



# White War 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:** Will be held on Tuesday, 26th November 1985 at the Gallipoli Memorial Club, 12 Loftus St, Sydney. The Committee Meeting will be held at 1130 hrs followed by the General Meeting at 1430hrs. Lunch will be available in the Dining Room from 1200 to 1400hrs.

### EDITORIAL.

Our editorial in the September issue dealing with the cut-back in some areas of the sections of the War Veterans Entitlement Bill, apparently has had some success. The concentrated campaign of letters of protest to the Prime minister and the Minister of Veterans Affairs, also to members of Parliament, has caused these people to have second thoughts and now they have decided to leave those areas that caused so much anxiety to ex-servicemen and their dependents alone. The Onus of Proof has been left, more or less, as it was, and the 40 year provision introduced in the mini-budget in May has been omitted. To refuse a pension to a widow, the Repat Commission will now have to be satisfied "beyond reasonable doubt" that the disability leading to the death of the veteran, could not have been caused by the war, rather than being simply satisfied on a balance of probabilities as the Government had proposed. To have taken away these two important clauses was like dealing a death blow to all ex-service personnel and their dependents. Some of us have been fortunate in being granted pensions, this is all the more reason why we should maintain our vigilance on these matters and do everything within our power and whatever means we have, to protect them. There are members within our Association who have war-related disabilities and have now reached retiring age, who will be applying for an increase or a claim for a disability pension. It is these people we have to protect, also the ex-service personnel from Vietnam and Korea, in fact, all future ex-service personnel. We must protect their rights just as we have stood together to protect ours. Therefore we must forever be vigilant and see that those rights are not being eroded. The committee of this Association are in full support of any action that is taken to ensure the future protection of ex-servicemen and women and their rights. Editor.

### THE WAGGA RE-UNION.

They came from far and near, from the north and the South, the East and the West, from the cities and the country towns. They came with a purpose and one thought in mind. To meet up again with old mates and to re-new friendships made over forty or more years ago, in an era when friendship had a real value, that men gave their lives to honour. These friendships have endured the ravishes of the years and have held fast, as evidenced at the now past 1985 wagga Country Re-union.



This was the theme right through-out the re-union, from the time the Riverina X.P.T. pulled out from Central Station, Sydney on Friday, 11th October right through till the rearguard left Wagga on Wednesday, 16th October. I am sure the Riverina X.P.T. will never be the same again. It was a re-union that must go down in the annals of the Association's history as one of the biggest and certainly one of the most enjoyable. It proved that the 2/4th Australian Infantry Battalion Association is as strong to-day as ever, despite the diminishing of our members who have succumbed to the great reaper. One cannot thank the organising committee of the Wagga re-union enough, for the way it was organised and carried out. It is quite an undertaking, to arrange accommodation, catering and transportation for just on three hundred people without some little hitch. Also it must be mentioned that the financial side of the undertaking always proves to be a problem until you start to balance up. Here again thanks must be given to a man who preferred to keep a low profile throughout. A man who has endured much adversity throughout the years and has never complained, who was embarrassed at the help accorded him by the members, in a time of dire distress and need, sought some way of repaying the members in a very low-key and non-public way. The re-union gave him that chance, and so it was that we who attended the re-union were able to have an extended days pleasure through his gesture. Thank you! Stan Blacksley. To the Wagga committee of the 1985 Re-union:- 'Dagwood' Jackson, Bill Cosier, Perce Dalla, Pat Sydenham, Jock Cummins and their good wives (for without their efforts much of the success would have been lost); to all of you! a big THANK YOU! for a wonderful week-end.

The Wagga R.S.L. gave us the use of their premises and the amenities therein. What better venue could you get, with the spacious seating, dining facilities and of course the scenic outlook whilst enjoying a beer? It all went to make the perfect week-end.

An official count of members who marched was one hundred and thirty-five plus another half dozen or so of the halt and the lame who viewed the march from the footpath. The battalion was led for a block of the Main street of Wagga to the Cenotaph by the Wagga Pipe Band under the control of the Honorary Marshal for the occasion, Sgt-Major W.S. Robbins (known to all and sundry as "Robbie"). He did a sterling job, experience prevailing over age (80 years). He reckoned that had we "fell in" forty years ago like we did at Wagga he would have had us all on the mat! However our drill on the command "Parade Dismiss!" was spot on and sufficient to bring a smile to his lips and perhaps a soft tear to his eye. I am not sure that Robbie was very impressed with our Colour party. Robbie is reported to have said, "Never put officers in a Colour Party... they don't know when to stop!" Who were the Colour Party? None other than Phil Smith, Tom Mort with Norm Auberson and Wink Walker carrying the Banner. (We needed big men in the Colour Party as the committeeman, noted for his efficiency, who was detailed to bring the banner, flags and carrying frogs from Sydney, forgot the frogs!) It was no mean task to carry the banner and flags into the thirty knot headwind that was blowing down the main street. Perhaps they were just getting the hang of it when we arrived at the Cenotaph and was the reason why they (the Colour Party) proceeded for another two hundred yards down the street after the parade had halted!

The ceremony at the Cenotaph was brief, but impressive, with a sizable crowd attending, local townspeople, as well as members wives and friends, dignitaries of the town and service heads. The bugler was provided by Kapooka Army Camp.

The main function of the Re-union, the Saturday Night Formal Dinner, was well attended, some three hundred and fifteen people sat down to the meal. The biggest crowd ever catered for by the Wagga R.S.L. and certainly the biggest for a 2/4th Country Re-Union. There was a welcome by the mayor of Wagga and then, sometimes, lengthy speeches by a variety of speakers. It was then on to get-together with one another until the club closed.

Sunday brought the makings of a lovely day and sure enough that's just what the weather proved to be, thus ensuring everyone who attended a great time. Shows there is someone up there who looks after us. Kapooka Army Camp Picnic Area was an ideal spot for a Bar B.Q. style picnic and one must praise the Army for turning on a marvellous show, supplying the transport to and from the camp, providing the Army Band who supplied suitable music during lunch and giving everyone a tour of the Camp area thus providing an insight into how the present Army personnel live and train. I wonder how many of us would consider the life of a serviceman these days, if given your time to live over again? Especially with all the modern conveniences and amenities, including the opposite sex for every day company. It is a very interesting situation to visualise.

Must pay the Sgts Mess at Kapooka a big compliment for the marvellous hospitality shown to the 2/4th in allowing us the use of their facilities for afternoon tea and the serving and partaking of other beverages. Must say yours truly was a little bewildered at seeing the double water-bed there in the mess, wonder if that was an added comfort, Troops for the use of?

Monday was another great day, the weather again being made to order. Beautiful sunshine to put everyone in good mood and humour for the bus tour to the Blowering Dam and Tumut, stoppnig off at Adelong Creek Falls and the Trout Hatcheries and farm below the Dam. The trip itself was terrific, just sitting in a comfortable



coach and watching the country-side slip by. Being a former inhabitant of Wagga and the surrounding areas, one can honestly say that the country-side never looked so good, it was so refreshing to see the vast areas of rolling pastures and wooded hills, all of various shades of lush green, after so many years of brown parched areas devoid of any growth. It certainly was a picture to be retained for the rest of one's life.

The lunch provided by the Tumut R.S.L. and the Ladies Auxiliary, was a surprise packet, something out of the blue, for which we did not have to dig for in our pockets. Here again it just goes to show what good P.R. work went on to organise this part of the weekend. It was the culmination of a great re-union and a beautiful, entertaining weekend, something to be remembered by those who attended for the rest of their lives. Many people met for the first time since hostilities ceased in 1945, friendships made years ago were renewed, with promises being made....'see you at Inverell!'

To all those people who helped in some way to make the 1985 Wagga Country Re-union the success it was, the re-union committee and their wives, to the Sgts Mess at Kapooka, the Area Commandant, Col. Healy and the Wagga R.S.L. the 2/4th Aust. Infantry Battalion Association members say thank you for a grand time and a wonderful memory to take back home.

#### OCTOBER MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING.

Some thirty-two members, including the committee, attended the meeting held on Tuesday, 22nd October. The attendance was slightly down due to the proximity of the Country Re-union. Some of our regulars were still wending their way home from Wagga. President Alf Carpenter was absent due to his prolonged stay in Wagga (his old home town).

Senior Vice-President Allen Lindsay presided at both the committee and general meetings. Our Patron Sir Ivan Dougherty attended the general meeting. Allen opened the general meeting, calling for the usual one minute's silence. He then welcomed Sir Ivan and 'long time no see' members to the meeting. Apologies were received from Alf Carpenter, Ferd Pegg, John Meehan, Ken Kesteven, John Copland, Frank Ivey, Dick Pinson, Sid Buckley and Ken Richardson.

Those in attendance were:- Allen Lindsay, Fred Staggs, Laurie Waterhouse, John Hawkins, Cec Chrystal, Harry Wright, Ted Fox, George Stack, Athol Heath, Norm Auberson, Peter Cade, Alex Maxwell, Jack Eastham, Barney Turley, Trevor Richardson, Jim Forman, John Ringrose, Vic Forbes, Les Jones, Wally Mangan, Bill Parry, Mick O'Regan, Ron Williams, Dave Endean, Cec Powers, Jim Graham, Dave Follington, Harry Gjedsted, Spike Galvin and brother Max, Slim Venn, Ron Barber and Ray Campbell. Before going into the main business of the meeting S.V.P. Allen informed the meeting of the decease of Sir Ivan's brother-in-law. Killed in an accident on the North Coast during the Wagga weekend, also his sister-in-law was badly injured in the same accident. Allen conveyed the Association's sympathy to Sir Ivan and Lady Dougherty. Allen also informed the meeting of the death of Association member, Ted Jackson's son, Owen, who was killed in a plane accident, some three weeks ago. Meeting agreed that letters of sympathy be sent to both families. No minutes of the previous meeting were available due to the absence of the Minute Secretary on business, so they were deferred till next meeting as well as business arising. Correspondence was very light on due to the industrial chaos in the mail system, only two letters were received. One from Cec Chrystal on behalf of the Dougherty Biography Committee presenting a further cheque for £500 to the Association Welfare fund. This was received with acclamation by the members and due praise was afforded Cec for his sterling efforts in this undertaking. The second letter read was a letter received from the Prime Minister by Des Cunningham in reply to his letter relating to our August Editorial on pension benefits being cut back. This was recorded in the minutes. No correspondence out. S.V.P. Allen, wearing his second hat, that of Treasurer, read out the financial report, giving an itemised list of the various incomes received and how the state of our finances stood. He said it was his pleasure to announce that the accumulated overall funds of the Association now stand at \$14,156.00c. Our Treasurer is to be commended for the able way he has maintained the financial affairs of the Association. I think that the amount given above, is the biggest balance the Association has ever had.

The Editor reported on the purchase of a new electric typewriter. The Welfare Officer, Harry Wright, presented the monthly Welfare Report (see page 5). The Pensions Officer, John Hawkins, gave his report, elaborating on the number of applications he has received and of several interviews he has had with members, six applications having been submitted. Also stated that he had received information re letter from Minister of Veteran's Affairs in reply to protest sent. General Business proved to be quite interesting, with various decisions being made. First, that letters of appreciation be forwarded to the following: The Sgts Mess at Kapooka for their keen interest in staging the Bar B Q and afternoon tea; the organising committee of the Wagga Country Re-union and the Tumut R.S.L. Club. Also a letter is to be sent to "Robbie" thanking him for his contribution to



the parade and ceremony at the wagga Cenotaph.

The next Country Re-Union will be held at Inverell over the period October 10th, 11th and 12th, 1986. Ross Smith is heading the organising committee. The 1987 Country Re-Union will be held at Nelson's Bay and will be organised by Chic Sleeman. Car Stickers are to be replaced by metal badges, depending on the viability of cost. The Christmas Get-together will be held on Tuesday, 3rd December at 3pm at the Gallipoli Memorial Club. There will be no regular monthly meeting on the fourth Tuesday in December.

The 6th Aust. Division Association will be holding a Re-Union in February, 1986, more will be heard of this at our November meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed by S.V.P. Allen at 1520hrs.

#### ANECDOTES of the RE-UNION.

Vic Forbes and Slim Venn seen carrying excessive baggage when boarding the X.P.T. at Central. Must have thought it was going to be a dry trip and six hours between watering holes was a long time to wait. Car 2 on the X.P.T. on Friday 11th October was like being in the lounge of the Gallipoli Club on a meeting day.\*\*\*

Harry and marje Gjedsted on the X.P.T. being taken over by two very immaculately clad school children on their way home to The Rock from boarding school, accompanied by pet budgie named "Slime". Big debate was how would the bird be received at home with a name like "Slime". \*\*\*

Heard a conversation on Saturday, which involved some of our well-known identities. It appears they decided to seek out a nice little restaurant in the main street of Wagga and have lunch as a break from the R.S.L. Club. Apparently the lunch was first class but rather on the expensive side. After leaving the restaurant the wife of one of the gentlemen spotted a boutique displaying some very stylish ts for ladies. In goes the wife and lo and behold she spots that "something or other" that women go ecstatic over, tries it on, then says, "I'll take it!" Poor innocent husband looking on is told to dig deep. It will be a long time before Ted forgets his \$150 lunch at Wagga. \*\*\*\*\*

Another little scene enacted at Romano's on the Sunday morning, no authentic detail to hand. Gentleman attired only with towel draped around middle trotting off for his morning shower. A little mishap, the towel slipped just as a member of the opposite sex came into view. I believe the words used went something like - "Don't look so embarrassed, my late husband wouldn't have been if he looked like you."\*\*\*\* Also at Romano's, where quite a lot of 2/4th and 2/6th chaps were staying, including 'Young' Harry Newhouse of the 4th Bn 1914-18 vintage. The story given to me was that Young Harry, respendently garbed in bath towel, set out for an early shower, on the way was confronted by a certain individual from Griffith, similarly attired. Young Harry immediately started to shape up for a bit of a spar. Being early in the morning and the old head not quite as clear as it should be, the Griffith gentleman decided to wait until the dancing apparition faded away, before resuming his walk to the showers. I think Young Harry must have been a bit of a villian, wanted to know if the waitress would be free one evening, when being served his bacon and eggs (sounds like a good mate for the camel-riding bloke). Only hop am as spritely as he is when I am 80 never mind 91. What a lovable old Digger! \*\*\*\* 'Lofty' Taylor was seen in deep and earnest conversation with President Alf and Senior VP Allen. Everyone thought it must have been another one of Lofty's 'Tall Stories'. Turns out that Lofty was less than impressed with the number and length of the speeches at the previous evening's dinner. Ross Smith of Inverell please note! \*\*\*\*\*

Walking around the Bar B Q area at Kapooka one saw many amusing incidents. One I thought should be mentioned was when Doug Slinger was seen kissing the wife of the C.O. of Kapooka, Colonel Healy. I mean to say! This is just not done! Ah! but there was a tale behind that kiss. It appears some years ago, when in West Aust, Mrs Healy used to work at the office of the Perth newspaper where Doug worked as a printer and of course knew each other quite well, and it was a big surprise for both of them to meet again, especially under such conditions - a picnic! \*\*\*\*\* Our worthy Treasurer was seen ambling past the Army weapons display table in the picnic area. Calling on his memory of his weapons instructor days at Canungra he surprised the attendant N.C.O. by stripping the Bren Gun in the standard five seconds. He then spoiled the effect by taking about ten minutes trying to put it together again! (Who stole the barrel-locking nut?). \*\*\*\*\*

Then there was the saga of the lost Battalion T-Shirts. Everyone was clamouring for a T-Shirt. They had been left at the R.S.L. Club the night of the Official Dinner. Perce Dalla having a last minute look to see that nothing had been left spotted them, took them home, brought them back on Sunday morning, gave them to Alf Carpenter who in turn, gave them to yours truly, who in turn put them in Dagwood's car for the trip out to Kapooka. When I arrived out at Kapooka, completely forgot all about them! In the meantime, Dagwood saw them in the car and immediately set about getting them to the right person, but not until after they had gone through a chain of hands all over again. Finally they came back to yours truly who immediately proceeded to rid myself of them by sales. \*\*\*\*\*





L A S T

P O S T.

NX2042

NX4023

Tome J.

Sibilent J.



WELFARE REPORT. 22nd October, 1985.

Visited at Concord.

- NX5850 Sadler, Jim Ward 410. Slowly recovering after serious heart attack.  
 NX4023 Sibilent, James Ward 8. Treatment for lung problem.  
 NX13262 Nichols, Harry Ward 520. Cataract operation. Discharged.  
 NX5294 Roberts, Henry Ward 19. P.O.W. Greece. Chest dis-order. Discharged.  
 NX42700 Barnett, Aubrey Ward 4. Treatment for serious throat condition. Discharged.

Bob Lever and Bob Fergusson have visited Ted Barker in Tregothan Nursing Home, Leura. Ted is reasonably well.

- NX5872 Bladen, Gordon is in Greenslopes Hospital, Brisbane. Slowly recovering from a stroke. Laurie McCosker has visited him.  
 NX5904 Newth, Bill. Was admitted to Wagga Base Hospital on 15th October with a chest problem. Diagnosed as a virus with asthma complications. NOT HEART. Now home. Bill wishes to thank the many who enquired about his condition and wished him well. To Bob and Enid Jackson many thanks for their hospitality to Gwen.

Stan Blacksley after having weekend leave for the Re-union was visited back in the Forrest Centre, Wagga. Hopes to be back in his unit soon. He is certainly determined to fully recover and join the group on the West Australian trip.

As reported in last month's White Over Green, Dick Morris passed away on the 28th September, 1985. A funeral service was held at Chrst Church, Anglican Church, Gosford on the 1st of October followed by a burial at the Point Clare Lawn Cemetry. On behalf of the Association President Alf Carpenter addressed the gathering at the graveside.

Association members and ladies in attendance were:- Alf Carpenter, George Mitchell, Fred Staggs, Cec Chrystal, Ted Fox, Norm Auberson, John Hawkins, Bill MacLennan, Sid Buckley, Bob Fergusson, Bob Lane, Gordon Chrisp, Pat Bruty, Ken Richardson, Ken and Fi Kesteven, Jack and Mary Partridge, Alex and Jean Maxwell, Rex and Olga Everson, John and Margaret Rae, Doug and Diedre Milne, Harry and Hilda Wright, Yvonne Pearse, Enid Latimer, Doreen Manuel.

Additionally Senior Vice-President remembered Dick in his toast to Fallen and Departed Comrades at the Official Dinner at the Wagga Re-union. Allen reminded the gathering of what a tremendous stalwart Dick was to the Association. His deep involvement with the Association from almost its inception, holding the important offices in the Association of President, Editor White Over Green, and many terms as a Committeeman. He also was an important and active member of the Battalion War History Committee, he played an important role in the design of our Association Tie, he designed both our Association Plaque and Blazer Pocket Badge. Dick was always a willing volunteer for any job that came up when others may have held back. He will be sadly missed. VALE! DICK MORRIS.

It is with much sorrow we report the death of Owen Jackson, son of member Ted of Dee Why. Owen was the co-pilot in the plane that tragically crashed into the sea off Botany Bay. A memorial service was held at St. John's Anglican Church Dee Why on the 18th October. The church was full. Battalion members present were John Ringrose, Pat Lahey and Harry Wright. Association members extend to our member Ted Jackson and his family our sincere condolences.

Wagga Anecdotes (continued)

The photographs taken at the re-union are available from Freeman's Photographers 109 Trail Street, Wagga. Yours truly has seen the proofs and they are of a high quality finish and look very clear and distinct. They cost \$2 each. Those who have paid for them will have them sent by post, also those who have ordered and not paid. Arrangements are being made for people to see them down here in Sydney\*\*\*\*\*

and so to home\*\*\*\*\*

The departure of Sar-Major Robbins for home in South Aussie from the Zebra Club Motel on Monday Morning was the occasion of an impromptu departure ceremonial. All the members staying at the Zebra Club assembled in various stages of dress (and undress, it was 0800!) in the motel courtyard in a more or less straight line. Robbie then marched on wearing a diggers jungle hat acquired from Bill



Wagga Anecdotes. (continued)

MacLennan, addressed the assebled troops, thanking them for the courtesies and kindnesses extended to him over the weekend. The men then gave Robbie three cheers and he then departed in Ron (Muscovy Duck) Maczkowiack's car, South Australia bound.\*\*\*\*\*

The scene: the X.P.T. Sydney bound on Tuesday, October 15th at approx 1300 hrs. A very eminent past president of our Association is enjoying a quiet snooze, no doubt induced by the strenuous activities of the previous four days, when another eminent member of the Association ambled down the aisle of the carriage and noticing our Past President awoke him and in a very pronounced Scottish burr enquired of him whether he had enjoyed himself at Wagga. What did you say to Dave, Harry?

THE CASH REGISTER.

The Treasurer acknowledges the receipt of subscriptions and donations from the following members, for the period September 24th to 31st October,

\$6.	Ray Hyem	Ted Fox	Gaydon Collis
	George Parry	Fred Morrow	Ted Swanson
	Ernie Gumbleton		

\$10	G Miller	Jock Cummings	Molly Irvine
	Perce Dalla	Les Drayson	Wally Mangan
	George Walton	Hugh Wittleton	John Schiebel

\$15  
Joan Chaseling

\$20	Stan Blacksley	Lance Cutcliffe	Vic Eason
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\$25  
Charlie Grandquist

\$50 (Life)  
Dr. G M Brodie.

More Wagga Anecdotes.

Our recently departed and much lamented member, Dick Morris was scheduled to offer Grace at the Official Dinner at the Wagga Re-Union. Dick, in his well-known meticulous manner had composed an appropriate Grace for the occasion and recorded it in his well-known beautiful free-hand script on a scroll. This scroll was read at the commencement of our smorgasbord dinner at the Club on Sunday night. We hoped that we could reproduce it in WOG however we are not sure of its present whereabouts. Dagwood! Action by you and please forward to the Editor.

LISMORE CHRISTMAS GET-TOGETHER.

This very popular annual event on our calender is being held on Saturday 30th November at the East Lismore Bowling Club. Anticipated entry fee \$15. As previously stated this is one of our best 'do's' each year and anyone who lives within a two hundred mile radius of Lismore would be mad to miss it. This function has now attracted the attention of Sydney members. Last count has Allen and Gloria Lindsay, Harry and Hilda Wright, Norm Auberson and wife and Peter Cade attending. There is still time to book. So do it now! Ring Allan Kirk now (see phone number and address on front page of this issue). See you at Lismore!

WAGGA ANECDOTES. (FINAL!)

Who was the eminent Past President and a member of the 30th (Scottish) Battalion pre-war, who, on the command, at the Wagga Cenotaph, "Parade Dismiss!" executed a very smart left turn and found himself facing the rest of the Battalion who, of course, had executed a correct right turn?

"Dagwood" Jackson informs us that he has still a number of reprints of the first two or three copies of White Over Green, they can be obtained from him or President Alf Carpenter. There is a small cost involved to off set the cost of printing. They are ideal mementoes of the past. For the members who are not aware of it, the Wagga reunion organising committee went out to Kapooka Camp Sergeant's Mess to say farewell Sgt-Major Bob May also to say "Thank You" on our behalf and present a 2/4 Bn T shirt to both the outgoing and incoming Sgt-Majors in Appreciation for their support. Also the latest on Stan Blacksley health, is that he has made very good progress and we should hear of <sup>his</sup> going home to 'The Haven' very soon.

STOP PRESS

President Alf Carpenter will also be attending the LISMORE "do". So be in it