



White Cedar Green

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE 2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

Registered at the G.P.O. Sydney, for transmission by Post as a Periodical, Category "A".
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38 th Year of continuous publication

Registered by :- Australia Post Publication NAS1532.

Price:- 50c per Copy

Volume 38 No 8

AUGUST 1983

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NEXT MEETING: The next monthly meeting will be held on FRIDAY, 26th AUGUST at the GALLIPOLI MEMORIAL CLUB, LOFTUS STREET, SYDNEY at 8 p.m.

THE JULY MEETING.

21 members were in attendance and it was good to see Bob Ferguson amongst them. Surprise attenders were Jack Kean, Rex Everson, Phil (Blah) Smith, who, we suspect, was induced to show up by Peter Denver who was the biggest surprise attender of the lot.

Some news from the meeting is scattered around elsewhere in this issue. However the main item from the meeting was the decision to hold our meetings during the day for a trial period commencing from the October meeting. This decision was the result of a letter from Bill MacLennan pointing out the progressing age of our members generally, that the greater majority are now retired and are becoming less inclined to leave hearth and home, particularly during the winter months. Other associations are now "day boys" and reports are that attendances at meetings have improved. Anyway, our set-up will be that from October the fourth TUESDAY of the month will be the 2/4th meeting day for a trial period of about five months. It is envisaged that the Committee meeting will start at 1030 hrs., the general meeting from 1200 to 1300 hrs., then lunch. After lunch continued socialising, the Committee may reconvene to complete any unfinished business.

The meeting finished reasonably early and the work party brought down the sandwiches and jugs and from there on it was all yackitty-yak. Later in the evening all present, ably led by Phil Smith, rendered musical honours to our President, Ted Fox, the occasion being his 67th Birthday Anniversary.

LAST CALL FOR BOOKINGS FOR THE 1983 COUNTRY RE-UNION AT SOUTHPORT.

Send your booking to Laurie McCosker (see address above) with \$10 deposit

BUS BOOKINGS TO SOUTHPORT RE-UNION. Will all those members who have made tentative bookings for bus travel to Southport, please forward money(\$50) with the time and day they wish to travel back from Southport to Sydney. I must have all bookings confirmed and paid for by August 26, plus your Pick-up Point for forward and return journeys. Any queries please ring me.
Laurie Waterhouse.

The 1983 SOUTHPORT RE-UNION to be held on the WEEK-END 8/9th OCTOBER.

BE IN IT !!!

BOOK NOW !!!

SPEAKING OF "DAY BOYS."

About late May and during June 1940, during the critical battles in France, enlistments in the A.I.F. rose from a disappointing low to an unmanageable high. A lot of Sydney enlistments were trained on a '9 to 5' basis and going home to sleep. This occurred at the Marrickville Barracks which, in peace time included 'A' and 'DON' Support Companies, B.H.Q. and Headquarter Wing of the 55/53 Battalion. Also in the same depot was the entire 14th Artillery Brigade, complete with 18 pounder field guns, limbers, horses, etc., together with Supply and Ammunition columns of the Army Service Corps. The Army Medical Corps was also established there.

The parade ground was something like 400 x 250 yards and initially there were two platoons of approximately 40 strong. Quite rapidly these grew to 15 platoons of the same size, all trained by Militiamen. Peter Cade, who was a Lance-Sgt. in the militia had the dubious distinction of being drilled by one of his erstwhile corporals!

The routine of the life was that we reported at 0800 hrs and knocked off "work" or training about 1600/1700 hrs. We were trained in squad drill and the handling of weapons. Our route marches were through the suburban streets of Enmore, Petersham, Sydenham, Tempe, Marrickville and along Myrtle Street, past Dick Pinson's house many times, and once to Sans Souci when we got back very late.

For a band we had four side drummers and a base drum carried by two men as the drummer ("Mary" Pickford) was smaller than the drum. Out of this band, four men finished up in 2/4 Bn., "Mary", a chap named Crawford, Peter Ca and George Ponting.

A group of local ladies provided our mid-day lunch for five of our five and a half day training week. This lasted, I think, for about three months, the reason being that a new camp at Tamworth had not yet been completed.

From No.1 Platoon alone the following finished up in 2/4 Bn: Harry Wright, Jack Braid, Harry Westwood, Joe Reid, Peter Cade, Bill Bourke and myself. Luke Tallon, brother of Bob (the "titun tutin took" - already an identity in the battalion) was on a draft but I don't think he got to the battalion.

Of the people who trained us, all 55/53 Bn. personnel, Lt. Reardon finally got his transfer to the A.I.F. and finished up in the 2/3 Bn. with all the early enlistments from the 55/53rd. Having returned from the Middle East, when sighted in early 1943, he was much delighted that he had bought a house in Rose Bay at a give-away price from a "reffe" who took flight after the submarine attack on Sydney Harbour. Of Sgt. Berriman and Cpl. "Stumpy" Johnstone no information at all. Cpl. Cyril Young was killed in action in the early fighting in New Guinea and initially was buried in Soputa War Cemetery near Buna.

Do any members know of any other "Day Boy" establishments in any part of Australia during 1939/45? Ron Barber.

WELFARE REPORT.

AT CONCORD R.G.H.

- NX68642 John Simeon, Ward 310. John is in for hernia treatment, feeling much better and sends best wishes to all. Best to you John, also.
- NX13262 Harry Nicholls, Ward 520. Harry has had an eye operation and feels better. Sends regards, has since gone home.
- NX122567 Eric Toynton, Ward 230. Eric has had a hernia operation and feels better. Sends regards.
- NX2048 R.A.(Pom) Cole Ward 5. In hospital for general tests. Harry Wright and George Stack called to see him and gave our best wishes.
- NX13385 Lawrence James, Ward 3. In for tests, we all hope the tests come out well. Best wishes to you Laurie from all the boys, particularly the boys in the 'Sig' Platoon.
- NX39890 Jack Maloney, Ward 610. Operation on right hip for replacement of bone tissue. Jack has been ill for some time. Hope the operation is a success, Jack. Best wishes from all the boys.

WELFARE REPORT (continued).

NX67 Richard Waugh, Ward 610. Dick was an original member and transferred to 6th Div. H.Q. In for treatment. Best wishes from the battalion. Old 4th. George Pearson. In for tests and very cheerful. Looks forward to visits from 2/4 boys. Sends regards to all.

AT LADY DAVIDSON'S

NX5145 Jim Robin, "E" Block. Jim was admitted to Concord towards the end of last month and missed out in being included in the last W.O.G. and has subsequently been transferred to L.D.H. for convalescence. He is able to come to the phone and I have been keeping in touch with him that way to be able to report his improvement.

FURTHER AFIELD.

NX9681 Fred Driscoll has been visited by Bob Jackson and Frank Crutchett in Linton War Veteran's Home at Yass. Subsequently we find that Fred Flay is also there. If they are not aware of each other's presence we will make sure that situation is corrected.

NX5191 Frank Frizell. Bob Ferguson called in on Frank at the Peel Nursing Home in Tamworth. Frank is so-so. Mornie Peters and George Sugden have been keeping in touch with Frank. George himself has not been all that well of late.

Best wishes to all.....from Bill Parry and the Welfare Team.

LAST POST.

NX46828 L.A.(Bill) Cavanagh. Laurie Waterhouse received word from Vera Provians of the death of Bill. At present, no further information available. To Bill's family we send our deepest sympathy.

NX7061 R.H.Chamberlain. Sorry to say that Dick died on 16th July. We were successful in contacting Dick's relatives, Ernie Swain and the Bundeena R.S.L.

Reported in Reveille were the deaths of:

NX2065 T.W.Haley
NX13398 T.F.Malcolm
NX47549 W.F.Palmer
QX58263 R.V.Underhill
NX85440 W.G.Skelton
NX120944 C.B.Thomas
NX156964 J.F.Vaughan

"Carpenter's Tools."

As you know Alf Carpenter and I usually leave our cars at Gosford and Woy Woy respectively, and travel to committee meetings by train. During a recent return trip after a "refreshing" supper Alf started recalling a few incidents of immediate post war years.

Alf and Johnny Hawkins shared a big suitcase whilst partaking of a certain sea voyage at the expense of His Majesty's Government in 1942. (No doubt the R.S.M. and C.Q.M.S. could label it "Wanted on voyage." It contained Alf's Sam Browne and S.D.uniform, odd army manuals and a few souvenirs, etc.)

After Alf left the 2/4 and gained his commission, among the many jobs he had, he had at one time lectured and demonstrated anti-personnel bombs etc. Two phosphorous bombs of about 9" in length looked particularly attractive so in they went into the suitcase. Knowing Alf they would certainly been deloused, good soldier that he was.

However after 7 years of army life, when he got home, as storage space was short in his house, he tossed the suitcase up in the rafters through the manhole and promptly forgot all about it.

Years later they sold the house and took a trip overseas and returned to a new house. Alf came home from work one day to "find Marj nearly hitting the roof." 'You could have blown us all up - fancy selling a house with high explosives in it' etc. etc.

It appears that the new owners were having electrical work done and the suitcase was found. The bombs must have had a few grains of phosphorous left which on contact with the air had rusted out a little. The new residents panicked and called the police who swore they were alive - moved the residents out and called in the army bomb disposal boys. They also said they were alive and took them carefully away between sand bags to dispose of them. Alf says that

"Carpenter's Tools" (continued).

he still has not convinced Marj that he DID delouse them - "the police must know more than you..." etc. etc.

Regarding the machine pistol recently given to Norm Harries for the military museum. Alf reckoned that as he took it from a German, who no longer needed it, possession was nine points of the law and ownership had reverted to him, so he dismantled it and posted it home in two parcels labelled "Carpenters Tools."

Maurie Porter.

(We heard that Maurie is the leading contender in the Grandfather Stakes his present score being 10.... Any advance on this figure? Editor)

SITREPS.

The response to our need for Welfare team members has been most rewarding. Slim Powers who has been a visatee rather than a visitor is most emphatic that he still in harness now that he is somewhat better. Cec Calver will be doing the leg work that Bill Parry used to do. Frank Ivey and Dave Endean have also volunteered to be on the team, thanks chaps. That should bring us up to better than normal strength.

Ken Moses' contribution to the last issue of W.O.G. was commented on by a few members, two of whom remarked that they didn't have to look for the signatory to see who wrote it. Wholly Moses! The man has a style of his own. Hopefully Mr. Grasby won't read the last issue but even if he does, the way the penal system is these days, Ken can easily get a compassionate transfer from Pentridge to Fremantle Gaol where he will be able to attend Dasher's 2/4 Privates Association meetings held therein every 30th February. Get his subs Dasher, he is unfinancial!

On a saner note, at the meeting it was reported that Eileen Lynch was in North Sydney Community Hospital, 95 Ridge Street, North Sydney. This was the news at the meeting on 22nd July. Intending visitors please contact Enid Latimer - 499-5370 or Gwen MacLennan - 407-3320 regarding Eileen's whereabouts when you get this W.O.G. From all your friends Eilleen, get well soon.

THE SECRETARY'S MAIL BAG.

As from this month this column will be kept brief when mentioning individuals due to the fact that we are producing W.O.G. ourselves and we find that 8 pages are just too much. We are aiming for a 6 page issue in the interests of a lighter work load and compliance with postal regulations.

First off, we have an influx of letters from Narrandera. They were sent by Norm Rogers, seeking information re Greek Medal for the late Joe Dixon and sending subs; Ian Dixon son of Joe, wrote asking for the Bn Medal for his father. Jim James sent a short note, letting me know that he is still around and a request for the Bn medal. These letters have been replied to. Artie Harradine of Temora sent a letter letting me know that he is still in the land of the living and sending subs. Tim West of Cowra sent quite an epistle relating to an incident in 1941 in Greece reported incorrectly in the War History and Gavin Long's book. This will be dealt with and you will probably get my reply in a week or two, Tim. In the meantime my best wishes to you and yours, thanks for writing.

Ron Coutts of Castle Hill wrote regarding the omission of his name and number from the Bn. War History. As there are several others in the same situation the Committee is reviewing this matter examining ways and means of taking corrective action. Thanks for your interest in this matter.

Another of those sitreps from Bob 'Dagwood' Jackson of Wagga, dealing with various matters relating to Bn business, also giving information re Fred Driscoll, and what has been done re Athol Watts' complaint relating to lack of contact among Bn members in the Wagga area. Bob has also been up to Adelong with Stan Blacksley to see Beverly Moores (widow of the late Roy Moores) Keep up the good work, Bob and best wishes to you from the Association. A letter from Frank Crutchett of Canberra in response to my letter to him requesting someone to call in to see Fred Driscoll at Yass. This he and Jack Huston have done. He assured me that Fred is O.K., just plain lonely and depressed. Thank you Frank for your fine effort along with Jack Huston's assurance to visit Fred in the future.

A letter from Jack Lister of Kyogle, sending subs and reporting that he had seen Reg Murphy who had the mishap of falling off a "bronco" and suffered a couple of cracked ribs, otherwise O.K. Said he sees Doug Stebbing, Tim Lamond,

THE SECRETARY'S MAIL BAG. (Continued)

Max Nernay and Bobby Gardiner occassionally. Thanks Jack and I am sure you have made our Treasurer happy.

Des Loydell of Bathurst. Des has decided to join us and enjoy the benefits of the Association. You have 'done the right thing' Des and I am sure you will enjoy participating in our activities. Best of luck to you, Des.

That great stalwart of discipline and the parade ground - "Robbie" (as we knew him) wrote in letting us know how he is. Says he lives on 'pills and screws' these days but still manages to keep a straight back when walking. Wants to get in touch with VX92361 Pte. W.J.Mott. Anyone who knows his whereabouts get in touch with me. Thank you Robbie and good health.

Our last letter comes from Jeff Naseby of Ermington, sending in subs and requesting Greek Medal translation. This has been forwarded, so hope all is well with you.

We have also received 'Thank you' cards from Ferd Pegg and the Willoughby family, also one from the Malcolm family.

Thats all this month, keep in touch.

Laurie Waterhouse. Hon. Secretary.

VALE.

Dick Chamberlain, NX7601, a former R.S.M. of the 2/4Bn. and late of War Veterans' Home, Narrabeen died on Saturday evening 16th July 1983. His funeral was held on Tuesday, 20th July at the Woronora Crematorium. It was a quiet family affair, with myself, representing the 2/4 Association, attending. The R.S.L. part of the service was carried out by the Welfare Officer of the Bundeena R.S.L. Sub-branch, Mr Tim Atherton who knew Dick well when he resided at Bundeena. Ernie Swain, a member of the 2/4 Bn Assn and President of the Bundeena R.S.L. attended on behalf of the Bundeena R.S.L. Club. Dick had been very ill for some years now. Our Welfare team visiting Concord, the War Veterans' Home and Lady Davidson Nursing Home, often submitted Dick's name on the sick list over the past five or six years.

It is regretted that we could not get a notice in the papers, this was due to the short notice we had, also we could not submit a death notice without the permission of the funeral director, whom we did not know at the time.

Laurie Waterhouse.

6th Australian Infantry Division Association.

Sunday 17th July, was a beautiful sunny day, ideal for the occassion of the unveiling of the 6th Aust. Div. 2nd A.I.F. Memorial Plaque at Customs' Officers' Stairs, Circular Quay. Quite a good roll-up of veterans of the various units that formed the 6th Div. A short march from the Maritime Services Building down to the area where the plaque is sited. It was led by personnel of the 3 R.A.R. and the band from that unit, the 3 R.A.R. Pipe Band. The memorial plaque was made by Lynden Dadswell, the sculptor, who also was a member of the 6th Div. It is sited so that it faces the harbour and one can look from it in a straight to the Sydney Harbour Heads. It was placed in this spot because the majority of troops left by ship down the harbour, and so is a fitting tribute to those who sailed away with the 6th Div. Those who attended from 2/4 Bn. Assn. were as follows:

Ken Kesteven, Cec Chrystal, Laurie Waterhouse, Bob Ferguson, Bob Jackson, Tom Erskine, "Biscuits" Arnott, Charlie Evans, Harry Gjedsted, Harry Wright and Hilda, Rex Everson and Wife, Bill Thornton (2/11 Bn) and myself.

Sir Ivan Dougherty submitted an apology for his absence due to illness, also our President, Ted Fox, who could not make the function due to family commitments. After the ceremony morning tea was served at the Aust - American Club rooms in Lower Fort Street. One feature that marred the ceremony was the absence of the White Over Green banner. I think that this should be looked at in the near future.

Laurie Waterhouse.

VP (Victory Pacific) Memorial Ceremony.

A ceremony will be held by the 6th Div Assn commemorating VP Day at the Cenotaph, Martin Place, Sydney on Monday 15th August, 1983.

Those attending are requested to assemble at the Cenotaph by 1015 hrs. The ceremony will commence at 1100hrs. All ex-members of 6th Aust. Inf. Divn. are requested to attend.

GOING TO THE SOUTHPORT RE-UNION? - CONTACT LAURIE McCOSKER
GOING BY BUS? - CONTACT LAURIE WATERHOUSE

BOTH ADDRESSES ON PAGE 1.

LET THEM ORGANISE COMFORTABLY FOR YOU AND WITHOUT LAST MINUTE PANIC TO THEM.

BOOK NOW!

EDITORIAL NOTICE.

Although the meeting night is the deadline for items for the next month's W.O.G. it would be appreciated if people could get copy for W.O.G. to the editor about a week earlier. Since we are doing the whole thing ourselves the actual editing and typing is much less time consuming than the production, wrapping, addressing and posting. Therefore it is advantageous to be printing as each page is typed. A lot of this can be done before the meeting if we have the early copy. Ideally, if only last minute news such as the Welfare Report and the report on the meeting itself were all that remained to be included, the editorial staff would have a much less hectic time of it. Thank you.

The Editorial Committee.

CASH REGISTER.

Further to the lengthy list printed last month and in response to several queries we now list subs and donations received during the period 1st July to 31st December, 1982 (including some monies received early January 1983 that were included in the 1982 Balance Sheet).

\$50

Peter Willan
Bill Parry

C Cameron
Bob Rixon

Ron Booty
Ron Burley (\$60)

\$25

Bill Black

\$20

Ewen Wood
Bert Milner
Roy McAdam
Bill Facey

Roy Denyer
Keith McCaffrey
Chris White

Tom Hart
Mona Sherritt
Nance Smith

\$15

Bert Ellway

Monty Siems

\$12

Ron Raymont
W Willmott

Ron Booty
Brian Hill

Wally Capper
Jim Wtaker

\$10

A C Turner
Harry Smith
Vic Hill
Doreen Manual
Harry Gjedsted
Bill Willmott
Les Drayson
J. Whitelaw

Bill Newth
Phil Betts
Eric Toynton
Lance Cutcliffe
T. J. Taylor
Rick Carter
Ron White
Dick Morris

Laura Wallace
Jack Hughes
Geo. Gartrell
Olive Willchams
C.L.J. Barwick
A. (Lofty) Gibson
R.W. Lane
Cyril Stillwell

\$6

Geo. Parry
Pop Williams
Fred Morrow
W. Marriott
Perc Dalla
Laurie Crispin
Roy Palmer
H. Roberts

C.P.O'Keefe
Arthur Harradine
Geo. Walton
C. Bradley
Jock Cummings
Cec Lawson
Ron Small

Max Nernay
Mavis Morgan
Vic Manchester
Roy Walker
M Perram
Dave McGilivray
Jim Cameron

Colin O'Brien
Matt Barry
Wal Johnson
Jack Partridge
H.W. Russell
Keira Tanko
Dave Endean

Although the year is now into its second half the Treasurer is still ready to receive and acknowledge subscriptions, donations, Life Subscriptions, anything! Thanking you in anticipation.

Allen Lindsay Hon. Treasurer.