



White Over Green

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE 2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

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NEXT MEETING: THE JUNE MEETING WILL BE ON FRIDAY, 25TH JUNE AT THE
GALLIPOLI MEMORIAL CLUB AT 8P.M.

YOUR CHANGED WHITE OVER GREEN

Members will recall that several months ago, our Hon. Treasurer gave warning that the escalating cost of W.O.G. was sending us down the financial drain. One of the proposals made at the time to cut costs was to go to six issues a year. This was defeated by vote and we appear to have done nothing since until now.

Getting all his ducks in a row, Ken Kesteven presented a wrapped up proposal for the cheaper production of W.O.G. without the loss of content and indeed for the improvement of same. True, the two tone printing had to go and so did the glossy paper, but so has the frustration of your present and past editors of having the paper presented in a form somewhat different from that required. No complaints. J.M. Executive Printing were doing us a favour and made little out of our business, and we thank Jenny Martin for her consideration.

However, we the Executive have an obligation to our members regarding regular news dissemination and finances, and it was the unanimous decision of the committee that we accept Ken's proposal and you have the result of it in your hand.

In adopting this course we have made considerable saving, and we hope, a fuller presentation, and of course a load on Pluto's shoulders who will be in charge of printing. Thanks, Ken.

AN IMPORTANT LETTER

From Mr. Steve Coles came a letter dated 3rd May 1982. The text is published in full.

"Back on the 11th December I wrote to you regarding the formation within your Association a subsidiary membership, to all those sons and daughters of the members of the 2/4th Infantry Battalion, or something along those lines. At the time this was only a suggestion and to date

nothing has been heard from your Association. I understand that my letter was published in the February edition of your Journal. My father brought this to my attention, as did Miss Marie Taylor of Cootamundra who is the daughter of an association member. Miss Taylor is very keen on my proposal, as she was involved in the original discussion about the project of forming a membership of sons and daughters.

Could you please advise me if this suggestion has been presented to your committee meeting for discussion. If so, was there any comment, and was there any reaction from your members agreeing or disagreeing to such an idea.

I don't want you to think I am a nuisance, but I feel this matter to be of some importance, as Miss Taylor and myself would like to know what will be the next procedure in forming such a membership if it has indeed been accepted by your Association.

Thank you, Mr. Cade, for your remarks in the letter you wrote to me, it pleases me to think my proposal was creditable.

Yours sincerely,
S.G. Coles".

Steve's letter was published in W.O.G. as well as being read in Committee where it was well received. Since publication, to the Editor's knowledge, there has been no response either for or against from the general membership. Now we have a proposal from Morrie Porter as follows:

PROPOSAL

1. All near relatives and friends of members and deceased members of the 2/4th Bn. Association be invited to become Associate Members of the Association.
2. Associate members to be entitled to attend all meetings and social functions of the Association with the exception of Anzac Day Re-Union Dinner and Anzac March.
3. Associate members to pay the same subscriptions and levies as Association members with the exception of widows of deceased members who will be exempt from all membership fees.
4. Two associate members to be added to the existing Executive Committee if so elected at an Annual General Meeting.
5. The Association Constitution be amended to enable the incorporation of associate members.
6. That this proposal be discussed by the Committee and the following general meeting, and then be tabled for two months published in W.O.G. that members and interested persons be invited to put ideas and counter proposals in writing to Hon. Sec. before the August meeting.
7. A subsequent special meeting be duly called to draft a motion in this regard and make the necessary amendments to the constitution to enable associate members to be admitted to 2/4th Battalion Association.

M. Porter.

Well, Chaps! There it is, we may have appeared to be dilatory in doing something about this, but now we want to hear from people, members and supporters, particularly our wives and widows and kids who

enjoy our Country Re-unions. Opinions will be aired in W.O.G., but all letters to Laurie Waterhouse, please.

Now! Sons and daughters, while the "wrinklies" are mulling that lot over, don't forget the Orange Country Re-union. There is a good reminder elsewhere in this issue. Ring/write to Peter and Pat and bring Dad and Mum too when you make the booking.

CHURCH PARADE, ST. ANNE'S, STRATHFIELD.

The Annual Church Parade of the Association of 4th Infantry Battalions took place on Sunday, May 30th. It wasn't very well attended by any of the units involved. Whether this was due to lack of publicity from the various newsletters that go out, or lack of interest remains to be seen. The 2/4 Bn. was represented by Sir Ivan Dougherty, John Copeland, Laurie & Joy Waterhouse, Morrie & Margaret Porter, Ron Barber, Harry & Del Silver and Dels mother Rose, Ken & Fi Kesteven, Maj-General Gordon Maitland, Maj-General Ray Sharpe, Lt-Col. Bryce Frazer, Vera Walsh and Molly Irvine. The weather was very kind to us, it was a lovely day for the band of 4R.N.S.W.R. to play the marchers down to the Church.

After the Church Service, afternoon tea was served by the ladies of the church, and those of us who attended were able to mingle with the other people attending and enjoy some conversations. It was unfortunate that the notice was missed out of the May issue of W.O.G. Had it appeared, perhaps we would have had a better attendance.

Laurie Waterhouse.

WELFARE REPORT AS AT 28TH MAY, 1982.

NX5324, Reid, W.J.: Bill is now installed at Yagoona Nursing Home. Phone 709-8404. Jack Huston and Wally Lambourne have been to see him.

NX5162, Dawson, Tom: R.G.H. 12. No change. Still awaiting skin graft on toe and op. to replace hip joint.

NX18572, Burgis, W.: R.G.H.330. Having a heart pacemaker checked. Discharged.

Nx47312, Brest, Neville: R.G.H.530. Vascular trouble right leg.. Leg amputated above the knee. Now at L.D.H. for new leg. He intends to join the Association. Lives at 9 Mimosa Lane, Katoomba.

NX160160, O'Keefe (Bluey): R.G.H.530. Varicose veins both legs. Discharged.

NX9679, Williams Ron (Porky). Had a heart attack, also a gall bladder infection. Discharged.

NX9755, Everson, Rex, R.G.H.11. Tests for a severe skin rash. Discharged.

NX11562, Hill, Ronald: R.G.H.8. Slipped disc and asthma. Discharged.

Nx5834, McNamara, Leonard: R.G.H.630. Right leg amputated below the knee on 21st April. Now at L.D.H. for new leg, and also an operation on sinews of right hand.

NX1981, Flood, J.: Angina and anaemia. Discharged.

Nx5911, Bowen, Stan. Q.V. Hospital, Wentworth Falls. Bob

Lever visited him, also Norman Aubeson and his good wife. Stan is apparently in good form, and talking in terms of getting his brother to bring him down some weekend so that he can attend one of our meetings.

Nx2005, Graham K.L. (Spanner). Ross Smith rang Laurie a day or two ago to say that Spanner is back in the R.G.H. No doubt Slim Powers will see him next week.

4Bn. W.W.I.

Kearey, Bede. Is in Botany Gardens Nursing Home, Botany St., Carlton. Slim Powers will keep in touch.

3334, Collins, Albert. R.G.H.8. Routine checks. Discharged.

Popplewell, William R.G.H.630. Op for skin cancers in ear. Discharged.

5751, Montgomery, Vincent. R.G.H.120. A cheery old soul. Broke some ribs, fell down while gardening. A pleasure to meet him.

6372, Martin, F. R.G.H.110. Is over 90 and would not talk. The sister said he would be going to a nursing home very soon.

Lady MacKay has moved to Archbold House Nursing Home, 16 Trafalgar Ave Roseville. Cec and Phyl Chrystal called on her and reported all well.

Almost every patient refers with joy and appreciation of the calls of dear Vera Walsh. She calls almost every Saturday and gives great comfort to whomever she sees. Thanks, Vera.

With best wishes and good health from all the team.

Bill Parry,
John Copeland.

"COCK'S COLUMN".

Some news from Cec. Powers. "Slim" visited Concord Hospital, May 5th, and saw Rex Everson in Ward 11. Rex had been in for two weeks. He had seen Bill Bickley, Ron Buckley and Tom Davidson, Ward 12. Tom said his foot was progressing well after the operation. Ron Williams Ward 10 in for tests. Particulars in Welfare Report. Nev. Brest, Ward 530, leg operation and will have to go back to L.D.H. Leslie McNamara, Ward 520, to have operation on right hand. Wishes to be remembered to Slim Venn and Syd Buckley. These men have been visited by George Stack, Harry Wright, Vera Walsh and Dick Morris.

Had a visit from Bob Griffith, Mildura. Bob is in good health (the whole 16½ stone of him) and he is now retired after 32 years with the Victorian Railways. I am very sorry to write that poor Ada is not enjoying the best of health, and I sincerely hope will improve in the near future. Daughter Denise is married and has presented Bob with a lovely granddaughter. Hi, Denise! Remember me? Bob rang Enid Latimer and had a yarn with her too. After leaving me, Bob was hoping to contact Alex Maxwell.

At the Anzac Memorial Bowling Club met Bill Little of Lane Cove, he looked well in his whites. Keep 'em rolling Bill!

Had a ring from Dasher Deacon in Western Australia. They send regards to all the boys. Last card I got from them, they were in Scotland.

Had a letter from John "Brig" McAtamney. John, congratulations on getting well again. He writes that he was in Scone recently and called in on Craig Clark and his charming wife. Craig doesn't appear to age. He was sorry he couldn't get down for Anzac Day. Circumstances prevented it, but sends his regards to all. Hi Craig. All the best mate!

Gordon Chrisp, late of Wingham, but now of 15 Forest Rd., Umina Beach (Phone 043-41-365) (Very brief to cover a person of Gordon's loquacity! Ed.)

Ted Swadling, Griffith, walking out of the Club, was hailed by a tall chap. It was Tiny Partridge (D. Coy.) Tiny will be at the Orange Re-union. Ted said that Fred Driscoll, Fred Apthorp and Tom "Nedda" Erskine are O.K., and also that Ted McCaffery, Slim Venn and he will be at the Orange Re-union, Also that Ken Webb is in hospital for operation. "Swaddo" is going to visit him.

Was pleased to meet Arthur "Titch" Fordham, Marrickville, one of our battalion footballers, and a good one too.

Jack "Starver" Pearce ("A" Coy) lives at Ettalong Beach.

Bob brought Jack down and he was pleased that Gordon Chrisp is living in their area now.

"Cock" Robin.

SECRETARY'S MAILBAG.

Mail coming in this month has been very light on. No doubt members are still remembering Anzac Day and the many reminiscing conversations they had with their fellow mates whom they had not seen for some time. However, there are a few who have found time to drop a line, and to start the column going is a letter from Stan Blacksley of Wagga, late of Humula. Stan wrote a very good letter thanking the Association, and to let us know that he is now living in a unit at "The Haven", a retirement village in Wagga, built and run by the radio station 2WG Women's Club some years ago. Stan says the unit is everything an elderly couple could wish for and doubts if there could be another place to equal it. Says he is only five minutes walk from Joe Wells' place, and also that he has seen Perc Dalla, Jock Cummings, Dagwood Jackson and the old stalwart Bruce Stewart. I am sure I speak for all members when I say we are all pleased indeed to know that Stan and his good wife Kath now have a permanent abode after their unfortunate experience. Good luck to you, Stan and Kath.

Ron Stennett of Mitchell Is. dropped us a letter to say thank you to the executive of the Association for the way they are running things in maintaining W.O.G. and the Association in general. Ron has also asked me to place a "find out" call through W.O.G. if I could not help him out. Ron wants to make contact with Roy Walker of "A" Coy. Ron joined up from Moree and joined the Battalion at Ingleburn on 8th Nov. with Ron. Unfortunately, we don't have Roy Walker's name on our nominal roll Ron, so will have to rely on members reading W.O.G. Let's hope we can find him. Anzac Day was very good weatherwise, also for the roll up of members. Thanks, Ron, for your message of goodwill and your

greetings. We here reciprocate by wishing you and yours every good wish and good living.

Norm Rogers of Narrandera wrote in asking for information regarding the Battalion Medal. I hope my reply was quite explanatory to you Norm, and also that you understand the position.

Cyril Stillwell of Kiama was very anxious to get a pocket badge, so wrote in requesting one be sent through the post to him. Well, you should have it in your possession by this, if not made up into a blazer already. Hope you are pleased with it. Good luck to you, Cyril.

Bob Griffith of Mildura found it cheaper to use the phone than Aust. Post service, and I don't blame him. Bob came down to see a few relatives and decided to see Jim Robin and have a few beers with him before going back to Mildura, so decided to phone me and we had a good old natter. Thank you, Bob, for taking the time to phone. Your Greek medal forms will be waiting for you when you get back home.

Gordon Blayden of Queensland was disappointed at not being able to make Sydney for Anzac Day. He put pen to paper explaining that he is waiting on a day before or after Anzac Day to appear before a Repat. Tribunal. However, he was thinking of us all, and wished us a very good day. To help us along he forwarded a donation to the funds. Well, Gordon we did have a good day and believe me, there was some ear bashing done! Hope you make it down before long, and best of luck.

Ron Small of Rockdale decided he had left his run a bit late regarding the Battalion Medal, so he forwarded a letter and a cheque to cover an application for the medal. Don't worry, Ron; your application has been processed and sent on to the makers of the medal. So now you can sleep rest assured, you will get it.

Talking of the Battalion Medal, let me remind members and readers of W.O.G. that after 31st December there will be no medal applications accepted. This was decided some months ago by your Committee and put shed in the following W.O.G. You have seven months in which to make a decision.

Laurie Waterhouse,
Hon. Secretary.

BATTLE OF CRETE COMMEMORATION

The Association participated with the 6th Div. Association activities in the commemoration of the battles of Greece and Crete. Some of the activities included a concert arranged by the Cretan Assoc. at their new Cultural Centre at Marrickville.

At this concert, Ken Kesteven presented a battalion plaque to the President of the Cretan Association, which was received with great acclamation.

On Saturday, May 23rd., Cec Chrystal and his good wife Phyl, Laurie Waterhouse, Ken Kesteven, Charlie Evans, "Biscuits" Arnott and Dick Morris attended the brief march and service at the Cenotaph, Martin Place, and afterwards joined the Creek Consul-General and Maj-General

Palus Baltis, Chief of the Athens Military Academy for drinks and light refreshments.

Sunday 23rd May only a handful of our Association members, Morrie Porter and wife Margaret, Vera Walsh, Ken Kesteven and Laurie & Joy Waterhouse, attended the Greek Cathedral for their Commemoration Service. After the service coffee was served to the visitors and we wended our way to Garden Island to enjoy a very delightful picnic under ideal weather conditions on one of Sydney's best pieces of real estate. The scenery was excellent and the Navy let us took over their latest acquisition, H.M.A.S. Adelaide. This made our day, and we felt that it was a fitting finale to the Commemoration Services.

Laurie Waterhouse.

THE ORANGE COUNTRY RE-UNION

BOOK SOONEST PLEASE. SEE PETER DENVER'S REPORT THIS ISSUE.

SITREPS

The Editor would like to apologise to Laurie McCosker for the non-appearance of his address and phone number on the top of W.O.G. A long frustrating story, Laurie. Tell you sometime.

Laurie reports: "On 21st April the 8/9 Regiment handed over a new banner for the 6th Divvy. Association at a Ceremonial Parade held at Enoggera Army Barracks. The Banner was carried off by six members of the Association, three of those were Wal McKenzie, Stan Sutherland and myself. Others from 2/4th attending were Max Nerney, Jim Arthur, and John McCarthy who is over from New Zealand. On 22nd April a dinner was held at Toowong R.S.L., attended by 86 people including the abovementioned Frank Gattenhop and Fred Catley from 2/4th Bn.

"Anzac Day started with a Dawn Service at Enoggera followed by a march in the city. Norm McIntyre was a very welcome mate at the Dawn Service. Another 2/4ther met at the march was Roy Belcowie. Gordon Bladen joined us later for a friendly get-together. If by chance I have missed any 2/4thers who attended the above functions please accept my apologies".

Vera Provians sends a newspaper cutting regarding the above banner presentation and reports on Wally McKenzie's ear operation in Greenslopes, sends down the latest 6 Div Newsletter, a card from Dasher & Lilly, and a hint about the editor's approaching senility. Vera, you have no need to be so delicate, the boys down here have known about it for years!

In a subsequent letter, Vera reports the visit of Jack and Joan Huston and their meeting with Norm and Jean Everson at Vera's. Col O'Brien, late of "B" Coy, is very ill at his Stanthorpe home (47 Denham St., Stanthorpe 4380). He would appreciate letters from old mates. Vera further says that any chilly southerners coming north, particularly for the Commonwealth Games, to please get in touch with her or Laurie for a get-together. Thanks, Vera.

FROM PETER DENVER.

LAST POST: SX19708 Ken Royal. Ken died suddenly after breakfast on May 1st. His funeral service on 4th May must have been one of the largest in attendance at the Central Park Crematorium which reflected the character of this ex "B" Company member, a great friend, early Secretary and the Treasurer of the Association here for the last 32 years. It was such a proud occasion to be president and ex 2/4 Bn, and be allowed by Rosemary, Gillian and Helen, "Coffee's" daughters to recite the ode in the assembled company. Approximately 135 poppies were placed, and those from our ranks (2/4) noticed were "Robbie" Robbins, Fred Dibden, Bill Loy, George Walton, Bill Griffith, Darkie Abbott, Henry Duigan, and all the way from Loxton, Ron Maczkowiack.

ANZAC DAY: A split week-end with the Re-union on Friday and the march held on Monday 26th. and bad wet weather, but the numbers, thankfully were up on last year, and both occasions were very successful.

Elections resulted in Peter Denver, President; Alf Turner, (2/8) Secretary; Ken Royal, Treasurer; and Robbie Robbins, George Walton and Fred Dibden, Committee.

"THE ORANGE COUNTRY RE-UNION." : Further bookings were received from D & M Laverty, K.R. Moses, E. Lattimer & friend, Marg. McCarty & Elsie Parsons, J. & J. Huston, F. & E. Crutchett, H. & M. Gjedsted, K. & F. Kesteven, C. & P. Chrystal, Vera Walsh & Molly Irvine, Bub & M. Graham, W. Taylor, wife & daughter, L. & J. Waterhouse, P & B. Dalla, Ted McCaffery, Ken Webb, N. & W. Johnstone, T. & D. Hart, J. & U. Dubber, G. & H. Mitchell, H. & H. Wright, Sid & F. Young, Vic Hill, Doug Grove & Titch Fordham.

Some folk forgot to mention any times, so have been booked for 24th, 25th, 26th and 27th, as most members wished. Please notify us if unsuited.

Orange is hosting a Band Competition the same week-end as ours with over 700 band people already booked and unfortunately our bookings are only guaranteed until 30th June. Accommodation will be very difficult thereafter, so help us help you.

Arrangements are complete for a terrific Re-Union, and we are looking forward to your company. Peter and Pat Denver.

LATE WELFARE NEWS.

Pom Wallace is in Prince Henry Hospital for prostate gland operation. Seen by Bill McLennan and Slim Powers.

LAST POST: Robert Stewart Walsh, late of Tozer Park Rd., Gympie QLD.

PLEASE NOTE

"Cash Register" (due to insufficient space) will appear in the next edition. Ken Kesteven.