



White Water 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 Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held at the Gallipoli Memorial Club, 12 Loftus Street, Sydney on Friday 24th February, 1984 at 8 p.m.

CONGRATULATIONS !!!! BILL Mac LENNAN O.A.M.

Our Immediate Past President, Bill MacLennan, was the recipient of a Medal in the Order of Australia (O.A.M.) in the recent Australia Day Honours List. Bill was granted the award in recognition of his service to the community, particularly in the areas of the Scottish Heritage Council, Legacy and this Association.

The January Meeting.

38 members attended the January meeting of the Association. The main items of business discussed were daytime v. night-time meetings and future country re-unions. President Ted reminded the members that the Annual General Meeting will be held a night-time meeting and the matter of daytime/night-time meetings will be resolved at this meeting.

It was also announced that Inverell's application for the 1986 Country Re-union had been accepted. It is now official that the country re-unions 1984, 1985 and 1986 are, respectively, Gosford, Wagga and Inverell.

Jack Partridge gave details of the Gosford re-union, they are presented elsewhere in this issue.

Members present at the meeting were: President Ted Fox, Alf Carpenter, Laurie Waterhouse, Allen Lindsay, Athol Heath, Jack Partridge, Fred Staggs, Con Short, Alex Arnott, Phil Smith, Noel Ford, Jim Sadler, Norm Auberson, Barney Turley, Jack McLaughlin, Bill Parry, Harry Wright, Tom Gorman, Tich Fordham, J Maloney, Ted Jackson, Bill MacLennan, Slim Pollock, Allan Manuel, Dave McGilivray, Lionel Clarke, Bob Ferguson, Bob Lever, Frank Ivey, C Cameron, Dick Pinson, Jack Hines, Cec Powers, Ron Barber, John Ringrose, Cec Chrystal, Alex Maxwell, George Stack. John Meehan and Ken Kesteven attended the committee meeting only.

The 1984 Country Re-union at Gosford.

Jack Partridge has been appointed as the local secretary by the Re-union Committee. At the January meeting Jack gave the members the latest information regarding our 1984 Re-union. Jack is now taking bookings, they should be sent direct to:-

Mr J Partridge, 38 Serpentine Road, Erina Heights, Terrigal. 2260.

A deposit of \$10 should accompany each individual booking. Accommodation will be in motels in the immediate vicinity of the Gosford R.S.L. Club, including the

motel section of the R.S.L. Club itself. Also at the club motel section shared accommodation is available. Please nominate type of accommodation required ie, shared, twin or single; where ie, RSL Club or other motel; number of nights ie, Friday, Saturday and/or Sunday.

The re-union will be held on the weekend Saturday 6th/ Sunday 7th October, 1984. Alf Carpenter announced that the Parramatta Pipe Band will attend the re-union providing the marching airs for the Saturday afternoon parade and the harmony at the Sunday get-together.

An optional Bus Tour of the area will be arranged for the Sunday, details of which will be notified later in the year. In addition to the usual Saturday Night formal dinner a get-together and smorgasboard will be held on Sunday night in a private section of the Gosford R.S.L. Club.

Secretary's Mailbag - January 1984.

The new year has started off on a quiet note, I hope this is a sign of things to come. Whether members are preoccupied with the more mundane affairs of life or whether they are seeking better climes to retire to, we shall no doubt hear in due course. Anyway the mail is arriving in very slowly and that suits me fine.

The first letter comes from the pen of Bob "Dagwood" Jackson of Wagga, who wrote to say thank you to us for writing up news of Fred Driscoll in the newsletter also for the letter I sent to the Officer-in-Charge at War Vets Homes, Yass thanking them for looking after Fred. Bob wrote his letter on 10th Jan, so reminded me of the day, Embarkation day, 1940. He mentioned that he was going to round up some of the Wagga boys and have a remembrance drink at the R.S.L. Yes it is 44 years since the R.M.T. Strathnaver left Darling Harbour, who could forget it, Bob. "Slim" Powers and I had a quiet little drink at the Miranda R.S.L. or that night. Hope you enjoyed your little drink and kept out of the way of the R.B. Test boys.

The second letter came from down the South Coast, from Cyril Stillwell, a very sad letter. Cyril wrote that he had lost his second wife Grace, after spending some very happy years with her. I am sure I speak on behalf of all the members when I extend to you Cyril their deepest sympathies in your time of sadness.

All our best wishes for you in the future, Cyril (PS I hope your T-Shirt has arrived). The next letter is from Glenunga, Sth Aust. from the pen of Bill Loy. Bill rang prior to Christmas and wanted to know about the Association. I think Sar-Major Robbie has been on to him, he wanders around that area and was at the 19th Bde H.Q. Christmas Bar-B-Q. So we have another new member, hence his letter received later enclosing cheque for subs, tie and medal. Bill, you should be wearing you tie by the time you read this, the medal you will receive some time in March. Welcome to the Association and we hope that one of these days you will show up in Sydney, in the meantime, good luck Bill.

Next letter comes from Don Dimsey of Victoria writing in to let us know that he is well and wishes to be remembered to all who knew him. Don sent us a cheque to keep our Treas. happy. Pleased to hear that you received your medal and tie O.K. Many thanks for your seasonal greetings and we in return wish you well for the future. There's no doubt about these old "cameliers", they are persistent. I refer to W.L. veteran, Harold Smith of Bourke, who has sent me a letter informing me that he has left Bourke by train for Sydney. The reason for the trip, to appear before the Pension Tribunal. Harold has been fighting this case for a couple of years now and was not getting anywhere. However he has some influential people behind him this time, so good luck to you Harold from all of us.

Received a quick note from our very capable correspondent in Joh' Country, Vera Provians, whose letter is published in full elsewhere in this issue.

Eileen Frances, widow of Vic Frances, wrote in for a Bn. T-Shirt, which has been duly despatched and should be in your hands by the time you read this, Eileen.

A letter was received from Allan Manuel was received along with a cheque to cover his first subscription fee. Allan had applied for Association membership last month. Eligibility has been O.K. and now Allan is one of us. He served with 19th Bde. HQrs and was attached to the Battalion for some time from Syria to the Islands. He attended our January Meeting and renewed some old acquaintances.

Received a letter from Miss Penny Saxby, daughter of the late Les Saxby enquiring about her eligibility to apply for her late father's Battalion Medal. Said she would like to have it included in his service medals. A form has been sent.

Received a note from Cec. Chrystal saying that he had received a Christmas card from George and Helen Martin of Goulburn saying that George had been in hospital with a lung ailment. Cec. has replied on behalf of the Association.

Also received a short note from Gwen Newth of Moss Vale saying how she appreciated the day meetings, because her husband, Bill Newth, is now able to attend. Thank you Gwen for taking the time to let us know your feelings in this matter.

A late letter received as this goes to print from Ian Wallwork of Iluka, giving the news of Doug Stebbings' hospitalisation at Lismore for a serious operation, believe Allan Kirk and Fred Varley are looking after him. Couldn't find a better duo for the job. Ian also mentioned that Les Cox (NX46898) was going into Concord

for an operation, would I let Harry Wright know. Thanks Ian, for the news of Doug and Les as well as the order for the "T-Shirt"

SITREPS.

From Norm Johnstone.

Many years ago W.O.G. ran a series of articles called "Crete Diary" by Norm Johnstone. They were quite detailed and ran for many issues in serial form. It appears that a lady has come by a copy of the original diary and its companion diaries covering the campaigns of Libya and Greece and wants to publish them as a business venture between her and Norm.

She enquired about a New Guinea diary, which unfortunately, Norm did not keep. The question is: Did any member keep a detailed diary of the Aitape-Wewak campaign, preferably from the viewpoint of his personal experiences from a Section, Platoon or Company level? The thought is that the existing trilogy of Libya, Greece and Crete diaries could become a quadrilogy (new word invented by W.O.G.?) with the inclusion of such a diary by mutual arrangement of those concerned and thus cover all the fighting in which 2/4 Bn. was involved. If any member has a detailed diary of the New Guinea phase of 2/4 Bn's campaigns the editor would like to hear from him.

From Noel Ford.

Arthur Reilly's home at Glenhaven was destroyed in the Victorian bush fires last year and Arthur lost everything including all the valuable manuscripts and paintings of his wife Pauline. He now reports a brand new home almost completed.

Evacuation of Crete - May 29 1941.

Early dawn - Hereward and Imperial both sunk about 14 miles from Heraklion Harbour. "Rocky" Denyer(NX5926) and "Curley" Gorman(NX5159) both of 15 Platoon C Coy. were rescued from the sinking "Imperial" and taken onto "Hotspur" - as the ship pulled away both Rocky and Curley protested loudly that they could see small lights (of cigarettes) near the stern but no-one believed them and there could be no check or time to wait. In May, 1944 "Artie" White, (NX15539 - ex C Coy. transferred to RAAF) was shot down over Germany. In POW camp he was told by an inmate that he had been left on a sinking ship off Crete and in company with a British Sgt. they took many hours to swim to shore and capture. The man was from the 2/4th and Arthur cannot remember his name but thinks it was Webb or Hill. "Rocky" and "Curley" will buy drinks for our comrade at the next re-union if he can be identified.

From Vera Provians.

Wink Walker rang from Caloundra. Just back from Atherton. Doing all the right things and feeling O.K. I did ring around at Christmas (Widows first) Deloros Franklin and family all well. Patty Sumpter of Ipswich has seen Mrs Harold Cox, she is spending Xmas with her daughters. A sad year for Billie Bennett of Macksville, her sister passed away in Royal North Shore after a long battle against cancer. Good news- Max Nernay pleased with himself, has won a bowls trophy lately. Chris and Pat White of Gordonvale are sightseeing in Nepal and Burma. Norm McIntyre and his brother shared Christmas dinner, both were in Greenslopes at the same time. News from Phil and Jack Ormiston of Cowra, say they are staying close to home these days. To Stan Sutherland and wife Mickie, a daughter Cheryl. I hear Dasher is switching his allegiance to the Navy and entering a challenge for the America's Cup on behalf of 2/4th Grandchildren. Wants them shipped over in plenty of time for training. I suppose Alf and the 2/4th can sponsor the crew's uniforms - White over Green T-Shirts, of course.

From Dagwood Jackson (via Laurie)

On Tuesday, 10th January 1984 Bob Jackson, our chief correspondent at Wagga, on realising the date and its relevance to a momentous happening in the history of 2/4th Inf. Battalion, decided to do something about it. So hopping in the car he set about gathering a few of the boys living in Wagga. The purpose being to celebrate the 44th Anniversary of the sailing of the 6th Aust. Div. 2nd A.I.F. The first Australian troops to leave Australia and the 2/4th members were amongst them. I would have liked to have been there at Wagga as that's the place I enlisted from and was one of the first seventeen to leave on 23rd October, 1939. Those who attended this little celebration were:- Bob Jackson, Stan Blacksley, Perc Dalla, Athol Watts, Joe Wells and Bruce Stewart.

From Athol Heath.

Athol received a letter from Graham Woodward's wife Joyce. As you may be aware, Graham lives in England. The letter was to inform Athol and Pat that Graham was waiting to have heart surgery. However the letter arrived by sea mail and therefore took many weeks to arrive. Pat has forwarded a letter in return, but in the meantime we will have to wait for further news.

Following this news Harry Wright rang to say that he had received word that Graham had the surgery and was under intensive care.

Welfare Report - January 1984.

NX5147 Finch D C Ward 130 RGH Des was admitted after having suffered a stroke.
 NX9868 Raymont Ron Ward 530 RGH Having problems with poor circulation, to have part of one stump removed.
 NX68025 Tanko Keira Now discharged from Lady Davidson Hosp. after successful fitting of artificial legs. Has gone to Queensland but afterwards to have operation on left hand.
 NX5855 Blacksley Stan in Wagga Hospital to have bowel operation.
 Nx5129 Woodward Graham In hospital in London for heart surgery. Information from Athol Heath and Ron Williams.
 Visiting hours RGH Concord have been extended. For all general wards visiting times are now:- 8.00 am to 1.00 pm and 2.00 pm to 8.00 pm.
 Special arrangements apply in intensive care wards and the burns unit.

LAST POST.

NX77934	Brown J	From Jan/Feb Reveille.
VX115883	Chapman N R	ditto.
NX5238	Mort W J	ditto.
VX27025	Scott E J	ditto.

NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE 2/4th INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION.
 to be held at the GALLIPOLI MEMORIAL CLUB at 8pm on Friday 24th February, 1984.

AGENDA.

1. One Minute's Silence. ✓
2. Welcome to members and guests ✓
3. Apologies. ✓
4. Minutes of the 1983 Annual General Meeting. ✓
5. Business arising out of the 1983 Minutes. ✓
6. Presentation of the Annual Reports. ✓
7. Presentation of the Annual Accounts of the Association. ✓
8. Confirmation of a Nomination for Honorary Life Membership. ✓
9. Presentation of Notices of Motion. (see below). *out.* ✓
10. Determination of the times for Monthly General Meetings. ✓ *DAY Carried*
11. Annual Election of Officers of the Association.
12. General Business. *Thanks to all. also all office Banners.*

Notice of Motion to be submitted at the Annual General Meeting.
 by Cec Powers.

"That this Annual General Meeting defer any final decision to determine whether monthly meetings be held Daytime or Night-time for a period of 4 months.
 During that period the Association to hold four alternative meetings viz:
 March.... Night-time April.... Daytime(Anzac Day)
 May..... Night-time June..... Daytime
 July.... An extraordinary General Meeting to be held to make final decision as to when monthly meetings will be held.

ANNUAL REPORTS.

President's Annual Report.

Our Association Year ends with the Annual General Meeting this month and it has been successful in all major aspects. We are in a sound financial position despite the capital expenditure incurred in purchasing a copying machine to enable us to print and produce the Monthly Journal entirely within our own resources, and further despite "non-recurring" expenditure associated with (a) the presentation of a flagpole and commemorative plaque to the Country Women's Association of N.S.W. and (b) the acquisition of our own new Association Flag which, distinct from our Banner as used on Anzac Day and similar occasions, will be used on more personal affairs such funerals of our members and so forth.

Some of the more significant events of the year were:-

Anzac Day: The wreath-laying ceremony was not as well attended as in previous years but the main march and the re-union luncheon were up to our usual standard and we had a very good attendance of country members. Once again we were led by "our" Parramatta Pipe Band, and in the late afternoon several of our ladies joined us at the Gallipoli Memorial Club at the conclusion of their own luncheon.

Annual Church Parade - Association 4th Infantry Battalions: The pre-service march was held in less-than-favourable weather but was most impressive due to the soldierly bearing and immaculate appearance of two companies of 4Bn. Royal N.S.W. Regiment commanded by Lt/Col. Bryce Frazer. The church service and attendant ceremony was dignified and quite suited to the occasion.

President's Report(cont).

Commemoration Week - The Battles of Greece and Crete: The various functions were enjoyed by all who attended, in spite of inclement weather for much of the time. The Cretan Ball was extremely interesting and our members were afforded V.I.P. treatment.

Presentation to Tingha Public School: During Education Week the presentation to Tingha Public School of a portrait of our Patron, Sir Ivan Dougherty, and a copy of his biography was carried out by Ross Smith in association with Selby Dean on behalf of our Association, the entire ceremony being televised by Channel NEN9.

Southport Re-union: at its conclusion each year, we invariably feel that the most recent Country or Interstate Re-union has been "the greatest" and whether this is right or merely a figment of our ageing imaginations we can certainly claim that every Re-union has been a success. Southport was no exception, thanks to the hospitality extended to us by the R.S.L. Club and Sub-branch and the excellent organisation of all the functions by our Southport Re-union Committee.

Daylight Meetings: Probably the most radical change in our Sydney activities has been the trial introduction of Daylight Monthly Meetings. They have been very well attended compared to the night meetings and appear to suit a larger number of our members. Continuance of daytime meetings will be decided at the Annual General Meeting.

Presentation, Dedication and Unveiling of Commemorative Plaque and Flagpole at the Country Women's Association of N.S.W. Club Building: The ceremony was carried out by Sir Ivan and was very well attended by C.W.A. members and our own Association members and wives. Peter Cook arranged the services of a young bugler from Waverley District Band and his rendition of "Last Post" and "Reveille" was superb. Appropriately, this ceremony was performed on Remembrance (Armistice) Day and, of course, the Plaque and Flagpole are in memory of all the country men who served with 2/4 Infantry Battalion in World War II.

Christmas "Get-Together" at the Gallipoli Memorial Club: An extremely happy function this informal get-together for Christmas drinks was held on 16th December, commencing at 5pm with approx. forty members, wives and daughters being present.

There were other functions which I have not mentioned - such as "mini-reunions" held in Country and Interstate locations - all in all it was a busy year and I wish to thank everyone who assisted in the running of the Association, here in Sydney and elsewhere. Especially do I thank Laurie Waterhouse (who is vastly overworked), Allen Lindsay (who is vastly efficient), Harry Wright (who is vastly attentive to welfare matters) and Peter Cade (who is just vastly). Without their input my job would have been so much harder. My appreciation also extends to the members of the Committee in Sydney and all the Regional and Interstate Vice-Presidents for the time and effort freely given to advance the affairs of the Association, and (last but not least) to Sir Ivan for his continued support and patronage. To the next-of-kin of those members who left us during the year I extend sympathy their loss.

For reasons known to the committee I have decided not to seek re-election as President or as a Member of Committee but I ask that all members continue to encourage your new President and Committee by supporting them in their activities.

Ted Fox.

Secretary's Annual Report.

Once again I have to report on a very active year, a year that has seen some changes that I think have been for the better of the Association. Firstly the purchase of the copying machine for printing WOG. Secondly the trial of daytime meetings (35 average Attendance), eight new members enrolled in 1983, the Bn. Medal is still creating interest with members and others - twenty applications being received over the last twelve months. Our Tie sales have maintained a reasonable level and Alf Carpenter's T-Shirt project seems well on the way, we are now into the second batch.

Our activities have been many and varied:- The Greek-Cretan Week celebrations, Anzac Day Reunion Dinner (attendance down on previous year), the Annual Church Parade (poorly attended by 2/4th's) The Southport Re-Union was successful despite a number of last-minute and unexpected (as well as unbudgeted) cancellations, the Remembrance Day ceremony at the C.W.A. attracted quite a crowd and was greatly commented on, the visit to the Victoria Barracks Museum, though poorly attended, was an enjoyable outing, especially the visit to the Sgt's Mess afterwards (thanks to Norm Harries). We culminated the years activities with a Christmas "Get-together" which was well attended an enjoyable time was had by all.

I take this opportunity to thank President Ted Fox, Treasurer Allen and the Committee for their co-operation and forbearance during the past year.

Laurie Waterhouse.

2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION.

RECEIPTS and PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS

for the year ended 31st December,

1983.

General Account.

<u>RECEIPTS</u>		<u>PAYMENTS</u>	
Balance: 1. 1. 1983		White Over Green- Printing	911
Debenture - General Credits	2000	ditto. Postage	735
Westpac Banking Corpn.	2280	Purchases - Battalion Medals	846
Subscriptions		Ties	605
Annual	163	Name Plates	64
Paid-up Life	250	Nashua Printing Machine	1500
White over Green	815	Flagpole and Plaque - C.W.A.	617
Functions	480	Battalion Flag	172
Donations Received		Monthly Meetings Suppers	383
Sir Ivan Biography Cmtee.	500	Less: Collections	275
Members	850	Functions	1052
Sales: Ties, Pockets Badges etc.	450	Classified Advertisements	83
Battalion Medals	819	Postages, Telephone & Stationery	203
T-Shirts	273	Floral Tribute	25
Interest Received	388	Subscriptions: 6th Div Assn.	10
Transfer from Benevolent Account	2000	Assn. 4 Bns.	10
		Bank Charges	11
		Balance: 31. 12. 1983.	
		Debenture General Credits	2000
		Westpac Banking Corpn.	2316
			4316
	<u>\$11268</u>		<u>\$11268</u>

Benevolent Account.

Balance: 1. 1. 1983.		Transfer to General Account	2000
Westpac Banking Corpn.	781	Hospital Visitations	469
State Building Society		Floral Tribute	25
Fixed Deposit	6000	Benevolence	90
Current Account	2286	Bank Charges	3
Interest Received	9067	Balance: 31.12. 1983.	
Donations Received:	991	Westpac Banking Corpn.	768
Sir Ivan Biography Cmtee.	500	State Building Society	
Tin Hat(Country Reunion)	45	Fixed Deposit	6000
	545	Current Account	1248
			8016
	<u>\$10603</u>		<u>\$10603</u>

Ted Fox.....President.

Allen Lindsay.....Hon. 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, 1983. 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. 28th January, 1984.

Signed.....(H Silver)
Honorary Auditor.

Treasurer's Annual Report - 1983.

Total Association Funds at 31st December, 1983 were \$12332 compared with \$13347 at 31st December, 1982, a reduction in funds of \$1015. The main contributor to this reduction was the expenditure of \$1500 on a Nashua Printing Machine. The Association will enjoy the benefits of this expenditure in future years by way of reduced costs in the production of the monthly newsletter.

Members continue to give the Association good support by the regular remittance of subscriptions and donations, however it must be realised that the Association's income will gradually decline with the diminution in the list of members and falling interest rates.

Therefore your committee must continue to exercise tight control over expenditure.

Allen Lindsay.