



White Cedar Green

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE 2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

PATRON: Major-General Sir Ivan DOUGHERTY, CBE., DSO & Bar., ED., BEC.,LLD., (Hon.).
42nd.year of continuous publication.

Registered by: Australia Post:Publication - NAS 1532.
Price: 50c. per copy.

Vol. 42-No. 11.
NOVEMBER, 1987.

President: Alf Carpenter, 66 Chatham Rd., Georgetown, 2298. 'Phone: 049-612366 or 049-671569

Vice-Presidents:-

Senior:	Allen Lindsay, 21a Mirral Rd, Caringbah, 2229.	02-5241937
Queensland:	Laurie McCosker, 60 Hillsdon Rd, Taringa, 4068.	07-8701395
Far Nth.Coast:	Allan Kirk, 179 Dibbs St., Lismore, 2480.	066-214464
Northern NSW:	Esca Riordan, 111 Kemp St., Kempsey, 2440.	065-624671
Newcastle:	George Mitchell, 6 Verli Pl., Waratah, 2298.	049-672182
Southern NSW:	Bob Jackson, 14 The Boulevard, Wagga Wagga, 2650.	069-226914
Victoria:	Claude Raymond, 92 Rose St, West Coburg, 3058.	03-3541145
Sth. Australia:	Peter Denver, 15 Admiral Tce., Goolwa, 5214.	085-552252
West Australia:	Doug Slinger, 55 Hotham St, Bayswater, 6053.	09-2717027
N.S.W.Central Coast:	Jack Partridge, 38 Serpentine Rd., Terrigal, 2260.	043-677614

Secretary: Fred Staggs, 13 Seven Hills Rd, Seven Hills, 2147. 02-6711765

Asst. Secretary: John Hawkins, 21 Maloney St, Blacktown, 2148. 02-6220531

Treasurer: Allen Lindsay, 21a Mirral Rd., Caringbah, 2229. 02-5241937

Committee: Norm Auberson, Vic Forbes, MM., Les Jones, Ken Kesteven, MG, ED.,
John Mechan, John Ringrose, George Stack.

Editor: Ted Fox, 29 Longford Street, Roseville, 2069. 02-461200

Welfare Officer: Harry Wright, 3 Boundary Rd., Carlingford, 2118. 02-8715312

Pensions Officer: John Hawkins, 21 Maloney St, Blacktown, 2148. 02-6220531

Liaison Officer to the Gallipoli Club: Athol Heath, French's Forest. 02-4514466

NEXT TWO MEETINGS:-

At The Gallipoli Memorial Club, 12-14 Loftus Street, Sydney, commencing at 1400 hours in The Anzac Room (lunch available in the Dining Room between 1200 hours and 1400 hours at a table reserved for 2/4 Bn. Association Members or at a separate table if so preferred):-

WEDNESDAY, 24th. NOVEMBER - Normal Monthly Meeting) Committee will meet at 1130 hours in

WEDNESDAY, 26th. JANUARY - Normal Monthly Meeting) The Anzac Room.

NOTE:- (1):- NO Monthly Meeting in DECEMBER - but see below re 16th. December.
(2):- January Meeting date to be confirmed .. Australia Day?

"W.O.G." PRODUCTION:- WEDNESDAY, 9th. DECEMBER - Team 7 at 1000 hours in the Anzac Room;
THURSDAY, 10th. DECEMBER - Team 8 at 1000 hours in the Anzac or the Regimental Room (check on arrival at the Club).

DATES TO REMEMBER:-

TUESDAY, 17th. NOVEMBER - "Charlie Coy. Calling" luncheon at The Gallipoli Memorial Club - 'phone Norm Auberson on 632.8225 or Harry Gjedsted on 27.6350 if you wish to attend. Payment for luncheon is to be made to Norm Auberson upon arrival at the Club.

SATURDAY, 28th. NOVEMBER - Far North Coast Region's Christmas "Get-Together" at East Lismore and Bowling Club commencing at 1800 hours ... followed next day by SUNDAY, 29th. NOVEMBER - Barbecue Lunch at the home of Vice-President Allan and Carma Kirk - a small charge will apply - B.V.O. drinks - ALL WELCOME.

Those attending are asked to contact Allan - his name, address & 'phone number is shown above under the sub-heading "Vice-Presidents".

WEDNESDAY, 16th. DECEMBER - 2/4 Bn. Association's Christmas "Get-Together" at The Gallipoli Memorial Club commencing at 1500 hours.

**AUSTRALIAN-HELLENIC
MEMORIAL APPEAL-RAFFLE-**

Raffle Tickets are available from Ken Kesteven @ \$2.00 per ticket - to be drawn on 18th. December. Prizes are: 1st.- Holiday for two in Greece including two return tickets to Athens, seven day cruise to the Greek Islands, four day Classical Tour of Greece, three night
(Contd. next page)

AUSTRALIAN-HELLENIC MEMORIAL APPEAL -
RAFFLE (Contd.):

stay (with breakfast) in Athens; 2nd.-
Ansett South Molle Island Holiday for two
including twin-share accommodation and
all meals on South Molle Island; 3rd.-
three nights accommodation (room only) on
Hamilton Island, for two persons.

0-0-0-0-0

TRIVIATA - from Nelson Bay Re-union:-

From Jack Lyons: Question-"What is the
difference between Ignorance and Apathy?".
Answer-"I don't know and I don't care".

From Frank Crutchett: "What is the differ-
ence between Unlawful and Illegal?". Ans-
wer-"One is outside the Law and the other
is a sick bird"(i.e. ill eagle, in case
you are Ignorant or Apathetic - Ed.).

From the local Newspaper: "If anyone doubts
the monetary value of tourists to the area,
it has been estimated fairly accurately
that the 200-strong group of former Diggers
of the 2/4th. Battalion Association who spent
a week at the Bay spent a combined total
of \$65,000.00".

0-0-0-0-0

MONTHLY MEETING - 27th. October, 1987:-

The Meeting commenced at 1410 hours with
President Alf Carpenter presiding and 41 Members,
plus one visitor, in attendance. Special
welcome was extended to George Walton,
from South Australia, and Frank Lambert, a
friend of Allen Lindsay. Apologies were received
from John Hawkins, John Ringrose, Vic
Forbes, Ferd Pegg, Jim Forman, Jack Garvey, Tom
Tracey, Cec Lawson and Brian Waring.
One minute's silence was observed in memory
of our Fallen and Departed Comrades.
It was Moved, Seconded and Carried that the
Minutes of the previous Monthly Meeting, as
published in "W.O.G.", be taken as read and
adopted.

Business Arising from the Minutes: Nil.

Acting Minutes Secretary, John Meehan, recorded
the following Business dealt with at the
October Meeting:

CORRESPONDENCE "IN":

Letters enclosing dues/donations/payments
for medals, ties, etc., as mentioned hereunder
(and as will be confirmed in due course in a
Cash Register Report from the Treasurer).

Letters to Secretary, Fred Staggs, from:

Vic Pike (subs.); "Chic" Sleeman (\$6.50); Arthur
Harradine (\$38.50); Geoff Green (\$38.50);
Jean Cole (\$38.00); Kevin Peacock (\$50.00 and
change of address); Ces Smith (\$10.00); Linda
Lovelee (\$49.00); Rick Carter (\$30.00 and news
that he is about to visit Adelaide and will
call on "Robbie"); Peter Cook (subs. and saying
that he has been "flying on only two engines
lately"- to have heart by-pass operation at
St. George Hospital); Phil Betts (\$50.00).

Letters also from: Joe Taylor (change of address);
Bill Panter (re new ribbon for Bn. medal);
Doug Slinger (re Association general purpose cards);
Phyl Chrystal (re the remaining twelve volumes of
Sir Ivan Dougherty's Biography which are to be
preserved by the Association); Margaret Graham and
Family (Sincere Thanks for our expressions of
sympathy on the passing away of "Bub"); Margaret
Campbell (Sincere Thanks for the sympathy we
conveyed to her, and family, on the death of Ray).

Letter from Marjorie Tomlinson addressed to all

(Contd. next column)

(2)

MONTHLY MEETING - 27th. October, 1987 (Contd.):

Letters to Secretary, Fred Staggs (Contd.):

Members of our Association: "My family and I
wish to thank you all for your kind thoughts
for us at the loss of a wonderful partner &
father, Paul Tomlinson. We did appreciate you
all coming to the Memorial Service which was
a very fitting occasion for one of the Nation's
fine sons. Paul loved his re-unions with you
all, even though his work in life did not always
make it possible to attend as many as he had
wished. The comradeship that was moulded in the
dark days of the war will never fade. The
Battalion medal and his others have been
carefully put away. Fortunately our family
cherish these, so great to see in the young.
We have very happy and proud memories of a
man who was always a "Tower of Strength" in
our lives. My sincere thanks to you all -
Marjorie Tomlinson".

Letter from Jean Millard, daughter of Lady
Mackay: "Thank you very much for the card and
sympathy from your Patron, Major-General Sir
Ivan Dougherty, President and Members of the
Association. Also, thank you to those who
attended my mother's funeral. We did realise
that that week was a re-union one and that
most Members were absent from Sydney. One of
my mother's greatest interests was the 2/4th.
Battalion Association and the ensuing contacts
and her many friendships with the Members.
As I wrote to Sir Ivan Dougherty, she was
very aware of the fact that she was never
forgotten and deeply appreciative of the kindness
and thoughtfulness always shown her. Thank you
all once more on behalf of the Mackay family -
Jean Millard".

Letter from Phil Betts: "It is good receiving
"White Over Green" Journal each month, keeping
us in touch with what the Association is doing
and bringing back to me the memories of quite
a few of the original mates I had in the
Battalion. I was present at the first "get
together" with, from memory, 12 other members
of the Unit at the Dispensary Hall in Ashfield,
to form the 2/4th. Bn. Association, which we
did. If my memory is correct, Harry Wat* was
elected President and George Russell was
appointed Secretary. All the rest of us were
put on the Committee. This first Meeting was
I think, sometime in 1943. I resigned from
Committee when I joined Aust. Water Transport
and was posted to New Guinea on Small Craft,
Landing Barges - enough said. My reason for
writing is to enclose cheque for \$50 towards
postage of the journal or as a donation to
whatever. I have been a life member of the
Association since, I think, 1971 and to date
never helped on the financial side. Kind
regards and best wishes to all Members -
Phil Betts".

Letter to Treasurer, Allen Lindsay, from:

Bill Owers with thanks for putting him on
"W.O.G." mailing list and mentioning that
when he lived at Belmont he several times
exchanged visits with Alf Carpenter. Bill
was sad to read in "W.O.G." that Aub South
had died some time ago, considered him to
be a fine man and good mate.

Letters to Editor, Ted Fox, from:

Bill and Aimee Facey - via "Chic" Sleeman -
regretting that health factors had forced
them to cancel their attendance at Nelson
Bay Re-union but wishing everyone a wonderful
time, a happy Christmas and a healthy
New Year.

(Contd. next page)

MONTHLY MEETING - 27th.October,1987 (Contd.):

Letters to Editor,Ted Fox (Contd.):

Rita Blackstock (sister of NX5341 A.Blackstock,killed in Greece): "I am most grateful to be the honorary recipient of the 2nd.A.I.F.'s 2/4 Bn.monthly journal for these many years. Your published report of the Vietnam Veterans'National Re-union moved me deeply and,with apologies to the unrecalled British poet of earlier years,I was moved to pen the clumsy lines which follow. The sentiments expressed come from my heart and,if you consider them worthy of reproduction,the poem is yours."(I do,and here is the poem-Ed.):

"THE LONELY VIETNAM VETS."

I saw them marching in the streets of Sydney,
the once despised Vietnam Vets
Who responded to their Nation's call
to fight for a noble cause.
I saw the people in the streets of Sydney
weeping-weeping as if their hearts were
breaking,
And then I saw Vietnam Vets rejoicing -
rejoicing as if their hearts were burst-
ing;
Rejoicing because at last their Nation
gives to them her loving blessing,
A blessing long denied her sons
who'd suffered for her-and would again.
looked away and shed a tear for all those
whom we hold so dear,
And I prayed to God to cleanse our hearts
to enable us all to forgive the past.

Rita enclosed a donation "to assist with the cost of postage over these many years".

(Rita - thank you for your donation and for your contribution to our Newsletter. I agree entirely with your "not for publication" remarks and appreciate your own "N.F.P." classification of them - Ed.).

Ron Stennett with \$20 donation "to make my life membership look a little more healthy". Ron's letter is very lengthy and detailed & expresses his views on a number of subjects, some quite contentious. I will not have space to include in this Newsletter all that Ron has to say. Some items are,however,that Ron a supporter of the I.D.Card and with his letter he enclosed a cutting from the "Taree Chronicle"with his letter to the Editor published therein on that I.D.Card subject;Ron has not attended a Re-union for some years, will be seventy in December and says he is "feeling the years now"and his health is such that "it is up to me",hence he hasn't had a beer for some years and avoided the Nelson Bay Re-union in order to resist temptation; he was thinking of us,on the other hand,swapping stories and telling lies and having a good time;he recollected that he joined the Unit as NX2100 on 8/11/1939,the same day as Harry Watts and other Narrabri recruits and he spent his 5 years and 6 months in 7 Section of 9 Platoon in "A" Company. As stated,there is much more to Ron's letter but I cannot print it here. If time permits,I will read it at our next Monthly Meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE "OUT":

Replies and acknowledgements re the above inward correspondence,where appropriate.

REPORTS:

The President reported on the outstanding success of the Nelson Bay Re-union and complimented "Chic" Sleeman and his committee on the excellent programme they arranged. He made special mention of the courtesies extended to
(Contd.next column)

MONTHLY MEETING - 27th.October,1987 (Contd.):

REPORTS (Contd.):

our Members by Wing Commander Irwin of the R.A.A.F.Base at Williamtown,and by the Nelson Bay R.S.L.Sub-branch and Club. President Alf advised that he had attended a 2/1st.Field Regiment Re-union at Dorriggo and that the Organisers of the Tasmanian Tour had reluctantly informed him of an increase in the cost by \$45.00,the total now being \$1,260.00 per head. President Alf further reported that a plaque containing the Ned Kenna V.C.Citation is being produced for installation in The Gallipoli Memorial Club.

The Secretary reported that he has received numerous applications for the Battalion Medal since we publicised the deadline date for availability of same.

The Treasurer reported the following account balances at 27/10/87: General Account \$2,153.00;Benevolent Account \$13,069.00; Total Funds \$15,222.00. The Nelson Bay Re-union was a financial success and the Association will receive a refund of all monies advanced.

The Editor reported on a problem encountered with production of October "W.O.G." when using the new supply of "letterhead" pages for the first time. After continuous "paper feed" stoppages,which caused a part inside the copier to come adrift,the whole issue had to be printed by a commercial photocopying firm after the separate machine owned by The Gallipoli Memorial Club also failed to cope with the problem. Next day the service mechanic revealed that the new letterheads are slightly shorter and narrower than the previous ones and our paperfeed cassettes could not hold them in place firmly,not being adjustable for different paper dimensions,so that misfeeding into the machine was inevitable and consistent. To overcome this situation we are having one cassette modified in its inside measurements and will use it only for the front and reverse pages of the Newsletter. Welfare and 6 Div.Reports were presented to the Meeting by Harry Wright & Norm Auberson respectively and are printed elsewhere in this Newsletter.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Jack Partridge reported on progress to date re the 1988 Re-union in Gosford - he already has bookings with deposits for 92 persons.

A report by Alex Arnott was put to the Meeting concerning recent army exercises held in remote Northern Australia,the first major exercise of its kind since WW2. It revealed glaring deficiencies in our defence strategies and capabilities,including manpower and vehicles,and Major-General Mike Jeffery (Commander of the army's operational 1st.Division) subsequently stated that under existing manpower and logistics strengths (several thousand more men being an urgent need) Australia could defend its northern regions from a foreign invader for a maximum of six weeks.

Harry Gjedsted commented upon the small number of Association Car Stickers evident at the Nelson Bay Re-union and it was decided that we will obtain a further supply of them. Following another report from Alex Arnott, it was resolved that our Association would endorse any action taken by the Federal
(Contd.next page)

MONTHLY MEETING-27th.October,1987 (Ctd.):-
GENERAL BUSINESS (Contd.):

Executive of the R.S.L.to protect the pension entitlements of ex-Servicemen. There being no further Business,the Meeting was closed at 1500 hours.

According to the Attendance Book,those present were:ALF CARPENTER,ALLEN LINDSAY,NORM AUBERSON,KEN KESTEVEN,FRED STAGGS,JOHN MEEHAN,TED FOX,LES JONES,HARRY WRIGHT,GEORGE STACK,ATHOL HEATH,PETER CADE,ALEX ARNOTT,PAT BRUTY,BILL MITCHELL,GEORGE MITCHELL,JACK PARTRIDGE,CECIL POWERS,RON BARBER,ALEX MAXWELL,WAL JOHNSTON,DAVE FOLLINGTON,WALLY SHAW,NAP ALAVOINE,LIONEL CLARKE,BOB FERGUSON,GEORGE WALTON (who was accompanied to the Club by Patricia),JOHN "LARRY" DOOLEY,BERNARD "BARNEY" TURLEY,ALAN BOHLÉ,TED JACKSON,HARRY GJEDSTED,BILL PARRY,CLIFF TAYLOR,"SLIM" VENN,JIM GRAHAM,MICK "NO CHANGE" O'REGAN,"PORKY" WILLIAMS,REX EVERSON,FRANK IVEY,DICK PINSON and FRANK LAMBERT,visitor.

O-O-O-O

6th.AUSTRALIAN DIVISION:-

Report by Norm Auberson
and Ken Kesteven:



(1) Attendance at the re-union,held at Belmore R.S.L.Club,was less than expected but a small profit was achieved.

(2) Proposals put forward for the 6 Div. 50th.Anniversary Re-union have suggested a suitable venue would be either Victoria Barracks or Ingleburn. Unconfirmed reports have indicated that difficulties may now be experienced with Victoria Barracks as "P" Block is not now available for a re-union type function.

(3) It has been resolved that a 6 Div.Re-union will be held annually and a Committee has been elected to organise the 1988 event and the 50th.Anniversary Re-union,and to report at next 6 Div.Meeting as to a suitable venue and suggested dates.

(4) For their 50th.Anniversary celebrations the dates of formation of 16 Brigade Units are generally being accepted as 3rd.-4th. November. However,the units were actually formed when the original C.O.'s set up their H.Q.'s at Victoria Barracks,Sydney,on 24th.October,1939. Lt.Cols.Eather,Wootten,England and Parsons had by this time recruited most of their Staff including Q.M.,R.Q.M.S.,R.S.M.,and some Company Commanders,etc. They moved to Ingleburn at the end of October,as the Vic.Barracks office became overcrowded,and then from all corners of the State came the "filling in the cake" as the troops poured in and "You'll be sorry" became the catch-cry of the era-men who had themselves marched in only the day before would yell it out as loudly as the "old Sweat" who had been there a week longer.

(5) The excursion to Wangi Wangi will take place on Sunday 15th.November - Bus,Cruise and Lunch inclusive cost \$15.00 per head.

(6) \$1,085 has been sent through 6 Div.Association for the Aust.- Hellenic Memorial and it is believed that further sums have been remitted through other channels. The date set for the unveiling of the monument is 21st.May,1988.

(7) Australian Defence Services Council is an Organisation set up as a watchdog on our Repatriation Rights,which has become more necessary since we were sold out by the new Veterans' Affairs Act. The Council is made up of 30 Ex-Service Organisations and 6 Div. is represented in 4 ways - through the (Cont'd. column)

6TH.AUSTRALIAN DIVISION REPORT (Contd.):-

Australian Legion of Ex-Service Clubs,through 2nd.A.I.F.Council,and President Allan Murchison is the C.M.F.representative. At present they are fighting to preserve our War Service Homes Rights,which the Government is planning to privatise,and they are also fighting the method by which our pensions are assessed,known as GARP - a most iniquitous document.

O-O-O-O

WELFARE REPORT - By Harry Wright:-

As at 28th.October,1987:

Visited at St.Vincent's Hospital:

NX42709 - CUNNINGHAM,D.(Des) - had heart by-pass operation on 27th.October - op.successful and Des in stable condition,reasonably well,and expecting to go home on 15th.Nov.

Visited at St.George Hospital:

NX11389 - COOK,P.(Peter) - heart by-pass operation- was making good progress when visited by "Slim" Powers.

In Taree Hospital:

NX47383 - WATSON,A.L.- gallstone operation - reported to be O.K.

In Tamworth Base Hospital:

NX68956 - FOSTER,P.F.(Peter) - burst stomach ulcer - "touch and go" period Intensive Care Unit but now on the way to a full recovery - reported by Ern Hawksworth,Hon.Sec. of Tamworth R.S.L.Sub-branch.

As at 31st.October,1987:

Visited at Royal Newcastle Hospital:

NX1971 - LOUGHNAN,C.E.(Cec) - collapsed at home - lung problem thought to be caused by over-use of cortisone - Ward 400C - expected to be there for another week unless an operation became necessary - visited by Alf Carpenter and "Chic" Sleeman.

As at 5th.November,1987:

In Baulkham Hills Hospital:

NX1983 - CLARKE,L.R.(Lionel) - operation on 5th.Nov. - in some pain but progressing.

As at 14th.November,1987:

NX14361 - COUTTS,Ron - now home after hip replacement in Westmead Hospital - progressing O.K.

NX2028 - FORMAN,J.L.(Jim) - was admitted to Nepean Hospital with gallstones problem - now home but expecting to be re-admitted later for operation.

O-O-O-O



Last Post

NX5857 - DAVIES,R.J.(Bob) - died 8/11/87 at Concord Repat.Gen.Hospital -70 yrs. of age.



O-O-O-O

CAN ANYONE ASSIST WITH ACCOMMODATION in Sydney for Warren McBrowne,son of Association Member Jim McBrowne who has just started work with the ANZ Bank in Sydney but who is having (Contd.next page)

(5)
CAN ANYONE ASSIST WITH ACCOMMODATION (Ctd.):

extreme difficulty in establishing living quarters. His parents live at Boat Harbour (Anna Bay) and daily travel to Sydney is, of course, out of the question. Warren is 20 years old, a non-smoker, and not a drinker. He can pay rent or board at a pre-arranged rate. Possibly this situation could be made advantageous to one of our Pensioner Members, lady or gentleman, who might like to increase their income, or to any Member with a spare room - with or without meals. If any Member can help Warren, a 'phone call should be made initially to Jim McBrown on 049 / 62.1484.

0-0-0-0

WORLD EXPO - BRISBANE 1988:-

This is a message from President Alf Carpenter: "Our Coach Company, "Fellows", has offered a special Package Deal to our Association to allow Members to visit World Expo 1988. It comprises an eight (8) day tour leaving Newcastle on 16th. July and returning on 24th. July, with an overnight stopover at Glen Innes on the forward journey, five (5) nights at "Thunderbird Park", Tambourine, and return with a stopover at Oyster Shores Motel at Yamba. This tour has been arranged so that we will have time to relax between busy days at Expo, so preferred, or we can take part in the interesting sight-seeing trips that can be organised for us.. the choice is for each to make. The overall cost includes:

(1) three (3) separate visits to Expo - one afternoon and night plus two (2) day visits, in our own coach;

(2) a day visit to Sea World on the Gold Coast;

(3) tour travel by coach, dinner/bed/breakfast, accommodation on a twin share basis;

(4) entrance to all International and Corporate Pavilions, all Exhibitions and Displays, a feast of "on site" Entertainment and unlimited use of the Monorail. It also includes entry to World Expo Park, but does not include individual Amusement Park Rides. The tour cost is \$550.00 per person - deposit of \$100.00 when booking and final payment one month before departure date. Seats will be booked in order of receipt of application complete with deposit, beginning now.

Seats are limited to a coach maximum of forty (40), so book early. Send deposit now to A.C. CARPENTER, 66 Chatham Road, Georgetown, 2298. BE IN IT: ONCE IN A LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT THE WORLD ON ONE SITE WITHOUT NEEDING TO BE VACCINATED".

(Alf says he has checked other similar tours and they are \$100 to \$200 dearer - Ed.).

0-0-0-0

ASSOCIATION OF 4th. INFANTRY BATTALIONS:-

Report by Peter Cade (who signs himself, quite accurately and justly, as "That 'orrible Cade"): "K. Kesteven asked me to provide a bit of a write-up on the last Meeting of 4th. Infantry Battalions Association and, as a request from him is the same as an order, here it is. Due to the success of the Vietnam Veterans' Welcome Home Re-union, the October Meeting was pretty much a Viet-nam Night, justifiably so. After the conclusion of General Business, President Maj.-Gen. Ray Sharpe asked for comments from any of the 4th. or 2/4th. RAR Members present. David Morris, who was pretty much involved in the organisation of the March, gave us a good run-down on what went on, including Government support, and also included

(Contd. next column)

ASSOCIATION OF 4th. INFANTRY BATTALIONS (Ctd.):

ing the rewarding - and much more than expected - attendance by the Vets. and by the crowds that turned out for the March and other functions. He told us of the transport and billeting arrangements, and of the opening of 4 Bn. R.N.S.W. Regt.'s facilities by Lt.-Col. Graham Fleeton, and particularly the co-operation of R.S.M. (W.O.1) Peter Zimma. Being unaware at the time that he would be required to write this up for "W.O.G.", your correspondent took no notes (he can barely spell or write, anyway - Ed.) particularly of names, but Bob ? can be remembered (through a haze, I imagine - Ed.) and his guest (and ours) Chuck ?, an American Vet. Sorry, but the others are just, only just, remembered faces. I hope they all enjoyed themselves. There were many tales told of the week-end and it WAS a great success. Paraded in the March was the new 4 Bn. R.A.R. / 2-4 Bn. R.A.R. Banner and those Associations and individual Members who made contributions to the cost of it were able to see where their money went. The Banner looked really good.

From the whole show the Association of 4th. Infantry Battalions reaped a spin-off in new Members drummed up by Mike Delahunty and David Morris and perhaps others. Thanks 4 Bn. R.A.R. and 2/4 Bn. R.A.R. for a job well done". ('Orrible, I do hope that Margaret has recovered from her midnight wog - not our type - and the resultant treatment which you have so delicately described as "a couple of needles in the tail feathers"; I also trust that she is no longer feeling "as crook as Rookwood" (a local cemetery, for the benefit of Interstate Members) and that consequently you are no longer housebound and "stuck with the washing up again" - Ed.).

0-0-0-0

TRIVIATA - HOW TO COOK A COCKATOO:-

Recipe by Kenneth Venn B.B.C. (usually known as "Slim" because of the excellence of his dietary diatribes): First, catch a Cockatoo (or Galah, Crow or what-ever is catchable); Second acquire a suitable cooking utensil (a 4 gal. kerosene tin is quite satisfactory but it is advisable to scour the inside to avoid any chance of spoiling the taste of the finished product). Fill the utensil with water, pluck and gut the Cockatoo (or Galah, Crow or whatever) and insert (or immerse) it in the water in the utensil and bring it to the boil. To do this successfully, you will need to make a fire under the utensil. At boiling point you must carefully lower three stones into the utensil - carefully so as to minimise the risk of scalding yourself with splashes. Smooth river stones are the best because they are not porous. Boil continuously for ten days and simmer for three more. Then remove the Cockatoo (or Galah, Crow or whatever) from the utensil, drain off the water, let it cool, and then feed it to your horse as a kind of soup (horse won't know what it is, anyway) filled with vitamin "D" (for bird). Finally, feed the Cockatoo (Galah, Crow or whatever) to your dog, and eat the three stones.

(Editor's Note: Not many people know that, in his younger years, Ken "Slim" Venn graduated from the University of Umyndyourounbusiness with the Degree of B.B.C. which has not a thing to do with the British Broadcasting Corporation - it means Batchelor of Bush Cooking and it was a great advantage to him and his mates during WW2.

0-0-0-0-0

PORT STEPHENS/NELSON BAY RE-UNION:-

By Oliver "Chic" Sleeman: (OLIVER ???)

"The 1987 Re-union is now history, but compliments are flowing in from Members who enjoyed it. Many Members arrived on the Sunday and had their evening meal at the R.S.L. Club, in the Dining Room, where I met so many who volunteered to assist with the preparation of the Police Youth Club hall on the following Tuesday in readiness for the banquet. I gratefully accepted the offers as my wife, Dot, and her small band of helpers had a considerable task to perform. Some months earlier I had made arrangements to reserve the hall for our use and the Manager told me at that time that the hall would be available at midday on the Tuesday. Later I was told by our Chef that he had arranged to have the use of the hall from 9.30 a.m. and that my working party could start decorating from that time. Consequently I told all potential helpers that 9.30 a.m. was start time and many duly arrived to find the hall occupied with teams of badminton players. The Manager quickly straightened-out the matter and our workers retired until midday. I do apologise to all the would-be helpers for the inconvenience they suffered. John Hawkins, Cec Loughnan and Jim Forman provided a very able Registration Team at the Nelson Bay R.S.L. Club during Monday and Tuesday to 2 p.m. when the "books were closed" and all workers returned to their quarters to rest and recuperate for the march, which was due to start at 5 p.m. (NOTE - like all members of the Signals Platoon, "Chic" cannot relate to the military clock and is not able to state times in 1700 hours, etc. - I again ask myself, how DID we win the War, and I ask John Falla: When you were the I.O., did you have the same trouble with the Sigs.? - Ed.).

Our Honoured Patron, Sir Ivan Dougherty and Lady Dougherty, had arrived, after driving through exceptionally heavy rain on their journey from Sydney, and were escorted by Cec Loughnan, their host, to the quarters to be occupied by them during their stay in the Port Stephens area.

During the planning stage of the Re-union it had become evident that many Members would arrive by Public Transport and would therefore need some form of conveyance to get to and from the various venues included in the Re-union Programme. There are no trams, few buses, and still fewer cabs in Nelson Bay. The answer seemed to be the hiring of a Minibus for the Tuesday and Wednesday activities. I then had to find a volunteer driver, with the correct licence qualifications, and I accepted (with some reluctance) the ready offer to perform this service by our long-term visitor from Victoria - Merv Jones. My reluctance stemmed from concern that Merv would be devoting a great deal of his time in driving other Members of the Association across town instead of getting on with his own celebrating - but he insisted in making the sacrifice and has earned thanks and gratitude from us all. While on the subject of Merv Jones, I wonder if he represents something of a record in that his father and nine of his brothers also served in WW2.

Jim (Kempsey) Brown had undertaken to meet Ned and Marje Kenna at Williamtown Airport on the Monday and convey them to Nelson Bay. Ned and Marje arrived O.K. but the 'plane flew off without unloading the "Kenna" luggage. As his

(Contd. next column)

PORT STEPHENS/NELSON BAY RE-UNION (Contd.):

medals /decorations were in the luggage, Ned's belongings became an immediate matter of priority and James Brown, ex M.P., used all of his personality, personability, persuasion, perspicacity, perception and parliamentary profanity with proverbial proficiency to produce perhaps the proudest performance to date of "Ansett" to provide the missing impedimenta (i.e. Ned's) prior to the Wreath-Laying Ceremony at the R.S.L. Flag Pole on the Tuesday. (Apart from Ned's medals, I presume, and hope, that Marje also received her share of the luggage contents, too - Ed.).

I had made arrangements for a competent drummer and bugler (both young ladies who had to drive out from Newcastle) to assist at our March and flag-pole ceremony. At 4.45 p.m. (there he goes again - Ed.) on the Tuesday, a fine body of men (US - Ed.) turned out for the parade and formed-up behind our Banner and our Standard Bearers, under command of President, Alf Carpenter. Association Ladies, of whom we are so proud (and to whom we are so grateful for their loving support over such a long time) lined the footpaths and, as always, gave us their encouragement.

Harry Newhouse, 1914-18 Veteran of 4th Bn. in WW1, carried a rectangular floral tribute - about 60cm x 30cm, a replica of our Bn. - our patch, made of a horizontal band of white flowers above a band of green flowers.

President Alf carried a circular wreath in red, white and blue flowers with the 2/4 insignia worked in small purple flowers in its centre.

As the parade formed-up, I was concerned that our drummer was not present but, as rain was beginning to fall, President Alf started the march about five minutes early - and so we marched without a drum beat to the Ceremonial Area opposite the R.S.L. flagstaff.

There, Alf delivered a moving address to the assembled gathering - flags were lowered & raised as our bugler sounded "Last Post" and "Reveille", and - as will always be so - the thoughts of all of us went back over the decades (yet it seems like yesterday) to the various Parade Grounds (and other circ. places) throughout the world where we have heard those haunting calls.

Alf dismissed the parade and I then found the little drummer girl, who had been misinformed about the March and its starting place. I tried to put her mind at ease and invited her, and her parents, to the ensuing happy hour in the R.S.L. Club and to the Banquet that followed.

The WELCOME afforded us by the Nelson Bay R.S.L. Sub-branch and R.S.L. Club can only be described as the warmest and heartiest one could imagine. Sub-branch President, Hilton Smith, at all times was very co-operative & generous and the same must be said for the President of the R.S.L. Club, Hilton Campbell, both of whom welcomed our Members to the Club.

Towards the end of the hour-long official Welcome in the Club, I was approached by Melinda Bryant, the drummer girl, who suggested that she should take up a position at the head of the stairs and drum our Members and Guests as they left the building - I readily agreed, and the result was sensational.

With the assistance of Merv Jones, and the Mini-bus, it was not too long before all

2/4thers were conveyed to the Police Youth (Contd. next)

PORT STEPHENS/NELSON BAY RE-UNION (Contd.):

Club. I had drawn a plan of the table placement that I wanted. It consisted of an official table close to, and in the middle of, one wall and radiating from it, like the spokes of a wheel, were the other tables - butted end-to-end to form "spokes" of different lengths according to available space. The idea was that all diners merely had to look over their shoulder to see the Guests of Honour. Pat Bruty, with helpers, took charge of the plan and saw to it that the tables were correctly placed, and then decorated the walls with green and white streamers and rosettes which Dot had prepared.

Dot and helpers decorated the tables, which had been set with white cloths and green napkins, with the green and white flower arrangements that Dot had been making for months past, about 600 green and white paper carnations, etc. One of my neighbours supplied potted palms and shrubs which made a pleasant surround for the dining area. As the hall is capable of seating 450 in comfort, we had ample room and the general appearance was inviting.

As our distinguished guests entered, the ladies were presented with posies and the official party then occupied the Table of Honour here were seated Sir Ivan and Lady Dougherty, Lieut. Col. (Ret.) Allen Tonkin and Mrs. Tonkin, Wing Commander John Irwin and Mrs. Irwin, and our own Ned Kenna and Marje, Alf Carpenter and Doreen, Jim Forman and Jean.

Jim had volunteered for the position of Master of Ceremonies about the time of the Inverell Re-union, so he had plenty of time to prepare for his duties, the first of which was to call upon ex-battalion member - now the Reverend - Bill Mitchell to say Grace. Bill's words, ably delivered, were the signal to start proceedings and our thirtieth Country Re-union Banquet was under way.

The menu was served and consumed, the programme of toasts and speeches followed, the hand-painted plate donated by Cec Loughnan was raffled and won, and presentations were made to three young ladies who had served the Organisers well - they were Louise, for all her typing and kindred work, Catherine, for her bugle calls, and Melinda, for her drumming. Towards the end of the evening I noticed strangers in the hall, busily engaged with our liquid refreshments due to an oversight of mine - I should have appointed a couple of strong doormen to allow only bona fide members admittance. However, at the close of the evening the general consensus seems to have been that the food was good, the beer was as cold as it ought to have been, and the company could not have been better. The night ended when Merv and the minibus returned the last of the revellers safely to their quarters.

During the night a southerly change arrived and at 5 a.m. (0500 hours - Ed.) Wednesday I looked out of my window at a wind- and rain-lashed landscape. With three charter boats due at Nelson Bay wharf at 9.30 (I give up - Ed.) and with the knowledge that absolutely no protection from the elements has been provided at this new multi-million dollar harbour facility, the outlook was grimmer than dim. However, as daylight increased the rain decreased and by 9 a.m. (no comment - Ed.) I was at the wharf parking area where I found Ken and Fi Kesteven already there, Fi search-

(Contd. next column)

PORT STEPHENS/NELSON BAY RE-UNION (Contd.):

ing for anti-seasickness pills and Ken for his hat which had blown into the water. I told Fi that I thought Carma Kirk might be able to help out with the seasick pills problem, and Ken went back to his motel for another hat.

An examination of the wharf disclosed that one of our charter boats - "Tamboi Queen" - was undergoing its daily safety checks and would be ready to load up by 9.30 (it's a wonder he doesn't say 'half past nine' - Ed.) and, as a fresh southerly was blowing, the early arrivals at the wharf snuggled into their jackets and windcheaters (and partners, too - Ed.) while I searched the wind-swept expanse of water, poetically referred to as "The Blue Water Wonderland" by our Port Stephens Shire Council, for sign of our second 100 passenger charter boat, the "Myall Explorer", but of her there was no sign.

I made my way to the locked gate through which one had to pass before boarding our third charter vessel, the "M.V. Port Hunter" which could accommodate 22 passengers. There was a small group of people waiting expectantly at this gate - but not one of them belonged to us. One lady was booked on that vessel to be taken to Tea Gardens wharf that morning and I became anxious about the skipper's booking system as a trip there would be many miles off course from our intended destination. Before that situation was resolved, I was relieved to see the "Queen" begin loading at 9.30 because, apart from those who had used their own cars, Merv and the minibus had been delivering 2/4thers to the wharf every few minutes and the waiting crowd was increasing. The skipper of the "Queen" informed me that the "Explorer" was approaching and would soon dock. Shortly thereafter the skipper of "Port Hunter" arrived by car and dismissed the small group of people waiting at his gate, except for the lady due to be taken to Tea Gardens. I was not surprised when Captain Dawson told me that he would be making "a slight detour" but would get us to our destination in time for lunch - i.e. "The Oyster Barn" restaurant at Swan Bay. With the "Explorer" loaded and away, the remainder of our group, and myself, set sail in "Port Hunter" which made away to the northern side of Port Stephens and up the entrance to the Myall River to deliver the one passenger to Tea Gardens. Back down river and across to Swan Bay we found that the other two boats had unloaded and many of our Members had already dined. Depending on the point of view, we in the small craft enjoyed a much longer cruise or endured a much longer ordeal, the deciding factor being the state of one's liver. With a pleasant seafood lunch tucked away & embarked once more, we returned to Nelson Bay with the wind still blowing cool from the south, but thankfully without rain. No report has reached me about activities on "Myall Explorer" during the return voyage. On "Tamboi Queen", however, I am told that Ted Fox was encouraged to take control of the public address system and introduce Phil "Blah" Smith "at great expense to the management" as the "greatest entertainer the 2/4th. battalion ever had" and from then on the voyage was enjoyed by all as Phil related his stories in his inimitable style.

A short break in activities, from about 4 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. to allow our ladies to rest and

(Contd. next page)

PORT STEPHENS/NELSON BAY RE-UNION (Contd.):

freshen-up, and then to the Wednesday evening dinner at Nelson Bay Bowling Club which commenced at 7.30 p.m. Acting on an idea from Lily Deacon, we issued everyone with a lucky door prize ticket - & that was won by "Lofty" Taylor. The prize was a green beach towel with "2nd.4th. Infantry Battalion 1987" embroidered in white.

President Alf thanked my wife, Dot, for her help and presented her with a lovely hand-painted plate donated by Cec Loughnan from his late wife's collection. One of Jim Forman's plaques was raffled "for a good cause" and everybody welcomed the chance to contribute to the alleviation of the trauma suffered by one of our very well known and respected members whose wallet contents had been stolen. The amount was not quite as much as I would have liked to have seen but it did indicate that the old spirit of mateship still exists.

As the night progressed I noticed that "Ethical Edwin the Editor" had taken up a strategic position such that he was in a good place to impose a toll on all male members (ladies were exempt) who sought to relieve that "full" feeling which comes from the consumption of beer and other beverages. Let it be said to the everlasting credit of "Ethical Ed" that even at the height of festivities his duties as editor of our much loved "W.O.G." were uppermost in his mind, for he had fashioned a sign that invited all who tried to pass him to donate towards the postage costs of our monthly newsletter. I do hope that the sum in his ash-tray cum collection plate increased to something worthwhile before the night was over - but I did observe that certain characters avoided the a.bush and reached their goal by an alternate route.

Thursday dawned bright and sunny, the minibus was relinquished, and three charter buses plus one supplied by the R.A.A.F. loaded at Nelson Bay R.S.L. Club for the trip to Williamtown Fighter Base where we were met by Wing Commander Irwin. Each bus was provided with an escort officer who kept us informed as we moved through the complex. A static display of "Mirage" and "Hornet" aircraft aroused much interest, as did a demonstration of police dog training. We were also able to view flying operations at close range as jets landed and took-off on an adjacent runway. On the bus that I travelled on, the escort officer was Flying Officer Jenny Howell and she was a much more attractive officer than any we had in the 2/4 Bn. From Jenny I learned that lady officers are not addressed as "Sir" but as "Ma'am", so for the first time in my life I said "Goodbye Ma'am, thank you Ma'am" to an officer of Her Majesty's Forces after we had enjoyed lavish hospitality in the Airmen's Mess, wherein is now displayed the 2/4 Bn. plaque presented to the R.A.A.F. at our banquet.

At the end of a day of perfect weather and entertainment at the R.A.A.F. Base we returned to Nelson Bay R.S.L. Club for continued conviviality and I am sorry to relate that it was there that an incident occurred which made many of us wonder about our younger generation. I was informed that as Ned Keena was leaving the R.S.L. premises a group

(Contd. next column)

PORT STEPHENS/NELSON BAY RE-UNION (Contd.):

of louts in the T.V. Lounge directed insults and threats at him, but as he was quickly joined by friends and mates no violence ensued. I believe that the government should declare an "open season" on this type of vermin. (I wonder how they are given entrance to an R.S.L. Club? - Ed.). There are many facets of this Re-union not covered in my report - perhaps others will write and present their point(s) of view. I have some regrets - I recall catching the eye of some half-remembered faces but as recognition struggled through, and before I could read the name tag, my duties called me elsewhere and the opportunity was lost. I do hope that I did not offend any old mates in this way - and I will certainly correct the matter at our next Re-union in Gosford.

O-O-O-O

MESSAGE FROM FRED STAGGS:-

The Editor has afforded me this space so that I may express to President Alf Carpenter, Organiser "Chic" Sleeman and all who were at the Re-union, my sincere gratitude for the generosity extended to me in the matter of replacing the money missing from my lost wallet. I do not know how many were involved in that gesture but it was a great help to me and I do thank you all. I did not expect anything like it, but it does show again that our WW2 mateship is still alive and well in the ranks of our Association. As the N.R.M.A. states: "It pays to belong". Thanks.

O-O-O-O

TRIVIATA - "NO CHANGE" O'REGAN'S DRAGON OF A LANDLADY:-

Some years ago, "No Change" O'Regan lived in a boarding house. At that time he was addicted to tobacco, mainly cigarettes, and to meeting "Slim" Venn at The North British Hotel for a convivial afternoon. His landlady was a bit of a dragon, according to "No Change", the type who would cut the bread so thin that he felt like shuffling and dealing the slices. Finally an event occurred which she had to report to her insurance company as part of an application for fire damage compensation in the room rented by "No Change". The company sent its smartest agent who very promptly pointed out that the lodger had no doubt been drunk when he went to bed and had set fire to his bed by carelessness. The landlady hauled "No Change" in to her office and accused him. "Drunk?" he queried. "You'll never prove that! In the first place I was stone cold sober. In the second place I can still remember everything I did after I got home, and in the third place, the bed was already on fire when I got into it".

O-O-O-O

MOTOR CYCLE SPARE PARTS:-

In July "W.O.G." we appealed, on behalf of a member of The Gallipoli Memorial Club staff, for old but reclaimable motor cycle parts. At a subsequent Meeting there was made mention by someone that a quantity of such parts was available and/or forthcoming - or something like that. Nothing has happened since, no parts have come to hand, and nobody now has a clear recollection of what was said at the time, or who said it. Anyone having any knowledge of this matter is requested to advise Athol Heath - 'phone (02) 451.4466.

O-O-O-O

SITREPS and OTHER DATA carried forward to next month as I have used all the space that Lindsay allows me each month - Editor.