



# White War Green

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE 2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

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## NEXT MEETING.

The next regular monthly meeting will be held on Tuesday, 28th MAY, 1985. 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 1200-1400 hrs. NOTE. The APRIL meeting will be held at our Anzac Day luncheon.

## EDITORIAL.

This is a special message to mark the occasion of a very sad event, namely, the death of Marjory Carpenter, beloved wife of our President, Alf Carpenter, who passed away in the early hours of Saturday, 16th March, 1985. The members of the Association, their wives and all of our supporters, join together in sending this message to our President in his hour of sadness and loss:

"Our most profound and sincere sympathy to you, Alf, in your sad loss. Rest assured that each and every one of us feels for you in your hour of loneliness and sadness. May the close ties you have with this Association and its members, along with Father Time, help and comfort you and enable you to overcome your great loss."

## ANZAC DAY - 1985.

1. The Wreath-laying Ceremony at the Cenotaph  
Members will assemble at 0745 hrs corner of York and Erskine Streets. March off to the Cenotaph at 0805 hrs. Wreath-laying at approx. 0815 hrs then march to Main March assembly area - corner of King and Phillip Streets.
2. Main March - depart from assembly area at approx. 0930 hrs. The battalion will be led by the President, Alf Carpenter, who has appointed John Hawkins as March Marshal. The President has requested that all members make the endeavour to attend and wear the Battalion Tie (on sale at the form-up point) and service medals and decorations.
3. At the conclusion of the March members will retire to the Gallipoli Memorial Club for the Battalion Re-union Luncheon. (tickets on sale by members of the Committee at the March form-up point at \$10 per head) For address of the Gallipoli Club see above "Next Meeting".

The President and Committee look forward to seeing you all on this day of days.



Despite the inclement weather (it was badly needed) the monthly meeting for March was held in a very convivial atmosphere with thirty-nine members, including the executive, attending. President Alf must be commended on his attendance, in view of his sad loss (reported on page 1). It is bad enough having to deal with all the problems such an occasion thrusts upon you, let alone be bothered with the affairs of the Association. However, that is Alf's nature and we must admire him for it.

Those who attended the meeting were:-

Alf Carpenter, John Meehan, Laurie Waterhouse, Fred Staggs, Harry Wright, Ferd Pegg, Ken Kesteven(committee only), Ted Fox, Norm Auberson, George Stack, John Hawkins, Athol Heath, Sid Buckley, Frank Ivey, John Ringrose, Jim Forman, Jack Partridge, George Mitchell, Slim Venn, Bob Fergusson, Doug Milne, Trevor Richardson, Ken Richardson, Curly Gorman, Vic Forbes, Jack Eastham, Slim Pollock, Harold Bowman, Dave Follington, Tich Fordham, Barney Turley, Dick Pinson, Alex Maxwell, Slim Powers, Dick Morris, Rex Everson, Peter Cade, Ron Barber and Bill Parry.

Apologies were received from:- Allen Lindsay(overseas), Ken Kesteven (general meeting) Nap Alavoine, Dave McGillivray, Cec Chrystal, John Copland, Charlie Yow, Brian Waring, Phil Smith, Jim Graham (home sick).

In the committee business a motion was passed unanimously that Athol Heath be co-opted onto the Committee as Liaison Officer between the Association and the Gallipoli Memorial Club. This was ratified at the General Meeting by acclamation. The committee was informed that the West Australian members elected Doug Slinger by popular vote as Vice-President for that State. Therefore his name now appears with the other VP's at the heading of this publication. Main business was the ratification of the committee's program for Anzac Day and the guest list. Elsewhere in this issue appears the time-table and arrangements for the day. The guests invited are:- Maj-Gen Gordon Maitland, Lt-Col Graham Fleaton, C.O. 4Bn RNSWR, the Colour Party from 4RNSWR, the Pipe Band (if available) and, of course, Sir Ivan, also providing he is available. Sir Ivan Dougherty, this year as 2nd A.I.F. Commander, will be leading the March. Laurie Waterhouse was requested, as in previous years, to obtain the wreath for the Cenotaph ceremony. The Luncheon will be set down the same as last year and the cost will be \$10. Tickets will be available during the pre-assembly periods before the two marches. A request for a 'Colour Party' from the 4th Battalion, Royal NSW Regt. Arncliffe has been sent, along with other official requests. Of course we have not forgotten the Band - how could we? They will be there rain, hail or shine - The Parramatta Caledonian Pipe Band.

The Treasurer being away in Hong Kong - enjoying himself, (Harold Silver - please take note), therefore there was no financial report presented for the month.

Accounts presented and passed for payment, were,

Welfare Expenses - Hospital visitations March	\$27 50
Postage for White Over Green for March	\$91 50
New Stainless Steel Reflector Drum for Copier	\$450 00

The Editor, in his report, mentioned the reason for the above high cost item. He explained that in its 21 months of use, the copier had put through 107500 copies and this was well past the life of the drum. When the Association bought the machine the meter reading was 36317, therefore we have printed over 70000 copies. The new drum should see us over the next two years, we hope!

The Welfare Report was given by Harry Wright and appears elsewhere in this issue. President Alf mentioned that the Coach Tour to the West is official and arrangements are under way. It is most important for members to bear in mind that for bookings it is first in first served. He has received nearly enough deposits to fill one coach already, so it looks like two coaches going over. Early deposits will be appreciated so that those planning the various functions in the capital cities to be visited can get an idea of the numbers involved for catering purposes. President Alf touched on the Wagga Re-union, now only six months away, saying that 'Dagwood' Jackson and his committee have things well under control, that the bookings are coming in, at present in the vicinity of 37 booked. Main thing is to use the green form you received in last month's issue of WOG, This is most important because, once again, numbers are important for the planning of the functions, also for the Monday trip to Tumut and environs. Don't leave your booking till the last minute and thereby avoid disappointment. If in doubt on any details relevant to the Re-union, a quick phone call to 'Dagwood' should solve your problems.

Another important piece of information to come out of the meeting. Legacy have obtained a video-tape of the new procedures being adopted by the Dept. of Veterans Affairs on Pension Claims and Appeals. Ferd Pegg and John Hawkins have been appointed by the Committee to represent the Association at the viewing of the tape at Legacy House on March 29th and to report back to the meeting in May on the information gained therefrom. The Committee has decided to assist Legacy in it's appeal for funds, by taking books of tickets, which will be sold at our



### March Monthly Meeting(cot).

Re-union Luncheon, so your help will be sought in disposing of them. The main prize is a travel package plus other minor prizes.

One main point that was missed at the meeting was that there will be no meeting on the fourth Tuesday in April. Our Anzac Day Re-union becomes the substitute for our usual monthly meeting. So don't come into town on Tuesday 23 April unless you specifically want to. The next monthly meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 28th.

President Alf closed the meeting at 1515 hrs, there being no further business. He called for a big attendance for our Anzac Day activities.

### NEWCASTLE NEWS.

The Newcastle 2/4th members, their wives and friends held a get-together at Stockton RSL Club on Sunday 24th March. Those present were Alf Carpenter, Geo and Heather Mitchell, John and Margaret Rae, Cliff Curran and sister Aileen, Yvonne Pearse, Don and Enid Haggerty and Doreen Manuel. Yvonne Pearse was accompanied by her mother and sister. We also had the pleasure of signing up a new member, - NX175129 R.J.(Dick) Clarke, who, we believe, was in C Company. Apologies received from Doug and Diedre Milne, Dick Morris, Joe and Gwen Bohle. It is with regret that I report the death of Marjory Carpenter, wife of our President, Alf. A full report will be made by our Editor.

Bill Hayes is not very well and is a patient in the William Lyne Hospital. I believe Bill Hayes was very upset at the news of the sudden death of Marj Carpenter, as she used to look after Bill in her own little way, he is going to miss her. Our next get-together will be held at the Hamilton RSL on 3rd May at 5.30 pm.

courtesy:- George Mitchell.

### WEST AUSTRALIAN NEWS.

The new W.A. Vice-President has reported that they had their meeting on March 13th at the Anzac Club in Perth. Arrangements have been made for all 2/4th members in the West to march with the 2/11th Battalion Association and to join them in their after-march function. Doug says that they are all prepared to welcome Treasurer Allen and his wife, Gloria when they arrive in Perth at the beginning of April. Also waiting for the day Jack Partridge and his wife, IN May, arrive there. Doug also informs us that they are not leaving any stone unturned to find ways and means to entertain a couple of bus-loads of people. He also mentioned that he had to spend a few days in Hollywood Repat Hospital checking up on his ulcers, etc. He couldn't see why Dasher should get all the treatment (visitors etc.) However no mention of Dasher since arriving back from the 'Alice' Thought he would have been full of beans and ideas about the Rock and life there at 'the Alice'

courtesy Doug Slinger.

### The MAIL BAG.

This Column was not published last month, because of the extra copy relating to the Annual General Meeting that had to be printed. However we now hope to make amends:-

We start with a letter from that most travelled person from West Aussie. None other than Dasher Deacon who has written from Alice Springs, where he and his wife Lily are staying with their son who is a school teacher at the High School there. Lily, who was a POW in Sumatra during the war, befriended a woman in the POW Camp whom the author, Neville Shute, based his character, Anne Paget, on in his epic novel 'A Town Like Alice'. Hence the visit to the 'Alice' as Lily always wanted to see what the town was like. We hope that this visit does not dampen Dasher's inspirations and aspirations as a noted author and contributor to this column.

A letter from J.M.Hicks of Victoria, forwarding subs and a donation, thanks Merv. Jack Whitelaw of Bankstown, writing in with subs and an enquiry regarding NX20052, L H Kleindeist, a POW taken in Greece. Anyone knowing him or his whereabouts and where enlisted from, please contact Jack Whitelaw. Jack's wife is doing a family history and thinks that the member named, if joined from Uralla near Armidale, he could be a relative. Hope you get a response, Jack.

Roy Findlay of Canberra our next correspondent, with subs and a short description of the trip he made to Cairns and the Atherton Tablelands, saying how he met up with a gentleman - one Bill Evans of Grant St, Herberton. This chap has a complete record of all the units that were in the area and maps of their locations. Anyone contemplating a visit to the area to see the old campsites, it is a must for you to call in and see Bill Evans in Herberton. Thanks Roy for that info.

George (King) Coles of Wallerawang said in his letter that he was sympathising with the Treasurer by sending in his subs. Don't worry George, he will be laughing all the way to the bank. See you Anzac Day, George, I hope.

John Wood of Swan Vale is our next letter writer. John is one of those quiet boys you never hear much about. Sending his subs along with the information that he has retired from his property, but at the moment of no fixed abode, he is like the arabs, just folds up his tent and moves on. Says he is waiting to have a by-pass operation and goes into St. Vincents Hosp on March 10. By the



MAIL BAG (cont)

time you read this, John, the operation will have been successfully completed and you will be feeling like a new man. The best of luck, John.

John Copland of Ryde, sending in a donation to our funds and a message of goodwill to one and all. Hope we have the pleasure of your company on Anzac Day, John.

Cec Calver of Balmoral Beach sent in the shortest note of the month to our Treasurer enclosing subs and best wishes, thanks Cec.

Allan Manning of Croydon is also a man of few words these days, sent in his subs and regards. See you Anzac Day, mate.

Roy Andrews of Lismore, was also short and sweet with his letter, cheque for the kitty and a brief message of goodwill to all.

Harry Russell of Repton (just across the river from Jewfish Hole) sent us a brief note, all is well plus his subs for the year. Doesn't give us a clue how the fishing is up there.

Way over to Moss Vale for our next letter, from Bill Newth, sending in subs also the news that he and his wife are off to New Zealand for four weeks. Bill says he is all for the coach tour to the West, so long as it doesn't interfere with Dasher's preparations for the America's Cup. Hope you and Gwen had a lovely time in New Zealand, thanks for the message of goodwill.

Des Loydell of Bathurst found the time to drop our Treasurer a quick note enclosing subs and pointing out that things are very quiet around his way and no news, sends his regards to all.

Percy Lane of Lithgow, another believer in being short and to the point. Thanks for your good wishes and your subs, Perc.

Our next letter comes from Brig McAtamney of Kogarah, who enlightens us to the fact that he is Tipstaff to Judge Freeman and travels around the State quite a lot. In the course of his travels he always calls in to the local R.S.L. Clubs, but as yet has not run into any 2/4th members (try the Members Bar between 5 and 7, Brig). He said he was saddened to learn of the death of Herbie Hoather, as they had been great mates in the Battalion. Hope to see you Anzac Day, Brig.

True to form and a man of few words is our next correspondent, one Tom McNamara of Ryde, letting us know that he is still in the land of the living and sending in his subs. Thank you Tom for thinking of our exchequer and for your greetings.

Wal Taylor of Cootamundra wrote in to say that the proposal to organise a coach tour to the West was a very good idea and wants to be in it. The President already has your deposit, Wal.

Nearly forgot to mention that we received a letter from the old and bold 'Camelier' and infanteer of World War 1, none other than the man from Bourke, Harry Smith. Harry was objecting to the way the editorial staff spell or abbreviate the title of our news journal 'White Over Green' by just using WOG.

(Apparently this had a somewhat different meaning in Harry's day in the Middle East). Sorry if we have offended you Harry, it is only used to shorten the time and space incurred, certainly not in a disrespectful vein.

Received a letter from Hugh Burgdorf of Pascoe Vale, Victoria reporting the death and funeral of Norm Gillespie of Reservoir, Vic. (reported elsewhere in this issue) Hugh said things are pretty quiet down his way, sends regards to all.

Hugh asked me to send a message in the journal on behalf of Mrs Verna Gillespie saying that she would like all the 2/4th members who attended Norm's funeral to know that she did appreciate the thoughtfulness and the help they gave to her during her time of sadness and deep loss, especially the members wives. We here in N.S.W. know only too well how you must feel and convey our deepest sympathy to Mrs Verna Gillespie in her hour of loss.

A late Letter from Esca Riordan of Kempsey wanting to say 'Thank you' through White Over Green to all members who expressed their congratulations to him on the occasion of his receiving Life Membership in the R.S.L. Also mentioned that he and Beb had a most enjoyable and relaxing trip on the 'Oriana'. Went on to say that he had seen Harry Dowling and Sam Hughes, both of them enjoying their retirement. Also met up with Roy Palmer at his sister's funeral recently. Trust we have the pleasure of your company on Anzac Day, Esca.

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On the Home Front.

A snippet of news came to us via a past president. It appears that an appeal is being made to establish a Chair of Celtic Studies at the Sydney University. To be called The Geoffrey Farrow Chair of Celtic Studies. The inaugural meeting took place at St Stephen's Church recently. Guest speakers spoke on how the Celtic traditions had enriched the Australian culture. Among the people attending were Peter Alexander, Chairman of the appeal; Gwen MacLennan, wife of Bill MacLennan, wearing the Australian tartan; and the Lord Mayor of Sydney, Doug Sutherland, the appeal Trustee.

Gwen MacLennan presented Ald. Doug Sutherland with an Australian tartan scarf in appreciation of his efforts for the Scottish community of N.S.W.





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# L A S T P O S T.

G.J.(Norm) Gillespie Reported in Stop Press  
Last month.  
W.G.(George) Martin Reported by Cec Chrystal  
26th March.

## OBITUARIES.

Norm Gillespie died on Sunday 3rd March through a sudden heart attack, whilst playing golf. Norm joined the Battalion at Wondecla, with others from the 2/22nd Battalion. He served with the Mortar Platoon until the end of hostilities. He was a great mate to those who knew him and kept in contact with him after the war. He will be sadly missed by all, especially the Narooma Mortar Group. The funeral and service was well-attended by Victorian members of 2/4 Association namely:- Max and Pat Sydenham (from Wagga), Len and Nell Hill, Vic and Gwen Eason, Hugh and Doris Burgdorf, Bill Panter, Alex Tolmer, Alf Bromilow, Doug Yensch, and George Russell.

VALE! ---- Norm Gillespie.

It is deep regret we report the passing of Marjory Carpenter, beloved wife of our President, Alf Carpenter, on 15th March. The high esteem in which both Marj and Alf were held was evidenced by the very large attendance at the funeral by members of the 2/4th infantry Battalion Association, 2/1st Field Regiment Association, Hamilton Diggers Swimming Club and many other organisations. The service was held at the Newcastle Crematorium, Meresfield. Those who attended from the 2/4th Battalion Association were:- George and Heather Mitchell, Esca and Beb Riordan, 'Bully' Hayes, Dick Morris, Ken Webb, Alex Dick, Cliff and Aileen Curran, 'Bookie' and Margret Rae, Joe and Gwen Bohle, Doug and Diedre Milne, Jack and Mary Partridge, Gordon and Olga Chrisp, Bob Lane, Maurie Porter, Ted Fox, Ferdi Pegg, John Hawkins, Enid Latimer, Ken Richardson, Biscuits Arnott, Yvonne Pearse, Doreen Manuel, Harry and Hilda Wright. John Howard, Harry Webb, George and Joan Thompson and Norm Sims represented the 2/1st Field Regiment Association.

VALE! \*\*\* Marjory Carpenter.

## WELFARE REPORT.

### Visited at Concord.

NX42192 Cec Lawson. Slim Powers saw Cec in the coronary care unit. Tfd. back to Ward 330, for further tests. Has since been discharged.  
NX24021 Frank Ivey. Ward 11. Haemorrhoid operation, now home and O.K.  
NX71400 Charles Seymour. Ward 17. Lung problem. Since visited, discharged.  
NX1977 Brian Waring Ward 120. Breathing problem, having allergy tests, since discharged.  
X9808 Stafford Bickley (Mick) Ward 17. Back in for further tests with chest and leg ailments, since discharged.  
NX5165 Sam Rhodes (Dusty) Ward 430. Was POW taken in Crete. Has back and leg problems.

Des Finch saw Perc(Jack) Webb in Lady Davidson Hospital. Perc had been transferred from the R.G.H. after suffering a stroke. Was going back to Parkes on 18th March.

Norm Auberson visited Jim Sadler NX5850 at home. Jim is having heart and other problems, has had x-rays and tests at the R.G.H. now has to take things easy.

Late message to say Jim Forman spent two weeks in Penrith General Hospital, having suffered a heart attack.

Bully Hayes not too well, in the William Lyne Hospital, Waratah.

Doug Slinger of Perth has been an inmate of Hollywood Repat Hospital, but has since been discharged.

Just to set the record straight: It was reported in the March issue of WOG that 'Lofty' Gibson had reported the death of the late Norm Gillespie. That was an error, it should have read 'Lofty' Taylor. 'Lofty' Gibson sent me a letter to let me know of the error. Sorry! I guess I had my identities mixed up, a sure sign of old age creeping up. It wasn't the grog, as I have been told not to-----  
'Say no more'

Editor.



### Greek and Cretan Commemoration Week.

The Battle of Greece and Crete Commemoration Week commences on Saturday 18th May, 1985. As these battles form an integral part of our war history we should do our utmost to support those who organise this function, namely the Greek and Cretan communities and the 6th Div Association. We ask our members to give their support to this function and by doing so you will be helping to show the public something of the values of life that are worth preserving and keeping to the forefront, occasionally. The program for the week is outlined hereunder-

Saturday, 18th May, March to Cenotaph and Memorial Service. Battalion Ties and service medals to be worn.

Sunday, 19th May, Church Parade at the Garrison Church at 1100 hrs. Members are asked to be at the Church by 1030 hrs as this service is being televised by ABN Channel 2. These same cameras will be at the Cenotaph on the Saturday. On Sunday 26th May, a Church Parade at the Greek Orthodox Church in Chalmers Street, Redfern. Afterwards a picnic will be held at Garden Island, an idyllic spot for such a function.

All we want now is your attendance at these functions.

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### Association of 4th Infantry Battalions. Annual Church Parade.

The Church Parade this year will be held on Sunday, 23rd June at 1500 hrs at, as usual, St. Anne's Church, Homebush Road, Strathfield. Form-up at 1430 hrs in the Park at Beresford Rd. West. Association Ties, medals and decorations to be worn. Further details in our May issue.

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### Department of Veteran Affairs Information Booth.

The above department will staff an information booth in Hyde Park on Anzac Day so that veterans and their dependants can seek advice on the full range of services provided by the Department. Experienced staff will be in attendance to answer enquiries and provide application forms and explanatory brochures. The booth will be located at the March Dispersal Area in Hyde Park, directly opposite Bathurst St.

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### Bookings Received for Western Australia Coach Tour.

The undermentioned names have been received for bookings on the above tour:- Stan Blacksley, Alf Carpenter, Perc and Betty Dalla, Jim and Mrs Forman, Vic Forbes Les Jones, Allen and Gloria Lindsay, Ferd Pegg, Barney Turley, Wally and Nona Taylor, Harry and Hilda Wright, Laurie and Joy Waterhouse and Vera Walsh. These people have paid their deposits.

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### Reminder to the Ladies.

Don't forget that the Camelia Restaurant has been booked for your Anzac Day Luncheon. If you are attending and have not done so yet, then please give Hilda Wright a phone call - No. 871 5312 and make a booking, otherwise you may miss out on a good outing. Location: in George St, between Market and Park Streets, opposite the Old Queen Victoria Building.

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### Showing of the Documentary Film.

Some three or four months ago, the A.B.C. Television Channel 2 made a documentary film of the war in New Guinea, over the last eighteen months or more. Mainly from interviews with ex-servicemen who served in that theatre. They have supposed to have taken a cross section from Officers, N.C.Os. and other ranks, in their interviewing from the many units that served in New Guinea and South West Pacific areas. Allan Lindsay, our Treasurer was interviewed, being the 2/4th Inf Battalion representative. The whole idea of making the film caused much controversy from ex-service personnel from the use of the title- "The Unnecessary War" for the film. Was it a muck raking exercise or a genuine attempt to find out the real facts. You will see for your selves on Anzac Day evening, when the Channel 2 programme takes to the screen at 7.30 pm. after the news session.

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At the last meeting during the 'happy hour' someone gave me a slip of paper asking if I could write a few words on a very well known identity of the 4th Inf Battalion- one Dick Pinson, I said that would be a great pleasure indeed. As we are well aware, specially myself, Dick Pinson is a fine musician and over the years has given good service to the Association by supplying the music for the various functions held in the past. Dick has also been providing the music at the Marrickville R.S.L., and has done so for the last 30 odd years. This must be an achievement and could be a record. In my memory, Dick has been playing for longer than that, as he used to play at The New Moon Gardens in Wagga before the war. Oh for those nostalgic ears again of stepping the light fantastic. Congratulations Dick on a marvellous life time of music and for the pleasure you have given to many.