



White War Green

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE 2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

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NEXT MEETING.

The next Monthly Meeting will be held on Tuesday, 22nd 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

NEW YEAR MESSAGE.

Now that the festive season is over for another twelve months, the editorial staff here (myself and good wife Joy) hope you have survived the calorie build-up and agitated ulcers to commence 1985 with good health and contentment of mind. May the ensuing New Year bring much happiness to you all, your families and those near and dear to you. The President and Committee also wish that the Association has another successful year ahead and that the functions and activities will be as well patronised by members as in the past year.

Christmas Get-together.

To close the 1984 year off, the Association held a very informal get-together of members, their wives and friends on Wednesday, December 12 at the Gallipoli Club. Some forty-five people attended and were cordially welcomed by President Alf Carpenter who said that he hoped everyone present along with their loved ones, would be imbued with the true Christmas spirit and enjoy a happy festive season where-ever they may be. He then proceeded to declare the December meeting open, and after receiving apologies, read a letter from the West. Australia members, recording their Xmas message and a resume of their Xmas party held in the Anzac Club, Perth. Also a message from Allan Kirk of the Northern Rivers with a resume of their Xmas gathering. President Alf and his wife Marj, attended this function. He finalised proceedings by reading out the Christmas cards and the messages they contained. They came from Frank Mallett in England, Henry Wheeler in California, Dasher and Lily Deacon, W.Aust and the one from the W.A. members via Doug Slinger. President Alf then closed the brief meeting, enjoining one and all to have a good time. Refreshments were then supplied and from then the "fellowship" flowed on. It was one of the most successful Xmas gatherings held by the Association. A highlight of the evening was the appearance of Ernie Bowdige of Ravenshoe, Qld. Ernie was a member of "A" Company and then transferred to the Engineers. He was visiting Newcastle and President Alf brought him down to the meeting. Ernie is looking very well, the years have treated him kindly. Must be that beautiful climate up there in Joh's Country. Very good to see Ernie again, yours truly hadn't seen him since the morning of the attack on Tobruk. Thats nearly forty-three years ago.

The people attending the function were:- President Alf Carpenter, Senior V.P. Allen Lindsay, Editor Laurie Waterhouse accompanied by his wife Joy, Cec & Phyl Chrystal, Ken & Fi Kesteven, Harry & Hilda Wright, Ted & Heather Fox, Ferdi Pegg, Frank &

Dawn Ivey, Dave & Sally Follington, Harold & Noni Bowman, Harry & Marj Gjedsted, John Meehan, Jim Graham, John Hawkins, Sid Buckley, Alex Maxwell, Bill Parry, Slim Powers, Slim Pollock, Slim Venn, Norrie McGregor, Stan & Marion Farr, Rex & Olga Everson, 'Biscuits' Arnott, Athol Heath, Norm Auberson, Trevor Richardson, Vera Walsh and Andrew Phillips & friend. Apologies were received from Sir Ivan, Fred Staggs and Peter Cade. If I have missed any names, my apologies (Editor)

Northern Rivers Get-Together.

President Alf Carpenter and wife Marj travelled to Lismore to join with Allan and Carma Kirk (V.P. for the Northern Rivers) and the members of the 2/4th residing in the area on their Xmas Party on 1st December. From the report received from Allan this party was a real "goer", with excellent catering, food being first class, putting everyone in the right frame of mind to enjoy the evening's activities and the fellowship abound. Seventy-two people sat down to a superb meal, good vintage wines and other varied liquid refreshments. Amongst the Northern Rivers and Far North Coast people to be seen were quite a number of Queenslanders. Allan said they received thirty apologies indicating that they could have had 100 people. Those who attended were:- Allan & Carma Kirk, Alf & Marj Carpenter, Vic & Beryl Slade, Hugh & Eileen Whittleton, Fred & Lauren Varley, Mel & Lyla McInnes, "Chubby" & Ella Crossthwaite, Harry & Ada Whitman, John & Doreen Hughes, Alan & Dianne Hughes, Rex & Dallas Hughes, Herb & Marge Robinson, Roy & Dorrie Andrews, Geoff Savins and wife, Bill & Amy Facey, Jack & Mollie Schiebel, Ian & Edna Walwork, Les Cox, 'Pom' Wallace, Ken Andrews and two friends, Max Nernay and his wife, Clive & Aille Brown, Sid & Flo Young, Reg & Coral Murphy, Joan Chaseling and 3 friends, Eileen Lynch, Mel & Margaret Lavers, Jack & Joyce Lister, "Spike" Galvin, Laurie & Evelyn McCosker, John & Belle Shingles, Gordon Bladen and friend, Jack & Joan Hughes, Norm & Jean Everson and Mr & Mrs John Stewart of the East Lismore Bowling Club (guests). Apologies were received from Alf & Jeanette Schweitzer, Bill & Una Sheaffe, N y Slade, Esca & Beb Riordan, Doug Grove, Bub & Margaret Graham, Jack & Mary Partridge, Tom & Freda Clarke, Aille Lamond, Dick Morris, Wal & Betty McKenzie, Ron Ellem, Vera Provians (in hosp.)

(Courtesy - Allan Kirk)

West Australian Xmas Party.

The wives and other ladies of our members over in Perth, took matters into their own hands and threw a Xmas Party for the menfolk at the Anzac Club in Perth. They not only catered for their beloved's but according to reports from Doug Slinger provided enough for the whole of the 2/4th Battalion because they had to entice other members of the club to assist them to eat it all. The highlight of the party was the special Xmas Cake that Dasher's wife, Lily, brought in for the occasion. It was decorated in the Battalion colours and the wording, an attractive "Merry Christmas to all the 2/4th Battalion" - a work of art was the report! Lily was, of course, given the honour of cutting the cake and toasting the Battalion. The cake, a topic of conversation, was desirous of being tasted by all within the club, which is what transpired in due course. It looks like everyone present in the club enjoyed the 2/4th Xmas Get-together. A fitting finish to the year for the boys over in the West. They will resume in the New Year with a meeting at Doug & Wilma's at Mar 19th January 16th in form of a Bar-B-Q. They are hoping the crabs will be running well which Mandurah is noted (if you want to draw the crabs, Doug, just start a game of Two-up, it never failed in the old days). Jack Partridge and Allen Lindsay you are in for a mighty time when you arrive in the West in 1985. The boys send their kind regards to all members, hoping that good health will be with us in 1985. Those who attended this wonderful Xmas party in Perth were: Ross Elliot, Dasher & Lily Deacon, (Dasher & Lily get around so much, so quickly, we wouldn't have been surprised to see their names on the Northern Rivers Xmas Party list) Doug & Wilma Slinger, Stan & June Day and Edna Dean (Jack Chaseling's sister, now living in Perth). Anyone travelling to Perth and staying around for a while, you are more than welcome to call in and see Doug Slinger. If you want his address or phone number a call to the Editor will surface. (Keep up the good work WA, you are setting a high standard with your meetings and social gatherings - Editor).

A FINAL WORD on Xmas Parties, gatherings, Get-togethers, etc. If we can get the boys in Melbourne and Adelaide into gear it looks as though, that in the future, you won't be too far from a 2/4th Xmas "Do" no matter where you are in the country (Rusty McWilliam excepted), during the festive season. (Peter Denver - see apology P3)

Association of 4th Infantry Battalions.

The last function, for the year, of the above Association, took place on Friday evening 14th December at the HQ of the Battalion, Arncliffe Drill Hall. This took the form of a very short meeting and the fraternisation among the company present. Whilst the quality of the company present was all the quantity was a little disappointing. This was due to the function clashing with a number of others that drew away people who would have normally attended. The function, to which wives and

girl-friends were invited, was hosted by the President of the Association, Major-General Gordon Maitland and his wife, Dorothy. Those who did attend enjoyed themselves partook of lashings of good food, (Gordon had catered on the basis of last year's attendance) and engaged in interesting conversation and repartee. It was most disappointing to see only two members of the 2/4th present as notice of this function was in the November issue of WOG, besides the December issue. Our Senior Vice-President Allen Lindsay and his wife Gloria attended representing our President, Laurie Waterhouse gave support to Allen. Apologies were received from Sir Ivan and Ken & Fl Kesteven. This function does deserve better patronage from our Association and hopefully will receive it next year. (Editor).

4th Battalion - Royal N.S.W. Regiment- Exercising the Right of Freedom of Wollongong.

Just recently, the above battalion exercised its right to march through the City of Wollongong. This ceremonial exercise took place on 3rd November and was a part of the 150th Anniversary celebrations of the city.

The Freedom of the City of Wollongong was bestowed on the 4RNSWR by the Lord Mayor of the City of Wollongong on 27th September, 1980 together with the ship's company of Her Majesty's Australian Ship Orion. It was only the second occasion on which the City of Wollongong has conferred this honour on a Regiment of the Australian Military Forces, the privilege previously being conferred on the 34th Infantry Battalion (The Illawarra Regiment), on 8th March, 1959.

The granting of the Freedom of Entry to the City of Wollongong in the twentieth century is a graceful gesture by the City, affording an opportunity to place on record an appreciative reference to a fighting unit of the Army and a recognition of the bond which exists between the Battalion and the City. Its bestowal is considered also as a tribute to the citizens of Wollongong and its environs who served with the Regiment, both in war and peace. To have such an honour conferred is considered a recognition of the Battalion's high standing with the community and an honour of the highest magnitude.

The ceremonial of the "Freedom of the City" is the conferring of the title and the distinction of marching through the streets of a city on ceremonial occasions with "drawn swords, bayonets fixed, drums beating, bands playing and the colours of the Regiment flying." It is one of the most interesting of military traditions of the past. For the benefit of those members who are not familiar with this ceremony we print a resume of the ritual.

The Chief Inspector of Police issues the challenge, on the approach of the Battalion: "Halt! Who goes there?"

The Commanding Officer replies, "The 4th Battalion Royal New South Wales Regiment exercising its right and privilege to pass through the City of Wollongong with swords drawn, bayonets fixed, drums beating, band playing and colours flying."

The Chief Inspector replies, "I acknowledge your right and privilege. Pass the 4th Battalion, Royal New South Wales Regiment with the Lord Mayor's and Council's Authority."

The Battalion then marches through the City and salutes the Lord Mayor and the Military Commander of the area. As the Battalion passes the saluting-base, guests and others are requested to stand and salute or uncover, in return.

President Alf Carpenter and Senior Vice-President Allen Lindsay and their wives attended this ceremony as official guests of the City of Wollongong. They reported that the ceremony was most inspiring to watch, and the subsequent hospitality was more than inspiring.

MAIL BAG - NOV/DEC 1984.

Over the last couple of months we have had so much copy to edit and print, that we have had to neglect our individual correspondents. However we have saved your letters and will endeavour to answer them here. Of course we have our constant correspondents who are so adept at letter-writing that they keep us with plenty of work to do. We also have the opposite, the ones that find it very laborious just to write one line. However we feel all should be answered according to their merits. We are going to start the column with (another) letter received from our old stalwart at Bourke, Harold Smith, camelier extra-ordinaire and infanteer. Harold has been down to Concord RGH and has been accepted for a TPI pension. This has to be some sort of record as Harold says he has been battling for this pension for 66 years. We think he made the trip for a dual purpose, the other being to view the female species, as we know Harold has an eye for the young fillies. We are pleased you have at last won your battle, Harold, Good Luck!

Next is George Walton from Blair Athol, SA apologising for missing Gosford. George has been a great stalwart behind the South Aussie boys, giving his support to their functions and keeping a fraternal eye on "Robbie." Mentions that he retired last July (join the club, George!) and is enjoying retirement to its fullest extent. Said that Ron Maczkowiak has been sick but is now on the road to recovery. The rest of the boys seem to be O.K. and are looking forward to the Xmas Bar-B-Q at Peter Denver's place. (Our abject editorial apologies for the reference to Adelaide and Xmas parties under heading "Final Word" on page 2, Peter). Thanks for the news George, enjoy every moment of your retirement.

A short note from Vic Hill at Frankston Vic to say all is well, sending his subs

and notifying us of his new address and phone number. Sends his regards to all
Thanks Vic, hope you enjoyed the festive season!

Harry Hamburger of Laurieton wrote in with a request that we publish a message of
"Thanks" to various Association members, especially Fredd Staggs, for giving him
the means to locate Joe Low. Thanks Harry for the cheque, it will help us along,
trust you enjoy the festive season. Your message has been passed on.

up to Bathurst for our next letter from Jack Kean, who is helping to keep our
Treasurer smiling. Jack says he had a ball at the Gosford Re-union, and being his
first one, has realised what he has missed over the years. We shall certainly look
forward to seeing you at Wagga this year. Good luck and good health, Jack!

John Holland sent in a brief note along with a cheque, wanting car stickers, bought
himself a new set of wheels. Wish you luck, John!

Well it is now down to the South Coast of NSW to acknowledge a short, to the point,
note from Laurie (Topsy) Crispin of Narawallee Beach, a very lovely spot. Glad to
know you and Isobel are up and about. Hope good health is yours for the New Year.
Thanks for keeping Allen smiling.

A letter from Wally Mangan of Kincumber putting us wise as to why his WOG was
returned and requesting a couple of T shirts and a blazer pocket, etc. Said he
enjoyed the week-end at Gosford and wished all here at Sydney the best for the
festive season. Thank you, Wally.

Fred Varley of Goonellabah, Lismore, our next correspondent. He would like us to mak
it known that he wishes to say "Thank you" for a good job well done, to Dave Ender,
Frank Ivey, George Stack for their visits to him whilst at Concord and Lady Davidson
Hospitals. Also to Merv Killion and crew for the card they sent him. We here in
Sydney hope you are on the way to recovery and that you enjoyed the festive season
with your family. Good luck, Fred.

Received a short note from Ken Watt of Cleveland, Qld. with a cheque and a message
to the committee for the festive season. Reckons the committee does one hellva job,
keeping members in touch with each other. Thank you for the compliment and go wish
to you, Ken.

Norm Rogers of Narrandera writes in for a T shirt (for which he sent a 'good' cheque
Norm is about to stir a couple of other 2/4th blokes there, namely Don Bundy and
Jimmie James. First of all Norm, we hope the wife got her Xmas present in time and
don't be too hard on Jimmie. Yes we know his sister-in-law at Ardlethan can hear
him at times. Thanks Norm for the compliments, we too, hope you had a great time.
Wonders will never cease! In the mail, a letter from George (King) Cole of Wallarawa
wanting to cover that great frame of his with a T shirt. Believe it or not, we had
one big enough, hope it will keep you happy, George. Thank you for the Xmas greeting
and hope to see you in the New Year.

Received a note from Ross Smith of Inverell who confirmed an earlier phone call he
made ordering a couple of T shirts. Received the cheque O.K. glad all is well and
will pass on your message to all concerned.

Also had a short note from George Moore at Mollynook. He wants to join the Battalion
T Shirt Wearers Club. When you read this, George, you should be wearing it. Thank
you for the phone message and your good wishes.

We have had numerous Xmas cards from members and we certainly appreciate the gesture
specially from those over in the U.K and America. We thank all these members and
in turn, hope they enjoy all happiness and good luck in 1985. The members wer
Henry Wheeler of California, USA; Frank Mallett of Norwich, England; Doug Slin
of Perth, WA; Jack and Joan Huston of Canberra; Dasher and Lily Deacon of Perth, WA;
Bob and Enid Jackson of Wagga; Harold Smith of Bourke; Dick Morris of Mannering
Park; Perc and Betty Dalla of Wagga.

SVP and Treasurer Allen Lindsay also wishes to thank who wrote and/or sent Xmas
greetings and subs. Besides subs (acknowledged later in "Cas Register" Column)
he received cards from Frank Wright of Newcastle; Bill Black of Port MacDonnell SA;
and Rusty McWilliam of Darwin, NT and all points North. Thanks Rusty for the 'small
donation.

Annual General Meeting 1985

The 1985 Annual General Meeting will be held as a Daytime meeting NOT as
an evening meeting. Therefore this will act as a reminder to those who are
not sure whether it would be daytime or evening. It will be held on Tuesday
26th February 1985 at 2.30pm in the Dining Room area of the Gallipoli
Memorial Club. This is the meeting when all contentious matters should be
brought up for debate and decision. All positions on the Executive and
Committee will be up for voting. Anyone desirous of serving on the Committee
or any other position this will be the time to nominate. However you must
attend or send a written consent if you wish to be nominated. Only members
present at the meeting are entitled to vote, so roll up in your hundreds
and vote for the members of your choice in whom you wish to entrust the
affairs of the Association for the ensuing twelve months.

SITREPS.

Rick Carter of Urunga is planning a trip to Europe this year. When in German
he will be calling on the ex-parachutist who took part in the invasion of



LAST POST.



NXI3305
NXI5529
NX46454

FENTON Ralph Bruce
JONES Ernest
PHILLIPS Matthew



OBITUARIES

Ralph Bruce Fenton: died on 21st December at Concord Hospital after suffering from a chest ailment, which necessitated several visits to Concord over the past year. The funeral took place at Rookwood Crematorium, the Hurstville RSL Sub-branch conducted the Serviceman's Rites he being a member of that sub-branch. Frank Ivey and Harry Wright represented the Association. Ralph was a P.O.W. being captured during the Greek campaign. **VALE! Ralph Fenton**

Ernest Jones of Dubbo died on 11th December at the age of 77 years. His funeral took place on 13th December, after a service was held at the Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Dubbo. He was buried in the Western Districts Memorial Park after a brief service. Ernest was a P.O.W. taken prisoner in Greece. There are no further details to hand. Information courtesy of Frank Sadler of Dubbo. **VALE! Ernest Jones.**

Matt Phillips: message received from Victoria that Matt died on Friday 15th December after a massive heart attack. Matt was a mate of 'Pom' Wallace lived in NSW for a time and then moved to Victoria, no other details available. **VALE! Matt Phillips.**

Rene Pinson the beloved wife of Life-member Dick Pinson, died on 14th Dec after being ill for many months. Her funeral took place at Rookwood Crematorium after a short service. Relatives from Wagga and elsewhere attended also a number of 2/4th members. They were Slim Powers, Laurie Waterhouse, Harry & Hilda Wright, Bill Parry, Norm Auberson and Rex Everson. The Association has sent condolences to the family.

WELFARE REPORT for DECEMBER, 1984.

There has not been many members in hospital at Concord. This due to patients who are not seriously ill and can be looked after at home are sent home for the Xmas and New Year period. Also not many members were admitted in December. Those seen by our hospital visiting teams were:

NX5162 Dawson, Tom Ward 12 ankle infected, discharged.
NXI20042 Waterworth Len Ward 110 in for observation for prostate gland and leg ulcers, discharged.
World War I Pearson George Ward 610 Old 4th Battalion, 95 years old. had a hernia operation. Discharged and admitted to War Vets Home.
NXI64 Copland, John was seen by Slim Powers at his home at Ryde. He had to have an overnight stay at Concord on 3rd Dec suffering from pains in the chest. Heart is O.K. but is suffering from hardening of the arteries in the legs, also has a breathing problem.
Vera Provians. Is in Belmont Private Hospital, Brisbane. Has a nervous complaint, progressing favourably, will be in hospital till the end of January.
Bill Parry Informs us that he has been confined to his bed, has a bad hypertension problem, which necessitates keeping quiet and plenty of rest.

SITREPS (continued from page 4)

Crete. You will recall in December we printed a copy of his letter to Rick, outlining his version of the 'drop' on Crete. Rick be-friended him when they met on a tour in 1984. Now Rick is going to call on him and his family and will show off the Battalion T Shirt. He called out on the Sunday and picked three up. I don't think Rick will be wearing them all. We hope he will have a good trip and enjoy the company of his new found friend, we may even get a further story from Rick on his return.

CASH REGISTER (final for the year, 1984)

The Treasurer reports having received subs and donations from the following:
\$6 D Slinger(stickers), Ken Watt \$10 P J Walton, J A Kean, J A Holland, V A Hill, N Auberson, F Wright, C Barwick \$12 L Crispin \$20 H Hamurger, Bill Gibbes, S Farr, F Varley, Bill Black \$30 G Bladen \$50 H Robinson \$100 Rusty McWilliam.

A GRAND OLD LADY OF YESTERYEAR.

A piece of nostalgia that I am sure will interest members and readers alike was passed on to me by Jim Graham some months ago with the promise to him that it would be printed when space became available, so here it is:-

She reminded me of my schooldays and of a poem, "She was old and feeble and grey...." when I first saw her standing in an obscure corner of the Medical Day Centre at the War Vets Home at Narrabeen. There was a sadness and resignation that held my interest and sympathy, for at last she had found refuge from the world. As I watched, she seemed to shrink further into herself, but then I noticed a little sparkle of pride was reflected in that sad tired face and it was as if there was a faint lift of the shoulders and as I continued to watch, I thought I heard a whisper..... "I was not always like this, Oh no! Once there was polish and shine about me. There was laughter and gaiety. My music rang around the world. I have sailed the oceans. Men have flocked to my side. I have brought pleasure to many, been the toast of the bravest and fairest in the land. Oh yes! I have had my triumphs. And now....?" The life seemed to go out of her once more. I shook my head and straightened my glasses. This once high-ranking "lady" was a "Strad" Grand Piano, her keys, strings and sounding board no longer responsive to hands which perhaps still try to revive memories of Tipperary and Madamosielle from Armentiers. Attached to the inside of one panel was a faded, aged and yellow typed history, as follows:-

'This piano was presented by Marcus Clarke & Co Ltd in March 1915. It gave good service at the Liverpool camp for 3 months, was put on Troopship CERAMI and used by different units of the 3000 troops on that vessel. It was carried from deck to deck for playing hymns on Sundays and for concerts every day in the week. It was landed at Alexandria and for a year saw service in Egypt. In the quiet districts of the Oasis it 'did its bit' as a musical instrument and when the troops in Zeitaem moved to Tell-el-Kebir the piano went with them. From Tell-el-Kebir it travelled to the Canal front. At Serapeum and Hileeta it still gave its music, sometimes on Saturday nights receiving its baptism of beer and candlegrease, but on Sunday it was ready to lead the hymns for the Church Parades out in the desert. From Egypt in 1916, it travelled across the Mediterranean amid the dangers of the Hun submarines. In France it had 3 years of faithful service, and is now returning from whence it came after five years of hard service, Though winning no DSO or MC it has rendered very good and distinguished service to thousands and tens of thousands of our gallant Australian troops.'

This piano is a prized part of our history, not meant to be discarded and forlorn, wasting away in an obscure corner of the War Vets Home. The resident of the Home, concerned that this once proud and historic War Veteran should not be allowed to end its days without a further opportunity to "render distinguished service" to the men of Gallipoli, France, Tobruk, El Alamein, New Guinea, Singapore, Korea and Vietnam, got to work and raised some \$1500, generously helped by the "Manly Daily" and others. The money will be used to restore the "Strad" to her former glory, for a new career in the War Veterans' Concert Theatre. And so once more the Grand Old Lady's voice will be heard confidently and clearly, as it was 70 years ago.

Courtesy of Jim Graham.

WAGGA WAGGA RE-UNION 1985.

Talking to Perc Dalla at the Gosford Re-union when the topic of the big Honour Board at the Wagga Post Office came up. During the latter part of WW2 the Wagga City Council erected a board on a vacant block of land adjoining the main Post Office. This board bore the names of all who joined the 2nd AIF, Navy and Air Force. Among these names were 30 or more who served with 2/4th Battalion. After the War it disappeared and the Commonwealth Bank built a branch on the land. On several trips back to Wagga I tried to find out what happened to the board, but had no luck. Perc Dalla said he would have a try at finding out. Lo and Behold! before Christmas I received word from Perc that he had had results from his "pot-stirring." The Wagga RSL have taken the matter into their own hands and will have the board remade and unveiled when we have the Re-Union. This has been a sore point with Exservicemen at Wagga for many years as Councillors have conveniently forgotten all about it. It is good to know our Battalion has been instrumental in its restoration. Dagwood Jackson advises that full details of the 1985 Wagga Re-Union will shortly be available for publication in WOG. When they appear we urge members to make their bookings promptly, in accordance with the instructions, to assist the Wagga Committee in the early organisation of this important function.