



White Over Green

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE 2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

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NEXT MEETING: The October Meeting will be held on Friday 21st October.
NOTE:- THIS IS THE FOURTH FRIDAY OF OCTOBER, NOT THE LAST ONE!!!.

ORANGE COUNTRY RE-UNION SEPTEMBER 1982.

What a wonderful week-end Peter Denver made possible having as our headquarters the Ex-services' Club, a particular room, namely the Ophir Room available exclusively to members "informally and friendly". Most people arrived on the Friday. On Saturday 114 personnel marched to the War Memorial led by the Orange Scottish pipe band followed by Sir Ivan Dougherty and Bill MacLennan. R.S.M. Alf Carpenter made sure the march up to standard, all wearing Battalion ties and medals and keeping in perfect step. Peter had arranged cars for those unable to march, but still made them able to feel part of it. There was a police escort both at front and rear of march. Sir Ivan with Bill MacLennan laid a wreath on the Cenotaph with due dignity and ceremony.

After break-off pre-dinner drinks at the Ex-Services' Club followed by dinner in the Auditorium attended by 235 which included the following who were attending their first reunion;- Gordon Bladen, Brian Hill, Clarrie Gorman, Matt Barry, George Walton, Fred Morrow, Ron Burley, Wal Johnson, Arthur White, Vic Manchester, W.K. Marriot, & Clyde Bradley. We were all pleased to see Stan Bowen and Bill Luck. Stan was looking very well, although confined to a wheelchair, took part in all activities assisted by his brother. Many apologies and good wishes were read out. Phil Smith did a magnificent job as toastmaster and Sir Charles Cutler and the Mayor of Orange gave both the toast to the Battalion Association and Civic Welcome to all present. Formalties were concluded with Sir Ivan giving a most interesting talk followed by a discussion about Crete. Sir Ivan was speaking of a Mrs. Ann Dupres who wants to tell the true story of Crete and especially

incidents at Heraklion and Retimo, and Sir Ivan asked that anyone who could help her might write to her at P.O. Box 9, CAMPBELL, A.C.T. Then followed music, dancing and much reminiscing. Ned Kenna V.C. was presented by the staff of the Club with a bottle of champagne, so enjoyed a very happy evening.

Sunday, Peter Denver had arranged buses to take everyone for a scenic drive around Orange and thence to Mr. Jack Simpson's orchard for a bar-b-que where the Legacy Ladies and their men provided a delicious meal. The Ex-Services' Club provided all the liquor gratis. It was a terrific setting in an enormous apple packing shed, with apple crates for tables and sample apples for tasting set out on them. Peter had even organised a shuttle bus service back to the Hotel Canobolas and the Civic Gardens motel so the avid football fans could get glued to their television sets to watch the League Grand Final.

Sunday evening a smorgasbord dinner was held at the Ex-Services' Club with approximately 200 attending. Many congratulations and special thanks given to Peter Denver, Pat his wife, and all their team for their organising and thought into making it all such a happy and splendid re-union.

Fashion honours were carried off by the Battalion stalwarts with their head gear - Jim Graham for colour, Claude Raymond and Alan Lindsay with their W.O.G. Caps, John Copland, Dasher Deakin, Bob Jackson, Jack Huston, Jack Ormiston, Ken Kesteven and many others - good on you fellas!!

It was generally agreed that having the re-union the week-end prior to the eight hour holiday week-end made an enormous difference with driving and the volume of traffic.

THE CHRYSTALS

THE SECRETARY'S MAILBAG.

Here we are, back again after a very pleasant holiday spent in Perth, and the Southern part of Western Australia. We called into Rockingham and located the habitat of Ken "Dasher" Deacon and his wife Lily. They were getting ready to go to bowls, so made arrangements to meet him at Freeman's the next day. We had lunch and a few beers. Dasher has had to give the good stuff away and stay with the orange juice, health reasons. Says he is very contented where they are, close to the beach and not far from the local R.S.L. and the shopping center. They have a good bus service to Freemantle and Perth. Would welcome anyone coming over from the east, and his phone number is in the country directory of Western Australia.

Stayed overnight in a motel in Bussleton, a lovely spot. I'd like to live there, given the opportunity. Took the opportunity of looking up an old war-time mate who served with 19 Bde. H.Q. in Syria and Darwin with me, one by the name of Ted Wenham. Once again we adjourned to the local for much talking and throat gargling. Ted is a very keen fisherman and well known for his prowess by the locals. So much for the touring part, now to the serious side of replying to our correspondents for the past month.

Start the ball rolling with a letter from Phillip Betts of Mudgee, one time committeeman of way back in the time of the late Harry Watts era. Phil

was complaining of not getting his W.O.G. Lately, says he misses it very much. You should be getting your copy in future as appropriate action has been taken in this matter.

Artie Harridine from Temora is our next correspondent. Artie is replying to a letter I sent him about getting into contact with the Association again, and that is just what he is going to do. You can thank Roy Denyer for me getting in touch with you. Another lost sheep back in the fold as the saying goes. Nice to hear from you again Artie, best wishes to you.

Laurie "Topsy" Crispin of Ulladulla, another one of our lost members returning. Topsy has retired from School teaching and is now down at Narrawaller Beach watching the "birds" and the dolphins. Says he does a lot of sitting and sampling the home brew. Hope it is a good one, because I might drop in one day. Your cheque and your request for a spot on the mailing list have been dealt with. Also we do appreciate your comments on the new concept of W.O.G. Always pleasing to receive members views. Our good wishes to you and Isabelle. Hope we see you down next Anzac Day.

Bob "Dagwood" Jackson of Wagga Wagga dropped a note in the mail to say that he was coming down to Sydney to attend the presentation of his Greek Medal at the Paddington-Woollahra R.S.L. in company with others. Said he would be meeting Bill Jenkins of 6th. Div. Assn., and Sir Ivan Dougherty. Thank you for the message of good-will, reciprocate by saying we had a very enjoyable trip and stay in Western Australia.

Received a "Thank You" card from Carmel Hale, wife of the late Barry Hale of Wagga Wagga who passed away quite recently. Carmel was expressing her gratitude for the way the 2/4 boys at Wagga turned out for Barry's funeral and for the message of sympathy conveyed by the Association.

Mrs. Leila Mennie wrote in requesting the Bn. Medal on behalf of her late husband, Dick, who passed away in July 1982, and who was too ill to be concerned about sending in for it. Dick lived up at Belmont, so should have been known to the Newcastle boys. Your request has been answered and by now a form should be in your hands.

Gordon Bladin, of Jindalee, Q., writes that he knew of a Jim Avery who was in the Sigs with 19 Bde H.Q. Was replying to a written request in August issue of W.O.G., and wondered if this was the person whom Allan Manning was enquiring about. If so, he never made it back, according to Gordon. Information has been forwarded to Allan, he will follow it up. Catch up with you later Gordon, have quite a lot to talk about.

That's all the correspondence dumped in the mail box while I was away. Now some reminders and requests because the year drags on.

THE BATTALION MEDAL

ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE IN FOR THIS MEDAL BEFORE 31ST DECEMBER 1982.

ASSOCIATION TIES.

Association ties recently re-ordered will be available in the near future. The price will not be as much as originally envisaged. Will advise further.

6 AUSTRALIAN DIVISION TIES.

The Secretary has a quantity of 6 Div. ties available. They are a quality job and look smart. Contact Hon. Secretary for orders.

And finally: If you have a spare copy of "White Over Green" war history there are plenty of persons who will gladly take it from you. We have a U.S.A. historian most anxious to lay his hands on a copy. Any takers?

Laurie Waterhouse, Hon Secretary.

WELFARE REPORT

NX18112, Bill Ryan, Ward 11. Skin Rash on legs.

NX9763, JOHN MEEHAN, Ward 11. Skin tests. O.K. Hopes to be home in a few days.

NX46465, E. Slade, Ward 130. Slight stroke. O.K.

NX8584, Syd Buckley. Ward 230. Hernia operation. O.K.

NX160169, Reg. O'Keefe, Ward 530. Amputated left leg and very sick. Transferred to Lady Davidson Home.

Roy Landsene, Ward 630. Lung Cancer and a very sick man.

NX31233, S. Healy, Ward 6. Blood disorder, says he's O.K.

NX58, Cecil Chrystal, R.N.S. Hospital in for oesophagus treatment. Now home.

NX2054, N.P. Ellicott, Ward 330. Heart attack on 9 September. Taken to Concord and had a stroke. Very sick.

NX13515, George Whitby, Ward 330. Has rapid heart beat.

Nx2005, K. (Spanner) Graham, Ward F in Lady Davidson Home. EYE Op. O.K. Will be going to Moree and then back to Concord on 17 November for hip operation.

NX47312, Neville Brest. Discharged from Lady Davidson Home, August 17. Now at home at Katoomba.

NX7601, R.H. Chamberlain, R.S.M. Sends regards to all members.

Dick looks fine at the R.S.L. Hospital at the Narrabeen War Veterans Hospital.

First A.I.F. 4th Bn.

7551, Eric White. Ward 110. Eric is blind. He sends best wishes to all his friends.

3334, Albert A. Collins. Ward 8. Pleurisy. Thanked me for White Over Green. Likes to read same.

LAST POST.

Nx72866, R.R. (DICK) MENNIE. No date of death.

Noel William Smith, Mortar Platoon. Died 6th September.

Brigadier Claude Ewan Camerson, M.C., A.O.M., E.D. Died 8th Sept. '82.

NX5085, C.K. Scully. Death notice in T.P.I. Monthly Journal.

Bill Parry, and Welfare Teams.

COCK'S COLUMN

In the mail box, a letter and a magazine "the Listening Post", the official organ on the R.S.L., Western Australia Branch, from Dasher Deacon, Rockingham,

Ken writes: "Had a pleasant surprise. A visit from Selby Dean who has a son and daughter in West Aust. His son is a biologist with B.H.P. on a small island away up in the north, his daughter lives in Perth, and he pays them a visit each year. Only for friends who are coming from Zimbabwe, we would have gone back east with him. He has a campervan and it was really great to see him and talk about old times. You and Slim will have to pay us a visit, we have a spare room.

Selby was surprised that we were in Zimbabwe, especially when he saw the photos of the safari trip we made". (Ken and Lily went on a camping safari with their son Pete.)

At Concord, met Don Ellicott. NX2054, Don enlisted at Inverell, also for the pleasure of meeting Mrs. Ellicott.

Many thanks to Slim Powers for taking Ron and me to that wonderful Re-Union at Orange, and also many thanks to those good people who organised it.

En route, at the Bathurst R.S.L. a tall silver top man saw my 2/4th Badge and said with pride "2/4th". and I thought that there was copy for W.O.G. and asked did he know any of them, and he replied, "I am one of them". It was Bernie O'Mara, NX5598. Bernie looks well. Had made arrangements and was on his way to Sydney to see the Grand Final, and hopes next time they will be on different dates. Good to meet you Bernie. Write any news please.

At the Re-union Mrs. Denver handed me a note, vis: "Passing through Narrabri we saw Duncan "Snow" Lovelee, George Frater and Ron Witt. Snow and George are a long time retired, but Snow is having heart problems. (One of my mob, Snow.) He is not too well. Ron is still in transport. Thanks, J. Denver and Peter.

Met Ron Burley, his wife Lorna and son Paul. Paul was celebrating his 21st Birthday. They live at Garra. Ron sees Keith Marriot, Keith and wife live at Cheeseman's Creek. All the best to all of you.

Met Ron Walker "A" Coy, and as we had six Walkers in the Battalion, his number was NX2102. Ron lives at 187 Clinton St., Orange, but as he travels a fair bit, his postal address is P.O. Box 203, Orange. He has joined the Association. Did not know of the Re-union until he saw it in the local paper.

Was pleased to see Ted Swadling from Griffith there but was sorry to hear the sad news he brought. Fred Aphorp had passed away on 27th August. He was buried on the 31st.

I would appreciate any news that members have. All little bits are of interest to many members. Please write to me at 20 Addistone Avenue, North Sydney. N.S.W. 2060. Phone 922-5303.

Jim ("Cock") Robin.

A PLUG FOR THE PRESIDENT.

"As Chairman of the Scottish Australian Heritage Council, I would like to invite all people to attend and enjoy the Open-Air Scottish Concert to be held on the Opera House forecourt on Sunday, December, 1982.

At last year's concert we had 500 highland and Country Dancers, 25 pipe bands - Including Parramatta Caledonian Pipe Band - performing, and this year we are hoping that it will be bigger and better.

"So do come along and enjoy the sight, sound and fun. It commences at 1p.m., and (most important) it is FREE!!!

"All Clans will be represented. If you wish to take part in the march of the Clans, the F.U.P. is behind Sydney Hospital in the Domain at 11a.m. B.Y.O. Lunch.

Bill MacLennan.

Chairman S.A.H.C.

(At this time in the preparation of W.O.G. Bill MacLennan has had no answers to his appeal for eagle feathers in last month's issue of W.O.G. Can anyone assist??)

ASSOCIATION OF 4TH INFANTRY BATTALIONS ASSOC.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY - WREATH LAYING.

Sunday November 7th - Cenotaph, Martin Place. Assembly point - Pitt St., End of Martin Plaza. Time 1345Hours.

SITREPS.

From Bob Lever: "As promised, I am writing to report what happened to the Battalion Plaque I purchased at the June meeting. The Blaxland/Glenbrook Sub-branch R.S.L. paid for it, and on 30th June 1982, I presented it to 5 Fld. Sqdn. at Penrith. This is a unit of the Army Reserve, R.A.E.

"That night they were celebrating the birthday of the R.A.E. Off hand I can't think how many years, but it is well over a Century. They were formed in Victoria by Col. Scratchley, the man who designed Fort Scratchley at Newcastle.

"The plaque has a place of honour in the combined Officers' and Sergeants' Mess. I presented it on behalf of the Sub-branch and 2/4 Bn. Association."

Seen in town during September was Dagwood Jackson who was up for his presentation of the Greek Medal at the Paddington-Woollahra R.S.L. He and your Editor had a couple of beers in the Gallipoli Memorial Club. He hasn't aged to the degree that most of us have, but the same old Dagwood nevertheless and his beard is just right.

Also seen in town was Bob Ferguson also with your editor and also at the Gallipoli Memorial Club. These two thumped each others' ears for about two hours or more about the old battalion days and reinforcement training days in Tamworth, about personalities remembered but with names forgotten. Should be more of it when in such compatible company.

In his travels Bob has seen Stan Bowen at Q.V. Hospital, Wentworth

Falls. He misses his Beenleigh but still likes to have visitors. Stan would like to get in contact with Cpl. Col Ferguson of "C" coy. Bob also called to see Frank Frizelle on his way through Tamworth. Frank would also be pleased to see any members that may be passing through.

A short note from Mick Gray advising change of address, but still pretty much in the same district. W.O.G. Mailing list duly ammended, Mick, these rent collectors are hell aren't they? (If that doesn't get a new editor for W.O.G. and a thick ear for the current editor - nothing will!!!)

Good to have a letter from Harold Conkey, 5 Poole St., Cootamundra, who thanks all who keep the Association and W.O.G. going. Thanks, Harold. As the rest of the letter is of interest to all, here it is:-

"However, as I get older, names tend to fade, and I find I can't put faces to more and more names mentioned, but my interest was quickened with quite a crop of old "B" Coy men mentioned in the last edition. Referring to a letter from Keith Taylor- I should also like to hear about Cocky Gorham!

"Also was pleased to see Noel Ford's name mentioned although sorry to learn he has been in hospital, but was delighted to hear that Arthur Reilly had been to see him. I haven't heard or seen hide or hair of Reilly since the war, and fancy him being able to find a girl to marry him! I'd dearly love to meet her, and have a chat about old times". (Lots of "B" Coy members would like to be flies on the wall during the social chit-chat between the girl brave enough to marry Arthur Reilly and the only sheep-stealing Company Commander in 2/4 Bn - particularly if Arthur is present! "Who's going to put the skids under who?" Ed.) "Could you or they (Arthur Reilly or Noel Ford) give me their addresses.

"Good old John Copland. I'm sorry his health has declined. He has always been a stalwart. I'm not surprised that he has his carbon books and records in first class order for I still remember how he came to my rescue on the Strathnaver in 1940 sorting out the reinforcements shanghaied to form a Company which I commanded whilst on board.

"Where is Corporal Geoff Hall, "B"Coy. Company Clerk - do you know?

Best of luck to all, Sincerely,
Harold Conkey.

From Ron Barber:- "I felt I should send these notes to you because Ken Kesteven approached our group which included Cock Robin and asked who was writing up the report on the Re-Union. It seemed nobody was!" Jim Robin was not well even on the night we arrived, Friday. He took a few notes and then was reduced to writing only the names of those he could see in attendance.

The Hotel Canobolas was efficiently run, the accomodation good, and no complaints about the meals.

Very pleased to see Stan Bowen there, but in a wheelchair accompanied by his brother Allan. An excellent example of brotherly care, and it was a pleasant surprise to see Billy Yow, whom I thought had passed on a few years ago.

A Scottish band led the march which was short and good. The ceremony at the Cenotaph was impressive, and Sir Ivan Dougherty laid the wreath. The Bugler played well.

The dinner was well organised and the catering good. Attendance was also good. Ned Kenna, V.C. and Jim Brown, M.L.A. were there and some whom we have not seen for years were named and asked to stand at the dinner.

The barbeque at the orchard was good. We had a roof over our heads in a large barn so did not worry about a shower of rain. It didn't rain. Was a sunny day with crisp air and the scent of apple blossoms wafted by a light breeze.

Blah Smith was in good story-telling form and created great amusement as he told his stories standing, I think, on an empty apple crate.

Bad luck story: Bob Lever arranged with a work-mate to have the 8-hour week-end off, only to learn in the next issue of W.O.G. that the re-union would be held a week earlier. Workmate had made arrangements by this time and Bob could not change back again.

From Bob Jackson : - Bob Jackson and his wife Enid attended a special function arranged by 6 Div Association at the Paddington-Woolahra R.S.L. Club for presentation of Greek Service Medals On Wednesday 8th September.

There were about 70 ex-members of 6 Div. present and their Association Secretary, Bill Jenkins, ably Assisted by Lady Auxilliary members of the P.W. Club did a great job in lining everyone up for this impressive occasion.

Club President, Mr. Russell Crook, welcomed the Greek Consul General, who made the presentations. Messages of good will were exchanged by 6 Div. Association President, Maj-Gen. Murchison and our Patron, Maj-Gen. Sir Ivan Dougherty.

According to the 6 Div Association Secretary there were to have been four recipients, ex 2/4 Bn: J.A. Sadler, M.W. Keshan, W.L. Sheppard and myself. Sadler (NX5850) was apparently not present. M.W. Kesham (NX11067) slipped away before I could make contact with him, but Enid noticed a lady go up to receive the medal for W.L. Sheppard (NX46490).

In our discussions with her after the ceremony we found that this lady was in fact W.L. Sheppard's sister - a Mrs. Ralph Hutchinson of 47 Carr St., Waverton. W.L. Sheppard died from wounds received at Grevena, central Greece, and during a visit there in recent years Mr. & Mrs. Hutchinson found the War Cemetery where her brother was buried at Phaleron Bay, not far from Athens. Mrs. Hutchinson has had no contact with 2/4Bn Association and would very much like to know of any men who served with her brother. It would be good if any of our members who knew Wal. Sheppard at any stage of his service could get in touch with Mrs. Hutchinson. Her phone number is (Sydney) 92-7847.

"Dagwood", Wagga Wagga.

STOP PRESS - Invitation from Norm Harries, now Custodian of War Museum, Victoria Barracks, to visit the Museum after 'Remembrance Sunday' - See Wreath Laying, PAGE 6