



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.).

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Christmas means Love,
Joy and Peace.
May it mean that for
You and Yours -

And may you all enjoy a
Happy Bicentennial Year -

MERRY
CHRISTMAS

FROM

PATRON, SIR IVAN DOUGHERTY, PRESIDENT, ALF CARPENTER,
and ALL MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEE.

NOTE - NOTE - NOTE:-

THERE WILL BE NO MONTHLY MEETING IN DECEMBER - but see below re 16th. December.

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):-

TUESDAY, 19th. JANUARY -
TUESDAY, 23rd. FEBRUARY -

Normal Monthly Meeting) Committee will meet at 1130 hours in Annual General Meeting) The Anzac Room.

NOTE - NOTE - NOTE:

THE JANUARY MEETING IS ON THE THIRD (3rd.) TUESDAY - NOT THE USUAL FOURTH (4th.) TUESDAY. Thereafter, however, our Meetings do revert to the 4th. Tuesday each month.

"W.O.G." PRODUCTION:-

WEDNESDAY, 13th. JANUARY - Team 9 at 1000 hours in The Anzac Room;
THURSDAY, 14th. JANUARY - Team 10 at 1000 hours in The Anzac or The Regimental Room (check on arrival at the Club).

DATES TO REMEMBER:-

WEDNESDAY, 16th. DECEMBER - Christmas "Get-Together" at The Gallipoli Memorial Club commencing at 1500 hours.

(Contd. next page)

DATES TO REMEMBER (Contd.):

TUESDAY, 26th. JANUARY - AUSTRALIA DAY - Tom Watson in his Charter Boat, "COASTER 11", will make two harbour cruises, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. The morning cruise is fully booked, mainly by 2/4 Bn. "C" Coy. personnel. There are vacancies for the afternoon cruise and Ken Kesteven is handling bookings - 'phone him on (02) 412.4892 if you are interested in what is probably a last chance to get on a boat on Sydney harbour on this historic day - all other vessels appear to be fully booked already. Basic details are that we should assemble at DOUBLE BAY PUBLIC WHARF at 1400 hours for departure at 1430 hours; return to Double Bay wharf is scheduled for 1830 hours; Double Bay Public Wharf is next door to the 18ft. Yacht Club; parking MAY be available in the vicinity but it is recommended that Public Transport be used - i.e. WATSONS BAY BUSES No. 324 or 325, alight at BAY STREET, DOUBLE BAY, easy walking distance to Double Bay wharf - alternatively take train to EDGECLIFF RAILWAY STATION and walk down OCEAN STREET to the wharf; the TALL SHIPS are due to sail down the harbour at 1400 hours so we should see them under sail; the cost is \$40.00 per person (payable to Ken Kesteven) and that includes CHICKEN and CHAMPAGNE SUPPLIED (one bottle of champagne per person). If required, B.V.O. salads (etc. for consumption with chicken), tea or coffee, beer (etc.) - DRINKING UTENSILS. REMEMBER - 'phone Ken Kesteven without delay to ensure your reservation.

TUESDAY, 15th. MARCH - "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.

REMEMBER - REMEMBER - NO MONTHLY MEETING IN DECEMBER - but be at the "Get-Together" WEDNESDAY, 16th. DECEMBER. JANUARY MEETING is on the 19th. - i.e. the THIRD (3rd.) TUESDAY, NOT the usual 4th. Tuesday.

AUSTRALIAN - HELLENIC MEMORIAL APPEAL-RAFFLE - The last chance to support this Appeal through the Raffle will be at our "Get-Together" on 16th. December. The \$2.00 tickets will be available from Ken Kesteven and Norm Auberson and the drawing will take place on 18th. December.

TRIVIATA - "NO NEED TO STARVE IN THE DESERT" - according to John Ringrose:- As long as you have water, there is no need to starve in the desert because you can always eat the sand which is there. (If you can't work it out, John's number is (02) 451.5761 - 'phone him, not me - Ed.).

"NO CHANGE" O'REGAN'S DRAGON OF A LANDLADY - as related personally by him:- My landlady was a Scot who didn't drink liquor so I can't say she was Scotch. At my first meal in her boarding house I had a cup of tea. It had no sugar in it so I called her over and asked her about the sugar. She said: "We put the sugar in before it leaves the kitchen". I was suspicious about this and when I took the tea I examined the cup. To my amazement I discovered that she had bought rough-bottom cups so when you stirred the tea it felt like sugar at the bottom.

NX4026 - Private J. WAITE:- In June "W.O.G.", when reporting on the Crete-Greek 46th. Anniversary Memorial Services, I mentioned meeting at the Greek Consulate the sons of two 2/4 Bn. Members (both now deceased). One was Eric Waite whose father was NX4026 Jack Waite and whose uncle was NX5111 Charlie McBride, also 2/4 Bn. Since then we have been sending "W.O.G." to Eric, who works for the A.B.C. as a free-lance Video Photographer.

At our recent Nelson Bay Re-union I was handed a photograph of the Memorial Plaque affixed to the grave of Jack Waite in Wentworth Falls (Blue Mountains) Cemetery. I forget who gave me the photograph but, whoever it was, he thought someone might be interested in having it. It was left to me to track down any relative of Jack's but it has taken me until now to link up the name of Jack Waite with the article I wrote in June and the Eric Waite mentioned in it. **ERIC**, if you are receiving the Newsletters we send to you, if you therefore do read this and would like to have the photograph, please 'phone me - perhaps you could come to The Gallipoli Memorial Club on one of our meeting days and get it from me then, rather than entrust it to the post - Ted Fox.

NX8737 - BROWNHILL, F.C. (Roy):- Colin Brownhill, son of Roy, 'phoned me recently to enquire the availability of a copy of our War History. Of course, I had to tell him they are out of print and that we have no spare copies. He asked whether I had known his father and, in confirming that I had, I referred to Roy by his nick-name, i.e. "Pluggie". Colin then wanted to know the origin of that nick-name, but I could not enlighten him, I never did know how it came about. If anyone remembers how "Pluggie" acquired that pseudonym I am sure his son would be interested. You can 'phone him on (02) 484.2603 (i.e. Colin Brownhill) or tell me - Ted Fox.

(Contd. next page)

MONTHLY MEETING - 24th.November,1987:-

The Meeting commenced at 1405 hours with President Alf Carpenter in the chair and 44 Members, plus one guest, in attendance. Special welcome was extended to Harry Newhouse, ex-4 Bn.WW1, who looked as fit as ever. Apologies were received from T.TRACEY, J.GARVEY, K.RICHARDSON, L.CLARKE, J.PARTRIDGE, R.JOHNSTON, J.MEEHAN and A.LINDSAY.

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.D.G.", be taken as read and adopted.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: Nil.

Assistant Secretary, John Hawkins, recorded the following Business dealt with at the November 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 President, Alf Carpenter, from:

"Chic" Sleeman - with thanks for the help received before and during the Nelson Bay Re-union and confirming that the local newspaper gave us good coverage.

Margaret Paustie - with donation from her mother who is Mrs.M.White, widow of the late "Snow" White. Margaret writes: "My Mother gives me your Monthly Journal, 'White Over Green', to read. This month's (October) journal has prompted me to write in gratitude to the men of the 2/4th. who formed a guard of honour for the Welcome Home Parade for Viet. Vets. One of my husband's friends passed the comment to me that he was himself moved to tears at the sight of all the WW2 blokes who stood to attention for them, and felt a pride in marching that he hadn't felt possible. It was a wonderful day and what a great day for my husband to remember, himself a returned Vietnam Veteran, his friends and comrades, myself, and all who marched and participated, a wonderful job done by New South Wales. I do wish my father could have been present to see it, he was very proud of his service with the 2/4th., and most proud of my husband. I am "Snow" White's daughter and I thank you all. My Mother wishes me to thank you also for sending her the journal. She is always keen to read it and a donation is enclosed towards the cost of mailing it to her. God bless all the Members of the 2/4th."

Letters to Secretary, Fred Staggs, from:

Bill MacLennan (\$6.50 for min.medal); G.A.Collis (\$10.00 donation); Ern Gumbleton (\$10.00 dues); Doug Milne (re min.medal); Max Nerney (re Bn.medal - cheque enclosed); Pamela Rixon for Bob (\$50.00 for Bn.medal and donation); Sue Sturt for Jack (\$44.50 for Bn. and min. medals); John Storey (\$7.50 for min.medal); Lang Stronach (re Bn.medal); "Sincere Thanks" card from Marie Milner and Family concerning our expression of sympathy on the passing of Bert; Tom Mort accepting appointment as Vice-President for N.S.W. South Coast.

The following letter to Fred Staggs is published in full and is self-explanatory. It is from the daughter of Rick Carter and if enough Members now indicate to Fred, by letter or 'phone, that they would welcome a discussion on the subject, as suggested by Alison Carter, then arrangements will be made to that end. The letter reads:-

(Contd.next column)

MONTHLY MEETING - 24th.November,1987 (Ctd.):

Letters to Secretary, Fred Staggs (Contd.):

"Regarding a telephone discussion between my father, Rick Carter, and yourself, this letter might help to clarify the benefits of a discussion about the services available at Calvary. Calvary is a 96-bed hospital run by The Little Company of Mary (known as Lewisham), but is Government-funded. Patients transferred from Calvary are still able to keep appointments with Concord if necessary. Respite admissions for 2 weeks are available if families need a break from caring 24 hours each day for the patient. Symptom Management admissions are allowed whilst pain, nausea, vomiting, etc., is reorganised - then go home again. Day leave/weekend leave, etc., is available - 96 hours is allowed before discharge is essential. Community Team will try to keep people in their own homes as long as possible. This Team will be on 24 hour call. Bereavement Counsellors are available for relatives, and begin either immediately after the death of a patient or, more generally, 6 weeks later - when all other helpers begin to wane off. This may give some idea, so if you feel an hour's chat could sort out some misconceptions then I would be only too pleased to do that for the 2/4th. I am a qualified Nurse Educator and have been working and doing research into palliative care for 2 years now. Palliative Care aims for a comfortable death, i.e. one with minimal discomfort - physical and emotional.

Yours faithfully .. Alison Carter".

(Please make your thoughts known to Fred Staggs if you want this subject further explored - Ed.).

Letters to Editor, Ted Fox, from:

Jean Millard, daughter of the late Lady Mackay - expressing appreciation of the attention we gave her mother in latter years.

"Chic" Sleeman, who writes: "The recently held monthly meeting of Nelson Bay R.S.L. Sub-branch dealt with some matters concerning our Association. Amongst the correspondence were letters of thanks and appreciation from myself, Jim (Kempsey) Brown, Ned and Marj Kenna, all evoking applause from the Meeting. Lieut.-Col. Allen Tonkin addressed the Members and he spoke in glowing terms about our Association functions and our Members. He formally presented to the Sub-branch President the Battalion Plaque and framed copy of our Battalion Grace which he had received at our banquet. The President replied that the plaque would occupy a special place, as it is the only one related to a V.C. winner. One Member of the Sub-branch (an ex-R.S.M. of a commando unit) successfully moved that a letter be written to the 2/4th. Association in which the highest praise should be expressed of the behaviour and friendliness of all the Association visitors and their ladies. After the Meeting I was approached by a local resident who was a great friend of Harold Conkey and Jim Brown. He is Ron Jordon and for some years managed the Conkey business in Cootamundra. Ron is an ex-Beaufighter pilot who operated out of Coomalie airstrip about the time we were camped near Pell airstrip in N.T. He was glad to spend some time with our Members during the re-union, and talk over the Darwin days".

(Major) John Edwards of 2nd./4th.Bn.R.A.R., Townsville, as follows: "Here in 2/4 RAR we have just received the November edition of "White over Green" which we certainly do

(Contd.next page)

MONTHLY MEETING - 24th. November, 1987 (Ctd.):

Letters to Editor, Ted Fox (Contd.):

appreciate being sent to us. Reading the journal has prompted me to write and pass on some news, following the visit of your party to our battalion 15 August last. One of the items passed into our care was a framed copy of the Grace written on the occasion of your (Wagga Wagga) Re-union. This Grace so attracted the attention of our C.O., Lieutenant-Colonel Ian Ballantyne, that he has made it our "official" Grace to be used on battalion occasions. We have taken only the minor liberty of editing out the phrase "at our country re-union" and this slightly modified form will now find a permanent place at our dinners and unit occasions. The Grace has been said now at our annual Corporals' dining-in night and at a dinner this Unit hosted for all infantry officers, reserve and regular, from North Queensland. We are most encouraged by the positive reaction received, including acknowledgement from Major-General Mike Jeffery, Commander 1st. Division. I hope this letter finds you and the other members of the Association in good health, and ask you to pass on our best wishes to Alf Carpenter and the other members of the party who shared our birthday with us in August. Regards.. John Edwards".

Jack Huston, referring to the mention in October "W.O.G." of the "missing" NX9928 H. Quintal (who Bill Bickley is trying to locate). Jack advises: "I went to Norfolk Island in the 1970's - two trips. A number of "Quintals" - descendants of the original "Quintal" who was a member of the crew of the famous mutiny ship "The Bounty" - still live at Norfolk Island. I spoke to several of them about H. Quintal. As was indicated in "W.O.G.", they believed he was in South Australia. None of them seemed to be very interested in him or his whereabouts. Sorry, I can't give any more information. The Nelson Bay Re-union was most enjoyable. I had a few days beforehand at Belmont with Frank Wright M.M. He is not very well but cheerful and we were able to talk about all the happenings since he was taken P.O.W. in Northern Greece".

Ron Stennett, whose long letter was mentioned in November "W.O.G." - letter read in full at this 24/11/87 Meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE "OUT": Replies and acknowledgements, where appropriate, re the above-mentioned inward correspondence.

REPORTS:

The President reported on:

- (a) 2/1 Field Regt. Assoc. Dinner;
- (b) Tasmanian Tour now fully booked;
- (c) Bn. Assoc. 1990 Re-union will be held at Mulwala (N.S.W.) - Yarrawonga (Vic.).

The Secretary reported that 35 Bn. medals have been ordered for Members - Meeting decided that a reserve of another 10 be ordered for "emergencies" and Collectors (we charge Collectors for un-named medals at a suitable profit margin).

The Treasurer was absent, so no formal report - but Accounts found correct were passed for payment as presented by Ted Fox for Welfare and Pensions Officers, "W.O.G." postage, and Copier service costs.

The Editor reported that one paper-feed cassette had been modified so that the COPIER could take the new "W.O.G." letter-
(Contd. next column)

MONTHLY MEETING-24th. November, 1987 (Ctd.):

REPORTS (Contd.) - Editors's Report (Ctd.):

heads and no problems were encountered in the printing of the November newsletter. The Welfare Officer presented his report to the Meeting and it appears elsewhere in this edition of the journal.

The 6 Div. Report, per Norm Auberson, will be printed in next "W.O.G." when the Minutes of the 6 Div. Meeting are available.

The Pensions Officer reported on action he has taken on behalf of 5 Members and 3 widows.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

On a further Motion by Harry Gjedsted it was confirmed by the President that he will take action to implement last Meeting's decision to obtain a new supply of car/wind-screen stickers for use by Association Members.

Norm Auberson recommended, adopted by the Meeting, that the letter from Margaret Paustie (see CORRESPONDENCE "IN") be forwarded by our Secretary to "Reveille".

Other items discussed in General Business have been separately mentioned elsewhere in this issue of "W.O.G."

There being no further Business, the Meeting was closed at 1500 hours.

According to the Attendance Book, those present were: ALF CARPENTER, KEN KESTEVEN, TED FOX, NORM AUBERSON, FRED STAGGS, JOHN RINGROSE, JOHN HAWKINS, LES JONES, HARRY WRIGHT, VIC FORBES, GEORGE STACK, ATHOL HEATH, PETER CADE, ALEX "BISCUITS" ARNOTT, JOHN "LARRY" DOOLEY, BERNARD "BARNEY" TURLEY, MAURICE "MORRIE" PORTER, BILL POPLIN, CECIL "SLIM" POWERS, RON BARBER, JIM "GENTLEMAN JIM" GRAHAM, PAT LAHEY, BOB FERGUSON, BILL FOGDEN, MICK "NO CHANGE" O'REGAN, "PORKY" WILLIAMS, HAROLD "LITTLE BUDDAH" BOWMAN, ROSS (NOT R.H. - INVERELL) SMITH, GORDON CHRISP, NORRIE MCGREGOR, NAP AL-AVOINE, JIM SADLER, BOB LANE, PAT BRUTY, GEORGE MITCHELL, "TICH" FORDHAM, HARRY GJEDSTED, REX EVERSON, DICK PINSON, "SLIM" VENN (occasionally known as Ken), CLIFF TAYLOR, ALEX MAXWELL, TREVOR RICHARDSON, FRANK IVEY and HARRY NEWHOUSE.

O-O-O-O

"CHARLIE COY. CALLING" - by Harry Gjedsted:-

"Eleven stalwarts were in attendance for the "C" Company Mess Parade at The Gallipoli Memorial Club on 17th. November and it was great to have Bob Lane (Woy Woy) and Bert Flynn (Brooklyn) make the effort to come down and be with us. Those attending were: NORM AUBERSON, WAL JOHNSTON, BILL FOGDEN, FERD PEGG, DAVE FOLLINGTON, REX EVERSON, WALLY MANGAN, BOB LANE, BERT FLYNN, LOU DUBBER and HARRY GJEDSTED. A most enjoyable day - with plenty of humour and a few escapades recounted that would make material very suitable for an "unofficial" history of our Battalion (if we could only get on to such a project). Next Mess Parade will be Tuesday 15/3/88 - see details on Page 2 of this Newsletter - Good Luck and Best Wishes .. Harry Gjedsted".

O-O-O-O

TRIVIATA - "JUSTICE AND RETRIBUTION":-

After WW2, Mick "No Change" O'Regan bought a dog, so very intelligent that Mick would put £1 in the dog's mouth and send him for the newspaper - and he always brought back the change-at first. After awhile, however, the dog did not bring back the change so Mick

(Contd. next page)

TRIVIATA - "JUSTICE and RETRIBUTION" (Ctd.):-

called upon the Newsagent and asked about the change. The Newsagent confirmed that he always gave the dog the change but on further investigation it was revealed that there was a nearby butcher's shop and the dog had acquired the habit of going there and "cutting out" the change in a purchase of bones. Hence there was no change for "No Change". Thereafter "No Change" always made sure that he had enough small change so as to give the dog the exact change in exchange for the newspaper without the dog being given any change to exchange for bones. The dog's name was Swap, which means to exchange, which is a change from Fido.

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WELFARE REPORT - By Harry Wright:-

As at 11th. November, 1987:

Visited at Royal Newcastle Hospital:

NX1971 - LOUGHNAN, C.E. (Cec) - visited by "Chic" Sleeman - lung condition requiring major surgery - operation was scheduled for 12th. November and it was expected that Cec would be in "Intensive Care" for some days thereafter.

at 23rd. November, 1987:

Visited at Concord Repat. Gen. Hospital:

NX11220 - McCAFFERY, E.J. (Ted) - Ward 5 - very seriously ill when visited on 13th. November and passed away the next day.

NX41534 - HARDIE, Allen - Ward 530 - stomach problem - having tests.

NX42700 - BARNETT, A.A. (Pat) - treatment for growth on face - expected to be discharged shortly.

NX42194 - LAWSON, Cec - Ward 320 - back problem - having tests.

LATER: Cec in Lady Davidson Hospital for physiotherapy treatment to shoulder and back.

At home:

NX1983 - CLARKE, L.R. (Lionel) - had successful operation on back in Baulkham Hills Hospital.

NX42709 - CUNNINGHAM, D. (Des) - open heart surgery at St. Vincent's Hospital - had a very rough time but now improving.

NX11389 - COOK, P. (Peter) - heart surgery at St. George Hospital - progressing satisfactorily.

NX122567 - TOYNTON, E.G. (Eric) - was expecting to enter Auburn Hospital on 8th. December for eyes treatment.

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VALE:-

**Robert John (Bob) DAVIES:**

As reported in November newsletter, Bob died in Concord Repat. Gen. Hospital on 8th. November, at 70 years of age. He will be remembered as our Battalion's original Pay Sergeant. On 10th. November the Southern Chapel at Rookwood Crematorium was crowded for his funeral service, many of Bob's fellow members from South Strathfield Bowling Club and Matraville R.S.L. Sub-branch being present. The R.S.L. Service was performed by the latter, Bob having been a Life Member of that Sub-branch. Our own Association was represented by Harry Wright.

Edward Joseph (Ted) McCAFFERY:

Ted was admitted to Concord Repat. Gen. Hospital on 12th. November and died two days later. Requiem Mass was celebrated at St. Monica's Church, North Parramatta, on 18th. November, followed by a burial at the North Rocks Catholic Cemetery. The high esteem with which Ted was regarded was evidenced by the large attendance of mourners at the church and at the cemetery.

Ted enlisted in the 2nd. A.I.F. shortly after the outbreak of war, was an early posting to 2/4 Bn. and served with "B" Company from the first campaign in Libya to the final campaign in New Guinea. Association members present at the funeral were: FRED STAGGS, KEN KESTEVEN, NORM AUBERSON, VIC FORBES, "SLIM" VENN, TED WILSON, DES FINCH, DICK PINSON, "TICH" FORDHAM, ALAN BOHLÉ, REX EVERSON, EWEN WOOD, ALEX MAXWELL, RON WILLIAMS, MAURIE PORTER, TREVOR RICHARDSON, LES LEECH, LES FOX, HARRY WRIGHT, and our Ladies - FI KESTEVEN, BETTY LEECH and HILDA WRIGHT.

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**SITREPS:-****Newcastle - from George Mitchell:**

"Newcastle Members and Ladies met for their monthly 'get together' at Hamilton R.S.L. Club on the first Friday in November. Those present were: ALF CARPENTER, DOREEN MANUEL, DOUG and DEIDRE MILNE, "CHIC" and DOT SLEEMAN, GEORGE and HEATHER MITCHELL - apology from PAT and GWEN BRUTY. The next activity will be a Christmas Meeting / Dinner at the WALLSEND R.S.L. CLUB on 5th. December, for which we have 24 bookings - we expect to have a very good night.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all Members, Wives and Families ... George and Heather Mitchell".

Northern N.S.W. - from Esca Riordan:

"We arrived home safely after a most enjoyable Nelson Bay Re-union. I haven't much information about the late Bert Milner. He moved to Nambucca Heads some six years ago and was involved in a number of activities, particularly bowls and R.S.L. He was highly regarded, as shown by the large congregation at the Catholic Church. I met his widow and told her that Bill MacLennan had 'phoned to

**Last Post**

NX11220 - McCAFFERY, E.J.
(Ted).

NX2058 - WITT, R.
NX33868 - WALLACE, F.M.
("Pom").

NX42603 - GARNER, R.
NX38878 - GORDON, F.H.

We extend our deepest sympathy to the relatives of the above and to Leo Carter, of Kiama, in the recent loss of his wife.

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SITREPS (Contd.):Northern N.S.W. (Contd.):

say that he knew Bert very well. Mrs. Milner was pleased to have Bill's message. Harry Dowling and I attended the Service. During this week James Hill Brown and Gladys have been hosts to Ned and Marj Kenna and on Sunday night arranged a small "get together" smorgasbord at the Club. In attendance were: JIM and GLADYS BROWN, HARRY and NOREEN DOWLING, GORDON CAMPBELL, MYSELF, and the President of the Sub-branch and his family, and the President of the Club. Our other local Member, SAM HUGHES, could not be present because of a prior engagement. At the time of writing I think that I will be going to the Christmas Party in Lismore. Kind regards to Heather, yourself, and all Members of the Association..Esca".

Victoria - from Merv ("Bluey") Jones:

"Claire and I had a wonderful time at the Nelson Bay Re-union. We had eight weeks with "Chic" and Dot Sleeman, Lily and "Dasher" Deacon, Yvonne and Ron Maczkowiack. One thing about driving the bus, I got to know everyone at the Re-union. On the way home we had an evening with Doreen Manuel and Alf Carpenter - most enjoyable. We called to see Gwen and Bill Newth at Moss Vale and I'm pleased to report that Bill is back to good health again. We had a wonderful time with them - went to Fitzroy Falls and out to dinner. On 7th. November we had the pleasure of attending the Victorian 2/4th's "get together" at St. George's R.S.L. Club, Caulfield. Present were: SID ("GUNGA DIN") VALENTINE, ROSE and MERV HICKS (pleased to report that Merv is back to his old self again and has got rid of the virus he had at Nelson Bay), JIM BARROW, EDDIE and LEO DUNN, GWEN and LANCE CUTCLIFFE, BETTY and KEN WILLIAMS, GORDON ROBINS, BONNIE and BILL PANTER, DOUG CHRISTIAN (whom we will all remember as our own wonderful Salvation Army Officer - many a cup of tea/coffee, cigarettes, writing paper and other amenities did he give to 2/4th. boys - and he was always ready to lend a sympathetic ear - I can assure you that he is still the same wonderful fellow), CLAIRE McCULLOCH and MYSELF. There were apologies from: NAN and CLAUDE RAYMOND, MARJ and NED KENNA, RUSS MADDERN, DON DIMSEY, STAN PRETTY, STAN CARPENTER, PADRE TOM KEYTE and BETTY BARROW. We passed on to the Victorians the messages from the boys at Nelson Bay Re-union, hoping not to have missed any - we had so many written on scraps of paper. So far we have been unable to get for Alf Carpenter, for the Tasmanian Tour next year, any names of "TX" personnel. Jim Barrow has suggested that Alf could write to Geale Bros., Ulverstone, Tasmania. According to Jim, NX71404 P.H. Geale, ex-2/4 Bn., is part of the said Geale Bros.

We arrived home on 9th. November - WHY? I don't know! Claire has had me gardening ever since we got back to Blairgowrie. Hope this letter provides you with some Victorian news and prompts others to write also - Regards to all .. Merv ("Bluey") Jones".

NOTE FOR PRESIDENT: Please notate the information re Geale Bros., Tasmania - Editor).

West Australia - from Doug Slinger:1st. Report - 26/10/87:

"Odd as it may well seem, my W.A. news comes first from the historic N.S.W. township of (Contd. next column)

SITREPS (Contd.):West Australia (Contd.):

Wisemans Ferry, situated on the beautiful & picturesque Hawkesbury River, where Wilma & I with Lily and "Dasher" Deacon have cruised aboard the good ship "Lady Hawkesbury" as a starting point to a four day/four night expedition down the river, beginning from Kangaroo Point, Brooklyn, this morning. We came here from Woy Woy, where we spent the weekend after that great Re-union at Nelson Bay, and let me state that from the moment of our arrival at Nelson Bay until this present moment we have had not one disappointment and we have the most wonderful memories to take back to W.A. While we were at Woy Woy, at a time when "Dasher" and Lily had gone to visit friends, we were picked up by Jack and Mary Partridge and driven to a lot of places well worth seeing, and this was one of the highlights of our holiday in N.S.W. I now take this opportunity to thank Jack and Mary for that most interesting and enjoyable Sunday morning. Memories of the Re-union, the friendship, the goodwill that prevailed, the meeting-up with old Bn. friends and their Ladies, the establishing of new friends - those memories will be with us now for evermore. We want to thank "Chic" and Dot Sleeman & Company for the enjoyment provided through the Re-union Dinner, the cruise to, and lunch at, the Oyster Barn, the function at the Nelson Bay Bowling Club, and the visit to, and the B.B.Q. lunch at, Williamstown R.A.A.F. Base. Sincere thanks, too, to Merv Jones for spending so much of his time in transporting us all to the various venues in the Mini-Bus. We must also thank "Chic" and Dot Sleeman for having us for dinner at their home before we left next day for Newcastle, together with "Dasher" and Lily Deacon, Merv Jones, Claire McCulloch, and Hugh and Elaine Wittleton - I assure "Chic" that his greetings message will be delivered to John Storey and Don Guthrie back in W.A.

Jack Partridge told me that Alf Carpenter had found an R.S.L. Badge at the Re-union - for Alf's information I now advise that I lo
Badge somewhere (as far as I can tell) between Sydney and Nelson Bay and, if it is mine, I would like to get it back.

(NOTE from Editor - Doug, write to Alf and tell him your Badge number - that should clarify whether it is yours.

Alf, note the above).

Before leaving for N.S.W., I talked to Stan Day and Cec Smith - Stan was feeling much better after a recent bad turn, and Cec said that he was keeping well. Our next aim is to be at the Gosford Re-union in 1988 and then the 50th. Anniversary Sydney Re-union in 1989. Before I forget, as he did at Inverell Re-union also, Pat Bruty has given me a batch of photographs relating to the Jap Surrender at Wewak and I know that the W.A. Members will enjoy looking at them. My thanks to Fred Staggs for the Association stationery which he supplied to me at Nelson Bay. Farewell for now .. Doug Slinger". (Editor's reply: Doug, I could read it O.K. despite the excuse that you were writing it in poor light and leaning on a bunk).

2nd. Report - 18/11/87:

"Our Christmas "get together" will be held at Perth Anzac Club on Tuesday, 15th. December, from 1130 hours. Wilma and I, with "Dasher" and Lily Deacon, attended the 2/11 Bn. Association Annual Luncheon at the Hotel Wentworth in Perth on (Contd. next page)

* SITREPS (Contd.): -

West Australia (Contd.):

Thursday, 12th. November, and had a great day in the company of the Members of that sister Unit, and their Ladies. I was very pleased to meet at that luncheon the 2/11 Bn. Association's N.S.W. Representative, Albert Wattling of Kogarah. He helped me to locate our 2/4 Bn. Association in N.S.W. about six years ago, after I wrote to him and said that I had lost contact since the war. He telephoned Laurie Waterhouse about me, Laurie wrote to me, and thus I found my way back "into the fold". One 2/11th. Bn. Member at the function, known to me only as Ivan, told me that he had met Jack Partridge some weeks ago at a Caravan Park - I think he said it was Wagga Wagga. He enthused about how much he had enjoyed the company of Jack and asked me to convey his best wishes to Jack and Mary. "Chic" Sleeman has given me some information, our "missing" W.A. 2/4th. WX16471 J. Mackenzie was carried out of action by "Chic" after being wounded at Wewak. He is still unaccounted for here - but my records can now be made a little more complete. In my previous report I thanked many Members for making our N.S.W. holiday so enjoyable but now I wish to thank Norm Auberson whose kindness took place after I last wrote from the Hawkesbury River. Norm made a telephone call to us aboard the "Lady Hawkesbury" and arranged to meet us at The Gallipoli Memorial Club for drinks before we left for the airport and Perth, and that enabled us to receive from him some photographs and tickets we wanted to buy in the Australian-Hellenic Memorial Appeal Raffle. Thanks also to Harry Gjedsted, a busy man, for taking the time to have a chat with us at the Club. Wilma and I will be in Sydney next July prior to taking a Pacific Cruise on the "Fairstar" with our youngest son, Keith, and our daughter, Kerry, and her three children. Lily Deacon will probably come with us, while "Dasher" stays with a son in N.S.W. so as to spend some time with him. I hope to attend an Association Meeting at The Gallipoli Club - if I can make it at the appropriate time. It is something I have always wanted to do. We will also be at the Gosford Re-union - Hell, who would want to miss it, most certainly NOT ME! To all our 2/4 Bn. mates, their wives, lady friends and families, in all the other States, I offer Christmas and New Year Greetings from all the A. Members. Again, farewell for now .. Doug Slinger".

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GOSFORD RE-UNION - 1988:-

Contact: Jack Partridge, 38 Serpentine Road, TERRIGAL, N.S.W. 2260 - 'Phone 043/67.7614.

Period: Friday, Saturday, Sunday - OCTOBER 14th., 15th., 16th., 1988.

The following is the current list of reservations - WITH DEPOSITS PAID - all bookings are for three nights inclusive - as above (if variations are required, contact Jack Partridge):
 AYLMER-DURA; ALLARDICE-NICK and RUTH; ARNOTT- ALEX ("BISCUITS") and MEG; BOWMAN-HAROLD and NONI; BROWN-MERV and DOREEN; BROWN-JIM and GLADYS; BAILEY-KEITH and RITA (7 nights-13th. to 20th.); CARPENTER-ALF and DOREEN MANUEL; CULLEN-JACK and DOROTHY; CRUTCHETT-FRANK and ENID (4 nights-13/14/15/16th.); DENVER-PETER and PAT; DEACON-"DASHER" and LILY; DUBBER-JACK and EUNICE; DENYER-ROY and UNA; ELLIOT-HENRY and MAISIE; FERGUSON-BOB and NINA; FORMAN-JIM and JEAN; FOX-TED and HEATHER (4 nights-14/15/16/17th.); FOX-RITA; GRAHAM- JIM and NELLA; GEELAN-CHRIS and SHIRLEY; GORMAN-TOM and SHEILA; GORMAN-"CURLEY" and MAUREEN (2 nights-15/16th.); GRAHAM-JOHN and JEAN; HAWKINS-JOHN and NELL; HAWKE-MARY; HOPE-LINDSAY and ELIANNE; JOHNSTON-WAL and MOLLY; KENNA- NED and MARJ; KIRK-ALAN and CARMA; LINDSAY-ALLEN and GLORIA; LATIMER-ENID; MAIRET-HILDA; MITCHELL-GEORGE and HEATHER; MACZKOWIACK-RON and YVONNE; MCGREGOR-NORRIE; MACLENNAN-BILL and GWEN; MILNE-DOUG and DEIDRE; McADAM-ROY and IRENE; MAXWELL-ALEX and JEAN; MCCOSKER-URIE and EVELYN; RICHARDSON-KEN and CELIA; RINGROSE-JOHN and JOYCE; SMITH-PHIL and ENID; LIEBEL-JACK and MOLLY; WALTON-GEORGE and PAT; WHITMAN-HARRY and ADA; WHITE-ELLIS and JEAN; WRIGHT-HARRY and HILDA (5 nights).

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TRIVIATA - "A CHRISTMAS STORY" - as presented by Alex ("Biscuits") Arnott - (and published herein in its original form, verbatim, unabridged and unexpurgated - Editor) :-



The Time Cometh When We Sing Of Donner, Blitzen, And, Of Course, RUDOLF - The Red-Nosed Reindeer; BUT There Was Another Member Of Santa's Team - The Brown-Nosed Reindeer.

He Was No Different To Any Other Member - He Ran Just As Fast As The Entire Rest Of The Team - BUT He Could Not Stop As Quick As The One In Front Of Him.

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MORE TRIVIATA- The Terrible Two Again:- After another convivial session at The North British Hotel, and judging it tactful not to go home for dinner, "Slim" Venn and "No Change" O'Regan took themselves to a restaurant in Kings Cross which guaranteed to supply within 20 minutes any dish that was ordered. They ordered filleted flies' eyebrows with port wine sauce. Within 10 minutes their order appeared and (in their condition) it was delicious. Then they ordered frogs' teeth in aspic, and in 5 minutes it was served, piping hot. For the main course (Oh, how I hate the word "dish") they ordered braised elephants' feet on toast. After half-an-hour the Manager appeared and apologised for the delay. "Slim" laughed and said: "We knew we'd beat you. Where could you find elephants' feet at this hour?" The Manager wrung his hands: "That's not it. We have an adequate supply of elephants' feet. We just can't find a loaf of bread four feet square".

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A THOUGHT:- "Silence is better than unmeaning words" - Pythagoras.

"Before Honour is Humility" - Proverbs 15;33.

(Contd. next page)

A THOUGHT (Contd.):-

" As long as you can still be disappointed you are still young" - Sarah Churchill.

" People don't choose their careers - they are engulfed by them" - John Dos Passos.

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A personal expression of the Meaning of the Christmas Spirit - by Editor, Ted Fox:-

There is nothing original about this-it is no literary invention of Ted Fox. Apart from the Christian element embodied in it, the "humane" or "hope-given" answer to a child is so important in the troubled world of today that the "Answer to Virginia" should, in my humble opinion, be preached LOUDLY and CONSTANTLY in its various contexts to children when they express doubts about the precepts upon which their beliefs, to that point, have been founded. Although the "ANSWER TO VIRGINIA" was written in reply to a child's query, its words could just as easily be addressed to an adult. It has a message for all of us who believe, even in this hate-conscious world / era of today, that Love, Sacrifice, and a humble Faith in a Power beyond our limited comprehension, remain the Salvation of Mankind. A "Smith Family" belief (with which I am not associated but in which I believe) is that, by helping those in need and showing a genuine and practical love for, and understanding of, Humanity they are assisting to sow the seeds of what one day will be a better world - a world which Man CAN and MUST create if he is to be worthy of the trust of the children who come after him. Here, then, is the story of "THE ANSWER TO VIRGINIA" :

THE ANSWER TO VIRGINIA -

Excerpt from "The New York Sun".

The most widely read editorial ever written appeared years ago in "The New York Sun," has been reprinted at Christmas many times since, and has been quoted in a score of languages the world over.

The world-famous "Santa Claus editorial" was an answer to the following letter:

Dear Editor,—I am eight years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Please tell me the truth.

VIRGINIA O'HANLON.

The editorial writer who was assigned to reply to Virginia at first disdained the task as trivial, then found himself warming up to a real opportunity, and finally wrote the words that millions since then have warmed to read:

VIRGINIA, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the scepticism of a sceptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect in intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole truth.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest

beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not to believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see.

You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest men, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view the supernal beauty beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! he lives, and lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

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"Slim" Venn's "Flight of Fancy":-

He ("Slim") arrived at work one day just before noon (that's 1200 hours for most people - mid-day for Alex Maxwell and 12 o'clock a.m. for "Chic" Sleeman and the remainder of the Signals Platoon).

↳ (or maybe p.m.)

His explanation was that when leaving for work that morning he tripped and fell down three flights of stairs. His boss was incredulous: "And that took you three hours??" We hope to have "Slim's" answer by time of next "W.O.G."

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Another THOUGHT:-

This time I will not name the father concerned - I will merely reveal that he told me he knew that his son was growing up when he saw him looking at a girl the way he used to look at a chocolate cake - Editor.

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"The time has come" - my Heather says that I have done enough for this "W.O.G." AND, apart from Lindsay, SHE MUST BE OBEYED (I need her at the Printing tomorrow - plus Ken Kesteven, Peter Cade, and whoever else might turn up).