

THE FOURTH CONTINGENT

27 Feb 1900

NEW ZEALAND FOURTH CONTINGENT

A meeting of the Gisborne Contingent Committee was held at the Borough office this morning, there being present—His Worship the Mayor (Mr J. Townley), Messrs DeLautour, W. Miller, Kennedy, J. Macfarlane, Robinson, Harding, W. L. Rees, A. Rees, and Captain Winter.

The Mayor introduced the business before the meeting, which was to consider ways and means for the despatch of the Gisborne portion of the Fourth Contingent. He did not know whether a fourth contingent would be required, but it was as well to be prepared.

Mr Robinson said that there was very little money in hand to defray the cost of equipping the Fourth Contingent. There was a sum of £275 in hand, but no accounts had yet been received from Christchurch. The sum of £500 had been paid on account of the ten men previously sent, but there would bound to be other amounts to pay.

His Worship said that it could be taken for granted that the sum of £900 would cover all expenses in connection with the despatch of the last contingent. There was a sum of £330 of the general fund which could be utilised for the purpose.

Mr Miller thought that a start should be made that day on the understanding that they should have to find the sum of £500, and not interfere with the general fund. Either that or the idea of sending the contingent should be abandoned.

Mr Harding thought it would be a difficult matter to raise a further sum of £500. He did not, however, wish to throw cold water on the proceedings, and would do his best towards raising the amount.

It was proposed, on the motion of the Mayor, to send fifteen men from Gisborne in the Fourth Contingent, and to raise the sum of £500 to defray the cost of the same.

Mr Macfarlane offered the use of his paddock and stables when the men went into camp, and Mr Kennedy, on behalf of Messrs Williams and Kettle, offered feed for the horses. Other members of the Committee also offered provisions for the men whilst in camp.

On the motion of Mr Kennedy, it was decided to forward a copy of the following resolution to all telegraph and telephone stations throughout the district:—"The Gisborne Patriotic Committee is now organising a detachment of fifteen men to join the New Zealand Fourth Contingent for South Africa. Applications close with the Town Clerk on Friday. Inspection will take place on Saturday. Send all particulars and qualifications at once. The Committee must raise five hundred pounds (£500) to defray cost of above, and request subscriptions towards the fund. Applicants must find a horse which will pass the judges."

The question of raising the £500 was discussed at length. Several members considered that neither the town nor country had done its duty in respect to contributing towards the fund, and that a canvass should be made of both. A suggestion was made that several young ladies should canvass the town on Saturday morning, but the matter was deferred.

It was agreed to have an outside demonstration in aid of the funds one day next week, and Messrs Kennedy, Miller, and A. Rees were appointed a committee to make arrangements.

Mr Rees said he would get the natives together to see what he could get from them towards the fund. He thought in the course of the next two or three weeks he could raise the sum of one hundred pounds.

Mr Hardingsaid the Licensed Victuallers Association would undertake to pay the cost of equipping one of the fifteen men. The offer was received with thanks.

It was agreed that the Committee should meet every morning at half-past ten.

Mr Kennedy stated that Mr Ackland Hood had offered a pair of field glasses for competition among the men at the range prior to their leaving.

Messrs Macfarlane and Harding were deputed to wait upon the tradesmen in town with a view of their making gifts of provisions towards the maintenance of the men whilst in camp.

It was decided that the twenty men from which the final selection was to be made should be got into camp on Saturday evening if possible.

The following is a list of the names of those who have already applied to be included in the Fourth Contingent: John Rogers, W. Maxwell, F. Parker, J. Thompson, W. Whitchend, J. Robinson, W. Clunie, T. Peakman, R. Pascoe, S. Paviour, Q. Langham, T. Birch, T. Coots, H. Ferris, C. Croon, J. Croon, W. J. Brown, J. Goodley, R. Fraser, B. Monk, H. Brown, G. Myer, Beatson, M. Ryan, W. Lougher, G. Scott, G. Bonghum, J. Hackett, E. Steggall, J. Davidson, A. Lamont, D. McIntyre, W. McBurney, G. A. C. Simson, W. Taylor, P. Taylor, A. Turner, Young, A. G. Turnbull, W. S. Black, A. Zachariah. The men are requested to parade for inspection at the Drill Shed on Saturday next, at 2.30 p.m., mounted.

9 Feb 1900 – NZ Fourth Contingent

So many offers of men and horses have been received, that it has been decided to ask the Government to allow the number to be increased to 150. The camp is to be located at Forbury Park.

22 Feb 1900 -WAR NOTES.

The following camp notes are from the Dunedin Star of the 15th inst. :-

It is expected that Captain Abbott will command the combined Auckland-Wellington troop of the Fourth Contingent.

Out of the sixty-two men selected in this district, including twelve reserves, thirty-four find thirty-six horses, and the whole of the men £100 cash. The Government have been asked to accept the services of the sixty-two men for the Fourth Contingent.

Sixty horses are now in the lines, only six of which have been purchased, the remainder having been brought down by members of the Rough Riders Corps whose services have been accepted. All the horses are of excellent stamp.

5 March 1900

AUCKLAND, Saturday.

The Government has chartered the Rotokino, which takes the Rough Riders and their horses to the South on Monday.

6 March 1900 GISBORNE CONTINGENT IN CAMP.

The members of the Fourth Contingent paraded this morning under Major McCredie and proceeded to the Kaiti, where shooting practice was indulged in. On the road to the range a halt was made at the Borough Council Chambers, where the men were drawn up in line on the road. A small crowd gathered to inspect the men and horses. A selection of the fifteen representatives will be made tomorrow.

6 March 1900

PROPOSAL TO SEND A NURSE

A number of ladies in the district are interesting themselves in the matter of sending a nurse from this district to join the staff which is to accompany the Fourth Contingent. Some time ago Miss Redstone, of Whataupoko, volunteered for service, the application being sent in by Captain Russell. Miss Redstone was recommended by several members of the medical profession in Gisborne and Napier,

and the application, after being reported upon by Colonel Porter, was favorably considered by the Government, who accepted the young lady's services as a member of the nursing staff which is to accompany the Fourth Contingent. The cost of equipment required by the Government is upwards of £100, and this amount has to be found by the district. The matter was brought before the Fourth Contingent Committee on Monday by Colonel Porter, and at their suggestion was referred to a number of ladies, the latter to form a committee and raise the amount as a special fund. Mesdames DeLautour, Townley, Sievwright, Davies, and Hughes have the matter in hand, and efforts will be made to raise the amount required. The Hon. James Carroll has telegraphed to Colonel Porter stating that now that Miss Redstone was on the list of successful applicants for South Africa, he hoped that the district would rise to the occasion, so as to enable the young lady mentioned to comply with the conditions laid down by the Government. Several substantial amounts have already been promised towards the special fund, and it is hoped the amount required will be made up so as to enable Miss Redstone to leave Gisborne to catch the transport before next Wednesday week. Nearly every district in the colony has sent a representative to join the nursing staff, and this district should also endeavor to do so.

8 March 1900 – THE LOCAL CAMP

The fifteen members of the Fourth Contingent selected by the local Committee yesterday spent the afternoon in mounted drill, being instructed by Captain Winter. The men performed the different evolutions in a creditable manner, and by the time they leave for the South on Sunday next should have a fair knowledge of their drill. Trooper Beckam Arthur has been appointed acting sergeant of the local contingent, and Trooper Barton acting corporal. The Committee desire to thank Mesdames Macfarlane and Reynolds for delicacies forwarded to the camp. Mr J. Erskine supplied the bread for the camp to-day, and Messrs McConnell and Millington the meat. This afternoon the men will be present at the patriotic gathering at the Park, and will take part in several of the athletic contests.

It has been decided to take the men applying for the Fifth Contingent into camp at once, and the men selected will leave with the Fourth Contingent by the Flora on Sunday, and will go into the reserve camp at Wellington. The Fifth Contingent being entirely under the control of the Government, the men will have to pass a final inspection by Colonel Penton.

Men desirous of joining the Fifth Contingent must report themselves at the camp to-night.

7 March 1900

THE POVERTY BAY REPRESENTATIVES.

THE MEN SELECTED.

The following are the names of the fifteen members selected for the Gisborne section of the fourth contingent:—

Beckam Arthur, aged 24. Chest measurement, 37in. ; height, 5ft 9½in. Farmer and native of Tokomaru, East Coast.

Frederick Barton, aged 22. Chest measurement, 37in. Shepherd. Native of England. Been in the colonies four years.

George Bougen, 21 years of age. Chest measurement, 37½in ; height, 5ft 7½in. Native of Matawhero, Poverty Bay.

Frederick Burch, 25 years of age. Chest measurement, 37in ; height, 5ft 6½in. Station hand. Native of Wairarapa.

Dava Bruce, aged 21. Chest measurement, 37½in ; height, 6ft 1in. Shepherd. Native of Hawke's Bay.

F. Bruce, brother of the former, 23 years of age. Height, 6ft ; chest measurement, 38½in. Native of Hawke's Bay. Station hand.

John Davidson, 27 years of age. Born in the South Island. Height, 5ft 7in. Station hand. Butcher by trade.

Robert Fraser, aged 20. Chest measurement, 37in ; height, 5ft 10½in. Station hand, and native of Canterbury.

Wata Gannon, aged 22. Chest measurement, 37½in ; height, 5ft 7½in. Surveyor's assistant. Native of East Coast.

J. Langham, aged 27. Chest measurement, 38in ; height, 5ft 8in. Station hand. Born at Napier.

T. Peakman, 31 years of age. Chest measurement, 38½in ; height, 5ft 8½in. Bushman. Native of Wairoa.

John Rogers, aged 24. Chest measurement, 37½in ; height, 5ft 10½in. Station hand. Born at Hawke's Bay.

John Walker, aged 24. Chest measurement, 40in ; height, 5ft 10in. Farmer. Born at Opotiki.

Joshua James Whitehead, aged 23. Chest measurement, 37½in ; height, 5ft 9½in. Laborer. Born at Hastings, Hawke's Bay.

Francis Grenville Sharp, 21 years of age. Chest measurement, 37in ; height, 5ft 10in. Station hand. Native of England ; been four years in the colony.

Messrs J. Thomson, J. H. Ferris, J. Parker, M. Ryan, and W. Taylor were also selected as five of the twelve representatives to be sent from Gisborne for the Fifth Contingent.

THE CONTINGENT'S SEND-OFF.

Poverty Bay Herald, Issue 8770, 9 March 1900, Page 3

The fifteen men selected to form our portion of the Fourth Contingent, together with the twelve men who will be chosen this afternoon for the Fifth Contingent, proceed to Wellington by the Flora on Sunday afternoon.

Mr Cargill, the local manager of the Union Company, has been unsparing in his efforts to assist the Committee in their endeavors to perfect the arrangements for a suitable send-off, and has arranged with his Auckland office to give the Flora good despatch on Saturday so as to get her here early on Sunday afternoon.

The horses will all be embarked on Sunday afternoon, Mr DesBarres with his usual good nature having kindly volunteered to render every assistance in this matter.

The steamer's ordinary passengers will leave the wharf at 4 o'clock, and the members of the contingents will muster as before at the firebell at 5 p.m. sharp.

They will be accompanied from there to the wharf by the bands, friendly societies, members of local bodies, fire brigade, and others.

The steamers will leave the wharf at 5.30 o'clock sharp and steam out to the Flora, which by that time should have taken in the horses, and finished all the working of cargo.

As soon as the contingent embark the Flora will lift her anchor and steam slowly out of the Bay, the steamers accompanying her for about a mile, returning to port about 6.30.

The Committee have arranged for a band of workers to barricade the wharf on Saturday afternoon between the two large sheds, thus giving plenty of room for the contingent and their officials, and there will also be a platform erected from which the last few words will be spoken.

This will also guard against accident from over-crowding, and will enable those on the wharf to see and hear everything that is going on.

As before, all the steamers of the port will be at the disposal of the Committees, including the Noko, and Tawera, kindly lent by Messrs Kennedy and Evans, and the Tuna by Messrs Nelson Bros.

The Contingent Committee have made arrangements to hold a church parade on Sunday morning in the Theatre Royal. Cannon Webb has kindly consented to read the lessons and the sermon will be preached by the Rev. J. G. Paterson.

After the service at the Theatre, an offertory will be taken in aid of the Fourth Contingent.

Mr James Craig has generously offered to provide the men of the contingent with their Sunday's dinner.

AT THE CAMP.

The men at the camp were early astir this morning. Squad drill and manual exercises, were held after the ordinary duties of the morning had been performed. At nine o'clock a parade took place, and the company afterwards proceeded under Major McCredie to the Kaiti rifle range, where the shooting competition for the pair of field glasses, presented by W. Acland Hood, took place. A number of new applicants for enrolment have been received, and these will be dealt with by the Committee this afternoon. The men assembled at Tucker's paddock at three o'clock for riding practice and for selection, the following volunteers for service being present: James Henry James, John Smith, Joseph Wall, John Cameron, William J. Brown, Archie Campbell, George Carter, Anthony Webb, George Quinn, Charles Croon, Henry J. Harris, George Simpson, Edmund Kenny, R. J. Smith, Thomas Harris, Henry Driscoll, Robert Quedley, Hubert Tardley, Thomas Burch, George Grey, Patrick Brady, and John Chas. Ferris. Those selected will probably go into camp though upon this point the Committee are not agreed. The total number sent from this district including the Fifth Contingent is forty three, so Poverty Bay should be well represented at the front. The orderly officers at the camp are Sergeant Arthur and Corporal Barton, who have been appointed to act in these positions whilst the troopers are in camp.

The Committee acknowledge, with thanks, the following gifts:—A cask of beer and a quantity of lemonade from Mr D. J. Barry for the men at the camp; puddings from Mr How Chow; a parcel of books from Dr Cole, including three instruction books on ambulance, as well as a reliance tournequet. Mrs Mann supplied the camp with delicacies to-day; meat was forwarded by Mr Macfarlane, and bread by Mr Craig.

29 March 1900 – COMPLAINTS FROM THE MEN COMPLAINTS FROM THE MEN.

WELLINGTON, this day.

The Post publishes a letter signed by ninety men of the Wellington-Wairarapa section of the Fourth Contingent, protesting against the "shameful way" in which they have been treated. The points which they emphasise are that they were told they should go with the Third Contingent and the promise was not kept; then, that they should go by the Monowai, no matter what boat the Southern men went by. Instead they had to quietly look on and see the others depart. They assert that the Gymeric is in a filthy state, and they have not had a decent wash on board. Both they and the horses have had salt water to drink. Even now they do not know when they will start. They contend that as the contingent was equipped by public subscriptions, and the accommodation is barely sufficient for the men and horses already on board, it was "scandalous" that one hundred of another Government contingent should be thrust on them, overcrowding the boat. The Aucklanders, as it is, have had to sleep with the horses in the hold.

At a meeting of the Send-off Committee of the Fifth Contingent the Mayor said he had wired the Premier stating there were many complaints in Wellington at the treatment the Wellington section of the Fourth Contingent had received in not being amongst those despatched by the first steamer, and also of the accommodation provided in the Gymeric. He asked the Premier to give an assurance of improved arrangements in order to allay the anxiety of friends and relations. Mr Beauchamp, a member of the Committee, stated that a gentleman just arrived from the south had informed him that by the time of her departure the Gymeric would be in every way a suitable vessel for transport. The question will further be discussed at a meeting to-morrow.

21 April 1900

(Per Press Association.)

WELLINGTON, this day.

The Premier has received a cable from Lord Roberts at Bloemfontein, in which he thanks the colony for the very valuable assistance rendered in sending both horses and men. From the Commander-in-Chief's cable it is evident that the Fourth Contingent, under Major Francis, is to go to Beira.

September 1900 - THE "GISBORNE" GUN.

A letter written by Trooper G B CARTER

The persistency of Trooper G. B. Carter, who in spite of various obstacles thrown in his path succeeded in getting to the front has been rewarded, and his friends will be pleased to hear of his promotion. In a letter written from Mafeking on August 4 to his mother, he states:—"I have been on the move ever since you received my last letter. We had not been on our way to Fort Tuli more than three or four days when we were hauled back again and sent here. It is very interesting to be in a place of interest like this, and to be able to have a look at the different things and precautions taken by Lieutenant-General Baden-Powell to protect the town, and also to look at the damaged buildings. I have been in luck lately. After leaving Bulawayo we travelled here by train, spending two nights in the train. After we had been here a few days I was offered a non-commissioned officer's place in a Maxim gun battery, and was asked to select four others out of our squadron. I was told that I would command a gun, and after considering it I accepted. The squadron was fallen in and I selected a section of boys, and it turned out afterwards that they were all Gisborne exports. To-day it was read out in the orders that Corporal Carter would from this date be sergeant in command of No. 4 gun of the Maxim Gun Battery. We call our gun the "Gisborne," and I hope it will make a name for itself. This battery is made up of two guns from the New South Wales Bushmen. There are 15 men from each regiment—15 from the 5th New Zealand, and 15 from the Australians. This is a peculiar place to live in, nasty dust winds and fairly cool at 5 in the morning, at which time we rise and go out on foot with the guns. We are not allowed to say where we are going or what our movements are, so it is hard for me to give you anything really of interest. Travelling from Marandellas we were obliged to go very slowly on account of the bullock waggons, which carried our clothes. We took about 24 days to travel nearly 300 miles—terribly slow. We saw several things of interest, ostriches, deer, snakes, and ant bears. I caught a snake about 5ft long, and our doctor said it was of a very venomous kind and asked me for the skin."

16 May 1901 -

INJURY TO A GISBORNE TROOPER.

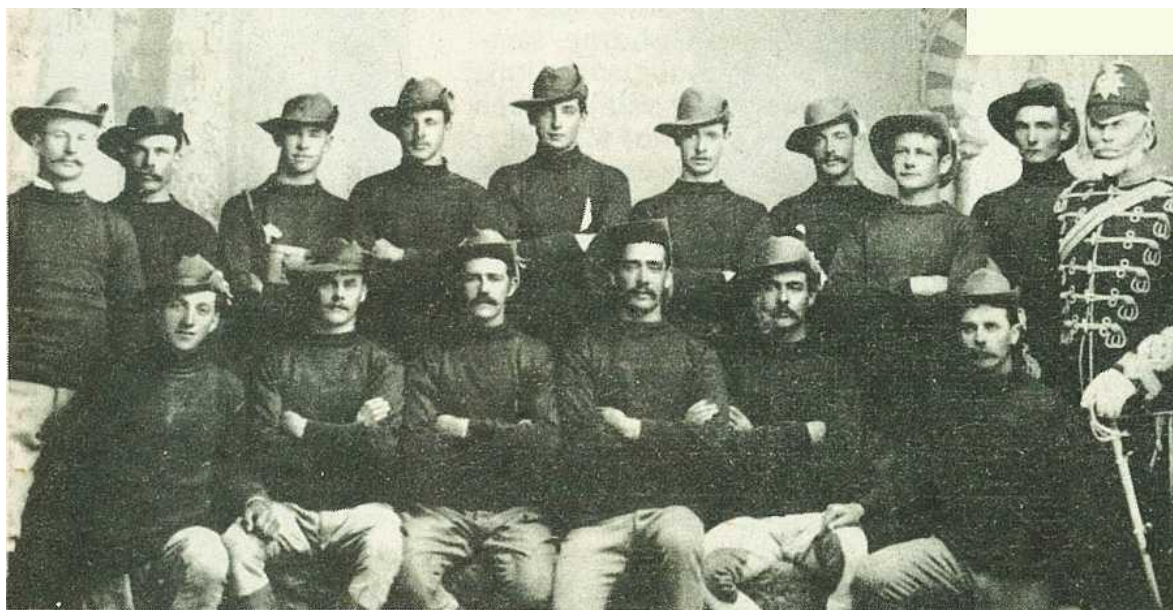
Captain Thomson, harbormaster, has received a communication from his son, Trooper J. Thomson, of the Fourth Contingent, stating that the latter is in the Bloemfontein Hospital. The boy had his horse shot under him, and three of his ribs were broken and his lungs injured. It is strange that the casualty was not reported by the military authorities

20TH July 1901

THEIR RETURN HOME

The Gisborne members of the Fourth and Fifth Contingents and Trooper Allan Aislabie (Brabant's Horse) arrived home by the Zealandia this morning. The boys were met on board the steamer by His Worship the Mayor, and were given a hearty welcome home. It was explained to them that there would be no formal reception at the wharf, and for this they seemed thankful, as they stated that they had had a good deal of that sort of thing since they arrived back in New Zealand, and were getting tired of it. They all seemed greatly amused at the fact of "Tony" Webb being the only one of their number to receive the welcome organised for last Thursday, and explained that the reason they did not come up to time was that they had been invited to the Wellington races, and thought they would not miss the opportunity of trying to ascertain for the benefit of the Gisborne sporting public how dividends on first and second horses worked. The boys all come back in the best of health; in fact, some of them look much sturdier and stouter than they were when they went away, so that the hardships of the campaign have apparently had little ill effect on them. The only one who was injured, Trooper Thomson, son of Captain Thomson, is in good health, and is suffering nothing from the smashing in of one or two of his ribs. All agree that the experience of warfare was one they would not have liked to have missed. They had to put up with a good deal, but they had some rare fun. The worst part of the campaign was the long trek from Beira to Mafeking, in which, as one of them states, they were confined to bare rations, half a pound of beef and a few biscuits, and there was no "loot" on the road to supplement their larder. They enjoyed the trip back on the Tagus, notwithstanding the cold, and speak of her as a splendid vessel; and since landing in New Zealand they have been entertained all along the line, the Napier Reception Committee having been particularly kind in billeting them at the Masonic and Criterion Hotels, and altogether treating them well. Upon questioning the men as to absentees, our representative learned that Troopers Gannon, Walker, Bouppen, Langham, Carter and Davidson remained behind in Africa "to see the thing through," joining the Seventh Con-

tingent. Lieutenants Arthur (whom they all agree is a splendid officer, popular with everybody) and Barton (promoted to be sergeant) and Sharpe have gone to England. Those who have returned home say they have had enough of it, and are glad to be back. Upon arrival at the wharf the troopers were met by their friends and taken to various homes. To-morrow morning there will be a church parade, and on Monday evening the citizens' welcome will be given, the troopers being entertained at a social in the Theatre Royal.



Gisborne's 4th Contingent:

From left, in front: Arthur W Gannon # 1518; John Davidson # 1377; George Bougen # 1381; John Walker # 1375 Lt Beckham Arthur # 1383 James Langham # 1386 Cpt Winter
 Back row: Fred Peakman # 1387; Francis Burch # 1379; Josiah Whitehead # 1374; Frederick Barton # 1384; David Bruce # 1385; Francis Fraser # 1376; John Rogers # 1504; Francis Sharp # 1378; Francis Bruce # 1382