



White over Green

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE 2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

PATRON: Major General, Sir Ivan DOUGHERTY, CBE., DSO & Bar., ED., BEC., LL.D., (Hon.)

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JUNE MEETING: Tuesday 24th June, 1986 at the Gallipoli Memorial Club.

Lunch can be had between 12 noon and 2pm in the dining room.

JULY MEETING: Tuesday 22nd July, 1986 at the Gallipoli Memorial Club.

ANZAC DAY 1986

All Anzac Day 1986 has passed us by and is now history. What a greet morning it was, just a little crispness in the air, not a cloud in the sky, the making of a wonderful day. This year there seemed to be a little more solemnness in the atmosphere. Whether people were a little more concerned about the recent events that have occurred and the peace of the world threatened once again. Thus making them realise that our way of life, our freedom to move around, our freedom of speech and our freedom to do the things we like without big brother checking on us, must not be taken for granted. Somewhere along the way, someone has to pay or has paid for these freedoms and that is where the name ANZAC has achieved its full meaning. That people are beginning to realise just that, that a heavy price was paid by the old Anzacs of 1914-18 and the diggers of World War 2 to make this country the free and easy one it is. So while we have breath in our bodies and movement in our limbs, we must keep the image of ANZAC alive and to the fore, more so than ever, specially with the ever growing ethnic population, who take advantage of these freedoms, by staging their demonstrations. So it was on this fine morning that some twenty four members of the Assoc. assembled at the usual corner of York and Erskine Sts to undertake the march and wreath laying ceremony, that we consider our own individual ceremony in paying our respect to and remembering those of our fellow comrades who paid the supreme sacrifice and to those who through the ravishes of war have passed on to their 'Vahalla'. At 805hrs, the Parramatta Caledonian Pipe Band turned into York St and on the command of 'Fall in' by Marshal John Hawkins we formed up behind our colour party, with President Alf Carpenter, with the Association's floral tribute in the form of the White over Green colour patch, in the lead, moving off to the stirring swirl of pipes and drums of "Bonnie Dundee". The parade halted at Barrack St, so that one of the old diggers of the old 4th Bn AIF accompanied by two young soldiers of the 4R.N.S.W. Regt carrying the old Bn flag could join the parade and thence onto the Cenotaph for the ceremony.

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After the ceremony, the band led us up to the assembly area ready for the main march. Here the usual long wait before the march started, giving members plenty of time to have a good yarn and meet others they had not seen for a long time. Some ninety to a hundred members formed up and marched, with Channel 10 doing a special documentary, with Ted Jackson, as the leading star. Some of this was seen on Anzac Day evening at 6pm. It was a thirsty lot of marchers that arrived at the Gallipoli Memorial Club, it was not long before jugs of amber fluid started to appear on the tables. Some 125 members, guests and banner party members sat down to a hearty lunch. As is the practice on Anzac Day, Pres. Alf declared the monthly meeting open then welcomed guests, members and the 4R.N.S.W Regt banner party. In the call for apologies, the following names were submitted, Maj Gen Gordon Maitland, Cec Chrystal, John Copland, Peter Denver, Nedda Kenna V.C, Rex Everson, Norm Auberson, Bob Fergusson, Doug Groves, Dave McGilvray, Nap Alavoine, 'Pom' Cole, Doug Milne, Harold Silver, Bill Eslick, Brig McAtamney, Brian Waring. Also an apology was received from Lady McKay and message of thanks from Phil Chrystal to those members who have visited her husband Cec, over the past months. On the apologies being received and dealt with, Ted Fox immediately closed the meeting by moving a motion - That all further business be carried over to the May meeting, motion was carried unanimously. This was followed by grace and before reciting 'The Grace', which was composed by the late Dick Morris, Ted asked that this composition of The Grace be adopted by the Association and recited at all our official functions, this was agreed to. Following the recital of the grace, was the loyal toast by Athol Heath. Fred Staggs was then called upon to read the names in the Last Post list for the previous twelve months, on completion, John Meehan recited 'The Ode'. A total of thirty eight names. Senior Vice Pres Allan Lindsay, then moved the toast to our guests. Maj Gen Ray Sharpe, Lt Col Vin Hallinan, Lt Col Grahame Fleetor C.O. of 4RNSW Regt and the young soldiers of 'A' Company 4RNSW Regt stationed at Vacluse. This toast was responded by Maj Gen Ray Sharpe and Lt Col Vin Hallinan. The C.O of the 4RNSW Regt Lt Col Grahame Fleeton moved the toast to the 2/4th Inf Bn elaborating the feats of the battalion in Greece and Crete and in New Guinea, saying that the challenge will be accepted and met by the present generation of 4th Inf Bn soldiers if and when the occasion arises. Pres Alf responded to the toast by thanking the guests, the Parramatta Pipe Band for the sterling work they did for the Bn in the march, the Banner party for their neat appearance, their soldierly bearing in carrying the Assoc. banner through the march, they were to be highly commended, also the members of the Ass themselves, for their conduct, bearing and dress, they were a credit to the Assoc. Last but not least, the Management and staff of the Gallipoli Memorial Club for their generosity in giving us the use of the dining area and bar facilities and the service. These main commodities go a long way in making our re-unions, also our monthly meetings.

Some of the far off country members to be seen on parade, Jack Lyons of Victoria, Bruce Cork of Queensland, Allan Kirk of Lismore, Jack Huston of Canberra, Ted Swadling of Griffith, Tim West of Cowra, 'Rocky' Denver of Temora, 'Topsy' Crispin of Narrawallee Beach, Noel Ford of Mollismook, Ray Percy of Nowra, there were many from the Central Coast and Newcastle and the mountains. Space does not permit a full list of attendants I am sorry to say.

Editor .

LADIES ANZAC DAY LUNCHEON

Some twenty two or three ladies, comprising wives, daughters and friends of members of the Association gathered at the usual spot outside Lowes in George St, to give th Bn a good rousing cheer as they marched past. In respect to the 'girls' for their support and recognition. President Alf, gave the "Eyes Left" command as a salute, much to the pleasure of the crowd. On the completion of the march, the ladies then adjourned to the nearby Camelia restaurant for a luncheon. During this luncheon the wife of the past President of the Assoc., Heather Fox delivered a message from the President Alf Carpenter:-
Ladies, I have asked Heather Fox, as wife of our past President to read this message to you. "Your support throughout the years is very greatly appreciated and your presence at our various functions, specially the country reunions and on Anzac Day, increases the pleasure we derive from these events. I suppose that we are still boys at heart where you girls are concerned because we so much enjoy your cheers and encouragement when we March past you in George St as we have done today. I do hope that you have enjoyed your luncheon and my thanks to Hilda Wright for arranging it. Perhaps you will further favour us by joining your menfolk later in the afternoon at the Gallipoli Memorial Club. Finally thankyou just for being the wives and ladies of the 2/4th Aust Inf Bn Ass."

Pres. Alf Carpenter

These are the names of those ladies who attended this well established yearly function. Hilda Wright, Joy Waterhouse, Pi Kesteven, Heather Fox, Doreen Manuel, Joan Hart, Mollie Irvine, Enid Latimer, Nell Hawkins, Sally Pöllington and friend, Nita Auberson, Una Denyer, Joan Chaseling, Carme Kirk, Connie Mangan, Mary Pertridge, Heather Mitchell, Margaret Rae, Betty Watts, Joan Thompson (2/1st Field Regt), Beryl Poplin and Meghan. Without the support of our ladies, we would be lost, it is they that see that we have a clean shirt and jacket and pass inspection as we leave the front door. They have just as much pride in the old Bn as we menfolk do. Apologies received from Vera Walsh (in hospital), Phil Chrystal, Gloria Lindsay, Del Silver.

PARRAMATTA GATHERING

It appeared that some of our members, not content with attending Anzac Day at the Gallipoli Memorial Club, had to follow up with a continuation of similar activities the following Tuesday, 29th April at the Parramatta RSL Club. This was brought about by the simple fact that Ted Swadling of Griffith saying on Anzac Day that he was staying down in Sydney for a few days and wanted to see Ted McCaffery. It looks like Fred Staggs and one or two others managed to get their 'wheels' turning and made arrangements to have a quiet little gathering on Tuesday morning. So the outcome of this was, that what started out to be a party of 4 or 5 people, ended up as a mini Anzac Day with the following turning up, Les McNamara, Slim Powers, Ted Swadling, Dick Pinson, Harry Wright, Alex Maxwell, Mick Hymen, Slim Venn, Fred Staggs, John Hawkins, Ted McCaffery, Ron Williams, Tich Fordham, Sid Buckley, Vic Forbes, Len Smith and a visitor A. Phillips, apology being received from John Ringrose. Reading these names one would think a monthly meeting took place, all the old school there. During the afternoon, Dick Pinson made the remark that he and his band had just completed their 35th year, playing at the Marrackville Bowling Club, on Anzac Day afternoons. Is this a Guinness Book record. Congratulations to Dick and his fellow band members. Well done Dick. It looks like as if Ted Swadling managed to have his wish fulfilled also to meet up with half of the Ass as well. Hope all had an enjoyable day, hope you have many more of them Ted.

QUEENSLAND NEWS

On April 11th, Laurie McCosker phoned to let us know that Bruce Cork had once again proved indomitable and a stayer in winning the Gold Coast Veterans Tennis Championship. This is the second time Bruce has pulled off this achievement. To you Bruce, hearty congratulations from all here at the 2/4th Battalion Association in Sydney.

Laurie also informed us that Gordon Bladen, who before last Xmas, suffered a severe set back in health, is now well on the way to recovery, though he still cannot use his left arm to its full extent. He is desirous of getting a Bn tie, that will clip on his shirt collar or one with an elastic band so that he can just slip it over his head. Can anyone help in this matter, it would be greatly appreciated by Gordon.

NEWCASTLE NEWS

It is becoming the 'in thing' with our 2/4th Bn members in and around Newcastle and its environs. Great socialisers, speaks well for George Mitchell and his wife Heather, the way he keeps everyone together, great believers in fraternising, that's what our Associations are all about. George informed us that their April get together was held at Hamilton RSL Club and those present were-Pat & Gwen Bruty, Doug & Deidre Milne, Alf Carpenter, Doreen Manuel, Gu & Kath Mitchell and of course George & Heather Mitchell. Just recently, beginning of May, another get together was held at the Western Suburbs Leagues Club. This time only Doug & Deidre Milne, Pat & Gwen Bruty and George & Heather Mitchell could make it. George said he recently contacted two 2/4th Bn members who are residing in Newcastle, of whom he wasn't aware of, they are Ern Sinclair and Frank Wright, Both are well as age permits, probably hear more of them next time we hear from George. Unless otherwise advised our future gatherings will be on the first Friday of the month, at the Hamilton R.S.L.

From Ian Fitchett, our one time war correspondent and newspaper man, now living in Canberra; "Have had a fairly rough time last twelve months, six of them in hospital on six separate occasions- bronchial asthma, diabetic ulcers- the latter resulting in partial amputation of left foot, have had a further clean-up operation now a little weak, but on the mend again, however enough of this. Received "White Over Green" today- as a newspaper man I appreciate the need to cut back to six issues a year. The miracle is that it has achieved twelve issues for so long. Has any other 2/AIF unit such a splendid record as this? Fate decreed that I did not spend very long with the 2/4th Bn but the early Sgts Mess gave me some of the best friendships of my life- Tom Mort, Johnnie Bull, 'Blah' Smith and a host of others, not forgetting that great mate Monty Siems of the Royal Fusiliers and West Yorkshire Regt prior to joining the Australian Army. My kindest regards to all."

Ian Fitchett

Monthly Meeting - May, 1986.

After a busy committee meeting and a little lubricant to keep the vocal chords in good shape, the general meeting was under way in the new Anzac Room at the Gallipoli Club on Tuesday, 27th May.

Those present were: Pres. Alf Carpenter, V.Pres Allen Lindsay, Secretary Fred Stage, Laurie Waterhouse, John Hawkins, Ted Fox, Athol Heath, George Stack, Norm Auberson, Harry Wright, Claude Raymond (Vic), Tom Tracey (Vic), Cec Lawson, Les Jones, Tich Fordham, Les Anderson, Biscuits Arnott, Peter Cade, Mick O'Regan, Bill Fogden, Barney Turley, Harold Bowman, Alex Maxwell, Slim Venn, Sid Buckley, Dick Pinson, Merv Nicholson, Jim Forman, Wally Mangan, Bob Fergusson, Nap Alavoine, Wally Shaw, Curley Gorman, Slim Powers, Slim Pollock, Ron Barber, Frank Ivey, Vic Forbes, Jack Partridge, Dave Follinton, John Ringrose, Bill Parry. Apologies were received from: Cec Chrystal, Ferd Pegg, John Meehan, Sir Ivan, George Mitchell, Dave McGilivray, Rex Everson, Brian Waring, Ken Kesteven (for general meeting only). President Alf, after the usual one minute's silence and the "Ode", welcomed the members, particularly those from Victoria - Claude Raymond and Tom Tracey. Correspondence was dealt with in committee and consisted of letters from Harold Silver posted on Anzac Day from Gallipoli, a letter from Peter Denver, South Aust. Vice-Pres. (which was placed on record) - a letter giving full account of the monies received by the Prevalli Monstary Memorial in Crete - a "Thank you" letter from the Director of the Museum of Applied Arts and Science - a donation of \$100 from Mick O'Regan (he said he didn't want any change) a very fine gesture indeed! Les Drayson and Jack Cullen sent in \$50 each for paid-up Life Membership. Several apologies received from three or four members for non-attendance on Anzac Day, a letter from Dagwood Jackson re death of Rupert Carrington and a number of applications for Battalion Medals, etc. Letters have been sent to Ernie Bowdidge and H.Q. 2/4 R.A.R. at Townsville re proposed coach tour to the Tablelands and Cairns in July 1987. Owing to the poor response given out on the Anzac Day Luncheon re Car Badge, only 30 odd replies from the 75 forms handed out, it was decided to run the form again in the August issue of WOG. Widows of former members may apply for a car badge. It was decided that, in future, all monthly meetings will commence at 2p.m. (1400 hrs) instead of the previous 2.30p.m. meeting time. Thus giving members more time for socializing after the meeting (we hope).

Treasurer Allen gave a comprehensive report on our financial situation stating that heavy expenditure (Ties \$600, Name Plates and machine \$650, T-Shirts \$300 and substantial expenditure on the Copying machine for ink and repairs) had outweighed our income during 1986 to the extent that our total funds at 27th May (\$13079) were approx \$1200 less than those at the beginning of the year. However we do have substantial stocks of ties, T-Shirts, name plates etc. on hand.

Editor Laurie reported on the troubles being experienced with the copying machine. (the gremlins get in just as you are about to use it and disappear when the service mechanic arrives). He also read out a report from Australia Post dealing with the restructuring of the Registered Publications service and how it will affect our Association either by re-classification or the abolition of Category "A" under which we post W.O.G. He also gave a run-down from a list forwarded by the Prices Surveillance Board to come into operation in 1987 which will have a big effect the cost of W.O.G. Claude Raymond addressed the meeting during the general business session elaborating on the recent bus tour, the associated re-union dinner held in Melbourne, and its beneficial effect on the participating Victorian members. He was out of form, he only spoke for 5 or 6 minutes. Alf Carpenter then gave a rough outline of the proposed Coach Tour to the Tablelands and Cairns which will cost approx. \$1000 and will take off in July, 1987. He also asked members to support the ASSOCIATION of 4th INFANTRY BATTALION'S CHURCH PARADE being held on SUNDAY 22nd JUNE, at St. Annes Church, HOMEBUSH. The parade forms up in Beresford Road at approx 2p.m. Medals and ties to be worn. Please support your President and attend this parade.

Athol Heath passed on a message from the Management and staff of the Gallipoli Memorial Club.... "The members of the 2/4th Infantry Battalion are to be commended on their deportment, dress and courtesy and friendship extended to the staff on Anzac Day during the luncheon and the conviviality afterwards!" Vice-Pres Allen Lindsay informed the meeting that the Association now had three Directors on the Board of the Club. Before closing President Alf stressed the importance of attending the 21st Birthday function of the 4th Battalion, Royal NSW Regiment to be held on Sunday, 29th June, at the Arncliffe Drill Hall at 1530 hrs. Medals and ties to be worn.

A motion was accepted that a letter of thanks be sent to Jim and Jean Forman for the plaques and bark paintings they gave for the various presentations made on the bus tour to Perth.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 1535hrs.

West Australian News.

Our W.A. V.P. Doug Slinger, true to form, has sent over news of the activities of the 1986 Anzac Day and the quarterly get-together at the Anzac Club in Perth on 6th May. First, the get-together: the boys and girls over there want it known that they enjoyed the visit by the Coach tourists in March. Anzac Day saw only half the boys turn out with the 2/11th. Doug said that 280 2/11th marched this year, the largest unit in the march. A few of the 2/4th boys went out to Scarborough R.S.L.

(continued on page 5)

NX9867
NX27127
-----CARRINGTON R. M.
BANKS J.W.
BURN P.H.WELFARE REPORT APRIL- MAY 1986.Visited at Concord.

NX169542 Sheather Reg Ward 510 Gall bladder operation. Lives at Kogarah. Discharged.
NX5309 McGillivray Dave Leg by-pass operation. Now at home.
NX71699 Bell George Operation for pinched nerve on spine. Lives at Shoalhaven Heads. Has been discharged.

NX5272 Whalan Ronald Ward 110 Prostate Operation. Discharged.

NX53929 Graham Jim Prostate Operation. Discharged.

NX5162 Dawson Tom Ulcers on leg. Having treatment.

NX13262 Nichols Harry Ward 510 hernia operation. Discharged.

NX127149 anelzark John Ward 130 Operation on spine.

7526 Rogers Edmund WW1 Veteran. Ward 310. Is 85 years old. Enlisted at 17 years. Joined 4th Battalion in France 1917. Has heart problems. Discharged.

Vera walsh Ward 210 Has had surgery. Since discharged.

Mary Mann ward 210 has had surgery. Since discharged.

Visited at Greenwich hospital.

NX58 Chrystal Cec Still seriously ill. Been in hospital 5 months. Phyl wishes to thank all those who have visited Cec. Very grateful indeed.

Slim Powers visited John Copland at home. Has hardening of the arteries, but bright in spirit. While visiting at Orange, Norm Auberson called to see Don Thornberry Very seriously ill, though very bright in outlook. Claude Raymond reported that Fre Tom Keyte underwent surgery on his knees and is responding very well. Sends regards to all. Laurie Waterhouse received news that Morrie Porter was in Gosford Hospital, had serious heart attack. Back home now. Also that Ian Fitchett of Canberra has been in and out of hospital with vascular problems. Bob Lever visits Ted Barker at Tregothan Nursing Hospital, Leura, reports that he is reasonably well. Wally Evans of Perth is now home, recuperating prior to trip to Q'land.

Western Australia Report (continued)

service and stayed on for the reunion afterwards, as it was much closer for them. The quarterly get-together was attended by Stan & June Day, Dasher & Lily Deacon, Edna Ding, Ross & Mona Elliott, Don Guthrie, Doug & Wilma Slinger; apologies were received from Cec Smith, Fred Stanwell and Wally Evans (just out of hospital). Doug went on to say that some of the crowd have been bitten by the travel bug. He and Wilma are off to Hong Kong in June, Edna Ding has already left for Canada to see her daughter and Dasher & Lily have left for Greece, Crete and the Netherlands. Cec Smith and his wife Thelma have already left for Sydney to see their daughter and Wally & Thelma Evans are off soon to Q'land to holiday with their daughter living up there. Doug & Wilma send their kindest regards to all in the East.

GREEK and CRETAN WEEK.

Service was held during 17th to 25th May. Started with a wreath-laying ceremony at the Cenotaph after a brief march down Pitt Street led by the Naval Support Band. Afterwards a reception was held at the Greek Consul-General's Office. Those attending on behalf of the Association were Ken Kesteven, Harry Gjedsted, Ted Fox, Alf Carpenter, Norm Auberson, Biscuits Arnott, Des Finch, Harry Wright and Joe Lowe. On Sunday 25th May, a commemorative service was held at the Garrison Church at the Rocks. This was a very solemn and most impressive service, the church was packed to capacity, with some standing. Colours of the 6th Aust. Division units were piped into the church by pipers of the Parramatta Caledonian Pipe Band. The 2/4th colours were carried by Alex Dick of Weston, who did a superb job. Those who attended the service: Ken & Ri Kesteven and son John, Ted & Heather Fox, Laurie and Joy Waterhouse, Alf Carpenter, Doreen Manuel, Norm & Rita Auberson, Harry & Del Silver, Fred Staggs, Alex Dick. Morning Tea or coffee was served in the Church Hall, allowing everyone a chance to have a talk and meet old friends from other units.

PROPOSED TAXATION of WAR PENSIONS.

Recently, it was proposed that all ex-servicemen's war pensions should be taxed. This is a proposal I believe will be before the so-called pre-budget talks to be held between now and August. The mere fact that it has been mentioned is enough to send waves of apprehension through the ex-service community. Many R.S.L. Sub-branches are advocating to their members to take up pen and write to the local member or even Cabinet Ministers:- Tell them you lived up to your obligations in 1939-45, it is time the politicians lived up to theirs. Make your protest in no uncertain manner. Apparently they are not concerned about you or I, but only for themselves (see recent proposals by Canberra politicians for pay increases up to \$15000 per annum). The politicians are only concerned with votes and apparently there are many more votes to be wooed among the recipients of Social Service Benefits other than War pensions and as we all know, votes keep them in their well-protected and well-paid jobs.

It is with regret that we announce the death of the wife of Cec Loughran of Salamander Bay, Mrs Eadie Loughran. Our deepest sympathy to Cec

LIST NUMBER THREE NOMINATIONS RECEIVED FOR 2/4TH. INF. BATT. REUNION
INVERELL 11/12 OCTOBER, 1986. AS AT 29TH. APRIL, 1986.

<u>NAME/S.</u>	<u>ACCOMMODATION</u>	<u>UNIT/ROOM NO.</u>
	<u>INVERELL MOTEL</u>	COMPLETELY BOOKED 17/2/86 - 2/4thers
	<u>COUSINS MOTOR INN</u>	" " 15/2/86 - "
	<u>SAPPHIRE CITY MOTEL</u>	" " 3/3/86 - "
	<u>TWIN SWANS MOTEL</u>	" " 29/4/86 - "

AUSTRALIAN HOTEL

RAMAGE, Gordon "Bozie"

Room 13. 8 ROOMS LEFT
 29/4/86.

TWIN SWANS MOTEL.

POPLIN, Bill & Beryl	Unit 22
GRAHAM, Jim & Nella	" 23
CULLEN, Jack & Dorothy & Ethel Kidd (3)	" 18
GRANQUIST Charles & Wendy	" 19
FOLLINGTON, Dave, Sally & Olene (3)	" 24
GORMAN, Tom & Shiela	" 29
YOUNG, Sid & Florence	" 25
SMITH, Ross & Jean	" 20
JACKSON, Bob "Dagwood" & Enid	" 21
BLACKSLEY, Stan.	" 7
DRAYSON, Les & Joan	" 16
AUBERSON, Norm & Nita	" 17
JONES, Les	" 28
BLADEN, Gordon	" 26
LEWINGTON, Archie & Eileen	" 27
MITCHELL, Bill & Ida	" 12
MAHY, Bernard & Minnie	" 13 COMPLETELY BOOKED 29/4/86.

SAPPHIRE CITY MOTEL.

LAWSON, Cecil & Joan	Unit 13
EVERSON, Rex & Olga	" 16
WALLWORK, Ian & Edna	" 1
ALLARDICE, Nick & Ruth	" 15
RAYMOND, Claude & Nan.	" 10
LYNCH, Eileen-Kel. LAVIS & Margaret) Units 14
CHASELING, Joan-Bill CHASELING & Deborah.	
	" 8
	" 9 COMPLETELY BOOKED 3/3/86

ROYAL HOTEL/MOTEL.

CLARK, Craig & Edna	Unit 6	17 UNITS LEFT 29/4/86.
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INVERELL CARAVAN PARK (ABOUT 1000 METRES FROM CLUB)- 20 POWERED SITES
 \$7.00 PER NIGHT
 ON SITE PER COUPLE \$15.00 - \$2.00 FOR EXTRA PERSON. PER NIGHT.

WHITTLETON, Hugh & Eileen

Site 7

INVERELL REUNION 1986

This is the month of June, there is only roughly fifteen to sixteen weeks left, before the 'trek' to Inverell for this years country reunion. The big question is - Have you made your booking, if not then do it now, before it is too late. Ring your editor for a form or Fred Staggs, Secretary, or if you are in a hurry, a cheque or money order for the amount (\$10 a head or person) to Ross Smith, 46 Urabatta St Inverell, let him know if you want a single or double room, for how many nights, and when you plan to arrive, Train and bus or driving your own car. It is as simple as that. Believe me Ross has a terrific weekend planned for us, it would be a pity to miss out. Once again, get your booking in and don't be disappointed.

CHURCH PARADE 1986

This years Church Parade for the Association of 4th Battalions will be held on Sunday 22nd June 1986. The venue St Annes Church of England, Homebush Rd Homebush. The march will form up in Beresford Park at 2-30pm and proceed to the church for a service commencing at 3pm. After the service, afternoon tea will be served. Members are asked to make the effort to give support to this function. If you are attending, remember that Battalion ties and medals to be worn, this would be appreciated. The 4RNSW Regt is making a big bet with this one, so lets support them.

Now that the Perth and inter Capital cities tour is past history, we can elaborate on its achievements, the impact it had on the members living in other states also relate some of the highlights of the tour. One thing everyone agreed on that travelled on the coach, was that you had to be in good health to undertake such a tour to stand up to the long hauls between night stops. Most of us who went along & saw the countryside unfold as we travelled through the four states, agreed that it was a once only in a lifetime experience that had to be endured, to realise what a vast country we live in, to see the different land structures, the varied vegetation & flora also the large areas of arid country that abound. To see the beauty & the ruggedness combined with the unique colours of the Flinders Ranges & to have had the privilege of taking a flight over the top of the Wilpena Pound made your editors trip worthwhile. It was fantastic to see and it will always be in my memory. The long trip from Eucla to Norseman across the treeless plain of the Nullabor, one of the most harsh & inhospitable areas of land in the southern hemisphere. It gave full meaning to that poem of Dorothea McKeller "I Love a Sunburnt Country. A Land of Sweeping Plains".

How must the early pioneers fared in the early part of this century, in covering the same journey that we did. We had an air conditioned, compressed air bag suspensioned coach to travel in, with comfortable accommodation and superb meals at each night stop. No can of Foster's or Swan to cool their thirst, no cool showers for them each night, they did it hard. One could not help thinking of those old pioneers as we travelled through that vast land of contrasts, the ruggedness & worst of all the lack of water. We can only admire them all the more for their 'guts' & sheer determination in their endeavours to open up the unknown.

The tour commenced from Newcastle, where our friends from the 2/1st Field Regt. Ass joined us & one of them, Horrie Crossfield, known to his mates as 'Horrie, The Wog Dog', brought along his video camera & recording attachment, so that we can have a complete four hour tape of the tour. After picking up the Sydney tourists & proceeding along the Olympic Highway through Bathurst, Cowra, Young, Cootamundra (picked up Wally Taylor & his wife here) & onto Wagga for the night. Here Dagwood & Enid Jackson joined us to celebrate the commencement of the tour, by joining in the wining & dining of that evening. An early start, & after a short tour of Wagga & environs we were on our way to Albury, via The Rock, so well known to many a pilot who was trained at Uranquinty during the war, as a familiar land mark. From Albury, down through the Ned Kelly country of Glenrowan, quick stop at Benalla for lunch & a Foster's or two. Then it was all stops out for Melbourne & the Motel at Chadstone & at 5-15pm we sighted the GREEN & WHITE banner of the Victorian Sub Ass, held by Leo Dunn & Merv Hicks, who were joined by Les Grayson a few minutes later. That was a welcome indeed. Following day was a free day for the majority of tourists, so our very able & obliging driver took us on a tour of the Dandenong Ranges & Ferntree Gully, then back to the City of Melbourne for lunch, which we partook in the beautiful Fitzroy Gardens, where the cameras worked overtime, then a short tour of the city land marks, finishing up at the Anzac War Memorial & lastly a privileged look at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, that hallowed piece of dirt so well known to all aspiring cricketers & champions alike, that made our day before going back to the motel to change for the re-union dinner that night at the East Malvern R.S.L. Bowling Club. The dinner that night was a splendid affair, one, long to be remembered by the tourists & those Victorians who attended along with their wives. Claude Raymond & Lance Cutcliffe & the mob in and around, along with the R.S.L. Club spared nothing in giving the visitors from interstate a very good welcome. Some ninety-five to a hundred people sat down to a sumptuous dinner, where the champagne & wine flowed. It was here that our good friends from the 2/1st Field Regt. saw & heard of the close knit ties that keep this Assoc. what it is today. The touring party were welcomed by Mr Jack Knight, George Medalist, President of the R.S.L. Bowling Club & his wife alongside Claude Raymond & his wife Nan, who in turn presented each lady on arrival with a lovely corsage of carnations, in the colours of white & green, also a lovely boxed souvenir spoon, to mark the occasion. Lance Cutcliffe was the chairman for the dinner & did his utmost to keep the speeches to a minimum, but there wasn't any holding Claude. His speech for the night was the toast & welcome to the tourists & other Victorian members of the 2/4th. I think Claude welcomed everybody bar himself, but he spoke from his heart, when he said that the dinner was a most unique one, because it was the first time that interstate members had travelled to Melbourne to hold a re-union. He wished the tourists a happy, enjoyable & safe trip to Perth. It was said of Claude & heard by yours truly-"Never was so much said about so many in such a long time", which summed it all up most appropriately. President Jack Knight G.C., of the East Malvern Bowling Club, in his welcome speech, said the club was highly honoured to have such a highly esteemed group of visitors as the 2/4th Bn & 2/1st Field Regt Ass. members. He wished them a most enjoyable trip & a pleasant re-union in Perth.

Those who attended the reunion from Victoria as follows:- Claude & Nan... Raymond, Lance Cutcliffe & wife, Jim Barrow & his family, Leo Dunn & his wife, Sid Valentine (Gunga Din), Les Grayson, Merv Jones, Jack Lyons, Merv Hicks, 'Buff' Burns, Slim Pretty, Doug Miller, Russ Madden, Doug Christian, Tom Keyte. Apologies received from Don Dimsey, Gordon Robins, Nedda Kenna V.C., Bill Panter & Ernie Mackie. Any names missed was through the inadequacy of the editor's memory to cope, & so concluded a most enjoyable evening, which speaks well for the organisers of the reunion. Thankyou Victorian members.

MELBOURNE TO ADELAIDE

After the great night before, it was a crowd of heavy heads and raspy throats that faced up to a good breakfast, that seemed to improve the hangovers & seedy heads. Then it was the big push through the Melbourne traffic to get onto the Westgate bridge, to Melbournians, this is the BRIDGE. Unfortunately it crosses a mud stream, not like our 'coat hanger' spanning a beautiful harbour. (Careful must not get too biased) after the big welcome we received. Once over the Westgate it was the open road to Geelong & morning tea, thence onto Colac, where our driver turned off on to the coast road so that we could have a look at the scenic coastline of Port Campbell, a very rugged & very inspiring sight & very much photographed piece of coastline by tourists from all over the world. After lunch at Port Campbell, it was onto the city of Warrnambool, stopping at Pleasant Hill (Fletcher Jones factory) to look at the colourful gardens around the factory that have become a tourist attraction to visitors to the city. A quick run through the city & down by the beachfront to view the area known as Flagstaff Hill, where the local city council is creating a waterfront port area dating back to the early days of the sailing ships, plus a maritime museum. It is in this museum that one of the rarest treasures is to be seen - a beautiful porcelain peacock. This rare treasure was washed ashore after the sailing ship 'Lochard' was wrecked at Port Campbell, where the twelve apostles are to be seen, in the 1880 - 1890 period. (Your editor has seen this piece of fine porcelain), believe me it has to be seen to appreciate its beauty and value. From Warrnambool through the potato & onion paddocks, past the Tower Hill Scenic & Fauna reserve. It used to be a volcano, one can see the layers of various rock formations around the sides of the old crater. Then onto the little village pub known as Killarney Hotel, well known for its Irish blarney & the Donneybrooks of yesteryear, onto the fishing & tourist township of Port Fairy, which is the oldest settlement in Victoria (used to be named Belfast originally). This little township is very Irish in formation & character, quaint little bluestone cottages abound & many fine old buildings in good shape are still to be seen. The old whaling ships called here for water, the town is built along what is known as the River Moyne. The old town is now under the control of the National Trust of Victoria, no old buildings can be pulled down. It used to be a great place for lobsters & I think they still catch one or two (from one who knows & has eaten them there.) We leave Port Fairy & travel down the highway to Portland, most eastern of Victoria's ports. Here we see the new port & harbourside facilities they have built for handling the big 'sheep boats' that take the live sheep to the Middle East Arab countries also the big wheat silos for handling the wheat for export. We were running late so did not get to see the Alcoa Aluminum smelter, as we had to get to Mount Gambier to the motel & the tourists were getting dry & thirsty. Arrived at the motel to be met by Bill & Yvonne Black, who stayed to have dinner with us & to enjoy a few ales before returning to their property not far from Mount Gambier. It was a great night, the proprietor put entertainment on for us, which I think was appreciated by all. In the morning we had a good look at the town & its scenic attractions, such as the Blue Lake, Leg of Mutton Lake & the limestone houses (known as Mt Gambier stone which can be sawn or cut to any shape & so easy to handle). Horrie (The Wog Dog) was very busy here with the video camera. Leaving Mt Gambier we never wasted anytime along the road, a quick lunch at a place called Robe & then the long run onto the Mt Lofty ranges passing through Stirling, Mt Lofty & Crafers, it all looked different after 44 years, the fires of 1983 had made a mess of Mt Lofty & part of Crafers, a lot of the old homes we knew had been burn't down. The old parade ground is no more, part of the freeway to Adelaide, quite a pleasant drive, brought back many memories of the few weeks we spent there. Adelaide didn't look as good because all the parks & the green belt in & around the city looked so brown, they have had no rain. Arrived at our motel outside the city limits, North Adelaide to be met by Peter Denver & wife Pat who had booked into the motel, also the honeymooners 'Muskovey' & Yvonne. Again another night of wining & dining after a quick shower & change. Following day, being a free day, Peter & Pat Denver who acted as guide & commentator, with the aid of our coach driver Barry gave us a quick look over the city sights & landmarks, then let us loose in the city for shopping & to have lunch.

(To Be Continued)