



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.)
39 th Year of continuous publication

Registered by:- Australia Post Publication NAS1532.

Price:- 50c per copy

Volume 39 No.5

May 1984.

President:	Alf Carpenter 66 Chatham Rd, Geogrtown 2298	Ph. 04-9671969
Vice-Presidents:		
Senior:	Allen Lindsay 21a Mirral Rd, Caringbah 2229	Ph. 02-5241937
Queensland:	Laurie McCosker 60 Hillsdon Rd, Taringa 4068	Ph. 07-3701395
Far North Coast:	Allan Kirk 179 Dibbs St, Lismore 2480	Ph. 066-214464
Northern NSW:	Esca Riordan 111 Kemp St, West Kempsey 2440	Ph. 065-624671
Newcastle:	George Mitchell 6 Verli Place, Waratah 2298	Ph. 049-672182
Southern NSW:	Artie Kleem 3 Karabah Ave, Young 2594	Ph. 063-822461
Victoria:	Claude Raymond 92 Rose St, West Coburg 3058	Ph. 03-3541145
Committee:	Cec Chrystal, Athol Heath, Ken Kesteven MC., Bill Parry, Frank Ivey, Harry Wright, Norm Auberson, Noel Ford, Barney Turley.	
Secretary:		
Assist. Secretary	John Meehan 5/23 Dine St, Randwick 2031	Ph. 02-3999606
Treasurer:	Allen Lindsay 21a Mirral Rd, Caringbah 2229	Ph. 02-5241937
Welfare Officer:	Harry Wright 3 Boundary Rd, Carlingford 2118	Ph. 02-8715312
Editor:	Laurie Waterhouse 34 Milford St, Miranda 2228	Ph. 02-5242114

NEXT MEETING.

The MAY MEETING will be held on Tuesday, 22nd May, 1984 at 2.30 pm. The venue, as usual, is the Gallipoli Memorial Club, 12 Loftus St., Sydney.

The June Meeting will be held on Tuesday, 26th June, 1984.

Committeemen Please Note. Committee meeting commences at 11.30 am.

ANZAC DAY 1984.

Editorial:

What a great morning! Starting with a beautiful dawn, fresh, with a bite in the air, the makings of a great day, and so it was to be. Thirty-one members, led by Sir Ivan, under the control of the marshal for the day John Hawkins and watched by members wives, saw the early morning wreath-laying march take off - behind the Parramatta Pipe Band - resplendent as ever. At the corner of Barrack Street the parade was joined by 86 year old George Rebot of the 4th Bn. 1st. A.I.F. accompanied by two of our young soldiers bearing the old 4th Bn. Banner. They took over the lead and led the parade into Martin Place for the wreath-laying ceremony. Sir Ivan and President Alf Carpenter carried out the ceremony with simplicity and reverence giving it great significance for those participating in this our annual tribute to those of our former members who paid the supreme sacrifice, and to those who have since departed.

The March:

They came from far afield as Queensland, the Far North Coast, from Southern parts and from the mountains of NSW. They came to give spirit and life to a once great fighting unit, which is now part of our military history and tradition. Anzac Day 1984 saw the 2/4th Infantry Battalion 2nd A.I.F. re-emerge from the shadows of yester-year, to live yet again, for one more nostalgic day. Just on 100 members marched ten abreast, behind the White and Green Banner, which this year was carried by a Colour-party of eight young soldiers, from 4Bn RNSW including one lady soldier. Those of us who viewed the March on T.V. replay must have felt proud of the show of marching provided by the Battalion, the White Over Green ties being outstanding. It is no wonder that we have the reputation as one of the best unit associations to be found within the whole structure of ex-servicemens Associations. Noted amongst those who marched and later joined the re-union luncheon, were the country visitors, such Stan Blacksley from Wagga, Artie Kleem from Young, Rocky Roy Denyer of Temora, Ted Swadling and Jack Hamilton from Griffith, Doug Grove of Ballina, Bill Sheaffe from Lismore, Bruce Cork and Newton Howard of Queensland, Esca Riordan and Jim Brown of Kempsey, the "Guyra Ghost" Perc Lansley and Roy Palmer, Charlie Davies of Singleton, Noel Woolcott of Taree, Phil Nugent of Tyalg and Sid Zartman of Ulladulla. There were many more but space does not permit. Of course the mountain men were there in full force and Canberra was represented by Jack Huston.

The dinner went off very smoothly, with President Alf Carpenter giving the address of welcome to all our country members, our official guests for the day - Major General Gordon Maitland, Pres. of the Association of 4 Infantry Battalions, Lt-Col. Graham Fleeton, C.O. of the 4th Bn. RNSWR and to the young 4RNSWR persons who so proudly carried our Banner and flags. John Copland proposed the Loyal Toast. Lt-Col. Fleeton gave the address and proposed the toast to the Battalion. Athol Heath then proposed the toast to the guests and the visitors. The Last Post was called by Laurie Waterhouse who read out forty-four names of members who had departed since the 1983 Anzac Day Re-union. John Meehan recited the Ode after the customary 2 minutes silence.

Sir Ivan Dougherty arrived in time to join us for the rest of the Luncheon. Vice-President Allen Lindsay then thanked the Parramatta Pipe Band, the soldiers of the 4RNSWR and Lt-Col. Fleeton for the contributions that they had made to make an outstanding success of this, our most important day in the Association year. President Alf then called on Sir Ivan to perform a very important duty - that of the presentation of a Life Membership badge to our immediate past Secretary and current Editor, Laurie Waterhouse. Sir Ivan carried out the ceremony with his usual dignity and sincerity. The bestowal of the badge was greeted by hearty approval and loud acclamation by all present. Laurie responded with a speech thanking Sir Ivan, President Alf and all the members for the honour conferred. President Alf then brought proceedings to a close by thanking Harry Gjedsted, Secretary-Manager of the Gallipoli Memorial Club and Past-President of this Association, the staff and the catering team of the Club for the courtesy, co-operation and service that they had provided, thus ensuring the success of this our most important day.

I would like to conclude this article by paying a tribute to one we all know so well, who made a supreme effort to attend our 1984 Anzac Day Re-union and who must have left it with a moist eye and a pang in his heart. I refer to JACK PEARCE affectionately known in the Battalion as "Starvation Jack". Jack is a very sick man, the effort to attend was most tremendous. Well done, Jack!

Laurie Waterhouse.

LADIES of the 2/4th.

ANZAC DAY 1984.

Anzac Day would not be the same if we did not have our wives and girl-friends to support us. It is wonderful to see the way they gather at Lowes in George Street to wave us on as we get that weary step in our marching. Then later on when they join us for drinks at the Gallipoli Memorial Club.

They held their Anzac Day Luncheon at the Camelia Restaurant just down from Lowes in George Street and from all accounts had a very nice time. Thank you ladies for your lovely company on this one day of the year.

Those ladies attending this year were:-

Marj Carpenter, Heather Fox, Joy Waterhouse, Vera Walsh, Joan Hart, Elsie Watson, Elsie Bradford, Lyn Bradford, Gwen MacLennan, Enid Latimer, Hilda Marriett, Olga Everson, Molly Irvine, Phil Chrystal, Bebe Riordan, Noni Bowman, Gwen Newth, Heather Mitchell, Del Silver, Doreen Grant, Edith Turton, Doreen Manuel, Hilda Wright, Shirley Peard, Nina Ferguson, Sally Follington, Olene Follington, Alma Denyer, Dot Sleeman, Beryl Poplin.

Courtesy of Hilda Wright.

Administrative Problems Corner.

Following Laurie Waterhouse's surprise (but none-the-less well deserved) retirement as Association Secretary in February some hasty canvassing to fill the position was carried out by members of your committee. As a result Frank Ivey, no doubt in a moment of extreme weakness, was prevailed upon to accept the position. Frank, after more time to reflect, has withdrawn and wishes us to publish the following letter:-

RE POSITION AS SECRETARY.

I would like to explain to the members of the Association the reason why I had to revoke my decision re. Hon. Secretary. Firstly I did not volunteer, but I was kindly asked by our President at the committee meeting if I would consider the position. I was also kindly offered assistance by our former Secretary and I spontaneously accepted.

Several days later I realised that my nervous condition would be affected by this position and I immediately phoned Laurie Waterhouse and told him of my decision. I sincerely apologise for any inconvenience I may have caused our senior members.

Frank Ivey.

Frank, apologies accepted! We in turn apologise to you for any undue pressure that may have been applied, albeit unintentionally. However further to this problem a little bird whispered to me on Anzac Day that our problem may be solved by the decision of a very well-known past executive officer of this Association to come out of retirement and once again join the active ranks of the committee and fill the current vacancy (hopefully). We trust that the good news will be officially announced in our next issue.

The Typesetter.

Judging from those who have attended this Ball over the last few years it is really something to enjoy. However in these days of R.B.T. it may be advisable to arrange to have a chauffeur or alternate transport if you plan to attend.
Sunday, 20th May Memorial Service at 1030 hours will be held at the Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Redfern. (corner Cleveland and Regent Sts). Medals to be worn.
Sunday, 27th May Memorial Service at 1030 hours. Assemble at 1000 hours at the Holy Trinity Garrison Church, The Rocks Area. Medals to be worn.
We have to hand the information that the picnic planned to follow this church service has been cancelled - no reason was received.

Greek Commemoration Medal.

Advice has been received from the Secretary 6th Div. Assn. that there will be a presentation of Greek Medals at an evening function at the Cretan Centre, Chappel Street, Marrackville on Friday 18th May. There are only a few outstanding applications and after they have been processed that will be the end of the project. It is almost six years since the proclamation was made public and advertised in Reveille. This is considered to have been sufficient time for anyone to make up their minds to apply. No more applications will be accepted.

Hon. Sec. 6th Division Association.

WELFARE REPORT.

Visited at R.G.H.

NX1993 Pollock Ivan (Slim) Ward 630. Hernia operation. Discharged.
NX141177 Maloney W. Ward 3 Away having treatment when called on. Discharged.
NX15534 Robberds Rex Ward 610. To have Hernia operation. Discharged.
NX2048 Cole Reg Operation on knee joint. Discharged.
NX11372 Bloomfield H.L. (Len) Ward 530. Circulation problem in leg.
NX36260 Hudson H. (Bert) Ward 630. Operation throat. Has lost voice permanently.
Able to speak with artificial vibrator.

At War Veterans Nursing Home.

NX5866 Pearce Jack Seriously Ill. John Ringrose, Bill Parry and Brian Waring have visited.

At Home.

NX5850 Sadler Jim. Jim's wife, Bel rang to say that Jim had had a slight stroke, was now O.K.

Late Message.

Westmead Hospital.

NX5146 Schwartz R.C. In Heart Ward 5th floor, having tests.

Message handed in on Anzac Day.

Ted Barker, Hotel Metropole, Katoomba not in the best of health.

Ellis White, Condobolin, also suffering ill health.

I received a letter from George Mitchell, Newcastle VP, with information from Jack Partridge that Fred Flay NX5177, was a permanent patient at Queen Victoria Hospital, Picton.

I wrote to G.M. Brodie a member at Picton and received a reply confirming this. This is, in part, the letter received, headed Dr. G.M. Brodie.

"Fred Flay is a patient in the Repatriation Section, Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital, Thirlmere Way, Picton.

He is not leading a very pleasant life as he has a double amputation of his lower limbs above the knees. His sight is poor and he is unable to read or enjoy television. He was a P.O.W. in Stalag 18A for four years.

He was apparently in C Company and later went to the Sigs. He says he wouldn't mind saying "Good-day" to any of the blokes who come in. Under the circumstances, the poor fellow could certainly do with the odd visitor."

(signed) Gordon Brodie.

Maybe there are some members in the Campbelltown to Mittagong Area that could make a visit.

Harry Wright.
Welfare Officer.

4th Battalion 1st A.I.F.

It was most gratifying to be told that the old 4th Battalion Banner that had been stolen, was returned in time for it to take its place at the wreath laying ceremony. A week before Anzac Day things looked grim, it looked like we would have to march without it.

Thanks must go to Vin Hallinan and Gordon Maitland of the Association of 4 Battns they advertised and offered a reward for the banner's return. The money they were offering came from the trust funds of the Association. The banner was stolen some nine or ten months ago, when thieves broke into the drill hall at Merrylands and there was not much hope held for its recovery. We do not know the full story yet, however it was returned on the Monday before Anzac Day, none the worse for wear. It was handed into the Security Guard at the Royal Agricultural Society's Show-ground and from there to the President of the R.A.S. Maj-Gen Gordon Maitland saw that it was safely returned to take its pride of place on the wreath laying ceremony. We are hoping to have a full coverage on this episode in the June issue of WOG.

Meeting of the Association of 4th Infantry Battalions.

The Bi-monthly meeting took place on Friday, 13th April at the Headquarters of the 4 RNSWR at Arncliffe. A very poor attendance was reported, with editor Brian Dooley having to take the chair. The 2/4 Bn Association was represented by Ken Kesteven, Athol Heath, Ron Barber and 'Slim' Powers, apology received from Laurie Waterhouse. Main business was the correspondence, especially that from Harold Smith of Bourke and the loss of the old 4th Battalion Banner, looking at ways and means of regaining it. Little did the meeting know that all would end well and that George Rebott would carry it with pride and honour.

Newcastle News.

No doubt George Mitchell will have my head as this lot should have been in the April issue. Somehow it missed the typist who went off fishing to Repton and other places. Never mind George, better late than never.

The meeting of the Newcastle boys and their wives took place on March 28th. Those present were Alf and Marj Carpenter, George and Heather Mitchell, Dick Morris, Yvonne Pearse and Doreen Manuel. Apologies received from Cliff and Aileen Curren, Mona Sherriitt and Bully Hayes. Welfare Report quoted Cliff Curren making good progress after recent operation. Mona Sherriitt has to return to hospital for the removal of a pin from her toe. Bully Hayes has returned home after having an eye operation. Frances and John McCracken are the proud parents of a bouncing baby boy, the third grandson for Yvonne Pearse. Another extra Easter Egg grandma has to buy this year.

George Mitchell.

Church Parade of the Association of 4th Battalions.

The ANNUAL CHURCH PARADE will take place on SUNDAY, 17th JUNE, 1984 at ST. ANNE'S CHURCH, HOMEBUSH ROAD, STRATHFIELD. The Church Parade will take the form of a short march by personnel of the representative Battalions behind their respective banners. It will leave from Beresford Park in Beresford Road, Homebush and march to the Church on the corner of Beresford Road and Homebush Road. Members of the 2/4th Battalion are requested to wear Service Medals and Battalion Ties. Afternoon tea is generally served after the service, when everyone can move around and socialize. President Alf and the President of the Association of 4th Bns, Gordon Maitland, make a special appeal to all members to attend this parade and thus keep up the name of the 4th Battalions. None of us are beyond the sphere of spiritual guidance, perhaps a little of it may be beneficial to us all. (S.V.P. Allen and wife Gloria tender their apologies for their non attendance far in advance. At the time of the parade they will be visiting friends in the USA.)

Commemoration of the 43rd Anniversary of the Battle of Greece and Crete Campaign.

Members of the Association are reminded that towards the end of May the 6th Div Association, in conjunction with the Greek and Cretan communities will be celebrating the 43rd anniversary of the above-mentioned campaign. The Greek and Cretan communities of this State place great importance on this event. They go to great lengths to show their appreciation of our being participants in those campaigns. We ask that members participate in the March and Wreath laying ceremony to be held on Saturday, May 19th at 1400 hours. We ask members to assemble on the corner of Hunter and O'Connell Sts at 1330 hours for a short march to the Cenotaph. Medals and Ties are requested to be worn.

A Cretan Ball will be held in the evening of Saturday, 19th May at the Cretan Centre, Chappel St. Marrackville.



LAST POST..

NX42721	<u>O'Brien. C.</u>	
NX2005	<u>Graham. K.J. (Spanner)</u>	
VX135444	<u>Avery. S.</u>	(from Reveille)
VX136931	<u>Hickey. P.</u>	ditto.
NX11562	<u>Hill. R.W.</u>	ditto.

LEST
WE
FORGET

LEST
WE
FORGET

OBITUARY - Fred Driscoll. (Last Post - April Issue)

On 16th March, 1984, the death occurred of one of our most interesting and colourful identities of the Battalion, Fred Driscoll, in his late eighties. He was the last of the "Straight-backs". He died at the War Veterans Home, Narrabeen. The unfortunate thing of his passing was no one from the Association knew and the War Veterans Home never bothered to inform us. It was Jack Huston at Canberra who alerted your Editor to Fred's passing. Jack received a phone call from Griffith saying that Fred's funeral was being held that day, (March 21st) at 11 am. Jack and Frank Crutchett would have gone to the funeral, but the time and distance would not permit, even if they could have gone by plane. Fred was buried at Griffith, the town he lived and worked in, during his post-war years.

The late Fred Driscoll lived a chequered life. He joined the Royal Flying Corps at an early age and after the 1918 Armistice migrated to Australia in the late twenties. After much travelling about Fred settled in Griffith. It was from this town that he enlisted in 1939, joining the Battalion in that year. Fred was well endeared to those who knew him well, especially when he was a Sgt. in charge of the Vicars Machine Gun Platoon. He was a good conversationalist who could spin a good yarn and had a great sense of dry humour. No doubt many a story can be told of Fred's activities whilst with the Battalion. He left the Battalion in the days following the withdrawal from Crete, to be boarded out and sent home. He settled down once again in his beloved town of Griffith, taking over the management of various clubs in the area. He was a well-known identity around the area of Griffith and Hillston, especially within the ex-servicemen's communities.

It is a shame that such a colourful character as Fred should pass from this earth with such anonymity. Many of those who knew him so well in the Battalion and afterwards would have liked to have paid their final respects to him on his last journey. However it was not to be and so we say as we remember Fred:

"VALE! FRED DRISCOLL"

Fred has a surviving sister living in England, as far as we know, the only living relative. Your Editor wrote to her sympathising at the loss of her brother and forwarding the Association's condolences.

MISE OF DON BAXTER.

For those members who may have known NX4002 Don Baxter of Telopea St. Punchbowl we print this to alert them that there could be many like the late Don Baxter. He passed away some eighteen months ago, yet we have had no record of his death, the name even evaded the Last Post columns of "Reveille". It was only through his widow letting us know that she did not want "White Over Green" anymore that we received the news. Here again the anonymity was maintained and the Association was unaware of his passing. We stress the importance of members' relatives keeping the Association in mind in such cases.

OBITUARY - KEN (SPANNER) GRAHAM.

Spanner Graham died at Oakey, Qld. while visiting relatives on Monday 23rd April. There is not much news to hand as to how he died or from what. Ross Smith of Inverell rang your Editor and said that the body was being sent down to be buried at Ashford, which was the late Ken Graham's home town. The funeral was held on Thursday, 26th April at the Church of England, Ashford. Several members from the surrounding areas attended the funeral, they included Ross Smith, Selby Dean, Bub Graham and others.

Courtesy Ross Smith.

MAIL BAG for APRIL 1984.

Over in far-off West. Australia we have a member there who is proving to be a very keen supporter of the Association. Doug Slinger is his name and although he has only been in the Association some twelve months or so, he has made up for lost time

Mail Bag.(continued)

Doug took the time and patience to write to our President Alf. He elaborated on the pleasure he is getting through being a member of the Association, even though he is so far away. He has booked himself and his wife in for the Gosford Re-union and is looking forward to seeing some of his old "china plates", especially those from C Company or those who were with him at Bathurst. Doug has been taken with Alf's 'T-Shirt' project and has ordered one from him. Wonder what the effect will be when he runs into his neighbour at the week-ends (Dasher Deacon)? Thank you Doug for your complimentary words on my behalf (the halo has expanded quite a bit after reading your letter). Writing on behalf of President Alf and myself, we will look forward to meeting you at Gosford and having a good talk over things in general. Thanks Doug, our regards to you and your good wife and also to your neighbour at Rockingham. We trust that he will also make an appearance at Gosford. (Dasher we will be pleased to see you unless you have another engagement at Taree again this year. Regards to Lily).

The next letter is from Alex Dick of Weston, who recently joined the Association. Dick was writing in for a Battalion Tie and Medal. Well, you should be wearing the tie for Anzac Day but I am afraid you will have to wait a little longer for the medal. Dick was enquiring about another member - one Ossie Hirst - who, he said, is living in or around Geelong, Vic. This one is for you Victorians. Do you know where he is and what his address is? If so, please contact the Editor so that we can inform Dick. Thank you Dick for your order and payment. Yes, it arrived safe and sound.

Whilst on the subject of Victoria - how about some news from that fair State Claude?

Max Nernay of Urbanville is our next correspondent. His letter was not a pleasant one to read, by any means and I am sure it must have been sad for him to relate the news. He was reporting the death of Col. O'Brien of Stanthorpe, Q'land. He also mentioned having seen or contacted Ron Ellem and Jack Hinnett. A report on Jack Hinnett appeared in the April issue of WOG as sent to Harry Wright by Vera Provians. Max is one of those chaps who have had a "by-pass" operation. August last year, I think. He says he is keeping in very good health and able to stand up to a full day's bowling. Said he was staying at home this year for Anzac Day to give the local R.S.L. a boost. As Max says, some of these small country Sub-branches are battling to get a crowd to their services, so Max is doing the right thing, giving them his support. Send a cheque for \$11, Max, and you can have a Battalion Tie, packed and in the post. Thank you Max, for passing on the above information.

It is over to Lennie Bloomfield of Hornsby for our next letter. My word our fisherman, cum Treasurer, cum typist is going to smile when he sees your cheque. Yes, we are all getting a little long in the tooth. Naturally we all feel the aches and pains, just have to put up with it all as you say. Hope you will be able to report better health next time you write, Len.

A late letter, which was passed to me, from Frank Gattenhof of Wilson, Q'land. Frank was covering quite a bit of ground. He tells that Craig Clarke and Henry Elliott have now settled down in Q'land and have made Frank and his family very welcome in their homes. Goes on to say that he has been in Princess Alexandra Hospital for a hernia operation. Since that he has had trouble with his knees. Said he was hoping to march with the 6th Div in Brisbane, but his thoughts will be with us in Sydney. He sends his best wishes to all and his congratulations to President Alf. Said he was worried about Dasher Deacon, reckons we will have to send out a patrol to keep track of his movements. Sends his good wishes to Norm Rogers of Narrandera.

Stop Press.

OBITUARY - COL O'BRIEN.

The death occurred of Colin O'Brien of Stanthorpe, Q'land at his home on Saturday, 31st March, 1984. His funeral took place at the Stanthorpe Uniting Church. The Stanthorpe Sub-branch of the R.S.L. conducted the serviceman's rites. The remains were then conveyed to Toowoomba for cremation. Max Nernay represented the Battalion. Col O'Brien, you may remember, was in B Company and will be remembered as a member of the Battalion football team on the Atherton Tablelands. He is seen in that team in the photograph which appears in the War History, alongside Jim Crowe and Tich Ordham. He had not been in good health for some time and Max Nernay visited him only a week before he died. Col had been a builder in Stanthorpe since leaving the Battalion after the War.

"VALE! COLIN O'BRIEN"