



White over 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.)
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NEXT MEETING.

The next Monthly Meeting will be held on Tuesday, 22 January, at the Gallipoli Memorial Club, 12 Loftus St, Sydney. The Committee meets at 1130 hrs followed by the General Meeting at 1430 hrs. Lunch is available in the Dining Room 1200-1400hrs



The Patron of the Association, Sir Ivan Dougherty, President Alf Carpenter, and the committee, join in sending their personal greetings to all members their wives, and loved Ones. Wishing one and all a happy Christmas and a bright and pleasant New Year. May it bring good health and happiness to all.

MONTHLY MEETING - 27th NOVEMBER, 1984.

The last monthly general meeting for 1984 was held on Tuesday, 27th November, 1984, at the Gallipoli Memorial Club at 1430 hrs, preceded by the Committee meeting held at 1130hrs. President Alf Carpenter presided at both meetings, with 35 members attending the General Meeting. Those present were:-
President Alf Carpenter, SVP Allen Lindsay, Fred Staggs, Laurie Waterhouse, Cec Chrystal, Norm Auberson, Athol Heath, Bill Parry, Barney Turley, Ferdi Pegg, Ted Fox, John Hawkins, Bob Ferguson, Harold Bowman, Ken Richardson, "Biscuits" Arnott, Jim Forman, "Curl" Gorman, Sid Buckley, Ron Barber, George Stack, Trevor Richardson, Ron Williams, Merv Nicholson, "Slim" Venn, "Tich" Fordham, Rex Everson, Norrie McGregor, Peter Cade, Vic Forbes, "Slim" Pollock, "Slim" Powers, Dave McGillivray, Alec Maxwell, and Andrew Phillips. Apologies received from - Jim Graham, Dick Pinson, Ken Kesteven, John Copland, John Meehan, Harry Wright, Frank Ivey, Bill MacLennan, Brian Waring, Len Smith, Jack Huston and Ken Trudgeon. Much of the business conducted at the meeting arose from the correspondence in, and there was a considerable amount dealt with. The first letter being from Esca Riordan of Kempsey giving news of Jim Brown and his activities after retiring from Parliament also informed us that he had just returned from a three-week tour of China. We believe we have to offer congratulations to Esca, his Life Membership of Kempsey R.S.L. being recently announced.
Bob Jackson wrote from Wagga, to inform us of the formation of the 1985 Wagga Re-union Committee:- himself, Harry Lindsay, Stan Blackslly, Bill Cosier, Athol

Watts, Jock Cummings, Perce Dalla and hoping Max Sydenham will join them when he returns from holidays. Dagwood informs us that the Wagga R.S.L. is booked, that they are now looking at the accommodation side - motels and hotels for booking etc. He hoping to cater for those people who will stay over on the Monday - maybe a trip to Tumut, out to see the Blowering Dam, or such, however this is only in the "thinking stage" - Dagwood's final message is "Remember! Stay alive for '85!" A letter from Legacy - Geelong Vic. was received requesting information on the late William Thomas RAPP, NX5142, as they are helping his wife to obtain a War Widow's pension. This was dealt with in general business. Letters were received from George Walton and "Robbie" in South Australia, the old "Camelier" from Bourke Harold Smith, who has just been granted a T.P.I. pension for injuries received in World War 1 (We were unable to ascertain the truth of the rumour that the injuries related to a fall from his camel when returning late to his lines after a prolonged visit to the canteen).

Letters also from Jack Kean, Harry Hamburger, Les Jones, Vic Hill, Rosemary Moses, and Mrs Violet Wilson. It is hoped that we can answer all these letters in January WOG when we will have more space available.

Allen Lindsay in his fluent style, gave the meeting a resume of the association's finances and then presented his balance sheet for the month of November, showing our total funds at \$13314 a very good report indeed.

In general business President Alf gave a detailed report on the 2/1st Field Regiment's dinner at Newcastle which he and wife, Marj and other Newcastle members attended, along with "Biscuits" Arnott and wife, Meg all the way up from Sydney. A report on this function appears elsewhere in this issue. He also reported on the 4RNSW Regiment's parade through the City of Wollongong, exercising its right to the "Freedom of the City" on Saturday, 3rd November. This report will appear in full in the January issue, as it is quite lengthy, however it appears the function was quite a success and our President Alf and SVP Allen enjoyed themselves whilst representing the 2/4th.

President Alf also mentioned that the Honour Board displaying the names of past officers of the Association will be ready for presentation at the Annual General Meeting in February, 1985, when it is hoped that our Patron, Sir Ivan, will perform the ceremony of presenting it to the incoming President and Committee.

Allen Lindsay, in his role of Honorary Treasurer of the "Sir Ivan Dougherty Biography Committee" spoke of the sterling work carried out by Cec Chrystal in the promotion, production and, subsequently, the sale of this great book, giving the figures to justify his comments. Sales of the book to date are 1556 copies with only 420 of the total publication remaining in stock. The number of books sold have created some sort of a record for this type of publication within Australia. The Sir Ivan Dougherty Biography Committee have, with the full approval of Sir Ivan, made significant donations to various service-related charities, including \$3000 to this Association, from the surplus proceeds of sales of the book. Cec Chrystal then showed the meeting a sample of the book, gift-wrapped for Xmas, which are available from Cec (24 The Battlement, Castle Crag 2068) at the usual price of \$12 per copy, plus \$1.50 postage. So shop early and avoid the Christmas rush!

President Alf reported that the Newcastle people are having a BarBQ on Sunday, 16th December. Anyone wishing to go, please contact Alf Carpenter or George Mitchell Sydney (or other) people going up to Newcastle will be met, by arrangement.

President Alf reminded all of the next general meeting, 22nd January 1985 also our Xmas get-together on 12th December (see elsewhere this issue for details), closing the meeting with a seasonal message to all members - Have a happy and enjoyable Christmas, and hoping to see everyone early in the New Year.

Meeting closed at 1545hrs and then the happy hour(s) commenced.

A Reminder! any "Notices of Motion" must be displayed in WOG prior to the A.G.M. That is, they must reach the editor by 1st January, 1985 to be in time for publication. Editor.

News received at the meeting. It was with great regret and sadness that the news was received of the passing of Bill MacLennan's mother at the age of 92 years. Ted Fox represented the Association at the funeral service. To you Bill, and your family, we send our message of sympathy on this sad occasion.

Letters Received relating to the Gosford Re-union.

Dear Laurie,

What I enjoyed most about the Gosford Re-union was the dancing. When I was in the Privates Mess at Wewak, Fred Astaire taught me the W.C.W.- Wewak Constipation Waltz. Noticed that Phil Smith and Jimmy Brown still danced well together, because in the Officers' Mess girls were not allowed in and the officers had to dance with each other. Noticed that Phil and Jimmy had not forgotten the B.W.T.T. - the Blah Walky Talky Tango. Seeing that I marched from Perth to Gosford for the Re-union, it was not much trouble to march carrying the Battalion Banner. However it was very hard marching with Laurie Waterhouse, because when we march in West Aust. we swing our arms from West to East and I kept knocking into him, besides he snored while he was marching. Still it was great after all these years that we can still get together. Lily thought that the older we grow, the more

compatible we become. The 2/4th ex-Privates Association is finished. Maffese the Condies, Shuftie Wahed, more about the ex-Privates later,

Yours, "Dasher" Deacon.

Dear Laurie,

My eight days in N.S.W. and in particular the three days I spent at Gosford at the 2/4th Re-union, meeting old mates again, and new ones too, was a most enjoyable and memorable experience. As far as I am concerned the re-union had everything possible to offer, there wasn't one single thing about it that wasn't up to scratch. It was absolutely first class in fraternity and organisation and I am grateful to record my appreciation to Jack Partridge and his committee and their ladies for their outstanding efforts in looking after us all, so well. I will long remember the things Sir Ivan, Alf Carpenter and Phil Smith had to say at the dinner, the smorgasbord and the wreath-laying ceremony - all three are experts in their ability to express themselves well in the art of speaking. My meeting with "Biscuits" Arnott and his charming wife Meg, for lunch at the Gallipoli Memorial Club and his subsequent guided tour of the club including the "Regimental Room" was, indeed, a high-light of my visit. Absorbing the history that adorns the walls of the Club, gave me some inkling where all the fraternity and welfare that is associated with the great 2/4th Infantry Battalion Association begins, and is then generated right around Australia. I did appreciate the time and hospitality given to me by "Biscuits" and his good wife, Meg. I came over to the Re-union to see and meet as many 2/4th Battalion members as possible and to have the pleasure of meeting you, Laurie and your wife, Joy. Both of these I achieved, my mission was a complete success and the pleasure of it was indeed, great. From here on when you write up your articles in "White over Green" they will become alive, because I will know so many of the members and their ladies when you write it them. I hope to be able to come back again and in particular look forward to Wagga when I hope my wife Wilma will be able to accompany me. Thank you Laurie and the Association for a wonderful and enjoyable Re-union. Kindest regards,
Doug Slinger (West Aust.)

Dear Laurie,

what a wonderful surprise and I was delighted when Peter and Pat Denver called in to see me and presented me with a picture of a soldier. Greater still was my delight when I saw on the back of it some 122 signatures of men who served with me in our 2/4th Battalion. Indeed! one and all glorious and with distinction in our Regiment. I also thank the wives, sons and daughters of our men for adding their names to the picture. Now let me say to you all - "THANK YOU" - for the greatest compliment a man could wish to have paid to him. As for myself, well may I say that I am proud to have been a part of a great unit, containing some of the best soldiers in the 2nd A.I.F. When I became R.S.M. I set about to create a spirit of pride, interest and smartness within our unit and you all responded beyond my dreams. I will treasure your compliments as long as I live. One thing I promise you all, I will be at your next get-together, God willing, of course. I must be near the oldest in the unit, but I will cope, so to remain the 2/4th Bn grateful "bully", my kindest regards to one and all,
Robbie. (South Aust.)

A German Parachutist's Reminiscences.

Some time ago I received a letter from Rick Carter of Urunga, who on a trip to New Zealand this year, had met a German couple there, the outcome of which resulted in them corresponding with each other. It appears that the husband had been at Heraklion, Crete at the same time as the 2/4th Battalion. Here is an extract of one of the letters, as it was written to Rick:-

"As far as I can remember, my company on route to Kreta has had the order to take a camp (biwak) near Heraklion and after that to mine a hollow way, so that no tanks could get through to support the taken airport. In those days, after the briefing we felt the taking of Kreta would be a "Flowerwar" for us. But we awoke between the jump and the earth. The Allies waited for us because the first wave, who jumped at 7.15am had a great loss in men, also in equipment, in the air. As is known, a normal jump is 80 - 90 metres to earth. As we reached the island, our JU82 got under attack, so the pilot draw the plane higher, so we were hanging longer in the air, therefore we had a lot of casualties. It is still a riddle to me how we managed to occupy Kreta, because of the superiority that we found. From the next 10 days, I've spendit 3 days, because of the morning of the fourth day at 8.30am the war in Kreta was out for me. I am still convinced that the explosive bullet which injured me was not from the regular Corp. We had a lot to do with partisans in our area and they had a lot of possible and impossible weapons, which they used against us. I sincere hope that there will never be another war."

Courtesy of: Rick Carter.

Opening of the Gallipoli Gallery - War Museum.

The recent opening of the Gallipoli Gallery at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra by the Govenor-General Sir Ninian Stephen, saw a gathering of 250 Gallipoli veterans many of them were in wheel-chairs and their ages ranged from 85 to 94 years. Amongst them, were a number of 4th Battalion men. In his address, Sir Ninian said the

Gallery tells the story of Gallipoli, from the call to arms, through the ill-fated landing at Anzac Cove and the horrors of eight months in the trenches, to the operation's only success - the evacuation. He also said that the Gallipoli Gallery commemorated the heroic Anzac Tradition as well as the first engagement of Australian troops after the country became a Commonwealth.

Amongst the veterans attending was Maurice Jessop, 4th Infantry Battalion 1st AIF well-known to a lot of us in the Association and to those members of the Association of 4th Infantry Battalions. Maurie is now 88 years old and is a resident of the Hammondville Nursing Home. He was an official guest and had the privilege of joining the Governor-General and Lady Stephen for afternoon tea at Government House after the official opening.

Maurice joined the AIF in 1914 at the age of 18 years, he served in Egypt and Malta before taking part in the landing. After a bout of typhoid fever, hospitalised in London and after his subsequent recuperation was sent to France and Belgium where he was wounded. Hestill bears a right leg with pieces of shrapnel embedded. Maurice Jessop was quite a frequent attender at our functions over the years. He was a staunch worker for the old 4th Batt also for the Association of 4th Battalions. It is with regret to know that this fine old veteran has to while away his remaining years in a nursing home. If any member can spare the time, I'm sure Maurie would be pleased to see you and appreciate your visit.

Also attending the above function were two other 4th Bn veterans from Port Macquarie. They were Mr Cecil Dawes, who joined the A.I.F. at 18 years of age and Mr Les Crisp another youngster who joined the A.I.F. under age. Both these veterans are members of the Port Macquarie Sub-branch R.S.L. Club.

DECEMBER ACTIVITIES.

As you may need a reminder there will be no general meeting in the month of December. We have the Christmas Get-together on Wednesday afternoon 12th December at the Gallipoli Memorial Club officially commencing at 1500hrs, although we do suggest that you avail yourself of the club's amenities and partake of the luncheon which is served between 1200 and 1430 hrs. Don't forget to turn up and bring your wife or girl friend and/or family or all of them - all are welcome. Admission is free and during the official part of the function you will be the guests of the Association. The next monthly meeting will be 22nd January, 1985 - the fourth Tuesday (not the last). The meeting will commence at the usual time - 1430hrs.

The Association of 4th Infantry Battalions is holding a Christmas get together on Friday, 14th December at the Arncliffe Drill Hall, commencing at 7pm. There will be a charge for supper in the vicinity of \$3 to \$4 per head. Bring your lady, everyone is welcome! SVP Allen Lindsay and wife Gloria will be attending representing President Alf and Marj who have made a prior commitment, your Editor and wife, Joy will also be attending, so roll up in your numbers and make this function the success it deserves to be! Remember the Arncliffe Drill Hall which is about 2 minutes walk from Arncliffe Railway Station.

WEST AUSTRALIAN NEWS.

No sooner had Doug Slinger arrived back in Perth after his hectic trip to Sydney and Gosford and back, when he was organising a get together of the 2/4 Bn chaps and their wives at the Anzac Club. Doug is not one of those chaps that do things by halves. He organised this gathering so that he could tell them all about the Gosford re-union, to pass on the personal messages he had received from various people he had met, also to give each West Australian member a 2/4th Lapel Badge. I think he must have bought all the stock our Treasurer had. He reports that they had a very enjoyable gathering and it was made more so when Mrs Edna Ding called in to see them. Edna is the sister of the late John Chaseling of Kyogle. "Dasher" called in to see her after the Re-union. She brought along photos of Jack and others at Wewak. Of course this created great interest and added to the enjoyment of the evening. Edna lives in Perth and has been invited to join in with the wives of the members, an invitation which she has accepted. As a result of the meeting it was unanimously agreed to hold a 2/4th Battalion Sub-Association meeting every three months. The ladies are going to organise a Christmas Party for them (this is the girls idea), 5th December at the Anzac Club in Perth. Also that the 2/4th Bn members will join with the 2/11 Bn for the Anzac Day March, 1985. Those who attended this function held on Thursday, 1st November, are as follows:- Ross Elliott, Jack Ward, Doug Guthrie, Cec Smith, Stan and June Day, John and Pam Storey, "Dasher" and Lily Deacon (both looking extra well after their N.S.W. trip), Doug and Wilma Slinger and Mrs Edna Ding (nee Chaseling). Apologies received from Wally Evans (other commitments) and Fred Stanwell, who was not feeling well. Doug called in to see him, his wife said he is feeling better now. The above people wish to thank those who sent their good wishes to them from Gosford, and reciprocate by sending "one big greeting" to one and all in N.S.W. and elsewhere from "Sand-Groper" Land. (We wish you all our sincere wishes for a happy Xmas party, it will have passed by the time you read this, however, we here in Sydney wish you every success in your 1985 functions. Editor.)

L A S T P O S T.



NX5912	C.W.Burwell
NX9295	J.D.Collins
NX14123	David Tearall
NX47468	Leo P. Lynch
NX72861	Urban E. Hoather
VX50994	K.W.Ashton



Obituaries.

The death occurred on 11th November at Concord Hospital of Urban Edward Hoather of Ballina. The funeral service and cremation were carried out at the Northern Suburbs Crematorium. Laurie Waterhouse carried out the exserviceman's rites and gave a short address. Those who attended the funeral service were:- Dave Edean, Frank Ivey, Dave Follington, Harry Wright, Fred Staggs and Bill Parry. Herb Hoather of A Company, suffered a long illness, spending many months in Concord Hospital over the last two or three years.

VALE! HERBIE.

The death occurred on 21st November of Leo "Munga" Lynch of Grafton. Leo was a very well-known member of the Signal (No.1) Platoon with an almost magical ability to produce a "sandwich" at any time and under any circumstances. After discharge from the Army he spent the first part of his working life in the family butchering business and his latter working years as a manager in the Grafton Services Club. He was buried at Grafton on 24th November after a funeral service at which the following people represented the 2/4th Battalion Association. Eddie Miller, Allan Kirk, Mel McInnes, Roy Andrews from Lismore, Harry and Ada Whitman of Ballina, Sid Young of Maclean, Jack and Joyce Lister and Joan Chaseling of Kyogle. Leo left a wife, Eileen and eleven children to whom the Association send their deepest sympathy. Leo, also, had been sick for a long time, Making several trips to Sydney for treatment.

VALE! LEO.

W E L F A R E R E P O R T.

Our Welfare Officer has decided to go walk-about over to Peter Denver country and asked me to do his report for him this month, though he had done half of it before he left on his trek.

Visited in Concord Hospital - November.

NX5162	Tom Dawson	Ward 12. Has an infection in the right ankle.
NX127149	J.C.Analzark	Ward 610. Having tests carried out on his spine.
NX39890	Jack Maloney	Ward 11. When Harry called, he was in the process of being Discharged.
NX73096	John Davies	Ward 110. Had been discharged the day he was visited.
NX72861	Herb Hoather	Ward 8. Infection in Esophagos. Seriously ill. (since died)
NX2054	D(Darky) Ellicott	Ward 110 In for prostate gland tests and others. Has had a slight stroke.
NX160852	Victor Barrett	Tumor on the bladder. having a series of tests. He was a late-comer to the Battalion joining us at Aitape. New Guinea
NX127830	Warren.T McDonald	In for lung trouble. Having a lot of trouble talking Will be in Concord for three to four weeks. Not on Bn. Nominal Roll. Said he was a late-comer.
NX106252	Alan J Johston	Ward 530 In for observation, chest trouble (belongs to 4th Battalion 1939-45)
NX46504	Fred Varley	Has been discharged from Lady Davidson Hospital and returned home to Lismore.
Eileen Frances		Was visited in Rachael Foster Hospital on the morning of the 25th October and was later discharged that day. Had a hip replacement.

2/4th Battalion - "T" Shirts.

There is a new supply of these shirts at the same price of \$11 posted. They are in sizes 14 to 24, which should cover about every size. They will make excellent Xmas presents, if you have run out of ideas or don't know what to get for so and so. Phone call to the Editor or a letter will suffice and they will be posted quickly, the rest? Well, that's up to Australia Post and its renowned service.

2/1st Field Regiment Association - Annual Dinner.

The above Association held a Re-union Dinner at the Gallipoli Legion Club at

Hamilton, Newcastle on Friday 2nd November. The function, though enjoyable for the cuisine and beverages, lacked that extra dash of togetherness for such an occasion. Nevertheless it was a good night - enjoyed by those who represented the 2/4th Association. They were, as follows:- Alf and Marj Carpenter, George and Heather Mitchell, "Biscuits" and Meg Arnott and Ivonne Pearse. President Alf had hoped for a better roll-up, but I suppose there are certain circumstances which are becoming more evident as our members grow older, that prevents them attending such functions.

QUEENSLAND NEWS.

Laurie McCosker wrote, saying that they got Wally McKenzie back home alright from Gosford and since Wally's return he has undergone a series of tests and is now awaiting the results. The specialist says he is pleased with his heart and the pacemaker, Wally and Betty McKenzie wish to thank everyone for their concern over his well-being. Gordon Bladen wrote saying he regretted his absence from the Re-union at Gosford, but unforeseen circumstances prevented him from attending, Sends his regards to all.

Recently I answered a letter in the Mail Bag Column re Chris White and his wife Patricia having won the garden competition at Gordonvale Q'land. Here are the judges comments on the garden.

"A wonderful garden, obviously attended by a dedicated gardener, who with perfect timing, had 6000 annuals in full bloom, showing a blaze of colour, thus making a wonderful display, in its corner position." The Whites also took out the utility section for their fruit and vegetable garden. Oh! to have a green thumb. If any member of the Assn. is travelling around the Cairns area, it would pay dividends to drive into the town of Gordonvale just to see the gardens. Your editor did 10 years ago and was amazed to see the colour everywhere. Very civic minded, these residents of Gordonvale.

This month I received a letter from Les Jones of Brookvale. He was writing about a paragraph that appeared in November WOG. It dealt with a statement that our SVP Allen could no longer lay claim to being the youngster he was because Doug Slinger of W.A. came forth with his age being 58 years. Now we have Les Jones coming in with a claim, because he too, is only 58 years. To make a story out of it that may interest our members, no matter how young or old you may be, I rang Les and he gave me some very interesting highlights of his enlistment and early days prior to joining the battalion. Les will be 59 on 7th May 1985, enlisted in 1944, six weeks prior to the Japanese POW outbreak at Cowra, where he was involved in the search and round-up of the escapees. He said they were going to a dance at Woodstock, a little township the Sydney side of Cowra, the night the breakout occurred. They were bundled into a truck, given 10 rounds of ammunition and taken to Woodstock, where they patrolled the streets and outlying roads, with rifles and fixed bayonets. Whilst in Woodstock the local policeman accommodated them in the cells. He was glad to say that was the one and only time he has been inside a police cell. He was at Canungra, undergoing the 6 weeks course, when after 4½ weeks, they were rushed to Brisbane where they were embarked on 12th July 1945 and joined the battalion on either 18th or 19th July. Les is a regular attender at the Anzac Day March and Dinner where he joins his comrades of the Signal Platoon. He says he appears to be the only one of that particular bunch of fellows who regularly attend, as he has not seen one of them yet. Les is looking forward to the year 1986 when he can join the ranks of the leisurely.

Editor.

NEWS FROM AMERICA.

Our very good staunch member residing at Long Beach, California wrote to me, to let me know, and those who remember him, that he was still in the land of the living, namely one Mr William Gibbs. Mentions that he is receiving WOG regularly says that it is most welcome and is appreciated. He stressed the point of making sure that we put the area code on his address, because the mailmen, or some of them, at least, are not on the bright side. Anything out of the ordinary is just not delivered until they can sort it out some time later. Bill sent us a \$US20 note, to keep our Treasurer happy. Thanks Bill for the sub and for your well wishes. When you read this think of us here. In the meantime we wish you, your family and those dear to you a happy and enjoyable festive season. A Merry Christmas and a Bright and Happy New Year - may it bring good health to you all.
