (Mr Frew) said he thought there was a major and minor tone when he saw the goodly number of young men going forward to the front that day. They were going to fight in the cause of right and obedience to laws, and he highly commended them for their courage and the honourable step they had taken. They

wore going to fight in a righteous cause. He had been looking up what this little district had done, and had counted up the names of those who had gone to the front from it as they appeared in the local paper. He had found that 618 men had gone from Geraldine and Temuka to the front. (Hear, hear, and applause.) Temuka had sent 372 and Geraldine 216. He had used the word “sent”; that was wrong, the men had gone themselves. He pointed out that it was because of the breaking of treaties by Germany that Great Britain had had to buckle on the sword and go to war. The “minor” tone was that 63 out of those who had gone had lost their lives in a good cause, fighting for liberty and freedom — 35 from Temuka and 28 from Geraldine. In conclusion, he said it behoved soldiers to remember that they were really fighting for liberty and righteousness. (Applause.)

The Rev. C. Macdonald said they had all hoped that this summer would see, if not the end of the war, at least the beginning of the end, and that their boys would not have to endure another winter in the trenches, but now that Russia had jibbed on it that did not seem likely. Now that America had come in there was no doubt as to the end. Personally he never had had any doubt. America had to make an army the same as ourselves, and that took time. However, there was one thing that had to be done, and that was to pile on men and munitions. That would solve the whole problem. It was no use to read about famine and troubles in Germany and expect that to end the war. We had to beat Germany completely. He wanted to see them beaten on a fair field, and if they would come out and stand up to it they would be bowled over the “ninepins,” and we would soon see the end of the year. The men going that day were going to do their bit, and going to do it well. They were going as soldiers of the King, with splendid traditions staring them in the face, and he was sure they would all do their very best to help to put the finishing touch on the war. (Applause.)

This terminated the proceedings, and the men were lined up in the street, and, headed by the Temuka Brass Band under Conductor Jackson, a procession was formed, and marched to the station. There a large crowd had assembled, and further speeches were made by the Mayor, Mr Gunnion, and Major Kennedy. Mr Torepe’s Maori singing company sang several farewell songs and the Band played a number of appropriate airs. The men were cheered again and again, and as the train left the station the soldiers on board were cheered, and they warmly responded.

The South Canterbury draft were under the command of Captain Chapman.

The following are the names of the men forming the draft: -

- D. A. Nicholas.
- P. O’Sullivan.
- F. W. Pearce.
- J. Roseingrave.
- J. F. Wright.
- C. Knowles.
- F. E. Sercombe.

P. Billings.  
W. T. Belcher.  
L. F. Bate.  
F. W. Buchanan.  
J. F. F. Carver.  
W. J. Elsom.  
F. Fifield.  
T. Harrison.  
J. R. Lyon.  
T. V. Loach.  
W. N. McPhedran.  
J. McKay.

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OBITUARY

Mrs Augusta Nicholas, whose funeral took place at the Temuka Cemetery on Wednesday, was born at Whitwell, in the Isle of Wight, in 1864, and came to New Zealand with her family in 1879 in the ship Waitangi. For some time the family lived in Christchurch and came to Temuka in 1880. Mrs Nicholas, who was then Miss Morris, marrying Mr Alfred Nicholas six years later. Mrs Nicholas had lived all her married life in Temuka. Beside her brothers, Messrs E. Morris (Christchurch), I. and R. Morris (Temuka), A. Morris (Hamilton) and D. Morris (Palmerston North), she leaves three sons, Messrs V. and L. A. Nicholas (Temuka) and D. Nicholas (Marton), and three daughters, Mesdames F. Curtis and P. Collins (Wellington) and M. Hughes (Levin).

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OBITUARY

MRS AUGUSTA NICHOLAS.

The death occurred at Temuka, Canterbury, on Monday, of Mrs Augusta Nicholas, sister of Mr Dudley Morris, of Palmerston North. Mrs Nicholas was born at Whitwell, in the Isle of Wight, 69 years ago, and came to New Zealand with her parents in the sailing ship Waitangi, arriving at Lyttleton in 1879 after a voyage of five months' duration. Her father, Mr J. Morris, took up an area of land at Temuka and she there met her husband, Mr Alfred Nicholas, who conducted a butchery business in the southern town. Unfortunately, Mrs Nicholas lost her husband when her family were all young, and now they mourn the loss of a mother who had devoted her life to them. There are three sons, all of whom served their country during the Great War, Messrs Laurie and Victor (Temuka) and Dudley, of the firm of Messrs Barraud and Abraham, Marton, and three daughters, Mesdames P. Collins and F. Curtis, of Wellington, and Mrs M. Hughes, of Levin. The only daughter of the Morris family, Mrs Nicholas is survived by five of her brothers, Messrs Dudley Morris (Palmerston North), Arthur Morris (Hamilton), I. and R. Morris (Temuka), and E. Morris (Opawa). The funeral took place at Temuka on Wednesday last, a service being held in the Anglican Church, of which Mrs Nicholas was a member, prior to the cortege proceeding to the cemetery.

