



White Over Green

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE 2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

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PATRON: Major-General Sir Ivan Dougherty, C.B.E., D.S.O. & Bar, E.D., B.Ec., LL.D (Hon.)

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THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION WILL BE HELD ON
FRIDAY 25TH FEBRUARY AT THE GALLIPOLI MEMORIAL CLUB AT 8P.M.

PLEASE MAKE THE EFFORT TO ATTEND.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

The highlight of 1982 must surely have been the outstanding success of the Orange Country Re-Union, organised as it was by one man - our South Australian Vice-President Peter Denver - from such a long distance. Peter has proved in no uncertain terms just what can be achieved when the spirit is willing and the body able. Let us all be inspired by his tremendous efforts and those of his helpers as we begin the new year of 1983.

Even though our ranks are thinning dramatically, we still have many able-bodied workers in our midst who have been blessed by continued health and strength and dedication, which augers well for the continuance of our fine Association for a number of years to come.

Probably the most important item on your Committee's Agenda during the past year was the changed presentation of "White Over Green", the first issue of which you received in June 1982. You will remember the suggestion of cutting it down to three or four issues a year (due to spiralling costs of printing, etc.) being received most unfavourably. Through the good offices of Ken Kesteven and family we are presently enjoying the best of both worlds; that is, twelve issues a year and a saving as at June 1982 of \$150.00 per issue. No doubt costs have escalated since then, which will be shown in the A.G.M. reports. However, we cannot anticipate that Ken and Co. will be on deck indefinitely with the availability of the free use of a machine to do this long and tedious job for us.

With this in mind, your Committee is now looking at the possibility of purchasing our own duplicating machine and siting it somewhere in the Southern suburbs where we have several eager helpers. One way or another we intend to use every endeavour to continue producing our monthly "life-line".

All the Anzac Day reports received following my absence overseas last year indicate once again the march was a most successful, and the Anzac dinner was a well attended and happy function, hosted by your genial Senior Vice President Ted Fox in his usual efficient manner. Cecil ("Slim") Powers was our choice for Honorary Life Membership in 1982, and was invested with his award by our Patron Sir Ivan Dougherty. "Slim", as you know, has been for many years a regular meeting attender and continues to be a dedicated welfare worker in company with the ever popular "Cock" Robin (who is unfortunately not well at the moment).

On the subject of welfare, at least two of our member's wives are undergoing specialised treatment at present, and we send them our very best wishes.

The Church Parade in May - as you read in the June issue of "W.O.G." - was not well attended. I personally had another engagement and it was the first parade Gwen and I had missed since its inception. We do look forward to a larger roll-up and stronger representation from the Battalion in 1983.

As your retiring President I wish to thank the following - Sir Ivan Dougherty for his unqualified support during my term of office, Ted Fox who has stood in my stead on the few occasions on which I have been unavailable, Laurie Waterhouse for his dedication and control of his job as Secretary. Laurie now has an excellent grip on his task and I am very grateful for the way in which he keeps in touch with me as President.

Allan Lindsay for his usual up-to-date and concise reports of our financial condition, John Meehan for his efforts as Minutes Secretary; Peter Cade for his continued sterling effort as Editor, which in my opinion is the toughest and most important job in the Association.

To all the Committee who have supported me throughout the year I extend my thanks and wish each and every member of the Association a happy 1983, with continued success and good health.

Bill Mac Lennan
President.

SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1982.

Once again another year has passed us by, a year that has been very good to the Association. In as much as that we have had a successful year for activities. Also our financial status is very good, due to our very good and able Treasurer. Our meetings have maintained much and varied interest to those who have attended, with an averaged attendance of twenty-two, which is not bad considering we are all getting a little long in the tooth. Anzac Day was a very successful day for all concerned, judging by the numbers that marched and later attended the Gallipoli Memorial Club for the Re-Union Dinner. The Association participated in the Australian-Cretan and Greece Remembrance Celebrations in May, to commemorate the 6th Aust. Div, 2nd A.I.F.

participation in the GREECE and CRETE campaigns in 1941.

We also took part in the annual church parade that was also held in May, organised by the Association of 4th Battalions. The service was held at St. ANNE'S CHURCH at Homebush, one thing marred the parade, and that was the poor attendance by all units concerned.

The Country Re-Union, which was held at ORANGE, N.S.W. was a very successful one as far as numbers attending, also for the quality of the catering and the entertainment, financially we just covered expenses.

Our Medal has had good demand, something like 45 members applied for it during the year. The Battalion Tie, now that we have supplies, seems to be in demand. We also have managed to enroll a few members to counteract the loss due to some of our members entering Valhalla. The LAST POST roll call for the year stands at 40 at the time of writing this report, indicating that the Old Reaper - Time - is catching up with us gradually.

Let me in conclusion thank the President, Committee and members for their help and co-operation in administering the affairs of the Association, and finally my grateful thanks go to Harry Gjedsted for the use of the Club and its facilities, without them we would be hard pushed to find another home like it.

Laurie Waterhouse,
Secretary.

THE JANUARY MEETING

About 22 members attended and apologies were received from Dick Pinson and Bob Ferguson. The President welcomed no so regularly seen members, Alf Carpenter, our Newcastle Vice President; Mick Steel and Wink Walker.

Items of general interest discussed were the Secretary's report of a quote of \$50.00 return for a bus trip to the Southport Country Re-Union. The Secretary is inquiring further. All this relates to a notice that the Secretary prepared for last month's W.O.G. which wasn't included through lack of space. Roughly it says "Let's take a bus to Southport. Who is interested?"

For the yackitty-yak after the meeting, full marks to the staff of Gallipoli Memorial Club for their service and courtesy. "They did us proud."

SECRETARY'S MAIL BAG FEBRUARY 1983.

First of all let me hope all our members, their wives and families enjoyed their break for the New Year, whether they were at home or in some other place or land. Also that you commenced the New Year in good health. Secondly I would like to thank those members who sent in good will messages for the Festive Season and the New Year. We do appreciate the fact that we, the Committee, are held in good esteem, thank you for thinking of the workers.

Now to all the mail that has been coming in during the past six weeks. The letters have been many and varied, mostly members in far off places writing in with subs, wanting Battalion ties, and of course the last minute effort to get the Battalion Medal; also people wanting the Greek Medal Scroll translation.

Before I answer these letters, there is one that arrived in the early days of the New Year which carried the sad news of the passing of one of our

members at the Wagga Base Hospital. The member was J.C. "Brig" Agnew of Tumut. Brig Agnew died on 26th December 1982, and was buried in Tumut on the 29th December 1982. A life-long friend of Brig Agnew, Mr. Stephen Murphy Treasurer of the Tumut R.S.L. wrote to me giving details of Brig's death and funeral. He was a well known and very prominent figure in the Tumut district community and was held in very high esteem. Another of our members residing at Tumut - Bert Kingswell - represented the Bn. Association. We are ever grateful to Stephen Murphy and the Tumut R.S.L. for taking care of Brig's last march. Your Secretary has forwarded a card to the family, also written to thank Stephen Murphy and the Tumut R.S.L. and Bert Kingswell. Our next letter comes from the U.S.A. Harry Wheeler, ex B Company Sgt. sent us a letter and a cheque for his Bn. Medal. Harry will be, or should I say, now is touring Israel with his family. His wife apparently comes from Israel. I think Harry met her when we were over there in 1940-42. He was over there two or three years ago, looked over Julis camp site. It is now a big army tank supply base, the only building left was the old picture theatre, which is still in use. Harry wishes to be remembered to Ken Kesteven and to "Cocky" Gorham also any other "B" Company members who remember him.

From far off Mt. Isa comes a letter from Ken Peacock, sending in subs and requesting a Battalion tie. Ken is, I think, Clerk of Court up there, any one passing through there wants to call in and see him. He will make you very welcome, and it will give him a chance to have a yarn with you. He mentioned that Hugh Wittleton called in to see him, the first time he had seen Hugh for 37 years (who bashed who's ear first?). Reckons Hugh will not keep quiet when he hits civilization again. Anyway, Ken, you should have your tie by now. Hope you have recovered from your encounter with Hugh. Good health and good luck to you.

Charlie Ellway of Paradise Point, QLD. is our next with correspondence, Charlie is sending in subs to keep square with our Treasurer Allen, says he is losing track of the years now. Anyway, Charlie, thank you for your kind thoughts for the New Year, hope you had the same. Thanks Charlie and good luck.

Dick Morris wrote in to let us know that he has given up the struggle of living in the Metropolis and has now moved to the glamorous area of Gosford. So you chaps that have been looking for Dick and wondered why he wouldn't answer the phone, now you know. Thank you Dick, for the Christmas Card, we did appreciate it. Hope we see you from time to time at the Club in Loftus Street, or even at the meetings.

Now we go up to Bingara where Bill Mitchell has his abode. Bill is also trying to keep sweet with our Treasurer, he also complains about the years slipping by quickly, can't keep track of them. Common complaint with us all now, Bill. Said he ran into Perc Landsley in Guyra in November. Called to see him, but almost got a shock as he thought he was going to be talked into a job of work. Perc was giving his son a hand to lay down some concrete car tracks. Said Perc had been retired some time now and was looking very well. I am glad you used your initiative Bill, and didn't get talked into that job. Our regards to you and to Perc Landsley, when you see him next.

Moving down the south coast to Kiama and Cyril Stilwell. Cyril was requesting a tie be sent to him and a donation towards W.O.G. Thankyou, Cyril for the donation; your tie should have been delivered at time of writing. Sorry to hear of your wife's sickness and hope that she will recover soon. Once again Cyril, thankyou for the message of goodwill, we here reciprocate, and hope all goes well in this new Year.

Must mention we received a very nice Thankyou card from the widow and family of the late Jim Cameron, in appreciation for the Bn. Ass. part carried out at the funeral.

Received a card all the way from U.K. sent by Monty Seims, wishing the boys of the Association a happy festive season, plus a little something for the Treasurer. Very nice to hear from Monty again, and know things are going well over there for him. Thanks, Monty.

And now we have a letter from Doug Grove at Ballina. Looks like Doug has been rounding up a few of the boys, because he sent down subs for a couple of new members from Victoria. Les Drayson of Glen Waverly and Ron White of Mitcham. Paperwork all fixed up, Doug, they are on the books now. Thankyou for your efforts, Doug, good wishes to you and the other crew. up at Ballina if you see them any time.

Another letter from up north, this time from Bert Milner of Nambucca Heads. Bert was sending in his application for the Bn. Medal, plus news of meeting Hugh and Doris Burdorf before they went to Orange, said he was hoping to get down to Merimbula for the Mortar Platoon re-union in March 1983.

Bert's wife has been on the sick list for a long time, but is now on the recovery road. Good wishes to your wife and yourself, Bert.

Again from up north, a letter from Dave Crosthwaite, I think his wife did the writing for him. Said they were pleased with the new W.O.G., getting more news in it, and sent their blessings for the production crew. Dave's wife wants him decked out in a new Bn. tie. Well, you should have it by the time you read this, and your cheque has been passed on to Allen. Good luck to you both, in that lovely Tweed Valley.

We get our next letter from Max McAllen of Taren Point, who wanted the form for the Battalion Medal. We thought we would surprise you, Max, when the wife and I drove to your place to deliver the form, but alas the fox had gone, so we left it under the door. Max must have been rolling them down the green away from home. Catch up with you, Max, one of these days.

Ron Burley of Molong, writing in for the Bn. Medal, also news of Don Thornley whom he has been keeping an eye on. Apparently Bill Parry (Welfare Officer) asked Ron to look him up, as he has been sick, however, Don Thornley is reasonably well, according to Ron. Thanks for that little job accomplished well.

Those of whom I have not mentioned, will be in the next W.O.G. I have to study our Editor's space limits.

Laurie Waterhouse,
Secretary.

2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

RECEIPTS and PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS

for the year ended 31st December,
1982.

General Account

<u>RECEIPTS</u>		<u>PAYMENTS</u>	
Balance: 1.1.82		White Over Green - Printing	2573
Debenture- General Credits	2000	ditto. - Postage	694
Commercial Bank of Aust.	1973	Classified Advertisements	41
Subscriptions		Purchases - Battalion Medals	1077
Annual	179	ditto. - Ties(6 Div Assn)	154
Paid-up Life	550	Subscriptions - 6 Div Assn	10
White Over Green	895	ditto. - Assn 4 Bns	10
Functions	1170	Cost of Functions	945
Donations Received:		Monthly Meetings - Suppers	
Sir Ivan Dougherty		Cost	491
Biography Committee	500	Less: Collections	351
Members	890		140
Sales - Ties Pockets etc	331	Postages, Telephone & Stationery	96
- Battalion Medals	1537	Floral Tributes	55
Interest Received	370	Banner Repairs	33
		Presentation - Tingha School	187
		Field Marshal Blamey Appeal	100
		Balance: 31.12.82	
		Debenture - General Credits	2000
		Westpac Banking Corpn.	2280
			<u>\$10395</u>
	<u>\$10395</u>		

Benevolent Account

Balance: 1.1.82		Hospital Visitations	433
Commercial Bank of Aust		Stan Blacksley Fund	1000
Bank Account	109	Welfare	175
R.S.L. Building Socy.		Balance: 31.12.82	
Fixed Deposit	6000	Westpac Banking Corpn.	781
Current Account	2466	State Building Socy.	
Interest Received	8575	Fixed Deposit	6000
Sales - Plaques	838	Current Account	2286
Receipts - Stan Blacksley Appeal	32		9067
Donations Received:	680		
Members	50		
Sir Ivan Dougherty			
Biography Committee	500		
	<u>\$10675</u>		<u>\$10675</u>

W.F.MacLennan.....President. A.F.Lindsay.....Honorary Treasurer.

Auditor's Certificate.

I have examined the books and supporting vouchers of the 2/4 Infantry Battalion Association for the year ended 31st December, 1982. From such examination it is my opinion that the above accounts are a full and fair statement of the Association's affairs for that period.

SYDNEY. 23rd January, 1983

signed. (H. Silver)
Honorary Auditor.

WELFARE REPORT.

At R.G.H. Concord:-

NX36260, Hudson, Harbert, Ward 520. Bert is in and out like some type of blue fly. Missed him last week as he had been discharged but visiting today, all grins and looking well, there is Bert. Has a throat infection and has been told it is on the way to being cured. Sends greetings to all.

NX15534, Robert, Reg, Ward 62. Still having treatment for stomach complaint.

NX5202, Ford, Noel, Ward 2, In for tests. Sends greetings to all for the New Year.

NX5162, Dawson, Tom, Ward 12. Tom, who has lost both his big toes will be discharged in about two days and will be back in Concord early March.

NX5527, Wilson, Jack. Ward 130. Called to see Jack who was admitted on Saturday 17th. January with a slight stroke down the left side, but now home.

VX60807, Knap, R.G. Ward 110. Had been discharged on 25th January, the day I called.

NX46818, McDermott, John. John sends his regards to all. He is in with a lung infection. Lives at Arncliffe.

NX2026, Roach, Robert. Ward 230. In for gall-stone operation. He had just been admitted when I called. He said he knew the Welfare Section was good but not that quick. Told me that last week his dog had won the Cup at Wollongong. At the races he got 11-1, but 6-1 at the start of the race.

AT W.V.H.

NX39590, Maloney, Jack. Says he feels fine. Keeps in touch with Jack Fenton and Dick Chamberlain.

NX1977, Waring, Brian. Not feeling too good lately. Finds it very hard to breathe at times and has to use the oxygen mask a lot. Sorry about not being able to attend meetings. Sends regards to all.

NX7601, Chamberlain Dick. Sends best wishes to everyone. Looking pretty good lately.

AT L.D.H.

NX68025, Tanko, K.C.S. Still at Lady Davidson having therapy for loss of right leg, also for fitting of artificial leg.

NX5177, Flahey, F. Fred looks well since the operation for loss of leg. He is in the same ward as Tanko and says he feels well. Sends best wishes to all.

From Goulburn:-

NX5082, Martin, George, M.B.E., George is reported to be not enjoying the best of health.

4Bn 194-18.

U. Elfort. Mr. Elfort is a very sick man. He is not able to speak but sends best wishes to all.

LAST POST:-

NX68888, J.C. ('Brig') Agnew. Received a letter from Laurie informing me of his death on 26th December 1982 and the funeral on the 29th. Bert Kingwell represented the Association. Laurie reports that Tumut and Adelong R.S.L. members attended. Tumut Treasurer, Stephen Murphy wrote and mentioned the large number attending the funeral Brig was well liked and respected in the district, and Steve was a life-long friend of his. Laurie sent cards to the family, and thanks to Steve in appreciation for what he had done.

LAST POST Cont.:-

Nx9327, Lieut. Wilfred Charles Calf. Died 27th January at Mount Olivet Hospital, Queensland. At short notice we phoned Laurie McCosker regarding representation at the funeral. Hope we made it! Information from Mrs. B. Montanari, Wilf's Sister. Thankyou Mrs. Montanari.

4th Bn. 1914-18.

Bede Keary, D.C.M. - well known to many of us kids of 2/4 Bn and 4Bn A.I.F. (1939-45). May he rest in peace. To Yvonne and family our sympathy is extended.

Bill Parry and the Welfare teams.

FROM THE SECRETARY - COUNTRY RE-UNION TRAVEL.

The Committee is contemplating the use of a coach for transporting members, their wives and friends who wish to attend the 1983 Country Re-union at Southport, Queensland.

We are all getting a little long in the tooth, and some of us don't like undertaking long trips in the car, having to put up with the hazards and weariness of driving. Also, we are not too wrapped up in rail and what it offers.

Therefore it is most essential that some indication be given by members to the Committee as to whether they would patronise this service. At the moment, coach fare from Sydney to Brisbane is \$50 return. I would assume an increase later on as inflation catches up with fares, and would work on a cost of \$60-\$70.

Without information on the number that would use it, it would be foolhardy to undertake such a venture. Once committing ourselves to a booking of coach and driver we will be stuck with it.

So here's your chance to really enjoy a trip without the hassles of driving and random breath-testing, you could really be doing yourself a good turn. Let's have your views or indicate if you would use this service. Phone or write to me or to the editor.

Laurie Waterhouse.

EDITOR'S REPORT.

The new format. W.O.G. has been a fact since June.

No. It is not on glossy paper.

No. It is not fully two-tone, but what you see is fixed personally by Fi, Ken Kesteven's better half.

Yes. It has saved the Association a packet in production costs.

Yes. It does contain more news than the original limited format.

Yes. That was short and sweet!!

Now, expanding a little, this whole transformation was made possible by the initiative of Ken Kesteven, who knew the problem, saw the answer, and with his personal contacts in printing circles, presented the Committee with a completed staff job for the mechanics for the switch. The Committee accepted the proposition with alacrity and now the members have a new W.O.G.

BUT:- Can we expect Ken and family to carry on indefinitely with that arrangement? And can we expect our President "Obergruppenfuhrer" Bill MacLennan & Gwen and Enid Lattimer to do the same? Bill and Gwen have been

deeply involved in W.O.G. for well over a decade and with Association activities for much longer.

And so we centralise in the Sutherland Shire and what have we right now? We have an energetic Secretary. We have a stop-gap Editor who is an Operating Supervisor in the oil industry, and all its turmoil, and with three kids on the domestic front all pulling three different ways. In other words, WE NEED LOCAL HELP!! "WORK HORSES" ONLY REQUIRED! NO "SHOW PONIES" PLEASE! VOLUNTEERS PLEASE WRITE TO LAURIE.

Peter Cade.

SITREPS

With reference to "LAST POST" of the issue, Bruce Cork cancelled an engagement to attend the funeral of Lieut. Wilfred Charles Calf at Nerang, Queensland, having been advised by Laurie McCosker, attended the funeral. Unfortunately due to the two different State times, Bruce missed the funeral by about fifty-five minutes, and phoned apologies to Mr. Craig Lloyd. We will contact Mrs. Montanari at this end.

Addressed to the Editor is a letter from Dr. John Barrett of the Army project of La Trobe University. He writes "I have known for a week or more that we had a very good friend somewhere in N.S.W., although I didn't know who it was. The response has been excellent. Every day about half a dozen come in from W.O.G.

We now have a little over 1930 completed returns in. It will be 2000 before we know where we are but we want a total of 7000 so there is a long way to go and W.O.G. is sure helping.

"With real thanks, John Barrett."

The background music to this letter was the sending of a copy of W.O.G. to Dr. Barrett to show that we did indeed publicise the Questionnaire. As it turned out, the Editor got the kudos for the excellent response, when in fact it was Bill Andrews who informed us of the project in the first place. Thanks, Bill!

We have done it again! We reported the death of Cec. Calver. It appears from a letter subsequently received that Cec. is pretty much with us! Sorry about that, Cec!! And thanks for your sense of humour.

THE FIELD MARSHAL SIR THOMAS BLAMEY MEMORIAL FUND.

From the Hon. Sec.: "Many thanks to members of 2/4 Bn. Assn. for their most generous donation to our fund. Please tell your members, when next in Canberra to look for the bass-relief of Field-Marshal and plaques in front of the Australian-American Memorial. We are very pleased with this memorial, and we are now building up the necessary funds to re-print Hetherington's "Blamey-Controversial Soldier" so that this may be available for prizes and sale at the War Memorial and possibly bookshops. This will later help build the capital of the fund to ensure continuation of our Annual Awards.

Yours sincerely,

Bob Serle, Secretary (Ex 2/4Bn.