



# White over Green

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE 2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

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THERE WILL BE NO MEETING IN SEPTEMBER. WE WILL ALL BE AT ORANGE!!

NEXT MEETING: The October meeting will be held on Friday 22nd October at the Gallipoli Memorial Club at 8p.m.

### THE ORANGE COUNTRY RE-UNION

The Check-in Point for the Re-union is the Orange Ex-Service Club, 231-245 Anson St., Orange. On checking in, members will be given an Honorary Membership Card for the Club as well as details of the Re-union Activities.

Details of any final bookings are not with W.O.G. by the dead-line for printing time. We understand that Peter Denver is still on the road somewhere.

### THE SECRETARY'S MAILBAG.

Seeing that I won't be around for the next four or five weeks I thought I would keep members up to date, and then there would be no time lag with the correspondence.

Not a great deal this month. What has come in is quite interesting. One thing that is disappointing is the lack of comments and opinions on the Notice of Motion now on the books, which has to be placed before the meeting in August. Up to date there have only been two replies to the Secretary and two others, apart from the two from Steve Coles, which expressed interest in joining, but no opinions regarding what form the association/affiliation should take. These last two were sent to the Editor.

To start our correspondence is a letter received from Cec "Slim" Powers of Rockdale who is replying to the Notice of Motion now on the books. Thanks Slim, for your kind interest, hope you will be able to make it to the next meeting.



Next is a letter from H.C. "Pop" Williams of Birrong, sending in a cheque to keep him square with our Treasurer. Age is starting to catch up with quite a few of us, Pop, you are not alone there. Thanks for the message of goodwill to us all and for thinking of our good Treasurer, Alan.

One by the name of Jack Maloney of Raleigh, N.S.W. sends a letter notifying us of change of address and with a message of kind regards. Thank you Jack for letting us know, and we will make note of it in the right quarters.

A letter from Keith Taylor of Allansford, Victoria and quite a lengthy one too. Keith wrote to tell me he had been on a trip to Queensland and called into the town of Stanthorpe, purpose of which visit was to say hullo to a mate of his, Colin O'Brien. Keith and Col were old "B" Coy Stalwarts. Keith wanted to know any news of Stan Watson, Cliff Moore of Cessnock, and also Pat Darcy of Melbourne. Also information on Cocky Gorham, all of "B" Coy. Any of these people care to come forward with a message for Keith? Thanks for the compliments on the newsletter and for the Committee, we do appreciate them very much. Hope to reply to your letter when back from Perth. Our good wishes to you and yours.

A letter from the "lone" private in Western Australia, none other than Ken "Dasher" Deacon, informing me that his blazer arrived safe and sound and fitted beautifully. Speaks well for your adjutant and adviser, Lily. Pleased it was up to your standard, my wife and I must have done a good job parcelling it up. I'm sorry about W.O.G. in its new look and that it doesn't meet with your approval. Perhaps if you give us time we may be able to improve on it. It is done on a photocopier, and not by a duplicator. I am pleased you will be at Orange, so look forward to seeing you looking resplendent in your new battalion blazer. Our good wishes to you and Lily.

We received a beautifully worded Thank-You Card from the late Cyril McCosker's family at Canberra in appreciation for the way Frank Crutchett, Jack Huston and fellow mates represented the Association at the funeral. We are ever grateful to our country members for the way they turn out to represent the Battalion on such occasions.

Received a letter from Mrs. Peg Meredith, sister of the late Rex Rowell applying for a medal for her late brother. Happy to report the medal is now on the way, sorry to have kept you waiting.

Last but not least a letter from Jack Morgan from Berralla. Sent in a cheque to keep our Treasurer happy for 12 months, and also requesting a pocket badge for the blazer. Thanks, Jack, your pocket is on the way, in fact, you should have it by now and thanks for the well wishes.

Must mention Roy Denyer of Temora has entrusted me to get him a blazer made at Scarfe's, Hurstville. You should have it in time for the Orange Re-union.

See you all at Orange, and good health to one and all.

Laurie Waterhouse.



### ANZAC COVE - SIXTY-FIVE YEARS AFTER

(An address by Lieutenant-Colonel Bryce Frazer)

In a nutshell, the attendance was good. The presentation was excellent and was received with acclamation at its conclusion.

That he knew what he was talking about was quickly evident to listeners who had more than an average knowledge of the campaign. Others less informed could not but be interested in the method of presentation. The strategic thinking of the time illustrated by maps on the colour projector, and Colonel Frazer's forethought in taking with him 1915 photos and taking his own colour slides of the same scene from the same spot 65 years after.

From the photographs it is obvious that the salient features of the Anzac area have changed little over the years. The "Sphinx", "Razor's Edge" "Lone Pine", "Plugge's", etc, have not changed topographically except for seasonal vegetation and, as Colonel Frazer said, the remains of the trenches saps, tunnels, etc. are still there "if you know where to look for them".

His description of the relics lying around and the showing of a few at the address, including a dirt encrusted rifle bolt and a Turkish grenade inspired further interest. But perhaps the most poignant part of the whole presentation was the reception and burial of the ashes of an old Anzac who died in Australia and who wanted to be laid to rest beside his mate on the Peninsular. This was done with due ceremony by Turkish and War Graves Commission officials, and recorded on camera by Lt.-Col. Bryce Frazer.

Congratulations, Sir, and thank you for your presentation.

NX28964.

### THE AUGUST MEETING

Amongst the apologies was one from John Meehan who was in hospital and it is not because of East's 40 to 2 victory over Manly. Harry Gjedsted assures that both he and John got their voices back in a couple of days.

Another apology was from Morrie Porter, and not because he keeps on falling down stairs! He had a family committment. But for those who were worried, we can report that he is in good health = shiny coat - cold nose and all. Good stuff that "Bob Martins"!!

A pretty good attendance at the meeting including Ron Barber and Bob Lever down from the mountains and a very special visitor in Vic. Pyke, a long time friend of the association.

One of the main points of the meeting was the decision to defer the discussion on Morrie Porter's proposal regarding associates. This was agreed to because of a letter from Morrie with the suggestion that opinions may be a little more informed or stabilised after the Orange Re-union where members can talk with the younger and older people who are association supporters, and get their opinions, for or against, and weigh them up against their own.

Other bits from the meeting is that Bob Lever reports that Nevis Farrell now lives in Buderim, Queensland.

Our tie manufacturer reports that as our new supplies have to come in



from the United Kingdom, they will not be here for the Orange Re-Union (to which we were resigned anyway." But being a good news/bad news story, the good news is that they won't cost as much as we warned our members. Details when available.

THE SIR IVAN DOUGHERTY BIOGRAPHY.

Cec Chrystal reports that copies of the biography are steadily going. There are only about 600 available now and these won't last forever if the Battalion War History is any indication. Cec also reports that Sir Ivan has kindly consented to autograph the copies that will be sold at the Orange Country Re-Union.

"ANOTHER FEATHER AND I'LL FLY" APPEAL.

"THREE DOZEN EAGLE FEATHERS WANTED"

Last year during Scottish Week, I supplied the visiting Scottish Chiefs and Chieftains with feathers to wear in their bonnets to denote their rank.

This year, as Chairman of the Scottish/Australian Heritage Council, I am expecting to have to do so again, and as my supply is now exhausted, I am appealing to any country member who may be able to assist. What I require is two or three dozen eagle feathers not less than fifteen inches in length. If they could be packed flat and sent to me I shall send cheques to cover postage and packing by return mail and shall also be most grateful.

In anticipation,

Bill MacLennan, PRESIDENT.

(Your Editor offered Bill an almost unlimited supply of budgie pinions Pretty ones too, which he declined. Not surprising! If the other Chieftains are as Big as Bill, it will need a bigger chook than a budgie to get them airborne. So how about it, you bushies????)

FROM NEWCASTLE VICE-PRESIDENT, ALF CARPENTER.

"Just a short note from Newcastle. Marge and I have just returned from a trip to Cooktown. Went up to the Tablelands and looked over some of the old Battalion areas. Had a pleasant tour with Ernie Bowdidge at Ravenshoe. He was very happy to report receiving his W.O.G. O.K.

"At Trinity Beach we were just enjoying some afternoon tea of Queensland nuts and watermelon when some old-timer wanders up and starts talking to my brother. None other than Leo Carter from Wollongong way. He was also enjoying the Queensland sun.

"Sat down to dinner at Hill Crest Guest House at Cooktown and some chap from Adelaide was at our table (Happened to mention Peter Denver) "Do I know him??" he said, "He's the B\*\*\*\*\* that used to greet everyone with a shot-gun!!!" Don't know just how ture this is.

"Called in to see Jack and Mary Mann at Nambucca Heads on the way home. Apparently he has not been on the mailing list since being up there. Asked



me to get his W.O.G. posted to him. (Will fix. Ed.) He has a permanent home there. Managed to help him empty his fridge a bit.

"The Newcastle Branch had an enjoyable Dinner Meeting at Shortland R.S.L. on Friday 30th July. Quite a good roll up. Had a nice day with Johnny Hawkins the day before. We went out to see Bullie Hayes for a noggin or two. Bullie is O.K., he has his daughter home from Singapore for a few weeks.

"Best regards and good wishes from all at Newcastle."

"Alf Carpenter."

#### WELFARE REPORT

As at 27th August, 1982.

NX42715, DAVIS, Stan, R.G.H.34. Rheumatics and nerves. He was with "C" Coy. in Syria. Doing well.

NX2005, GRAHAM, K. (Spanner). R.G.H.630. Transferred to L.D.H. and to report back to R.G.H. for hip operation.

NX3037, BROWN, Arch. R.G.H.120. Eye tests. discharged.

NX2616, SHORT, Connell. R.G.H.230. Operation on hip, was in "D" Coy. Discharged.

NX9679, WILLIAMS, Ron. R.G.H.610. Operation on gall bladder. Discharged.

NX5911, BOWEN, Stan. D.V. Hospital, Wentworth Falls. Bob Lever sees him regularly. He says Stan's brother will bring him to Orange.

NX4160, HILL, Ray. R.G.H.110. Operation for stone in kidney. Discharged.

NX13376, MCGREGOR, Ewen. R.G.H.230. Was in for operation. Now Discharged.

NX18112, RYAN, W. R.G.H.11. A bad skin rash. Still there and only fair.

NX9721, STACK, G.Q.B. R.G.H.4. In for Hiatus Hernia tests. To report back, also for eye tests.

NX5275, Burrows, Colin (Bunny). R.G.H.6. Lung problems. Discharged.

NX9763, MEEHAN, John. R.G.H.11. Skin tests. Doing well.

NX42194, LAWSON, C. R.G.H. 330. Had open heart surgery and transferred to R.G.H. 18th August. Now discharged.

NX5202, FORD, Noel. R.G.H.8. Respiratory tests. Discharged.

NX5186, HILL, P.P. Castlecrag Private Hospital. Cecil Chrystal keeps in touch. Perer is confined to a wheel chair.

#### WORLD WAR I.

KEAREY, Bede. Slim Powers keeps in touch. Bede not at all well.

3037, BROWN, Arch. R.G.H.120. Has had many strokes. Not at all well.

#### LAST POST.

NX2019, BEVIN, A.D. (Darby). Ross Smith rang from Inverell that Darby was seriously ill in Calvary Hospital, Kogarah. Slim Powers called 16th August to find that Darby had died that morning. His wife and son were in attendance. Our sympathy goes to them.

Regards to all from the teams.

John Copland and Bill Parry.



MRS. MARY TAYLOR, wife of Frederick (Lofty) Taylor died on 1st September, the funeral was held on Monday 6th September. Attended by Bill and Gwen MacLennan, Max and Pat Sydenham, Mr. & Mrs. Paul Brook, and Larry Dooley.

The following letter from John Copland was addressed to the Secretary.

"It is with deep regret that I am forced to tender my resignation from the position of Welfare Officer of the Association. The reason is my health. My legs do not obey orders. The diagnosis is arterio-sclerosis.

"I took over from Jim Cameron in July 1974, and Dick Faulder at once volunteered to join me. In those days Dick and I visited R.G.H. every week as well as calls further afield.

In June 1975 Dick Latimer moved to form four teams to spread the load, and we have been very successful and happy ever since.

"Dick Faulder became ill in July 1975. Bill Parry joined me then and is still going strong. I am most grateful for the help and co-operation of Bill and all the helpers, not only in Sydney, but also various country areas where members are always ready to help. We are indeed a very fortunate Association.

"The Welfare Diary and monthly Welfare Reports are in nine carbon books. These are summarised onto a card index system covering every call made since July 1974. These are of course available to whoever takes over.

"I shall miss the activity very much, but it is inevitable."

"Kindest regards, John Copland".

#### "COCK'S COLUMN"

At Concord met Colin "Bunny" Burrows of Davistown. Bunny has recently seen Bill Walker, Ted Butcher and Jack Partridge. All O.K. Bunny heard that Col. O'Brien and Max Nerney were not too well. Both he and Les Adams would like to hear of their progress. Hi to all of you chaps, drop a line please.

Had a yarn to Stan "Digger" Davis. Stan was also pleased to meet . nny brought back old memories.

Also John Meehan, Joh and Col have been reminiscing about their old cricketing days in the battalion.

Met William Joseph Ryan and as we had six RYANS in the Battalion, I'll give you his number - NX11812. Bill lived in Redfern, enlisted in Martin Place. Also met Cecil Lawson, NX42194, "B" Coy. Cec lives at Bathurst and is going to join the Association.

It was good to see Noel Ford but am sorry it was to be in Hospital. Noel's visitors last month were Arthur Reilly and wife Paula from Melbourne. Noel often meets Noel Finch at Rose Bay.

Dick Pinson visiting his wife Rene in Marrickville Hospital (and I am pleased to say that Rene is improving) met a young lad and lassie from the Salvation Army who were speaking to Rene. The young man saw Dick's badge and said "that's the 2/4 Inf. Bn. My Dad was in that battalion too, his name was Brownhill, did you know him?" Dick replied "Yes, Captain Brownhill." The young man said that he has also had a nickname and Dick replied "Plugger", and they all laughed.



The young man said that his Dad passed away 15 years ago.

Dick also met Syd Buckley. Syd is going into Concord on 31st August.

I was also pleased to hear that Rene Pinson was home again from hospital.

Bob Griffith on his way home to Mildura was at a garage getting petrol when a car pulled in. The driver was Russell Gorham, young brother of "Cocky" Gorham of "B" Coy, and a late addition to the Battalion.

"Cock" Robin.

#### SITREPS.

From Harry Wright: "With Hilda and my sister Nell have been to Alice Springs and Darwin. Went through Adelaide River and visited the War Cemetery there.

"In Darwin saw Henry and Maisie Elliott and Russ McWilliam. Henry and Maisie drove us around, including a visit to Berry Springs. One evening went to a smorgasbord, compliments of Portugese Soccer Club. Very enjoyable.

"Had a few evenings out with Henry and Maisie including one with friends of theirs and Russ to celebrate their 35th Wedding Anniversary.

"Henry will be retiring next September and they will then be moving to Mooloolaba.

"We are very appreciative of the hospitality extended to us by Henry, Maisie and Russ".

"Harry, Hilda, and Nell."

Bill Black of Port MacDonnell, South Aust., sent a letter and newspaper cutting reporting the death of Roy McGregor, who collapsed playing golf on 8th August. Bill writes: "I first met Roy when we came down to the Creek in 1950. As far as I know, Roy joined the Battalion in Darwin. He will be sadly missed in the district."

He has complimentary things to say about the people that keep the Association and W.O.G. going and sends a cheque to help keep it that way.

And a letter addressed to Cock Robin: "I was delighted to learn last week that you were a member of 2/4th Inf.Bn., not because I have any claim to that Unit, but because of association in the past with men who had worn White over Green and later with a little bit of grey behind the same colour patch.

"When I came to Sydney to live in 1969 the first person to meet me and help me was Harry Stafford who was my neighbour in Mosman. Harry was the extremeley enthusiastic Secretary of the 4th Bn. Association 1914-18. It was through him that I was introduced to that excellent record of the 2/4 "White over Green" which I read with avid delight.

"I must say that Harry sponsored me because I too was a returned man from the Middle East, not that I had any particular claim to glory in that regard. It was through Harry that I learnt that Sir Ivan Dougherty was the C.O. of 2/4th Bn. in the M.E. Years ago I had the pleasure of meeting this distinguished gentleman in Inverell when he attended a function in his



capacity as Director of Civil Defence. Incidentally, Bill Townsend, who succeeded Sir Ivan in that sphere is married to a cousin of mine.

"I also met Sir Ivan again when he was Guest Speaker at the Annual Change-over of Inverell Legacy, at which time I was a Legatee and a member of the Bingarn Committee of Inverell Legacy.

"On another occasion when Harry Stafford was failing in health, I accompanied him to a meeting of 2/4th Bn. Association as a stand-by driver. I wasn't needed in that capacity as Harry managed quite well. It was a pleasure to meet the members of your Association, and I couldn't help but notice the high regard in which my sponsor was held by them.

"It wasn't long after that that Harry moved to Nelson Bay and I never saw him again. He was a proud torch-bearer for the 2/4th Bn. So, Jim, you can appreciate why I was pleased to learn that you were one of this group and I am proud to know you."

"Regards, Norman King".

(Norm King was a member of 2/9 Aust. Field Regiment and isn't it good to know that we have friends like him? Ed.)