



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, 22nd JANUARY, 1986, 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.



The Patron of the Association, Sir Ivan Dougherty, President Alf Carpenter, and the committee, join in sending their personal greetings to all members, their wives, and loved Ones. Wishing one and all a happy Christmas and a bright and pleasant New Year. May it bring good health and happiness to all.

The MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING.

Some thirty five members assembled at the Gallipoli Memorial Club for the monthly meeting held on Tuesday, 26th November 1986. Committee meeting was held at 11.30 am followed by the general meeting at 2.30pm. President Alf Carpenter (who did not look his bright self) took the chair for both meetings. Alf suffered a 'blackout' coming down on the train.

After welcoming the visitors, Doug Grove from Lismore and Andy Philips. Doug was en-route back home after attending the Wagga re-union and visiting some of his mates in Victoria. President Alf called for a minutes silence and recited the 'Infantry Ode' for a change and very appropriate to the 2/4th Infantry Bn Ass.

Those in attendance, including the executive and committee were as follows: Alf Carpenter, Allan Lindsay, Fred Staggs, Laurie Waterhouse, John Hawkins, Ted Fox, Harry Wright, Norm Auberson, Athol Heath, Bicultt's Arnott, Jim Foreman, Doug Grove, Pat Bruty, Wally Mangan, Dave Follington, Ken Richardson, Peter Cade, Slim Venn, Slim Pollock, Ron Barber, Norrie McGregor, Slim Powers, Nap Aloveine, Ray Campbell, Mick O'Regan, Frank Ivey, John Ringrose, Alex Maxwell, Bill Parry, Vic Forbes, Barney Turley, Lionel Clarke, Ron Williams, and Jim Graham.

Apologies received from Ken Kesteven, Bill MacLennan, John Meehan, Ferd Pegg, Cec Chrystal, George Stack, Dick Pinson, Gordon Chrisp, and Brian Waring.

General meeting (continued)

After the minutes being dealt with it was on to correspondence, and this was read out. First of all was the letter from Amer-Sanders dealing with posting of Bn Medals to Collectors and their delay, one from Ross Smith in relation to next years re-union and a schedule of the accommodation that is available in Inverell, one from Ron Maczkowiak (This appears elsewhere in this issue) One from Bill Gibbs in the U.S.A. on receipt of Bn Medal. Letters of thanks were also received from Lady Dougherty, re the death of brother in an accident, from Alicia, daughter of the late 'Bully' Hayes, we hope to print this letter if space is available. Alicia lives in Singapore. Also read out to the meeting a letter giving details of cost of obtaining a miniture of the Bn Ass. Medal, committee recommended that action be taken and some 300 minitures be ordered. At this stage it is anticipated that the cost to members will be in the vicinity of \$6. A letter was also received from Doug Slinger, but this was in a generalisation form dealing with his movements after the re-union at Wagga.

President Alf in his report, said it was 'all systems go' with regard to the Inter Capital and Perth tour next March. There are two vacancies and it is expected to fill these in the next week or two. A complete itinerary is being sent to those who are travelling on the tour. A full itinerary will be printed in January's Issue of 'White Over Green' for all to see. He also reported on the forthcoming 6th Aust. Div. Ass. Re-union. He asked that support be given to this function, it is only on for one day only and that is Sunday, 16th February 1986. The programme for the day appears elsewhere in this issue.

Our Snr-Vice Pres wearing other hat, that of treasurer gave a comprehensive report on the finances of the Association and presenting a balance sheet for the month showing, from all accounts and investments an overall balance of \$14,702.00. A very healthy balance indeed, but let's not forget we are living in an age of high inflation and it is necessary to try and keep a balance of that figure. Our treasurer elaborated on the winding up of the Wagga re-union and pointed out that they finished with a profit of 64 cents. The hiring of extra waiters for the Saturday night dinner and two three gate crashers ate into what could have been a tidy little balance for them. Welfare Officer Harry Wight gave his very methodical report and this appears elsewhere also.

The editor reported that in conjunction with Dagwood Jackson whilst at the reunion, discussion took place on the heading of the newsletter, looking at ways and means to eradicate the laborious operation of cplouring the heading by hand. Consequently Dagwood has produced the goods, he can get us a good deal on the supply of paper and the heading all blocked out in the green and white colours. So we have placed an order for enough to cover the production of the newsletter for the next 18 months or more.

Our pensions officer reported brisk business in enquiries and applications mentioning that there had been a couple of knockbacks.

General Business

A notice of motion was the main topic and this was in the form of a notice to members, as there will be no meeting in December, 1985. Members aired their views in general, but as nothing can be done until the Annual General Meeting in February, 1986. The motion was dealing with the printing and posting of 'White Over Green'. The motion will be published in the January issue for all to peruse and think about. It was submitted by the editor, seconded by Norm Auberger.

President Alf announced that our Snr Vice-President and Treasurer had been appointed Treasurer of the Gallipoli Memorial Club Management Board. This news was received with a show of acclamation.

Pres Alf also ^{showed} the meeting The Large Plaque that Jim Foreman had made and donated to the Association. This plaque will be presented to the Garrison Church in 1989, the fiftyth anniversary of the Battalion's formation. The meeting gave Jim an acclamation of thanks for his generosity.

A committee recommendation that in future, the organising committee of the area holding the annual country re-union use their own discretion as to what part of the week they hold the re-union. Either at the weekend or during the week.

Harry Gjedsted spoke on the feasibility and importance of having a car stick and asked the committee, that when deciding on the design of the metal badge consideration be given to obtaining a car sticker of the same design.

Also whilst addressing the meeting, Harry brought to notice an advertisement appearing in the current 'Reveille'. It dealt with a travel firm organising a tour of Greece and Crete next May, and was imploring people to travel over the areas where the Australians were first 'blooded' in action. Apparently those who drew up the advert had never heard of Egypt or Libya where the 6th Aust Div fought first. The secretary was asked to write to the publisher's of 'Reveille' and to correct the mis-nomer. The meeting closed at 3.45pm and thus the happy hour was on for all, conviviality flowing for the rest of the evening.

Comments in retrospect on Wagga '85 reunion by 'Dagwood' Jackson.

For those who did stay alive (and sadly, there were a few who did not quit "make it" this year) the 1985 Wagga Wagga country re-union seems to have been hailed as one of the best on record.

If numbers mean anything, it certainly was the "best", with 300 men and their wives, friends and other members of their families gathering for the dinner Saturday night. As Jack Skeers, long time President of the R.S.L. Club, stated that he had never seen so many packed into the Pacific Room for such a function at one time.

Nevertheless, it was a good night. Our guests contributed colourfully to the fun of the evening: and thoughtfully to the serious parts of the programme, which included a presentation by President Alf Carpenter of a colour enlargement of a photograph taken of the grave of the late NX5996, Corporal Charlie Jewell, near Athens, to his surviving brother Ron and sister Win Burgess.

President Alf's presentation of an early record of men who enlisted from Wagga in World War I, to the President of the Wagga R.S.L. Sub-Branch, was also a special event.

For diversity and interest on the Sunday, The Sergeants and Warrant Office of I R.T.B at Kapooka took "line honours". "Dad's Army" was well and truly eclipsed by the youthful zest and enthusiasm with which I R.T.B organised transport, barbeque, band, camp tours and demonstrations. And the weather was as kind as it could possibly have been.

The efforts of the Tumut Tourist Information Officer (Mrs Vera Roddy) and the warm reception by the members of the Tumut R.S.L. and the executives of the Club made the lunch break a welcome interlude in what was a fairly long day.

By and large it was a good weekend. The organisers were handicapped somewhat by quite a number who arrived on the Friday afternoon and even Saturday morning without notice. We were glad to see them, especially those who had not been in touch for many years. But we did ask for firm numbers by the 27th September (in September W.O.G.) and it was a bit hard on those whom we had knocked back when they rang as late 9-10 October, because our numbers were already critical by then.

So spare a thought for Ross Smith-- our organiser at Inverell, the venue for the 1986 Country Re-union. He will appreciate more care and thought by "let starters" when the time gets close. All The best. Ross, for another good re-union in 1986.

Finally I would like to say "Thank You" to our good ladies who did so much to help and who certainly put up with a lot of excuses, if things did not go as planned, without them we would be "lost".

WAGGA WAGGA RE-UNION ... some more "bits 'n pieces!"

WOG Editor, Laurie Waterhouse, certainly had his "ear to the ground" during our famous get-together in October. Seems that Wagga's "silver jubilee" Re-union will be a talking point for months to come...

There were quite a few items which "Dagwood" had noted during, and before the re-union, and if time had permitted, would have made the basis of a very good "Sergeant-at-Arms" session, such as they have in Legacy and Rotary and other service clubs. Here are some of them:-

Doug. Slinger - Not only does he take a fancy to "the Colonel's lady" (ref. p.4, November WOG) but he took the prize for the most profuse correspondent. Four letters we had from Doug, totalling 11 pages, and a certificate from the 2/4th. Inf. Bn. Association (Exclusive W.A. Privates Club) awarded to Bob Jackson ... by order of Dasher Deacon, "Exclusive President". Thanks, Doug, and all you sand-groppers. What a great job you are doing over there!

Ted Fox - Fancy you, Ted, falling for that "hat trick" - especially when you managed so skillfully to evade that "booze bus" back in September, by having a "little old lady with white hair" to be your driver. What a great idea, St. George!

Mrs. Bob Cook - how nice to have been able to welcome you to our re-union - early members of our Association will know that our very first President was the late Bob Cook: and the first meeting was held in Ashfield Dispensary Hall, away back on 6th November, 1943.

Carpenters galore - Fancy nine Carpenters at one 2/4th Re-union. From as far north as Cairns, and right down south to Mentone, in Victoria. A very good family effort, President Alf! But fancy "stacking a meeting" like that? -4-

Sixth Australian Infantry Division Association (N.S.W.) Re-Union.

A re-union of the above organisation will be held on Sunday, 16th February 1986. It will take the form of a Barbecue Luncheon and will be a mixed gathering. The Venue--VICTORIA BARRACKS, SYDNEY.

Adequate parking is available in The Barrack grounds on the Oxford Street side. In the event of units who may wish to engage Buses for transport arrangements can be made for entrance from Moore Park Rd, adequate parking available.

A bar will be provided and serviced separate from existing facilities, mess prices be charged.

2 Military District personnel will supply and supervise the Barbecue and seating arrangements can be provided for approximately 500 people.

Programme

1100-1130 hrs. Short general Church service on Parade Ground.
Band in attendance (if available).

1130-1300hrs--- Concurrent guided tours of Barrack Buildings and Museum.

1300 hrs----- Commence Luncheon, Cost \$12 per head, including some drinks

1500 hrs.----- Disperse. Bar will remain open until 4Pm.

Our secretary has informed me that we have a new associate member and he hails from the 2/11th Aust. Inf. Bn., now residing in Sydney at Seven Hills. His name is J.A. Birchmore. sorry I don't have christian name. We welcome you to our association and hope we have your company at our meetings.

1986 Inverell Country Re-Union.

Seeing that there were quite a few late starters at the Wagga re-union, which made things a little uncomfortable for the organisers. Ross Smith of Inverell and your editor in conjunction have decided to start early to place before the members the importance of making that booking for accommodation for the re-union in 1986. Therefore we are printing for yours and your friend information and convenience a list of the Hotel and Motel type accommodation available within Inverell. This accommodation has already been booked tentively and all that is required is your booking fee of \$10. per head, as soon as you can. Please don't leave it to the last minute to decide, you can always cancel if the unforeseen occurs.

ACCOMMODATION FACILITIES+-INVERELL.

AUSTRALIAN HOTEL, Byron St, directly behind the Inverell R.S.L. one Street away, washbasin per room (communal showers & toilets)

3 Double rooms available.

2 rooms available- 3 beds.

1 room available- 4beds. Tariff \$15. per day including breakfast

INVERELL MOTEL, 51-59 Otho St. Approx 300 metres from Club.

Available 12 Twin rooms (Double bed & single)

" 13 Single rooms.

Tariff per Day, Double \$35-\$40 plus Breakfast.

" " " Single \$30-\$35. " " "

COUSIN'S MOTOR INN., 9-11 Glen Innes Rd. Approx 600 metres to Club.

Available 15 Twin rooms (Double bed & Single)

" 13 Single rooms.

Tariff per Day, Double rooms \$38-\$40 plus breakfast. (10% discount

" " " Single rooms \$32-\$35. " " accommodatio

TWIN SWANS MOTEL 189- 199 Glen Innes Rd, Approximately 1km to Club.

Available Double and/or Twins and two suites. 24 .

Tariff per Day, Double rooms \$35- \$40. plus breakfast.

" " " Single rooms \$30- \$35 " "

All you have to do is, sit down for ten minutes (That's easy enough) pick up your pen, (thumb nail will do if you are hard up for a pen) write to the following;- Mr R. H. Smith.

46 Urabatta Street, INVERELL, 2360.

One thing else, don't forget to enclose that \$10 booking fee, very important State your requirements, such as the number requiring accommodation and the type (double or single)

Ross has a fairly good itenary worked out for us and should prove very enjoyable to all. Your editor will be on your backs from on urging you to support the annual country reunion thus ensuring yourselves of a very good^{tu} for all, including wives, girl friends and any of the family you care to bring along.

LAST

POST



N X 46912. JEFFRIES, J. F.
N X 203556. LIPSCOMBE, B. M.

November
December 'REVEILLE'



WELFARE

REPORT---November 1985.

Visited in Concord.

- NX71669. BELL, GEORGE. Ward 410, Heart By-Pass operation, also back problem. Since discharged.
- NX46995. NICHOLSON, MERV. Ward 17, Lung problems, was with 6Div A.S.C. in New Guinea. Since Discharged.
- WX15860. McKinlay, John. Ward 120, Severe stroke, transferred to Lady Davidson Hospital.
- NX42700. BARNETT, AUBREY. Ward 630. Serious throat condition, operation to be done.
- NX4015. McDougal, Richard F. Ward 610. Stomach Problem.

Visited in Royal North Shore Hospital

- NX 4012 Kesteven, Ken. In with heart complaint, now at home, to keep quiet at Glen Lynn Nursing Home, Auburn.
- NX5850. Sadler, Jim. Was transferred from R.G.H. concord. Recovering from severe heart attack.

Visited at Lewisham Hospital.--- Larry Dooley. Vascular problem, By-Pass Op

Dick Pinson has not been too well. Has shingles, he has had a bad fall, X+R. Vera Walsh goes into hospital on Monday 2nd December for an operation, be there for a week or ten days.

Alan and Gloria Lindsay had an accident, reported in this issue. Gloria was admitted to Royal North Shore Hosp Spinal Unit. Lucky nothing very serious, Mainly abrasions, bruising and whiplash, Discharged after a couple of days.

James Gregory Sibilent, NX4023. passed away on 30th October, (recorded in last months LAST POST. Service and cremation took place at Rookwood Crematorium. Mr Len Tibbetts of the Bankstown R.S.L. Sub-Branch conducted the Ex-serviceman's rites at the request of the family. Mr Tibbetts is to be commended for the eulogy he delivered on the late Jim Sibilent. The 2/4th Inf. Bn were represented by Laurie Waterhouse, Norm Auberson, Frank Ivey. Dave Enders, Harry Wright, Dave Follington.

Allan Kirk phoned to say that Mona Jean Miller, wife of 2/4th Bn member Eddie Miller, passed away on the 12th November 1985. Mel and Lila McGinness Attended the funeral on behalf of the 2/4th Inf. Bn .Ass.

Dagwood's Wagga Comments (continued from page 3)

JOHN RINGROSE.—The second last nomination to be received (in writing there were about 45 after that by phone) and how poetic—J. Ringrose, from Belrose all nicely printed in gold, going to all that trouble he forgot to sign his Cheque?

Ashley Morris: It was good to have been able to welcome also the son of our late Dick Morris—Sgt Ashley Morris, RAEME, Wedonga, and his wife Rhonda—family. Hope we see Ashley again from time to time at future re-unions.

OLD AND BOLDS.—Only one this year. unfortunately—for Harry's mate Jack Ryan could not make it this year. But No 1453, original 4th Bn, A.I.F., landed at Gallipoli on 26th April, represented his old friends with great aplomb. That's how we have got to be like in about 25 years, (boy could he sink them). Shortest letter—From Jeff Galvin, No accommodation required, Thanking you, enclosed cheque \$10. Glad to have had you Jeff.

W.O.G. Re-prints.—As W.O.G. will celebrate its 40th anniversary in 1986, we have had a number of copies of No 1, 2 & 3 (May-July 1946) re-printed in colour, they make very interesting reading, They cost \$2 for one copy or \$5 for three Copies. 'Dagwood' Jackson.

Copies referred to, in the above paragraph can be had from the editor and at the monthly meetings.

Wedding bells for Garry Poplin, son of Bill and Beryl Poplin of Warilla near Wollongong on 30th November 1985. I am sure members will gladly wish them every happiness and good luck for the future.

Editor.

When Yvonne Pearse and Helga Jones left Wagga after the re-union, they continued on their way to Adelaide, with plans to call in to see some of people they had met at the re-union. When my wife Joy and self bid them goodbye on the Tuesday morning at Romanos Hotel, we never thought for one moment nor did envisage the trauma they would go through, after reaching Adelaide. Apparently Eyvonne loves driving and the trip to South Australia was ideal and had no hassle for her and they arrived at Ron Maczkowski's place in one piece much to Ron's surprise and enjoyed his hospitality for six days. On Friday the 18th, following the re-union, Ron took his guests up the river to what they call Lock four and there they had a barbecue. On the way up the river the water had the appearance of a sheet of glass. However returning back for home a windstorm sprang up, whipping up waves of over two feet high. The boat was one of those 12ft punt type, with blunt nose. As they were about two thirds of the way home and shipping water, Ron thought it best to put a little more speed on and when he gave the motor a bit more throttle and bring the nose up. What happened, instead of the nose coming up it dug in, and so they took a DIVE into the water. Aftermath was they were in the water for nearly three hours before being rescued, and only for the valiant efforts of Yvonne Pearse, Ron and the other two friends would not be around to relate the incident. Ron reckoned another five minutes more and he would have succumbed. Although Ron lost his valuable video camera and other equipment and Yvonne lost her daughters expensive camera, plus other gear. They all agree that they are very lucky indeed to be alive to tell the sad story of the Barbecue that went wrong. That proves there is some one above looking after us after all.

In another incident that also proved that 2/4th people are being watched over. This time it was on the hard ground and in an area where gravell roads are in vogue. On Wednesday, 21st November, your editor received a phone call from Ross Smith of Inverell informing me of the news that our Senior Vice-President and able Treasurer had met with a rather bad accident on the Tingha - Guyra road. Allan and his wife Gloria had made the trip from the township of Repton across to Inverell to see Ross and have a look at what The town of Inverell had to offer in the way of amenities and accomodation. On leaving Ross and the township Allan set out on the return journey to Sydney, via Tingha. Luck was not travelling with Allan this day, some where near Tingha a front tyre blew out causing the car to lose steering control in the loose gravell and rolling over. The result that Gloria was rushed to Royal North Shore Hospital for medical attention, whilst Allan stayed on with the help of Ross Smith. The car we believe is a write off, how ever the amazing thing according to Ross, is how any body could have survived to walk away from the crashed car. At the time of writing this, both Allan and Gloria are back at home. Gloria suffered a lot of Bruising and abrasions to the spinal area. One little incident Allan recalled, was the appearance on the scene of none other than Selby Dean, and they did not recognise each other. Also the fact, that every vehicle passing the scene of the accident stopped to see if they could be of help, typical country gesture to lend a hand where and when needed, no matter who you are.

A NOSTALGIC LETTER FROM "ROBBIE"

"I just have to say that I've lived 80 years and a bit to date, but never have I felt so humble and happy to be in the company of such a wonderful, glorious atmosphere of friendly and joyful men and women of our wonderful 2/4 Aust. Inf. Bn. The men have grown from the boys I first met and set eyes on, to become a credit to the country they fought for and help in attaining a righteous victory. I can now pass on from this world with the Knowledge and the memory of having seen and spoken again to the men I loved and looked up to in our Battalion. They may not have known this at the time but they do now. God Bless them all and their families too. One special point and a very important one to make, your behaviour and dress at all times during the re-union was impeccable and is to be commended. All I can say is the re-union was perfect and my best thanks to the Wagga re-union committee a most enjoyable time. One more thing, I was given a pot of honey by some person, just as I was leaving for home, and for the life of me cannot think who it was. It was one of the tastiest my family have tasted for many years, so thank you to kind person and if you find out the name of this person Laurie, please write to me. My good wishes to all members and their wives and families, Yours sincerely, ROBBIE.

CORRECTION TO NOVEMBER ISSUE.

Your editor has been taken to task over the omission of names, when writing the Wagga re-union into the news letter. I had forgotten to mention the names of Joe and Bobbie Wells in the list of the Wagga re-union committee. It was not intentional and is regretted, however I can assure the complainant that the write up was done from memory and not from notes and being a human being, susceptible to mistakes and lapse of memory.