



# White Cedar Green

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE 2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

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2ND Feb  
14TH MAR

NEXT MEETING : The November Meeting will be held on Friday, 26th November, at 8 p.m. at the Gallipoli Memorial Club.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO PAT AND PETER DENVER!

AND THANKS ALSO TO THE OTHER PEOPLE INVOLVED INCLUDING THE DIGNITARIES AND CITIZENS OF ORANGE WHO MADE OUR 1982 COUNTRY REUNION ANOTHER SUCCESS. THIS FROM THE PRESIDENT, COMMITTEE AND ALL THOSE WHO ATTENDED. THANK YOU PAT AND PETER!.

### THE OCTOBER MEETING.

About 25 members were present including Newcastle Vice-President Alf Carpenter, Stan Bowen who looked healthier than most of us, our Association friend, Vic Pike, Johnny Ringrose and an old stalwart, ex-president and Hon. Life Member, Fred Staggs.

To say that the proposal to expand the Association to include associate membership was the main topic of discussion would be untrue. Discussion was effectively nil, as the Committee meeting held before the meeting had decided that it "wasn't on" because of the opposition expressed at the re-union and in letters received subsequently and before. It was an announced decision from the chair, and the proposal was never formalised as a motion.

### EDITORIAL OPINION.

Congratulations to Morrie Porter, who took the initiative anyway with his proposal to get the matter discussed. He put out a sounding-board type proposal and the echo came back.

There was much said at the re-union and after, and it was most surely all said. Whether it was all listened to may be another matter. Perhaps there may be one voice stilled in the welter of discussion.



All he asked, after being inspired by Association members was, "What do you want the young people to do?" (February W.O.G. 1982) Sorry, Steve!

Peter Cade, Editor.

#### SITREPS.

To Dagwood: NX5850, James Alfred Sadler was indeed at the Greek Medal presentation at the P.W. Club. Got a medal to prove it. Very inconspicuous is our James.

Slim Pollock reckons that if Bill MacLennan wants eagle feathers, what about the football ground after the last Grand Final??

A letter from Gordon Bladen apologising to Margaret for keeping me late at our meeting as he was passing through Sydney. Don't worry about it, Gordon, the bruises have gone, and I'm hardly limping at all now. You should have come home with me though, this type of family togetherness should be shared with friends. You rotten sod! Thanks for the poem about who shook the clock from Derna. When the President and the Hon. Treas. and Sec. are in a mellow mood, maybe the gracious nod will be given for another page to fit it in t W.O.G. and one from Eileen Frances too, another that has been waiting for some time.

Late news: Stand down you feather filchers! Bill MacLennan has his quota of eagle feathers, and guess who did the trick? Peter Denver. That man can organise a deep freezer sell out at the North Pole.

#### A PRIVATE PLUG FOR THE PRESIDENT.

Don't forget one of the highlights of Scottish Week. We mean the big "DO" on Sunday December 5th at 1p.m. at the Opera House. If you wish to go earlier and march with the clans, they form up from 11a.m. onwards with a B.Y.O. lunch. And if your name is MacSweeney-Bergstein, well, if you would like to march, be Bill's guest, but you must be 2/4th Bn.!!

#### THE SECRETARY'S MAILBAG.

Another re-union has gone by and from all reports it was another good one. Yours truly had to cancel out because of family committments which I had overlooked when making our booking. Anyway I was very sorry to have missed it, as I was looking forward to renewing old acquaintances. Perhaps next year I will have better luck in arranging things not to clash.

From the reports, Peter and Pat Denver really did the Association proud. One must pay tribute to the Denvers for their untiring efforts, time and expense for the way they promoted and organised things and at the same time maintain a home in South Australia. The Association is indeed indebted to them for their services, and we say "thankyou" to you Peter and your back-up helper secretary and wife all in one, Pat.

Now to the business of what is happening within the Association as regards people writing in. There has been quite an influx of mail since the re-union, mainly on the theme of the discussion that took place towards the end of the re-union regarding associates joining and the proposal to change the



constitution to allow them to join. The letters received came from the following: Phil Chrystal, Alf Carpenter, Artie Kleem, George "King" Coles, Rosa Howell (widow of "Bully") Esca Riordan, Slim Powers, Gordon Bladen, Peter Denver, Marg. Gjedsted, Jim Graham and others. These letters will be dealt with at the monthly meeting.

The Friday of the Orange weekend I received a letter from the daughter of the late Scotchy McCartney informing me that Lorna, the wife of Norrie McGreger of Fairfield had passed away, and could we send a representative on behalf of the Association. Lorna used to go to the country re-unions taking a great interest in Association affairs. I attended the funeral on the following Monday. I had no sooner arrived back from the funeral than news arrived in the mail from Duncan "Snow" Lovelee notifying of Athol Honnery's death. Snow also mentioned seeing Vince and Allen Bowman of Warialda, said they looked better than when he saw them last occasion. Thank you, Snow.

Also bad news from Max Nerney of Urbanville letting us know that Sam (Gordon) Goodwin, one time cook in "D" Coy had passed away in Killarney Hospital, Queensland in June this year. Also mentioned sighting Ross Ellem a few times. Max has been getting around and about up there in banana land because he called in to see Col O'Brien when he was sick. Thank you Max for all the news.

Letter received from Mrs. Gwen Gabriel, widow of the late Albert (Angel) Gabriel wanting to know if she could apply for the 2/4 Bn. Medal. A form has been sent.

From the U.S.A. came a letter from Henry Wheeler of Colorado (used to be NX5229, Sgt. Harry Wheeler of "B" Coy.) Harry was applying for the battalion medal and giving us news of himself and his family. Apparently he has been in touch with Ron Schwartz. Harry left Australia in 1955, and has acquired himself a small ranch in Colorado. Says he is planning a trip to Australia in the near future and hopes to meet up with some of the boys.

. letter from Artie Harradine of Temora. Became a bit confused with the forms I sent him for the battalion and Greek medals. Threatened to get Roy Denyer onto him if he doesn't improve.

Received a letter of appreciation from Bill Parry. Bill of course is our welfare officer, and he took off to the Orange Re-union, the first Country Re-Union he has attended. Believe he had a ball. Consequently he and his wife have made a donation to the Association in appreciation with threats that he will be attending them more regularly in the future. Thanks from us Bill, to you and your good wife.

Whilst on the theme of donations, Peter forwarded a letter to us written on his return home after his strenuous tripping around the country. Mentioned that he and Pat were very elated to see all the effort and organising they did, end in a very successful re-union and everyone having had a wonderful weekend. Enclosed with his letter was a list of cancellations and a cheque covering the deposits that had been donated to the funds to defray costs in making the presentations to the invited V.I.P.'s. Those who made donations are: Bruce Cork, Joe Wells, Else Bradford and Ken Moses. Once again Peter, Thankyou.



Belated letter received from Cec Lawson of Bathurst. Cec wants to get the medal also, and mentions he has to go to hospital at Concord for an operation. Thankyou for the cheque for W.O.G. and the medal. Will be letting you know in the mail re other service medals. Thank you for writing, and sorry you missed the re-union. Always next year.

That's about it for this month. Look forward to hearing from you people out there in the country and distant towns next month.

Don't forget the Battalion Medal finishes 31st December for applications. So if you haven't applied for it, time is running out. Also in the latest newssheet from 6th Div. Assn. the Greek Medal issue is about to stop. They reckon there has been enough time and publicity for anyone entitled to it to apply and the same for the Battalion Medal.

We hope to have our new supply of Battalion Ties by November. If yours is showing signs of hard wear then think of getting a new one. This will most surely be our last purchase.

In the meantime, my message of good health and well being to one and all.

Laurie Waterhouse, Hon. Secretary.

#### THE NEWCASTLE CHRISTMAS "DO".

This social gethering will be held at Wallsend R.S.L. The assembling starts at 1630 hrs. on 22nd December and if you can stand R.S.M.'s like Alfie Carpenter and horsey types like Booky Rae, then this will be your cup of tea. They have charming wives also and so have the other 2/4thers who will be there, some of them certainly not tea drinkers.

This is due and timely notice that you may contact Alf in plenty of time of your intention to attend. Write or phone Alf if you will be there. You can find him on the front page of this W.O.G.

#### ASSOCIATION FOLLOW-UP SERVICE : GREEK MEDAL.

Translations are available of the inscription on the scroll that was presented with the Greek Medal to 2/4 Bn. members. These may be had by y sending a stamped self addressed envelope to the Hon. Secretary for those wishing to frame their scroll or whatever. These translations are typewritten only, so any artwork for framing is for members themselves to organise.

#### COCK'S COLUMN

With Slim Powers visited Concord. Was speaking to Rupe Carrington (B.Coy). Rupe was enlisted at Victoria Barracks, and on the bus with him from there to Ingleburn was Slim Powers, Ernie Evans, Ron and Ken Raymont, Ernie Twist, Ted Hopkins, Dick Lattimer, Bob Jackson and many others. Whilst with Rupe, another patient came along. He was Percy Hunter, and was going home next day. He lives at Davistown, as does Colin "Bunny" Burrows and Bunny asked him to say hullo to Rupe. Percy introduced himself to Slim and me, and said to me "You would be Cock Robin". (We are both 5'3"). He also knew Billy Walker, and said Billy was not enjoying good health, Stan Davis and Sid Cherrie.

Again met Kiera Tanko, he lives at Sutherland. He said he had met Phil Smith up at Maclean. He heard and recognised the voice and went up to him



and said "Are you Blah Smith?" Phil whispered "Yeah".

Had a yarn with Fred Flay, Nx5177. Fred enlisted at the Lancer Barracks Parramatta the same day as me. He said he enlisted with Jim Quinn.

Had a ring from Dick Morris checking on Frank Mallett's address. Dick is now living on the south end of Lake Macquarie and has gone on strength of the Newcastle group. Dick's address is 11 Scott Rd., Mannering Park, Vales Point. Not far from Snowy Moores and Lascar Roach. Dick also said that the Newcastle group meets one for dinner. Bill Hayes is going well and on the wagon.

Dick Pinson rang me. I was sorry to hear that Rene is again in Marrickville Hospital. When visiting her, Dick met Les Saxby whose wife Linda was in hospital too. We wish both a speedy recovery.

Also had a ring from Ted Hopkins who is back on the North Shore. He said he was going out to see Ron Rayment; Ron lives at Green Point Rd., Oyster Bay.

Had an excellent letter from Esca Riordan about the local boys. John 'Bushy' Bennett has moved closer to Bowraville and I think the reason is that he is nearer the golf course. John is a "Golfacholic." "On our way home from the Orange 'Do', we called in on Gordon and Marcia Campbell, who are now living at Wallabadah near Tamworth. They had just returned from a campervan trip to South Australia, Spencers Gulf Area.

"On arrival home I took Doug Grove up to the local Bowling Club where had a few noggins with Harry Dowling and Sam Hughes. Doug and I called in on Chas. Hood, and they did some reminiscing while I listened (can you imagine Esca listening for more than half a minute? - Ed.) Chas. has his ups and downs in health. I see James Brown from time to time and he is always busy with his electorate. We haven't seen 'Massa' Brooks of late but understand that all is well at Coffs Harbour.

"Leo Lynch told me that Mick Green and his wife in Grafton have become very keen lawn bowlers and play up to four days a week. I understand that Sid Bailey plays bowls for his recreation.

"The Lismore gang are holding their Annual Christmas Dinner on 20th November, and send an open invitation to any 2/4thers who happen to be in the area on the day. We are hoping to go up to that 'Do'.

"We had a letter from Vera Provians on arrival home from Orange, and from the tone of the letter Vera is having trouble with Arthritis. She has my sympathy.

"This is about all I can think of, Jim. Wishing the Association continued success and kind regards to all."

"Esca and Bob."

Thank you Esca for that letter. I appreciate your letter and would like more like it from all over.

Cock Robin.



Out of the gloom a voice said unto me  
"Smile and be happy. Things could get worse."  
So I smiled and was happy, and things did get worse!"  
(HOW DID THAT get in there????)

#### WELFARE REPORT

NX9867, Rupe Carrington, Ward 11, R.G.H. Skin infection on both legs. Now discharged.

NX68025, Keira Tanko, Ward 530, R.G.H. Right leg amputation and waiting to be transferred to Lady Davidson.

NX1977, Brian Waring at the War Veterans' Home sends regards to all. Has not been the best lately.

NX136475, D. Thornberry has a chest complaint and not feeling the best. Sends best wishes to all.

NX7601, Dick Chamberlain, W.V.H. Narrabeen. Feels O.K. and looks very well. Sends best wishes to all.

NX5177, Fred Flay. operation for right leg amputation and too sick to talk. Going to Lady Davidson Home.

NX160160, Reg. "Bluey" O'Keefe, Ward 530, R.G.H. Amputated left leg and very sick. Blue is in the same ward as Keira Tanko and Fred Flay. Get well, Blue.

Bede Keary, 4 Bn 1st A.I.F. is in indifferent health. He was O.K., but not so good when visited by Fred Staggs subsequently.

#### LAST POST.

NX2055, Athol Honnery of Narrabri died 23rd September 1982.

NX5890, Fred Apthorp, died 27th August. His funeral was attended by E.R. Kenningdale, Fred Driscoll, and Ted Swadling.

NX5186, Peter Hill, died at the Dalcross Nursing Home. Peter was well known in horse racing circles, and was cremated 16th October. The Association was represented by Cec Chrystal, Ken Kesteven and myself.

NX5144, John Peveril Guest, cremated 1st November (from Sydney Morning Herald). We have had no other information.

? James Charles Davidson of Ballina and formerly of Cronulla died early October. Information from Doug Grove.

Additionally Laurie Waterhouse reports that he was the representative of the Association at the funeral of Mrs. Norrie McGregor.

Best wishes from the teams, Bill Parry.

#### INFORMAL CHRISTMAS GET-TOGETHER.

December 17th is the evening for this function. It's from about 5p.m. onwards in the Board Room of the Gallipoli Memorial Club. Come and go as you please is the drill. Stay as long as you like and leave when you like. Last year's attendance was a bit light on for numbers so lets have a good turn around this year.

#### AN S.O.S.

Dasher dashed off from Orange minus his glasses. The Orange Ex-Service Club and Peter Denver got on the job, found a pair and sent them off to Dasher. They weren't his, couldn't see as far as his nose through them, so he sent them back to Orange. The situation now is Dasher doesn't have



his glasses. Orange Ex-Servicemen's Club has somebody's else's glasses. Somebody else has Dasher's glasses. Do we have a member walking around, bumping into telegraph poles? If so, contact Orange, yours and Dasher's problems are solved. Gee-whiz!!! How did Dasher survive so long without a nursemaid????

#### ARMY NUMBERS.

On enlistment in the 2nd A.I.F. each and every man was allotted an "army" number, and depending from which State of the Commonwealth he enlisted, his number was distinctive, in that no other enlistee could have the same "army" number.

This was not the case when members enlisted in the 1st A.I.F. where, as will be seen, it was possible for men having the same name to also have the same number. In the first AIF officers were not allotted a number.

In the planning that took place between the two world wars, it was decided that in the event of another major conflict the "army" system of numbering would be used as opposed to the "regimental" system used in the 1st A.I.F. The "army" system being that each State would allocate numbers from one upwards, prefixing the number would be two letters, the first to indicate the State of enlistment, e.g. for N.S.W. the letter "N" followed by "X" for A.I.F. enlistment.

In N.S.W., W.A. and Victoria, the low "X" numbers were allotted to the officers, while in the other states the low "X" numbers went to the other ranks.

Detailed instructions to be followed in allotting "regimental" numbers in the 1st A.I.F. was contained in A.I.F. Order No.2 dated 26 August 1914, and is reproduced below;

"Numbering. The following instructions are to be followed in allotting regimental numbers to personnel of the Australian Imperial Force:-

Divisional Headquarters	-	From 1 upwards.
Brigade Headquarters	-	Personnell to be allotted numbers with units
Light Horse Regiments	-	Each regiment to run from 1 upwards.
Infantry Battalions	-	Each battalion to run from 1 upwards.
Field Artillery Batteries including Brigade ammunition columns	-	Numbering will be by brigades
	-	Brigade commanders will arrange and communicate allotment to battery commanders.
Divisional Ammunition Columns	-	From 1 upwards
Signal Troops and Signal Companies	-	Officer commanding signal units to allot from 1 upwards

From the above system of "regimental" numbering it will be readily seen that in an expeditionary force that raised fifteen regiments of light horse, thirteen field artillery brigades, some sixty infantry battalions, five machine gun battalions, five pioneer battalions, plus the many other units that made up the 1st A.I.F., the possibility existed for men having identical names to also have identical "regimental" numbers.



The following shows the "army" numbers, ranks, names, appointments and units of some of the "early birds" of the 2nd A.I.F. Details are as they existed in Oct/Nov. 1939.

NX1	Major	R.G.H.	Irving	-	HQ 6 Div.
NX2	Brig.	A.S.	Allen	-	Comd 16 Inf Bde
NX3	Lt-col	K.W.	Eather	-	CO 2/1 Inf Bn
NX4	Major	B.E.	Klein	-	BM RAA 6Div
NX5	Lt-col	P.A.	Parsons	-	CO2/4 Inf Bn.
-----					
VX1	Lt-Gen	T.A.	BLAMEY	-	GOC 2nd AIF
VX2	COL	S.R.	BURSTON	-	MEDICAL SERVICES 6div
VX3	Col.	S.F.	Rowell	-	GS01 6 Div.
VX4	Major	C.E.M.	Lloyd	-	HQ 6Div
VX5	Major	K.S.	McIntosh	-	HQ 6Div.
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WX1	Lt-col	A.J.	Hobbs	-	CO 2/3 Fd Regt
WX2	Lt-col	T.S.	Louch	-	CO 2/11 Inf Bn
WX3	Major	R.K.	Anderson	-	2/11 Inf Bn.
WX4	Capt	R.E.	Dewar	-	Adj 2/3 Fd Regt.
WX5	Major	R.L.	Sandover	-	2/11 Inf Bn.
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QX1	Bdr.	A.J.	Archer	-	2/1 A/tank Regt
QX2	Spr	B.T.	Appleton	-	2/1 Fd Park Coy
QX3	Bdr	L.G.	Brown	-	2/1 A/Tank Regt
QX4	Pte	F.J.	Byrne	-	2/9 Inf Bn
QX5	Pte	M.	Beattie	-	2/123 Aust Wkshop.
-----					
DX1	Gnr	J.	McNulty	-(	
DX2	L/Bdr	P.	Conde	-(	
DX3	L/Bdr	J.	Watts	-(	2/3 Fd Regt
DX4	Gnr	T.	Smith	-(	
DX5	Gnr	W.	Schikereling	-(	
-----					
SX1	Pte.	R.A.	Gulley	-(	2/10 Inf Bn.
SX2	Pte	A.	McLachlan	-(	
SX3	Pte	W.	Plant	-(	
SX4	Pte	N.	Avalotis	-(	
SX5	Pte	C.C.	Ormsby	-(	
TX1	Sgt.	D.E.	Portwin	-	Army Records
UKX	Capt.	J.G.	Beaton.	-	
PX1	Pte.	W.H. S	Simpson	-	

On 1st August 1871 Henry Thomas GREEN was enlisted in the New South Wales Artillery as Battery Sergeant-Major. BSM GREEN was the first non-commissioned man enlisted in any of the Australian Colonial Permanent Forces and was fittingly allotted Regimental Number One in the New South Wales Artillery.

(We have Fred Travis to thank for the above article).