



White Cedar Green

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE 2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

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NEXT MEETING: The next monthly meeting will be held on Friday 24th June at the Gallipoli Memorial Club, Loftus St., at 8p.m.

ANNUAL CHURCH PARADE

OF THE ASSOCIATION OF 4th. INFANTRY BATTALIONS

ST. ANNE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, HOMEBUSH RD.,

STRATHFIELD. SUNDAY 19TH JUNE, 1983.

F.U.P. BERESFORD RD. WEST (MUNICIPAL PARK) 1430 HOURS.

CHURCH SERVICE BEGINS 1500 HOURS.

DRESS: LOUNGE SUITS. MEDALS AND DECORATIONS TO BE WORN.

THE SOUTHPORT COUNTRY RE-UNION.

LAURIE MCCOSKER'S ADDRESS IS ON THE FRONT OF THIS W.O.G.

HE WANTS BOOKINGS!!

There will be a short march to the Memorial outside the Southport R.S.L. The dinner will be held at the Southport R.S.L. on Saturday night and a smorgasbord luncheon on the Sunday.

Accommodation will be at Motels and Hotels within short walking distance of the Club with caravan accommodation slightly further afield.

When bookings are made please state type of accommodation required plus extras (baby's cot and all that, including baby sitters.)

Time of arrival and departure, and the \$10 per head deposit is an excellent idea, as Laurie and the Local Committee have money tied up in reservations, for which deposits haven't arrived yet.

WELFARE REPORT.

3162, Tom Dawson. Now at home after a successful hip operation.
NX164, John Copland, also at home, was visited by Harry Wright. John is quite bright, but finds getting around a bit of a strain. Sends best regards. And John, on behalf of all the boys, best wishes.
NX5145, Jim Robin. Jim has not been well lately, and has had pathology tests. Regards from all the boys, Jim.
NX9846, Slim Powers is now at home and feeling a bit better, but still not the best. Oxygen treatment when required. Was to see a specialist the day after our last contact.
NX25308, Dick Pinson is not feeling the best at present with chest trouble. We all wish you a speedy recovery, Dick, and hope to see you at the next meeting.

AT R.G.H., CONCORD:

NX2002, Selby Dean. Was in Ward 230 early April for an operation.
NX5114, D.L. Crook. Ward 7. Throat and chest problems. Having tests.
VX135008, John Ringrose. Ward 110. John was in for an operation and is now at home. He feels O.K. and sends best wishes to all. John retires in August.
NX31233, Stan Healy. Ward 3. Stan is in for a transfusion. He has an iron shortage in the blood which means regular trips to Concord. Sends regards to all his mates.
NX11562, Roland W. Hill. Ward 7. In for another operation. Hope it's successful this time.
NX5904, W. Newth. Ward 120. In for more tests. Bill, we hope the reports of the tests are good, and we all send our best wishes to you.
NX72061, M. Reagan. Ward 110. Mick is in for an operation and will be going home tomorrow. Sends greetings to all.
NX47, F.J. PEGG. Ward 5. Dave McGillivray rang to let me know that Ferd was in Concord and was a very sick man. To you Ferdie, best wishes from all of us. As soon as I am able I will come and see you.
NX42587, V. Roberts. Ward 610. Bowel treatment.
NX18572, W. Burgis, Ward 310. Checks on pacemaker.
NX42709, D. Cunningham, Ward 520. Vascular problem.

ELSEWHERE:

NX14111, N. Shaylor. Norm was in Concord and was transferred to Lewisham. He was having ray treatment. Sends regards to all.
NX8744, Monty Siems, Clacton-on-Sea, U.K. Slim Powers received a letter from Monty to say that he had a stroke three months ago and had a bad time since then. Has found writing difficult but is slowly improving. Monty, on behalf of your mates in 2/4 Bn., best wishes and hope everything goes well for you.
4Bn., WW1 at Concord:
6150, John Lamber. John is a very sick man, but still cracks a smile. He is in for tests in Ward 120.

? , George Pearson. Ward 110. We see George quite a lot, aged 94 and still able to smile. In for eye tests.

6231, J.M. Brunton. Ward 630. This is the third week we have called on Jim. The skin graft on the thumb is still playing up. Anyway Jim, we hope you will soon be home in Bega. Regards from your friends in 2/4 Bn.

LAST POST:-

VX92561, G.L. Vance, died late April. Stan Carpenter who sent us the news said that Guy had been in poor health for a number of years, had had several coronaries and had also virtually lost his sight. The burial announcement was made at short notice and the funeral took place at Bairnsdale, East Gippsland, where his eldest daughter now resides. Thanks Stan, for the information.

NX51539, S.F. WALKERDEN.

SX31343, M.F. REICHELT.

Unfortunately, we have no further details.

Best wishes from the Welfare Team,
Bill Parry.

S.O.S. SECTION.

Number 1: A letter came from Dasher (and don't ask who's Dasher?!!) explaining that he had sent a letter to Dick Chappelow, 6/32 Gordon Cres. Marrickville. It was sent back "No such number" and Dasher being a perspicacious sort of bloke dropped the whole problem and the undelivered letter in the lap of the Editor. Good old Dasher!! Anyway, a check of the Editor's list and that of the Secretary for Dick's address proved fruitless. Your Editor then put on his Batman suit and phoned every Chappelow in the Sydney phone book with an "R" in his/her initials, again all fruitless until the very last call and whoever it was said "It sounds like my uncle, but we don't know where he lives".

Over to you Dick, or anybody who knows where he is. And Dick! You had better join the Association after this!!

Number 2:- A letter from Cec Chrystal, with an enclosure of a letter from Mr. H. Smith of Thirroul, the pertinent parts of which are: "I have been requested by an elderly sister of a former 2/4 Bn. soldier who was wounded in Greece and evacuated on board a British hospital ship which was eventually sunk for information regarding her brother.

This lady has been searching for her brother for many years, and as I am a Vice-President of Illawarra Diggers Home at Corrimal, I happened to mention this request and was given the name of Sir Ivan Dougherty....."

Cecil's covering letter says in part, "I have rung Sir Ivan regarding the matter and he couldn't place Private Bennett, nor could I, unfortunately. "I have written to Mr. Smith quoting from the bottom of page 136 in our War History "White Over Green", and that is all the information I could find to send him. On Sir Ivan's suggestion I am forwarding this letter to you, which could possibly be put into W.O.G. and somebody might be able to give further information.

*
Cec Chrystal.

The man we are talking about is NX 2060, Pte. Jack Bennett, "C" Coy 2/4 Bn. The honour roll in the War History indicates that he K.I.A. 16th April, 1941. Anyone with any information is requested to contact Cec Chrystal, 24 The Battlement, Castlecrag, 2068.

THE SECRETARY'S MAILBAG.

(including a bit left over from last month)

A letter from Peter Denver giving us a run-down on the B-B-Q he put on for the 19 Bde chaps to which 51 people turned up. This will please Peter to see it in official print. Peter says that being the President on 19 Bde Association kept him at home on Anzac Day.

He offered his congratulations to President Ted Fox and his committee and also thanks the past President and his good wife Gwen, their many thanks for their contributions to the Association.

We don't have their permission otherwise this would be in the Grandchildren Stakes section of the Skite Column, but Peter and Pat now have another Grandson, the first-born to their youngest son.

Once again, a big thank-you to the Denvers for their interest in the Battalion Association.

Ken Watt up at Cleveland in Queensland sent in his subs and also for a Battalion tie. Ken was most interested in all the "C" Coy news in Feb. W.O.G. Thanks, Ken, for your message to the Committee on their work.

Also from Queensland (Mt. Isa) comes a letter from Kevin Peacock, who asks for a 6 Div. Tie. He also asked that we put something straight, just for the record. I mentioned that Kev. was Clerk of the Court at Mt. Isa. Actually, he is the Chief Stipendiary Magistrate and when he retires, I think next year, he will have had 45 years service with the Queensland Justice Department. (That's what I like about W.O.G. - when we demote 'em we don't mess about! Sorry, Kev! Rest Assured that neither Laurie nor I will show up in Mt. Isa while you are still on the bench. To do so would be worth at least 28 days in Jerusalem, or the local salt mines - Editor). John Hyles, Queanbeyan, wants a new tie, and an application form for the Greek Medal. He has been accommodated and can supply 6 Div ties too as required. We do hope you confirm your thoughts about going to Southport for the re-union. Looks like being a good one, from reports received from Laurie McCosker. We will look out for you anytime, especially at our monthly meetings. Thanks John for the praise. Makes one's ego grow.

Jack Eastman wrote in to tell me about one of our old "A" Coy. identities - Bill Black. Apparently Jack has been over to Port McDonnell S.A. and had a brief stay with Bill. He gave me a very good picture of how Bill had made a niche for himself and his good wife through sheer hard work and determination with the help of his family, and now he has a nice little dairy farm which he and his son manage. Anyone who would like to have a word with Bill phone (087)388021. Thankyou for your letter, Jack.

Due to lack of space I must acknowledge three letters without full reply, and these are from Vic. Forbes, Charlie Davies and Dasher. Thanks boys for your letters.

COCK'S COLUMN

From Lofty Gibson: "As it is some years since I last wrote, it is possible you will not recall who I am." Yes, Lofty, I remember you, but what I don't know is your Christian names. Lofty retired in 1978, has not been away from his home base. Sorry to report that he has had his second heart attack since January, and spent some time in Ryde Hospital. (I beat you, mate, I've had three!). For the past six years he has also been afflicted with gout. He was 104Kg, and has had to diet. He has a regular correspondence with Bill Newth of Moss Vale. Bill is in much better health lately after many trips to Concord.

Broughton Cox called a couple of times to see Lofty and he sent a postcard from Hong Kong, but has since vanished. Just before Christmas he had a visit from Douglas "Dagwood" Smedley, he was a slim and active as ever, but his hair is almost as white as Lofty's.

Douglas was home on holidays from England where he is still a commercial airline pilot. Former "C" Coy members will recall he transferred to the RAAF when we were at Adelaide River. Lofty sends regards to former mates.

More news of the boys at Anzac Day march and Re-union. It was good to see our former President, big Bill MacLennan after his Highland Fling. Glad to see you are back among us Bill. Also Cec Chrystal who had returned from overseas the day before.

It was pleasant surprise to see Harold Conkey from Cootamundra there. Hope to do so next year also, Harold.

As I met them: Ted Fox, our President and doing an excellent job. John Copland, it was good to see you there, John; was glad you could make it. Ken Kesteven, Harry Gjedsted, Jim Graham, Noel Ford, Alan Bohle, Lang Stronach, Dave Follington, Maurie Porter, Ken Richardson, Trevor Richardson (no relation) John Ringrose, Bob "Lascar" Roche, Jim Sadler, The Scully brothers, Phil "Blah" Smith, George Stack, Fred Staggs, Barney Turley, Brian Waring, Laurie Waterhouse, Len Waterworth, Tom Watson, Dave Endean, Jim Whitaker, Ron Williams, Ewan Wood, Harry Wright, "Slim" Been, George "King" Cole, Les Adams, Peter Armstrong, "Biscuit" Arnott, Norm Auberson (always remember your number Norm, NX5555), Ron Barber, Harold Bowman, Peter Cade, Peter Cook, Bruce Cork, Gordon Chrisp, Cliff Curran, Gordon Dale, Roy Denyer, Jack Dubber, Bob Furguson, Des and Noel Finch, Bert Flynn, Les Fox, "Tich" Fordham, Kev King, Doug Grove, Garry Hart, Dave McGillivray (one of the Lancer Barrack Boys), Jack Juston, Frank Ivey, Arthur Kleem, Wally Lambourne, Bob Lever, Joe Lowe, Leo Lynch, Alex Maxwell, John Meehan, Dick Morris, Harry Nichols, Ivan Pollock, Bill Poplin, Charlie Newell, Charlie Davis, Gordon Blaydon (down from Queensland,) Ted Swadling, Alf Carpenter, Roy Ebzery, Harold Bowman and me, Cock Robin. I hope I have not omitted anyone, if so, please drop me a line.

"Cock" Robin.

THE MAY MEETING.

On a night that was wet and somewhat miserable about 24 members showed up to the May monthly meeting, chief among which was our Patron, Sir Ivan. There were others who haven't been seen for quite a while at monthly meetings. We have seen "Biscuits" Arnott, and Trevor Richardson somewhat of late, but something quite out of the blue was the appearance of Rex Everson and "Dagwood" Jackson. Rex looking as fit as ever and in reasonable voice, and "Dagwood" the same old "Dagwood", perhaps a few more grey hairs in the beard but the same old "Dagwood" nevertheless.

Business out of the meeting was a donation to Legacy. A Bill from Radio 2UE for advertising 2/4 Bn. Anzac Day function and activities as usual, and as usual, presented and endorsed "PAID" and not a cheque written by the Association. Thank you, 2UE!!

The matter of welfare came up as indeed it might. Our Welfare Officer Bill Parry has succumbed to the need of welfare attention himself. Though now out of hospital it is most inadvisable for him to carry on as before, and certainly not at this juncture. Harry Wright and Slim Power (when fit enough) and others have been filling in. As a result, the President has asked that a request be put in W.O.G. for a couple of volunteers to pick up the job of visiting. As the better part of this is to Concord Repat. Hospital and Lady Davidson Home, a member in the district might be available. Any member who can help please contact Bill Parry - address and phone No. on the front of this W.O.G. Bill hopes to be still involved though not in the actual visiting.

The same Bill Parry was missed at the meeting particularly when came the time for collection of the cost of the sandwiches and liquid supper. Alf Carpenter, a man who can size up a situation, stepped into the breach, and he can do it again next month too. He is a dollar cheaper than Bill!

Cec Chrystal reported that there have been 1452 copies of Sir Ivan's biography sold to this time. Congratulation, Sir Ivan, and Cecil and Phil! We are informed that this exceeds by far the number of similarly produced biographies by some six hundred copies, so far.

THE GREECE AND CRETE BATTLES COMMEMORATION WEEK.

Highlight of the Commemoration Week was held on the week-end of 20-22nd May at the Marrickville Cretan Club. On the Friday there was a presentation to the various of units of 6th.Div. and amongst them were four or five 2/4 members.

On the Saturday, many members of 2/4 braved the elements to represent the Bn. at the Cenotaph and later at the Greek Consul-General's offices in Pitt Street.

Those who attended were Sir Ivan and Lady Dougherty, Fi and Ken Kesteven, Joy and Laurie Waterhouse, Margaret and Maurie Porter, Marj. and Alf. Carpenter, "Biscuits" Arnott, Charlie Evans, Jack Hines, Del and Harold Silver, and Joe Lowe.

Much the same representation attended the Garrison Church with the parading of the unit banners into the church. Laurie Waterhouse paraded our original banner into the church, which we were told looked vary impress-

. Morrie Porter and Ken Kesteven acted ushers and church wardens.

Sir Ivan read the second lesson, and after the service, tea was served in the adjoining drill hall. Ken Kesteven finished up on kitchen fatigue and washed up 300 plus crockery items plus silver and missed out on the social side.

Laurie Waterhouse.

MEMORIAL TO VETERANS AT "THE ROCKS"

A memorial in the shape of a sculptured bronze plaque depicting WWII Diggers in battle array, created by Lyndon Dadswell, the famous sculptor, himself a veteran of 6 Div., will be unveiled by His Excellency Sir James Rowland, KBE, DFC, AFC, Kt. St. J., Governor of N.S.W. at "Customs Officers Stairs", Circular Quay West (i.e. George St. North) at 10.00 a.m. on Sunday, 17th July, 1983.

Representatives from other states will be in attendance along with many leading citizens and servicemen. Veterans wishing to take part in the parade are invited to attend. The parade includes a short march from the Circular Quay overpass along Circular Quay West and past the overseas terminal the site of the memorial.

Medals should be worn.

Though the memorial is dedicated to the men of the 6th Division, it's sitting in such a prominent position, facing down the harbour, must commemorate the sailing of all who left these shores during the Second World War.

The previous evening, Sat. 16th July, a get-together of 6th.Div. Veterans will take place at Paddington Woollahra R.S.L. (Opp. Paddington Town Hall) commencing about 6p.m. Come and have a plate of stew and a beer with your old comrades. This will be a blokes only show, so let Bill Jenkins know how many are coming by early July. Cost - probably about \$5 each plus grog at your own expense. Be in it!

Contact Bill Jenkins, - 389.5718.

FROM PRESIDENT TED.

(1) Letter from Bob (Dagwood) Jackson conveying best wishes from "WOGS" in the Wagga Wagga district, and mentioning that Bog Griffith (Mildura) had phoned him when returning from Barmedman Centenary. The latter also sent his regards to 2/4thers everywhere.

(2) The President requests that anyone who has DEFINITE and ACCURATE knowledge of Name and/or Serial No. errors/discrepancies/omissions (etc.) in the NOMINAL ROLL of 2/4 Bn. Members as printed in our War History, i.e. Appendix D of WHITE OVER GREEN, please send the correct details to Laurie Waterhouse, so that an Addendum may be prepared for use by the Committee, especially the Welfare Officer(s). The reason is that we pick up "Last Post" particulars from "REVEILLE" and often we cannot confirm whether names shown as 2/4 Bn. were, in fact, members of our 2/4 Bn., because they do not appear in the above-mentioned NOMINAL ROLL at all, or the given Army/Serial Nos. disagree. We wish to avoid embarrassing mistakes in the "Last Post" notices we publish in the monthly "W.O.G." - by receiving non-confirmed information from various sources, we have already "buried" three of our members who, like Mark Twain,

hastily wrote to our Editor to protest that the report was much exaggerated.

(3) Anyone wishing to become proficient in Cretan Dancing should apply for lessons from Nina Fergusson, Fi. Kesteven, Del Silver or Heather Fox, all of whom excelled themselves at the Recent Cretan Ball.

AND FROM LAURIE WATERHOUSE:

The original triangular shaped banner of 2/4 Infantry Battalion is to be presented to Victoria Barracks Military Museum, where it will be on view for posterity.

This banner was made by the mother of our first casualty in action at Bardia, John Parkinson of "A" Coy. The museum will be an ideal resting place for this unique piece of Battalion History.

The banner will be presented to Norm Harries, who is the curator of the museum, at the June Monthly Meeting.

Laurie Waterhouse.

2/4 BATTALION PRIVATES ASSOCIATION.

Rockingham, 11/5/1983.

The reason I went to Orange was not for the Re-Union, but to choose a New President for the Ex-Ptes. Assoc. The new President must be from "B" Coy, because "B" Coy. had more Privates than any other Coy in the Bn., and also less Officers. Also he must be a G.L.G. (Good-looking Grandfather). The best Ex-Pte from B. Coy I could see without my glasses was Cocky Gorham. However, President Cocky does not sound right, so we will elect a Pte President at the next P.A.G.M. held in Fremantle Gaol, April Foolsday, 1984 at 1159 hrs. B.Y.O., P.O. Phones and Munga and plenty of Fouloush. Also the new President must have a C.B.G.C.L. (Current Bren Gun Carriers' Licence) an essential as he has to drive Sir Ivan back to the East after the meeting in the West. Also only Ex-Pte's Grandchildren will be on the Committee. Even if they talk a lot, they don't talk rubbish. I cannot remember what rank Batman held. I know a Major's batman was a Pte. and a Captain's a Corporal. Cec Chrystal's batman, Rick Carter was a Pte., he would be a good North Coast President. He sewed a parcel for me in Benghazi to send home. It was a little tablecloth, which I still have. Sid Buckley and Bruce Stewart have only until 1984 to become G.L. Grandfathers. Whichever one makes it first will be the new President. If Gerry Vincent can get final leave from Dundas he would be in the running. The POPs (Privates of Perth) are holding a Grandchildren Sport Carnival. The Eastern Grandchildren v/s the Sandgropers' Grandchildren, in the Aprilfool's Carnival. Vera Provians will be C.O. of all the Sporting Events.

Reminder to Ross Taylor, Victoria. Lost your address, but found mine. 9/15 Fisher Street, Rockingham, W.A. 6168. Reckon Sidy Buckley will win the Grandfather Stakes from Bruce Stewart, so will back him for a place on T.A. Memo to Doug Milne, drop us a line about your Safari Trip in South Africa.

Dasher, WX211, Ex NX24, Pte. Retired.