



White with Green

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE 2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION



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NEXT MEETING.

The JUNE MEETING will be held on Tuesday, 26th June, 1984 at 2.30pm. The venue, as usual, is the Gallipoli Memorial Club, 12 Loftus St, Sydney.

The July Meeting will be held on Tuesday, 24th July, 1984.

Committeemen please note. Committee meetings commence at 11.30am.

MONTHLY MEETING held 22nd MAY, 1984.

This was held at the Gallipoli Memorial Club, with all the Committee attending prior to the General meeting, with the exception of Athol Heath, who forwarded an apology. His reason is that the Heath family are now in England, tripping around the country lanes over there. The main outcome of the committee meeting was the appointment of Fred Staggs as Secretary of the Association. Fred came forward and offered his services in this category. We have assured Fred that we will help him to find his feet in his new role, so please note that we have a new Secretary. We have no doubt that Fred will be a great success in his new role and serve the Association with distinction as he did for many years as its President. The General Meeting opened at 2.30pm after everyone had dined well. President Alf took the chair. Those present besides the Committee and executive were, as follows: Dave Follington, Gordon Crisp, Dick Morris, Jack Heyem, Bob Lever, Ron Barber, George Mitchell, Jack Partridge, Doug Grove from Ballina, Harold Bowman, Trevor Richardson, Rex Everson, Slim Venn, Bob Fergusson, Tich Fordham, Ted Fox, Jack Eastham, Cec Powers, Jim Sadler, Phil Smith and Nap Alavoine, making a total attendance of 34. This high level of attendance by members indicates that the daytime meeting is here to stay. Much mention was made of the fact that it was the first time that Nap Alavoine had attended a meeting. Now that he has seen for himself how the meetings are conducted and that ample time to spare for refreshments is the going thing and no "Booze Bus" to worry about, we may see more of him. Many and varied discussions took place. Main topics to come out of the meeting were, as follows:-

An honour board showing Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers, and Editors to be made and hung in the Gallipoli Memorial Club.

The topic of how to celebrate the forthcoming fiftieth anniversary of the Battalion the formation of the 16th Brigade in 1939, was discussed and we are inviting suggestions to be made to the committee. The sooner we start organising the better as we will have competition from other units for venues, etc. A 50th Anniversary Re-union in Sydney (in lieu of the annual Country Re-union), including a grand Ball, has been put forward.

Another topic was the proposal of Tom Watson of Bellvue Hill who owns the M.V. Coaster 1. He has offered to take his boat to Gosford for the Re-union if he can make up a party. There will be no cost involved, only stipulation being those who go to take along refreshments - to bide them on the trip, with the same arrangement for the return trip. He wants a party of 30 people, which is his authorised complement. Tom has made out a timetable and others particulars which we will print in the July issue of WOG.

Tom has assured your Editor that he will not sail if the weather or the sea is against good sailing. Tom, in the course of his charter business, regularly sails between Sydney and Gosford.

Jack Partridge gave the meeting a summary of the bookings he has already received (approximately 120 received) for Gosford. Also plans for the Sunday outing which include a Bar-B-Q lunch at Old Sydney Town. Jack made a special request to those members who intend to attend the Re-union but have arranged private accommodation and therefore have not registered their attendance with him to please do so as soon as possible. Registration by all attending, including locals, is required in order that catering and tour arrangements can be accurately provided. A registration fee of \$10 per head is required with each notification. Where accommodation is not required your registration fee will be credited to the cost of your dinner, etc. We hope to print a list of those booked, in this issue if we have space, if not they will appear in the July issue. All correspondence to Jack Partridge, 38 Serpentine Road, Erina Heights, Terrigal. 2260.

All business was completed and the meeting was closed by President Alf at 3.50pm. Apologies were received over the phone from Newton Howard and Peter Denver.

ANZAC DAY - ADELAIDE 1984.

We received a brief account of the South Australian Anzac Day March from Sar-Major "Robbie". They held their march in sunny weather. 30 members of the 19th Brigade were on parade, led by Peter Denver. Robbie couldn't give all the names, however he stated that all who took part looked smart wearing their service medals and very keen to make an impression. Robbie thought the effort by 100 members marching in Sydney was a very good turnout, but thinks more could have made the effort. Anyway they had a very enjoyable time afterwards. His one wish is to be able to come to Sydney to be with us once more, but alas, he cannot leave his good wife on her own. He sends his, and the members of the 19th Brigade Assn, best wishes to their old friends and members of one of the finest units in the 2nd A.I.F.

from "Robbie"

CHURCH PARADE for the ASSOCIATION of FOURTH INFANTRY BATTALIONS.

The Annual Church Parade will take place on Sunday 17th June, 1984 at St. Anne's Church, corner of Homebush and Beresford Roads, Strathfield, at 3pm. The parade will take the form of a short march by the members of the representative battalion behind their respective banners. The march will start from Beresford Park at 2.30 pm and follow Beresford Road to the Church. Members of the 2/4th are requested to wear service medals and unit ties. President Alf Carpenter has asked that members make a special effort to attend this function, thus keeping the name of the battalion alive. None of us are beyond the sphere of a little spiritual guidance, perhaps it may be beneficial to us. We would like to see a good roll up, don't leave it to the same old few who faithfully support us each year.

WEST AUST. 2/4th MEMBERS GET-TOGETHER.

As reported later in the Mail Bag column, Doug Slinger of Perth sent us a brief resume of their Anzac Day activities. It appears that he and "Dasher" Deacon attended the march and service with members of the 2/11th Inf. Bn. Assn. Afterwards they joined the 2/11th members and their wives for lunch at the Railway Institute Club. Apparently it was a memorable and most enjoyable occasion for Doug, his wife Wilma, Dasher and his wife Lily.

To top this effort, Doug has gone a step further and organised a get-together of all 2/4th members residing in Perth with the help of Dasher who assisted him in tracking them down. The culmination of their efforts resulted in a function held at the Perth Anzac Club on Friday 4th May. I have not heard how it went, but Doug asked me to mention the names of those attending, so that all members may know who is over in Perth. These are the names:- Doug Slinger (C Coy) Dasher Deacon (B Coy) Fred Stanwell (Mortar Platoon) John Storey and Don Guthrie (Sigs) Jack Ward, Stan Day and Wally Evans (C Coy) Ross Elliott and Keith King (Coy not Supplied). There is another name they are trying to locate - Cec Smith (C Coy) last reported to be living in Freemantle.

We think Doug should be complimented for his initiative in getting these members together, especially as some of them have not seen each other for years, in some cases not since demobilisation. We look forward to hearing from you, Doug.

INTERSTATE COMMUNICATIONS.

Sometime ago the Association received a complaint re neglect of interstate members through lack of communication. We do communicate all relevant information regarding these members providing we can get it. What about it, Victoria and South Australia? We now have a good correspondent in W.A. (see above) In Q'land we have Laurie McCosker and Vera Provians who are doing a good job getting the news down to us from Joh's Country. If we don't get the news we cannot communicate it to others.

GREEK and CRETAN BATTLE COMMEMORATION WEEK.

Friday night 18th May, saw the commencement of the Commemoration celebrations in the form of a Greek Medal presentation night, when some twenty Greek Medals were presented to 6th Div members, amongst them being Frank Sadler (Dubbo) Brian Hill (Blayney) Jack Hine (Lithgow) Phil Smith, Norm Auberson, Jack Mann's widow and Porky Whalans niece. Sir Ivan Dougherty made a presentation to the Cretan Association of an oil painting on behalf of Dr. Tom Selby, former M.O. of the 2/2nd Battalion, whose work for others is well known, especially in New Guinea. Saturday afternoon 19th May, a march down Pitt St. to the Cenotaph, led by the Parramatta Lancers Band opened proceedings, followed by a service and a wreath laying ceremony. After the end of the service, all those who were invited, adjourned to the Greek Consul-General's offices in Pitt St. for drinks and the usual savouries. Those of the 2/4th who attended were:- Sir Ivan, President Alf, Ken Kesteven, Laurie Waterhouse, Norm Auberson, Harry Wright, Frank Sadler, Biscuits Arnott, Phil Smith, Joe Lowe and Tich Fordham. Most of the members wives accompanied them to the ceremony, also Vera Walsh. Saturday night was the Greek Celebration Ball, to which your President together with his wife attended, along with Sir Ivan, Ken and Fi Kesteven and Phil Smith. The Association will attend the church service at the Garrison Church on Sunday 27th May when unit flags of the 6th Aust. Division will be paraded into the church.

RETURN of the 4th INFANTRY BATTALION 1st A.I.F. BANNER.

To those members who marched in the early morning wreath-laying parade on Anzac Day, 1984 and watched the old 4th banner and its bearers join us at Barrack St., also to all members no matter where:- We think there is quite a story to tell about the old banner, which must be told, because up till the weekend before Anzac Day, we did not have the old banner or know where it was.

Some two weeks before Anzac Day your Editor phoned Cliff Horsley of the Assn. of 4th Infantry Battalions to find out if the old 4th Battalion would be coming to the usual wreath laying ceremony with its banner. If not then the 2/4th would carry it out in front, to show that the parent body was incorporated in the ceremony as well.

You can imagine my surprise when Cliff told me there was no banner and further he did not think it would be in existence any more. Cliff told me that when the Merrylands Drill Hall (C Coy 4RNSWR H.Q) was broken into by thieves some 10 months ago, besides stealing rifles etc., they also took a lot of memorabilia, including the old 4th banner, which was in custody there. Naturally I thought that's the last we have seen of the banner. No thief would be bothered with an old banner. It had no monetary value and whoever took it would not think of the sentimental or traditional value that it held for members of our 4th Battalion Associations. So I gave up hope of ever seeing it again. I did not bargain on human nature and the way it can re-act at times.

On the Monday before Anzac Day, I phoned the Secretary of Assn. of 4 Battalions Lt-Col. Vin Hallinan, to extend an invitation to our Anzac Luncheon. In the course of the conversation we made mention of the 4th Bn. banner. To my surprise and wonderment, he told me that it had been returned and that it would take pride of place at the wreath laying ceremony. 86 year old George Rebot, of the 4th Bn. 1st A.I.F. would march with it accompanied by two young soldiers of the 4th Bn. RNSWR. I went to bed that night knowing our plans for Anzac Day were complete nothing could spoil the day for us and so it proved to be.

We must feel ever grateful to the President of the Association of 4th Inf. Bns (also now wearing the hat of Director of the Royal Agricultural Society) for securing the help of the Public Relations section of the R.A.S. and its expertise in advertising for the banner's return. All thanks to Major-General Gordon Maitland for securing the safe return of the banner. Following the advertisement the old banner was handed in to a Security Guard at the front entrance to the Showground early on Monday morning by an anonymous person. It was passed up to Gordon who ensured it took its rightful place in the Anzac Day ceremonies. So ends another chapter in the history of the 4th Inf. Battalion 1st A.I.F. Banner.

APOLOGY - re Omission in MAY 1984 Issue.

We have an apology to make re the article written on the ladies dinner held on Anzac Day. Hilda Wright forwarded a list of the ladies who attended. In transcribing this list into WOG your Editor inadvertently omitted one name - Fi Kesteven. I make my apology to you Fi for this oversight. I found the error after the printing had been completed when it was too late to rectify. Once again, my sincere apologies to Fi Kesteven.

Laurie Waterhouse - Editor.

CONGRATULATIONS - ATHOL HEATH!

We received word from our Past President - Harry Gjedsted, Secretary/Manager of the Gallipoli Memorial Club, that Athol Heath has recently been elected to the Board of the Club. One of his co-directors is Bill Parry who has served the club for many years as Director and Welfare Officer. Athol is the latest addition

to the rather imposing list of members of this Association who have served as Directors of the Gallipoli Memorial Club during the last fifteen years, namely, Russ McWilliam, Allen Lindsay, Ted Fox, Bill Mac Lennan, John Meehan, John (Larry) Dooley, Dick Faulder, John Copland, Dick Morris, Ken Kesteven and Bill Parry. Once again Athol, congratulations on your appointment to this worthy assignment, may you derive much pleasure from it.

MAIL - BAG. APRIL/MAY 1984.

There hasn't been a great deal, mostly official mail dealing with Anzac Day. However I really think the uncertainty of having no official Secretary has been a deterrent for members to write in. However we have one or two who have taken the time and patience to write and our first to get a mention is Bob Lever of Glenbrook, one of the mountain men. He sent in a letter illustrating the popularity and varied activities of our Patron, Sir Ivan, and to give us a piece of nostalgic history. This was the re-siting of the Wentworth Falls World War 1 Memorial, which fell victim of our modernisation and so-called progress. The story appears elsewhere in this issue. Bob represented the Blaxland-Glenbrook RSL Sub-Branch and also our Association at the re-siting ceremony. Thank you, Bob.

We had a letter from Fred Staggs, which we acknowledge in this column. The contents appear elsewhere in this issue. Thank you Fred, I have heard of this book you mentioned and from what I have heard it is worth reading.

A letter from Doug Slinger of Perth W.A. The main contents were published on page 2 of this issue. Thank you Doug for your personal message regarding the honour of Life Membership conferred on myself, it was greatly appreciated.

A letter from Vic Manchester of Orange. Vic was feeling a little remorseful on account of his dilatory action in not returning his Bn. Medal form, when he received it some time last year. Never fear Vic, it's a failing we all have had from time to time, specially when it comes to bills to be paid. No worries, Vi your medal will be processed and back to you in a couple of months. Thanks Vic. Out of the blue, a letter from Harry Lindsay of Harefield, near Wagga.

Harry is applying for membership of the Association, paid-up life membership, as he feels he has been away from us too long and wants to make up for the lost years. Harry served with the Battalion from Palestine through to Darwin leaving to join the 9th Div at Herberton and saw service in Borneo and Labuan. Settled in the Wagga district in 1956 and has remained there. Harry is going to make the effort and be with us at Gosford. We will have to put you in touch with "Dagwood" Jackson and his gang at Wagga. To you Harry, we here in Sydney say 'Welcome' to the one of the greatest ex-servicemen's unit associations there is and thank you for getting in touch again. Good health to you and yours. See you at Gosford!

I must mention Wal Honey's phone call on Anzac Day, which Harry Wright read out at the luncheon. I feel that our members who never made it this year should know all about it. Wal has been over in Perth for nigh on a month - went over for a convention and developed a bad attack of thrombosis and had to be hospitalised over there. He is now back home at Concord, again. He sent over the message that at the approximate time we sat down to our Anzac Day Luncheon, a friend of his would be placing a wreath on the headstones of Cpl. Charlie Jewel and Pte. Laurie Wilson, both of the Machine Gun Platoon, who are buried in the Athens War Cemetery. The person who was to lay the wreaths is a Mr Fermenton a British Army Ex-Serviceman.

That's the mail for this month, we are hoping that we can keep this column going but that depends on the in-coming Secretary.

L.W. Editor.

SITREPS.

On Friday, 5th April, our Patron, Major-General Sir Ivan Dougherty, was invited to perform a very unusual rite - the unveiling of the re-sited Wentworth Falls War Memorial. The Memorial has been re-sited in Coronation Park, Wentworth Falls. This is the report as printed in the Wentworth Falls local paper and forwarded by our man on the spot - Ron Barber to Slim Powers.

"After 63 years, the fallen heroes of Wentworth Falls have been re-honoured and their names will soon be emblazoned up in lights. Major-General Sir Ivan Dougherty last week (April 5th) unveiled the Wentworth Falls Cenotaph, which was moved recently to Coronation Park. At the ceremony Sir Ivan Dougherty spoke the following:- 'The men we are remembering to-day were not much older than the young people gathered here this afternoon. That is the great tragedy of war. And you young people must stop war from coming to your country..... When I think of the fighting men, they were magnificent. When I think of the lives that were lost, that was tragic!' After the unveiling, the City Mayor, Mr Peter Quirk said the Memorial would soon be floodlit. One lady attending the unveiling had the special experience of seeing the cenotaph unveiled twice. Mrs Jessie Pearce of Wentworth Falls also attended the 1921 unveiling by the then N.S.W. Governor, Sir Walter Davies."

(Ron Barber - Courtesy 'Blue Mtns Echo')

THE ARMY MUSEUM and VICTORIA BARRACKS CORPS of GUIDES.

The Army Museum, Victoria Barracks, Paddington, now issues its own newspaper. (continued on page 5)



LAST POST.

WX13998

Keenen S.M.

from May-June Reveille

NX8657

Smith C.M.

ditto.

WELFARE REPORT.

Visited at R.G.H.

NX9721 Stack George Ward 230. Had second Hernia operation. Now home, progressing O.K.
NX36260 Hudson H(Bert) Ward 630. Further surgery on throat. Good report.
NX68643 Chadwick Norm Ward 110. Glandular problem. Discharged.
NX5147 Finch Des In for a couple of days following recent stroke(not seen)
NX2048 Cole Reg Ward 330. In for tests with heart problem. Discharged.
NX127149 Anelzark John Ward 430. Has a hip complaint. Discharged.
NX46601 Barber Thomas Ward 630. In for tests for lung complaint.
NX42709 Cunningham Des Ward 130. Vascular complaint in lower limbs.

Visited at Westmead Hospital.

NX5146 Schwartz Ron Ward 5a. Heart condition. Discharged.

Visited at Lady Davidson Hospital.

NX5177 Fly Fred Fred was transferred from Queen Victoria Hosp. Picton for fitting of artificial limbs. Will probably be there for some weeks. Information that Fred had been transferred came from Jim Forman of Warrawamba who went to Picton to see him. Sorry you made the journey unnecessarily, Jim. Thanks for passing on the information. (Resulting from this anybody intending to visit a member in hospital, if possible, contact hospital before visiting)

Information from Elsie Bradford to Frank Ivey that NX1247 Fred Burke of Long Jett was seriously ill in Gosford District Hospital.

Bill Andrews, Lugarno, Not too well. Has a blood disorder.

Norm Auberson visited Jim Sadler NX5850 at home. Jim had a slight stroke. Progressing well.

The Army Museum. (cont)

We learn from the December, 1983 issue that a Victoria Barracks Corps of Guides has been formed and it is fulfilling an important role every Tuesday morning conducting groups of visitors on a guided walking tour of the barracks. This tour follows the weekly guard changing ceremony which ends at 11am. It concludes with a visit to the Army Museum in the old Military Gaol in the South-East corner of the Barracks. During the tour, the public are made aware of the history of each of the original buildings, where the building materials came from, who occupied them in 1848 and their present day usage. Hence the need for guides to conduct these tours.

The Corps of Guides was formed on the suggestion of the Commander, 2nd Military District, Brigadier J. Hooper. It comprises retired Regular Army, Army Reserve and demobilised 2nd A.I.F. personnel.

Previously the task of conducting walking tours was carried out by Regular Army Warrant Officers, Sergeants and Corporals who were required to leave their regular duties for at least an hour to guide visitors. The ranks of the Corps members, previously or presently held, range from Colonel down to Gunner, Signaller and Private. However there is a predominance of former Regular Army Warrant Officers. Further recruits to the Corps are sought, to lighten the load on present members. So if you can help on Tuesdays and on Sundays (even if not on a regular basis) would you please phone Lt-Col Ron Thirwell at the Barracks.

You have now got a dispensation from the rule:- "Thou shalt not volunteer."

To find out more on this interesting pastime phone Victoria Barracks 339-0455

.Courtesy of Jim Graham.

FRED STAGGS REVIEW of the book "THE UNNECESSARY WAR" by Peter Charlton.

I recently read the book "The Unnecessary War" by Peter Charlton. In this book the author acknowledges an extract from the 2/4 Bn. War History "White Over Green" by Cec Chrystal and others. On page 64 of the book are some paragraphs dealing with a remark made by Major Ferdie Pegg on his arrival in New Guinea when we relieved the Yanks in the area. It also acknowledges an extract from the book "Dougherty-A man among men." I think for those members who served in the latter stages of the War in New Guinea this book would be of interest to them. I enjoyed reading it.

Courtesy of Fred Staggs.

A Special Request. Most regular attenders at our monthly meetings have been issued with Battalion Name Badges. For the benefit of new members, visitors, etc it is requested that they be worn where and when possible.

CASH REGISTER.

The Treasurer acknowledges receipt of Subscriptions and Donations during the period March 2nd to May 22nd, 1984 as follows:-

<u>\$6</u>			
Vince McDonnell	Ted Hopkins	Noel Woolcott	Jim Graham
George Parry	Jack Dubber	Vin Hallinan	Charlie Davies
Tom Watson	Doug Rodda	John Wood	Mer Killion
Joe Lowe	R.H.Elder	H.W.Russell	<u>\$8</u> Jack Eastham
<u>\$10</u>			
Des Finch	George Moore	Cyril Barrow	Ken Richardson
George Coles	Norm Rogers	Lionel Clarke	Ian Fitchett
Trevor Richardson	Eric Toynnton	Jack Huston	Wink Walker
Des Loydell	R.J.Murphy	Max Nernay	Dudley Meecham
Ron Williams	Wally Shaw	Cec Cameron	Tich Fordham
Dick Morris	Alan Bohle	Bob Roach	Syd. Zartman
Dave Crothwaite	Rick Carter	Nap Alavoine	Harold Bowman
<u>\$12</u>			
Wally Capper	Mrs M Perram	Dave Endean	Kev King
<u>\$15</u>			
Norm Everson	Geof. Ings		
<u>\$20</u>			
Charlie Evans	Artie White	Norrie McGregor	Bob Lane
Lang Stronach	Len Bloomfield	Tom Tracey	Gordon Chrisp
Dave Follington	Noel Flynn	Jim McBrown	Charlie Grandquist
Bookie Rae	Ted Burbridge		
<u>\$30</u>			
A Miller	Roy Denyer	<u>\$50</u> Phil Nugent	<u>\$110</u> Harry Lindsay

JACK PARTRIDGE Secretary of the Gosford Re-Union Committee advises bookings received to date, as follows:-

Arnott - "Biscuits" & Meg	Amies - Dot	Bate - May
Bladen - Gordon	Bradford - Elsie	Bloomfield Lyn & Ed
Blacksley - Stan	Bowman - Harold & Noni	Carpenter - Alf & Marj
Chrystal - Cec & Phil	Cork - Bruce & Angela	Copland - John
Crutchett - Frank & Enid	Clark - Craig & Edna	Dalloway Tex & Una
Deacon - Ken & Lily	Dalla - Perc & Betty	Denver Peter & Pat
Everson - Rex & Olga	Fox - Ted & Heather	Fergusson Bob & Nina
Frances - Eileen	Forman - Jim & Jean	Fox - Rita
Gjedsted - Harry & Marg	Groves - Doug	Graham Bub & Margret
Gorman - Curley & Maureen	Hughes - Jack & Joan	Hayes - Bill
Heath - Athol	Irvine - Molly	Jackson Dagwood & Enid
Kesteven - Ken & Fi	Kleem - Artie & Muriel	Lindsay Allen & Gloria
Loydell - Des	Lynch - Leo & Eileen	Lever Bob & Glad
Mitchell - George & Heather	Mitchell - Guy & Kathy	MacLennan Bill & Gwen
Manuel - Doreen	Meehan - John	McCosker Laurie & Eve
McLaughlin - Jim & Alice	Newth - Bill & Gwen	Pearse - Yvonne
Poplin - Bill & Beryl	Peters - Morney & Mrs	Potter Gary & Elizabeth
Partridge - Henry & Olive	Partridge - Waaly & Marj	Partridge Jack & Mary
Silver - Harold & Delme	Slinger - Doug & Wilma	Smith Phil & friend
Sugden - George & Mrs	Summerfield - Ray & Una	Sheaffe Bill & Una
Wright - Harry & Hilda	Waterhouse - Laurie & Joy	Walsh - vera
Wallace - Pom	Walker - Roy & Joyce	Wells Snow & Bobby
Wilkinson - Reg & Jenny	Young - Syd & Florence	

Now there's a good roll-up, considering its only May. Come on all you Late-comers get cracking and get you registration in now. Lets make this one a bumper Re-union. Remember the Re-union is at Gosford over the week-end immediately after the Eight Hour Week-end (6/7th October) For bookings see details on page 2 (1st para.) of this issue

FINAL REMINDER!!!! CHURCH PARADE at ST. ANNE'S - STRATHFIELD.

17th June, 1984. at 2.30pm

SEE PAGE 2 (Para2) for DETAILS.