



# Whiteadder Green

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE 2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

PATRON: Major-General Sir Ivan Dougherty, C.B.E., D.S.O. & Bar, E.D., B.Ec., LL.D (Hon.)  
38 th Year of continuous publication

Registered by :- Australia Post Publication NAS1532.

Price:- 50c per Copy

Volume 38 No. 12

December, 1983.

President: Ted Fox, 29 Longford Street, Roseville. 2069 Ph. 46 1200

Vice-Presidents:

Senior: Alf Carpenter, 66 Chatham Rd., Georgetown 2298. Ph.04-9671969  
Queensland: Laurie McCosker, 60 Hillsdon Rd., Taringa 4068. Ph.07-3701395  
Far North Coast: Allan Kirk, 179 Dibbs St., Lismore 2480 Ph.066-214464  
Northern NSW: Esca Riordan, 111 Kemp St., West Kempsey 2440 Ph.065-624671  
Newcastle: Alf Carpenter, 66 Chatham Rd., Georgetown 2298 Ph.049-671969  
Southern NSW: Artie Kleem, 3 Karabah Ave., Young 2594 Ph.063-822461  
Victoria: Claude Raymond, 92 Rose St., West Coburg 3058 Ph.03-3541145  
South Australia: Peter Denver, 15 Admiral Terrace, Goolwa 5214 Ph.085-552252  
Committee: C Chrystal, P Cook, A Heath, K Kesteven M.C.,  
J Meehan, W Parry, G Stack, B Turley.

Secretary:

Laurie Waterhouse, 34 Milford St., Miranda 2228 Ph.02-5242114

Assist. Secretary: M Porter

Treasurer:

Allen Lindsay, 21a Mirral Rd., Caringbah 2229 Ph. 02-5241937

Welfare Officer: Harry Wright, 3 Boundart Rd., Carlingford 2118 Ph.02-8715312

Editor: Peter Cade, 19 La Boheme Ave., Caringbah 2229 Ph.02-5243529

NEXT MEETING

The JANUARY MEETING will be held on TUESDAY, 24th JANUARY, 1984 at MID-DAY.  
The venue as usual is the Gallipoli Memorial Club, 12 Loftus St., Sydney.  
Lunch will be available after the meeting for those wishing to stay.

\*\*\*\*\* CHRISTMAS GREETINGS \*\*\*\*\*

From:- The Patron, President and Committee

"Best wishes to all members, wives and families for Christmas  
and the New Year."

From:- Marge and Harry Gjedsted and the Gallipoli Memorial Club

"A very happy and healthy Christmas and New Year to all."

THE NOVEMBER MEETING.

President Ted Fox presiding, the meeting was under way at 12 noon. Some 36 members attended, some of them we have not seen at a meeting for a number of years. Just goes to show that some people will come out during the day but are reluctant to do so in the evening.

For our Christmas get-together in December, President Ted informed the meeting that Harry Gjedsted will set aside an area on the first floor in the Lounge Bar. There will be four tables reserved for use of our members from 5 O'clock onwards. For time and date, see notice elsewhere in this issue.

The use of the Gallipoli Memorial Club and its amenities, by our Association, is assured for the next three years. This assurance was given by the club Secretary-Manager, Harry Gjedsted to the Committee when he informed them of his appointment for a further three years as Secretary- Manager by the Board of the Club. Pres. Ted thanked Harry and on behalf of the members congratulated him on his further appointment.

V.P. Alf Carpenter's T-Shirt proposal was put into operation at the meeting and Alf was doing a roaring trade in T-Shirt sales at the completion of the meeting at the very modest price of \$10 per shirt. Of the 20 shirts Alf brought with him 6 only remain in the hands of the Secretary. There will be more available in sizes 16,18,20 & 22, so come on members; support Alf with his T-Shirt campaign. Ken Kesteven gave the meeting a preamble on how the late "Cock" Robin's write-up on the Wadi Duboun operation will appear in a separate sheet in the December issue of W.O.G. Ken, in conjunction with Cec. Chrystal, has undertaken the task

...2...



The November Meeting. (continued)

of having this printed in its exact form, without any changes. Ken also informed the meeting that Mr. Jim Greenwood, former Veterans Affairs Commissioner, has been elected to the P.O.W. Pension Board to help P.O.W's with pension problems. The publishing team was complimented on the November issue of W.O.G. Dasher Deacon rang from South Australia (?) during the meeting to offer his appologies for non attendance and also to wish all and sundry the very best for the coming festive season.

Members attending.

Pres. Ted Fox, V.P. Alf Carpenter, Laurie Waterhouse, Allen Lindsay, Athol Heath, George Stack, Ken Kesteven, Len Waterworth, Bob Fergusson, Cec Powers, Ron Barber, John Copland, John Eastham, John Holland, Tom McNamara, Fred Staggs, Harry Wright, Tich Fordham, Frank Ivey, Doug Grove, John Hawkins, Norm Auberson, John Hine, Harry McLaughlin, Barney Turley, Len Smith, Ken Richardson, John Ringrose, Alex Maxwell, Lionel Clarke, Biscuits Arnott, Dick Pinson, Harold Bowman, Jim Graham and Bill Parry. John Meehan attended the Committee meeting only. Harry Gjedsted joined us for lunch as well as attending the Committee meeting.

DEDICATION and UNVEILING of the COMMEMORATION PLAQUE  
and FLAGPOLE.

At the NEW CLUB BUILDING - POTTS POINT of the COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, 11th November 1983, some 16 members of the Bn. Assn., along with their wives assembled at the Country Women's Assn's Club Rooms at Potts Point. The reason, to witness the dedication of the new flagpole and the unveiling of the memorial plaque. The flagpole and plaque were donated by the Bn. Assn. to honour all the members who enlisted from the country centres of N.S.W. and joined the 2/4 Infantry Battalion during World War II and paid the supreme sacrifice. Prior to the ceremony, members and their wives were treated to a beautiful morning tea, being waited on by the various area representatives of the C.W.A. coming from all parts of N.S.W. for this auspicious occasion.

Mrs Commens of Junee, the State President of the N.S.W. Country Women's Assn. called the gathering to assemble outside the building at approx. 1050 hrs. Addressing the assembly, she thanked the President and members of the Assn. for their generosity and thoughtfulness in donating the new vandal proof flagpole and memorial plaque. She said the C.W.A. were indeed highly honoured to accept the new flagpole. They looked upon it as a fitting memorial to all the young men who had enlisted from the country towns of N.S.W. and never came back. To have such a memorial given them by one of the distinguished fighting units of the 2nd A.I.F. was in itself a cherished honour that will forever remain in the annals of the C.W.A. of N.S.W.

At precisely 1100 hrs Bugler Peter Scala of the Waverley Band sounded the "Last Post" and after two minutes silence sounded the stirring notes of Cavalry's "Reveille". One must compliment young Peter Scala on the feeling he put into the rendition of the two revered military "calls", he really put that extra feeling into every note and played his instrument like a true veteran.

After the sounding of "Reveille" Mrs Commens then called on our Patron, Sir Ivan Dougherty to unveil the memorial Plaque. Sir Ivan removed the White Over Green cover from the Plaque and read the inscription appearing thereon. Sir Ivan said that although the plaque's wording commemorated the members of the 2/4 Bn who paid the supreme sacrifice, in his view, it also remembers all those young people who joined the Navy, the Air Force and those devoted women of the Nursing Services who also gave their lives.

After the ceremony members and their wives were taken on a conducted tour of the building, which proved to be very enlightening.

Those who attended this function were:-

Sir Ivan and Lady Dougherty, Ken Kesteven with Fi and daughter, Cec Chrystal, Jack and Joan Huston, Frank Crutchett, Ted and Heather Fox, Peter and Betty Cook, Laurie and Joy Waterhouse, Barney Turley, Harry and Marj Gjedsted, Alf Carpenter, Bob Fergusson and Harold Silver.

Apologies were received from Vera Walsh, Allen Lindsay, Morrie Porter and Bill Parry from Laurie Waterhouse.

CHRISTMAS GET- TOGETHER.

THERE WILL BE NO MEETING IN DECEMBER BUT A GET-TOGETHER WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY 16th DECEMBER AT THE GALLIPOLI MEMORIAL CLUB STARTING ABOUT 5pm. AS USUAL IT IS A "COME AND GO AS YOU LIKE" AFFAIR AND FOUR TABLES WILL BE RESERVED FOR US ON THE FIRST FLOOR.



WELFARE REPORT.

At R.G.H. CONCORD.

- NX9808 Bickley Stafford(Mick) In with heart and chest problems.  
NX4048 Hyem Raymond Had prostate operation. To have hernia operation later on.  
..... Cox Les When called on was away having tests and X-rays. Les lives at Iluka. Ian Wallwork wrote informing us of his admittance.  
NX14123 Tearall David Having pancreas problems. In for tests. Dave is now living at Port Macquarie.  
NX3959 McNee R.J. When called on was in operating theatre.

At LADY DAVIDSON HOSPITAL.

- NX 68025 Tanko Keira Slim Powers saw Kiera. He his having problems with the fitting of his artificial limbs.

At HOME.

- NX 9868 Raymont Ron Slim called on Ron. Legs O.K. but had stomach disorder.

LAST POST.

- NX68527 Bowen Roy J (Hooky). Roy was cremated 31st Oct. at Rookwood after service at the Uniting Church, Auburn. Les Adams, Col. Burrows and wife and Harry Wright attended the funeral. Roy had been living at Gorokan, having moved from Auburn when he retired.  
..... Munro David (Darby) Dave, from Campbelltown, was a life member of the Campbelltown R.S.L. Larry Dooley, Andy Kerr and his wife attended the funeral on 10th November.  
NX5124 Elsley Fred W Fred passed away 28th March, 1982. Information from Reg. Cole. Mrs Elsley has enrolled with Bankstown Legacy.  
NX66315 McKinnirey Frances Douglass Mrs Cash of Shoalhaven Heads sent us a letter informing that he died in Nowra Community Hospital on 26th Sept., 1983.

from Harry Wright and the Welfare Team 21.11.83

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY, 24th Feb. 1984. at 8PM (Night Meeting) AS WELL AS THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS, VOTING WILL TAKE PLACE ON THE CONTINUANCE OF DAYTIME MEETINGS. THIS ITEM WILL OCCUR PRIOR TO THE ELECTIONS AS THE RESULT COULD INFLUENCE THE NOMINATION OF MEMBERS AVAILABLE FOR OFFICE.

THE SECRETARY'S MAILBAG NOVEMBER, 1983.

Things cannot get much quieter than they have been, with regards to the incoming mail. Letters over the last five weeks have been few and far between. Makes me wonder if most of our members are on "walkabout" or tripping overseas trying to off-load before the hawke swoops on them. Certainly makes life a little easier for me and gives me extra time to look at the cricket and tennis on the idiot box, also spares our readers some minutes of reading. Nevertheless I will endeavour to justify my existence on the publishing team.  
First off the list is that old gentleman and member of the 4th Bn. 1914-18 vintage one time Camelier and versatile soldier - Hary Smith from Bourke. Harry made an attempt to send down a cheque to our treasurer, but found the old cheque-book devoid of cheques, so, whilst waiting for another book to arrive, he penned this letter to me. He would put a lot of us to shame when it comes to letter writing especially as he is 86 years old. What a sense of humour he has and his memory is so good. The way he can relate incidents that happened during World War I, over sixty-five years ago, is remarkable. He still travels to Cunnamulla and Longreach (from the 'back of Bourke') to play bowls. Not so often now, because the old legs won't stand too much. Harry says he will make it to one of our meetings yet. If there is space available we will try to publish some of Harry's letter as a tribute to this fine "old battler" and a true son of Australia. Thanks Harry, for taking the time to write, we certainly appreciate your efforts.  
Next letter is from "Dagwood" Jackson of Wagga. Apparently he was taken with my para in November WOG re Alf Carpenter's T-Shirt proposal. Outcome of it, he has acquired one for himself, said he had been looking for that type of T-Shirt for a long time. Now you have it you will be expected to wear it on all appropriate occasions, Bob. Dagwood went on to say that Stan Blacksley enjoyed his visit to us and that he really was taken with the day-time meeting. Thanks Dagwood.



Secretary's Mailbag (cont.)

Wally Evans, our next correspondent, all the way from Perth W.A. sending in his application for a Bn. Medal. Wally was in 'C' Company in New Guinea and sees a lot of Doug Slinger. Looks like another recruit for "Dasher". By the way Wally, Dasher is planning a gettogether, so forewarned is the message. Your medal should arrive prior to Xmas. In the meantime good wishes to you and yours.

A short note from Ron Small requesting a couple of lapel badges to replace one he has lost. Ron is still tucking the "polies" into their cars at Parliament House. Says he sees a lot of Jim Brown MP, sends his best wishes to all. Thanks Ron, keeping tucking them in and out of our hair.

Noel Ford is our next correspondent. He has sent in a screed for the committee to deal with, relating to the War History and incorrect passages and a proposal regarding future Country Re-union fixture days. These two topics will be aired at the first available opportunity in the forth-coming year. Thank you Noel for your interest in these matters, we hope to see you at one of our meetings in the near future. My good wishes to you, Noel.

Last letter from the mailbag was received from the President of the Country Women's Association, Mrs Commens of June. In writing she wished to thank the 2/4 Bn. Assn members for the presentation of the vandal-proof flagpole and the commemorative plaque. Mentioned that all the ladies present on 11th November praised the young bugler, Peter Scala, for the splendid rendition and for the feeling he put into his sounding of the "Last Post" and "Reveille". Said it was emotional and caused a few moist eyes. Concluding, Mrs Commens said the ceremony was beautifully presented and a credit to the 2/4th Infantry Battalion Association. Finally, I must mention that we have received "Thank You" cards from the family of the late Sir Ernest Keith White, a former adjutant of 4th Bn. A.I.F. 19. 18 who passed away on 14 Aug 1983. Also from Phil Smith, thanking the Assn for attendance and sympathy at the funeral of his late dear wife, Glen.

Just for interest sake, Doug Slinger rang me from Adelaide on his way home from the River Murray/Barossa Valley trip to tell me he had called to see Peter Denver. Thanks again Doug, for the phone call it was greatly appreciated. Thats all until the New Year of 1984.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR - to all our members, wives and families.  
Laurie Waterhouse.

Letter from Harold Smith - late of 4Bn A.I.F. 1914-18 and the Camel Corps.

(NB - Harold has managed to get a lot of information onto a comparatively small amount of paper, making it difficult to transcribe with complete accuracy.

However in presenting the following your type-setter has endeavoured to record Harold's writings as close to verbatim as possible.)

Mr Laurie Waterhouse

Hon Secretary of White over Green

Dear Laurie

Well mate reading WOG I saw where the 2/4 are going to Victoria Barracks. I year at this time, after the ceremony at the "Cenotaph" we went to Victoria Barracks also to the Museum. Before I Forget - a request. When looking over the War Relicks, the only Colour Patch of the Camel Corps was the Red Pyramid, 1st Battalion Colour Patch, 2nd Batt was a black Pyramid, I forgot 1st were Aussies and formed of chaps who were in Hospital at Abbeersar and in the 14th A.G.H. and on comig good volunteered to go in the Camels that was mostly all who had been wounded on Gallipoli, 2nd were English, Scottish & Irish, 3rd Battalion was a green Prymid all Aussies although I've an idea there were two companies of N.Zers. Could be wrong, 4th a Blue Prymid I'm sure of this lot 15th & 16th were N.Z. who had been in New Zealand Mounted Rifles 17th my Coy & 18th both Aussies, those colour Patches were absent as were the 14 ALH & 15 ALH. Would somebody be kind enough to let me know if those Colour Patches are alongside of a glass fronted case thats full of Colour Patches minitures of course. We didn't get any Refreshments & I could have sunk 4 or 5 Vin Hallannin was with me, wrong way round I was with him & we were last to leave, its a very interesting place. I'd like to go once more & if I live long enough I'll get a nephew to take me there. He and his wife are very interested in the Relics of WWI. One thing more Re the Chaps who are called Ross Smith, my or our Step Brother was called Ross, he enlisted in the 2/1st Machine Gun Battalion went to England on the Mary returned to North Africa and from there to Greece his mob were in the rear guard & a more Bloodthirsty bloke would have been hard to find. He came out to Bourke to me when I was Roo Shooting the hard way using the old .303 with Dum Dum bullets. He got away from Greece on a Dstroyer & he said all day long they brought down every plane that tried to sink their boat & just as the sun was going down one came in the sun sinking us we couldn't see until it too late but it was brought down as the boat took a list he pulled off his boots slung them round his neck



Harold Smith's Letter (continued)

also a pair of Binoculars & a Prismatic Compass which he took off an officer, German of course, his boots floated away but the other two things he hung onto them & another Destroyer picked up most of them who were swimming they were put ashore (presumably Crete - Ed) & said Ross I looked around for a pair of boots got them off an officer who didn't have any more use for them, then looked Round for a Machine Gun & all the ammo I could find put in a heap & he said that not one Paratrooper came down within range of my gun alive they paid dearly he said He dropped dead about 4 or 5 years back over Collaroy way, he suffered a lot was in a stright Jacket for over 12 months. Poor fellow was married but no family There was a chap in the 17th Company Camels of course his name Jones J.J.J. his nickname, Double Barrell. My nickname was BWI every Smith had a nickname another in my section was F.A. Smith & he got it especially on Pay Days the full words, another Mungindi Smith he had a walrus Mostash & was always referred to as old M You could guess the three words of mine, they are a bit religious & charcoal would make a white mark on their faces. I was in number 1 section the worst one in a hop over, or as we had to do at Amman take 2 lines of trenches from the Turk to get shelter but not for long 3 hop overs in 3 days then the English Infantry came up & dug in, we went back across the Jordan River on a pontoon bridge had to get off and lead our camels over & soto the west of the Jordan Valley 6 weeks before we were relieved then back to the Holy City and Jaffa Road, our camels were taken from us and we got Horses and Swords not slashers but made for sticking and even if dying on the ground the swords could reach them. The only thing I got was a goose broke his wing. Well now enclosed OH No just remembered, I thought there was 1 cheque in my book & when I went to write it out I remembered that I used it for drinks Apple Cider, Apple Juice no sugar in it, & some Raspberry flavoured stuff goes well with water. Only Friday evenings I have a few stubbies with 2 of my best friends and again on a Sunday mornings Chook Run (Bowls). I will have to send you something for stamps & please one WOG is enough why send me 2, expensive that is & I know you didn't win the Melbourne Cup or the Lottery Cheers to all. I'll make a trip down one of these days to go to a 4th meeting with the people who send me the Monthly Journal, its read from the top of page 1 to the end. I'll leave this open until I can get a new cheque book and will send you the stamp money if nothing else. 2nd Batt colour patch Black Pyramid. Well it would not be right to not tell you my Sweetheart was very pleased to see me back in Bourke, I told her some few weeks ago I was going to live in Queensland & she cried. Poor little girl only 4 feet Eleven inches in Height, figure not like the younger ones, she has a very nice disposition & I love her, have asked her to marry me. No she says you should not marry into my big family, because if living in the one house, there would be young people in and out at all times of the day and nights, and your nerves are not the best, that would make you chip them and we would be unhappy. So I've got to live alone as I have for the last 18 years & I get very lonely at times. I won't live with any of my 3 children. My Daughter is the one who has told me I am too old to be living alone so its sell out & go over to be within a couple hours drive from their place & as my youngest Son has offered me a 2 bedroom cottage at Redcliffe on the coast north of Brisbane to live in it rent free for the rest of my life, but my legs are giving me a lot of pain & theres a big possibility I'll have to go into a Home for the Aged, if so its to a R.S.L. Village on the coast of Brisbane & as I was born in Queensland I'll go back to die there & be cremated, my ashes are to be spread on a green at the Cunnamulla Bowls Club to make the grass grow it would be awful if the grass died. Please excuse mistakes and bad spelling 9-11-83 & a little after 4pm & I've been down the street paying a debt and collecting my allowances for the next fortnight & I've been doing it for just on 21 years. Also got the cheque book. In these Back Country areas a cheque book is necessary for one does not need much cash except for the Pokies and Grog wine and beer. My favourite is good amber lemonade. OH yes there is crook beer and wine can't say about the hard stuff, anyway its over a dollar for a nip & I've only the Service Pension & am a greedy old B.....d & number is 147032. How does one go about getting to the Museum are there any special days? Cheers to all from Harold.

As previously stated the above is as near to an exact copy as we could manage of Harold's latest letter. As most of his missives are of similar duration members (and Harold) will realise why, with space at a premium, we are unable to publish all of the letters we receive from Harold. Editor.



CASH REGISTER.

The Treasurer reports having received subscriptions and donations during the period 1st July and 30th November, 1983 of various amounts from the following members.

\$50.

A.D.Milne	F Rowell	L Drayson	T Gorman
-----------	----------	-----------	----------

\$40.

F Ivey

\$20.

L Stronach	D Jackson	E Knox	W Gibbs
H Elliott	C Clark	Mrs J Chaseling	Mrs J Coghlan

\$16.

F.Gattenhoff	<u>\$15.</u>	<u>\$13.</u>
	L.Cutcliffe	W.S.Robbins

\$12.

C Loughran	K Venn	L Hart	F Burke
------------	--------	--------	---------

\$10.

R J Davies	P Denver	Mrs B Moores	N Rogers
J Morgan	D Thornberry	D Slinger	W Luck
A Schweitzer	Mrs V Walsh	Mrs M Irvine	S Young
G Walton	Mrs Y Pearse	Mrs D Manuel	J Cork
W Newth	E Fox	H.B.Smith	J Hawkins
T McNamara			

\$7.

A Harradine

\$6.

D Loydell	Mrs L Wallace	N Howard	G Hart
R Walker	D Slinger	K Tanko	J Hine
A.D.Arnett	E.S.Dalton		

VICTORIA BARRACKS MUSEUM VISIT

On Sunday 4th December members and wives of the Association visited the Victoria Barracks Museum. Although the attendance was disappointing in terms of numbers, those who did turn up had a very enjoyable and interesting afternoon. After a thumb-nail sketch of the history of the Barracks delivered by Curator Norm Harries, attired in the uniform of an early garrison regiment, the group inspected the exhibits on display. On completion of the inspection the party retired to the Sergeant's Mess as guests of Norm. Those who attended were President Ted Fox and wife Heather, Gloria and Allen Lindsay, Maude and Peter Armsrtong, Del and Harold Silver, Laurie Waterhouse and Bob Fergusson.

1984 COUNTRY RE-UNION.

Just an early reminder that the 1984 Re-union will be held at Gosford over the week-end 6/7 October. Details relating to bookings, deposits and who to send them to and where will be published in W.O.G. in the early 1984 issues.