

**WAANYARRA.**

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

**VALEDICTORY.**

The largest audience that has gathered together inside the State school for some years was that assembled on Saturday evening last to say farewell to Privates Fred. T. Williams and Hugh Ohrt, who were home on final leave before departing for some destination unknown. "God Save the King" was sung. Mr C. Raven presided, and in his opening remarks expressed pleasure at seeing such a large number present to do honor to their departing soldiers. It was very encouraging to them to see how their friends turned out, especially on such a dark and rainy night, ~~some~~ having come several miles over wretched roads. I can assure you we all feel proud of our soldier lads in offering themselves for service, to "do their bit" for King and country. We are only a small population on Waanyarra, but patriotic, as the local Roll of Honor will show, with over 25 names of volunteers that are in the trenches or on their way to the fighting fronts. The chairman added that he felt that the departing lads would uphold the high standard the Australian forces had set on the different battlefields, and he wished them a safe return.

Mr Williams, father of Private Williams, said that he could fully endorse what Mr Raven had said. It was hard for him to say much, knowing that he was parting with his son, and he had only just received word that another son had been wounded in France. But we had all to make sacrifices at the present time. He prayed that the lads would be spared to return home when the enemy had been crushed.

Mr Morton was pleased at the opportunity to be present to help to do honor to the lads, and warmly commended them for the fine spirit shown. He had known them all their lives, and felt they would be a credit to their parents and their country.

Several other speakers each added a few words of appreciation of the patriotic spirit shown, and said they knew the lads would ably do their duty for King and Empire.

The Chairman then presented each of the soldiers with a wristlet watch and a few other mementos as a mark of the esteem in which they were held by the residents.

The recipients thanked all for their

The recipients thanked all for their kind wishes and useful presents, and said they would try to do their duty.

An enjoyable programme of songs, recitations, dialogues, etc., was carried out by the school children, under the able leadership of Miss Croft, the head teacher.

Refreshments were then handed around, which had been kindly provided by the ladies, and this concluded a pleasant evening.

Privates A. J. Pallot and A. Williams, who have been in the Bendigo training camp, are to be discharged on account of having broken down in health in their training, much to their disappointment, the authorities believing they would not be able to stand the fearfully arduous campaign.

Last Friday word was received by Mr and Mrs Williams that their son, Private H. Williams, had been wounded in France. It is to be hoped that the wound is not serious.

I understand that Miss Lyndon (Queen of Music) is to hold a concert in the schoolroom on Saturday evening next in aid of the Dunolly Hospital, in connection with the Queen competition now exciting so much interest all over the district.