

Soda fountain lightens war days

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.

October 22, 1914

The Caroline Bay kiosk has been brought still further up to date by Mrs Morrison, the lessee, with the addition of a Cascade soda fountain . . . a handsome structure of marble mounted on a strong cupboard. There are eight different flavours and any of these mixed with icecream and drunk through a straw makes a most refreshing beverage on a warm, depressing day.

October 23, 1914

Lieutenant Mathias, the newly-appointed adjutant to the SC Mounted Rifles, has gone to Christchurch to take part in the refresher camp now being held there.

Gerald Mathias, son of Lewis Mathias of Timaru, and part of the 6th Reinforcements of the Canterbury Mounted Rifles, left New Zealand on the Tofua on August 14, 1915, bound for Egypt.

October 26, 1914

Mr W S Morgan of Temuka, who has joined the reinforcements of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force, was, before leaving, presented with a wristlet watch by Mr Presland, on behalf of the "Leader" staff, with which he had been connected. Mr Morgan and Mr R Moore, another young man who has left Temuka to join the Expeditionary Force, were also honoured by the members of the Temuka Hockey Club at a social held in the Coronation Tea Rooms.

Private William Stanley Morgan, son of William and Margaret Morgan of Woodlands, Temuka, and later 21 White St, Timaru, embarked on December 14, 1914, for Egypt and later served in France and Salonika. Private Morgan was killed in action on

Punch cartoon depicting King George V sweeping away the German titles held by members of his family, 1917. The Battenberg name was anglicised to Mountbatten at that time.



Portrait of Prince Louis by Philip de Laszlo, 1910.

September 4, 1918, at Havrincourt, France, and can be found on the Grevillers (New Zealand) Memorial in Pas-de-Calais, France.

October 30, 1914

Mr Thomas Reginald Wagstaff, son of Mr T Wagstaff, late of Timaru, has joined the 42nd Regiment of the King's Royal Highlanders, now training at Aldershot.

Private Wagstaff, S/3275, and son of Thomas and Beatrice Mary Wagstaff of 11 Bracken Avenue, Epsom, Auckland, and a member of Black Watch (Royal Highlanders), died on September 25, 1915, aged 20. He is commemorated on the Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, France.

October 31, 1914

There was sadness over the resignation of Prince Louis of Battenberg (later 1st Marquess of Milford Haven and father of Lord Louis Mountbatten) from his positions of First Sea Lord and Vice-Admiral of the British Navy – the *Herald* suggesting his loss could be as injurious as that of a battleship. "Prince Louis was born in Austria, his father was a

German prince, his mother a Polish countess, and his wife is a grand-daughter of Queen Victoria. If his German blood is the sole cause of suspicion being cast by obscure persons on his loyalty, suspicions might be directed against the loyalty of the King, whose grandfather was a German prince, and whose forerunners, George I and George II were much more German than English."

November 3, 1914

A notice in the *Gazette* has the following in regard to the second (South Canterbury) regiment: Captain James Houlker (Reserve of Officers) is transferred to the 12th (Nelson) Regiment. Sergeant Llewellyn Gordon Wood to be 2nd Lieutenant. The Rev TA Joughin is appointed a chaplain to the Forces.

Sergeant Llewellyn Wood, a clerk at the Union Bank of Australia, gave his address at enlistment as Wai-iti Rd, next of kin Gordon P Wood, also of Wai-iti Rd. He enlisted on August 8, 1914, embarked for Egypt on October 16, 1914, and was discharged in September 1915.

■ The SC Museum, SC branch of NZ Society of Genealogists, *Timaru Herald* and volunteers are working on a database of SC participation in World War I 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.