

# White over 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.3

MARCH, 1987

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**Committee:** Vic Forbes, John Ringrose, Ken Kesteven, MC, ED., John Meehan, Les Jones, Norm Auberson, George Stack.

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**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 (A):- 1400 hours in The Anzac Room (lunch available in the Dining Room between 1200 hours and 1400 hours) and (B):- 1200 hours for 1300 hours (after the March) in the Dining Room and Annex on the first floor, in conjunction with the Anzac Day Re-union Luncheon:-

A) TUESDAY, 24th. March - Normal Monthly Meeting (Committee at 1130 hrs. in The Anzac Room).

(B) SATURDAY, 25th. April - Formal (abbreviated) Monthly Meeting preceding the Luncheon.

**"W.O.G." PRODUCTION:-** WEDNESDAY, 8th. April - Team 3 at 1000 hrs. in The Anzac Room and THURSDAY, 9th. April - Team 4 at 1100 hrs. in The Regimental Room.

**"W.O.G." TEAMS:-** Team membership appears later in this Journal - please diarise.

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING-24th. February, 1987:-**

The Meeting commenced at 1405 hours with President Alf Carpenter in the chair and 49 Members and one Visitor in attendance.

The President extended a special welcome to Sir Ivan Dougherty and to Bob Jackson and to Stan Blacksley, the latter two up from Wagga.

One minute's silence was observed in memory of Fallen and Departed Comrades, and apologies were received from JOHN HAWKINS, JOHN MEEHAN, FERDIE PEGG, DAVE MCGILLIVRAY, "TICH" FORDHAM, DICK PINSON, BRIAN WARING, DAVE ENDEAN, DAVID WREN, JACK GARVEY, TOM TRACEY, PETER CADE, JOHN COPLAND, and HAROLD SILVER. The Apologies, on a Motion by Bill MacLennan seconded by Jim Forman, were Received and Accepted.

The Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting were read and adopted on a Motion by Ken Kesteven seconded by Athol Heath. There was no Business Arising therefrom.

Harry Wright, acting for Minutes Secretary, John Hawkins, recorded the following business (Contd.)

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (Contd.):-**

dealt with at this Meeting:  
Correspondence "IN" from 2/11 Bn. Association, Tumut R.S.L. re our presentation of a 19th. Brigade plaque, C.O. of 2nd./4th. Bn. R.A.R. re visit to that Unit during our forthcoming Cairns (etc.) tour, "Return Thanks" from Laurie Pollock, Wally Lambourne re Pension, Frank Mallett (U.K.) re death of Monty Siems, Laurie Waterhouse re disposal of the late "Slim" Pollock's Association Blazer, Win Walker with information re the late "Wink" Walker, Jack Maloney re rumoured abolition of Veterans' Affairs Dept., several letters enclosing dues (which Treasurer Allen Lindsay will acknowledge in due course in a Cash Register Report), and various Interstate and Regional Sitreps. Relevant items from this correspondence are included elsewhere in this issue of "W.O.G."

Correspondence "OUT" comprised suitable (Contd.)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (Contd.):

acknowledgements or replies to the above letters and, where appropriate, the details are reported later in this Journal.

On a Motion by Bill MacLennan seconded by Jim Graham, it was resolved that the Reports of the President, Secretary, Treasurer and Welfare Officer, as printed in "W.O.G." and/or given at the Meeting, be received & adopted.

It was moved by Bill MacLennan and seconded by Ted Fox that Life Membership be conferred upon Vic Forbes. This became a Committee recommendation to the Meeting & was adopted unanimously. The L.M. Badge was presented to Vic by Sir Ivan.

The Committee's appointment of Ted Fox as Editor of "W.O.G." was confirmed by the Meeting on the Motion of "Slim" Venn, seconded by Ken Kesteven.

Alf Carpenter moved and Allen Lindsay seconded that the Association revert to monthly production of "W.O.G." in full accordance with the wording of the Notice of Motions published in the January issue of the Journal as Items (10) (a) & (b) of the A.G.M. Agenda. This was carried.

The President declared all Offices Vacant and the Annual Election of Office Bearers proceeded with all previous Officers from Patron onwards being re-elected unopposed with the only changes being confined to the Committee where Laurie Waterhouse and Ferdie Pegg did not offer themselves for re-election and those vacancies, plus that caused by the passing of Cec Chrystal, were filled (again unopposed) by Vic Forbes, Les Jones and John Ringrose.

The current Office Bearers are, of course, as shown on the front page of this Journal. In General Business the President re-stated the policy adopted by this Association long ago in respect of personnel entitled to march with our Unit - for emphasis, and to avoid misunderstanding and embarrassment, this policy is repeated under the Anzac Day arrangements set out later in this "W.O.G."

President Alf confirmed that our presentation of a 19th. Brigade Plaque to Tumut R.S.L. will take place on Sunday 15th. March at 12 noon following their Annual General Meeting. Stan Blacksley requested that an invitation be extended to Mrs. Moores (widow of our late Member) to attend the above ceremony.

Sir Ivan addressed the Meeting and stressed the value of the contributions of past Committees towards the strength and prosperity of our Association, and wished all Members & their families good health and happiness in the years to come.

Alf Carpenter, on behalf of all 2/4thers, conveyed best wishes to Sir Ivan on his approaching 80th. birthday.

On behalf of Vic Pike, Harry Wright presented to the Association a WW1 Bayonet (having one knife-blade edge and one serrated edge) for use at funerals and the Secretary was asked to send a letter of appreciation to Vic Pike. News of the availability of Unit Plaques, as are now made for us by Jim Forman, is spreading and Jim is being commissioned to produce them for other Bn.(etc.) Associations.

Ken Kesteven submitted his 6 Div. Report and it is mentioned elsewhere in this "W.O.G."

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (Contd.):

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 1520 hours.

Those "on parade" were: SIR IVAN DOUGHERTY, ALF CARPENTER, ALLEN LINDSAY, TED FOX, FRED STAGGS, ATHOL HEATH, GEORGE STACK, NORM AUBERSON, HARRY WRIGHT, KEN KESTEVEN, BOB ("DAGWOOD") JACKSON, JIM FORMAN, LES JONES, BILL PARRY, CEC LAWSON, BILL MACLENNAN, BOB FERGUSSON, DAVE FOLLINGTON, CEC POWERS, RON BARBER, KEN RICHARDSON, ALEX ("BISCUITS") ARNOTT, JOHN RINGROSE, BOB LANE, ARNOLD ("CURLY") GORMAN, WALLY SHAW, BILL FOGDEN, WAL JOHNSTON, LIONEL CLARKE, NAP ALAVOINE, GEORGE MITCHELL, PAT BRUTY, JACK PARTRIDGE, FRANK IVEY, STAN BLACKSLEY, JIM SADLER, LES FOX, VIC FORBES, JIM GRAHAM, "SLIM" VENN, C. ("SQUIZZY") TAYLOR, MICK ("NO CHANGE") O'REGAN, ALEX MAXWELL, TREVOR RICHARDSON, BARNEY TURLEY, TED JACKSON, DOUG RODDA, HARRY GJEDSTED, "BLUEY" POHLMANN (at his FIRST Meeting - expect you every month from now on, "Bluey"), and one visitor whose name I cannot decipher in the Attendance Book.

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ANZAC DAY - SATURDAY, 25th. APRIL, 1987:-(1) OUR MEMBERS (of the Male kind):

The following programme is not expected change but any variations will be notified in our April "W.O.G.":

- (a) Wreath-laying Ceremony at The Cenotaph - assemble at the corner of York & Erskine Streets not later than 0745 hours for march-off at approx. 0800 hours to reach Cenotaph and lay wreath approx. 0815 hrs. Then march to Main March Assembly Area at junction of King and Phillip Streets. This comprises our OWN PERSONAL Cenotaph Tribute to our Fallen and Departed Comrades and is worthy of the attendance of every Member who can possibly make it.
- (b) Main March - our Unit should move off at approx. 0945/1000 hours led by President, followed to his left & right rear by the Immediate Past President and Senior Vice-President, followed by the front rank of the main body comprising present ~~Committee~~ **members and/or** Interstate & Regional Vice-Presidents (extending to second rank if necessary), followed by the remainder of the Unit. Marchers will assemble under orders from our own March Marshall. Unit ties (available at F.U.P.), name tags, medals and decorations are to be worn.
- (c) At conclusion of the March, Members then proceed independently to Gallipoli Memorial Club for Re-union Luncheon, tickets for which will be on sale from Committeemen at the F.U.P. and at the Club.
- (d) NOTE: Many years ago an Association Policy was adopted, is still to be observed, and is as follows:
  - (i) The only personnel entitled to march with 2/4 Bn. Association are those who actually served in and with the 2/4 Aust. Infantry Battalion and/or its Sister Units. This precludes relatives and friends - but they are very welcome to join us at the Luncheon for the same cost as we apply to ourselves.
  - (ii) When any Member is no longer able to march without assistance, so that our "On Parade" appearance is not impaired it is required that the Member

(Contd.)

ANZAC DAY - SATURDAY, 25th. APRIL, 1987:-

(1) OUR MEMBERS (of the Male kind):

- (d) (ii) (Contd.) .. shall refrain from marching but attend the Luncheon. This precludes Walking Sticks, Wheel-chairs, etc., being taken on the March.

As already stated, this Policy is reiterated here in order to avoid confusion & embarrassment to ourselves and others.

(2) OUR LADIES (of the Preferred kind):

As in previous years, 2/4 Bn. Ladies (and their friends, daughters, etc.) will provide a most welcome and encouraging sight when we pass them during the March and we do hope to see a large number of them waving their White and Green streamers as we approach their assembly point. So, Girls, don't disappoint us - be there with your "White over Green" badges and name tags and let the crowd know which was, & still is, the elite Infantry Battalion of the 2nd. A.I.F.

PLEASE NOTE the following change in your Assembly Point (due to the now-impeded view from the original location).

The new Assembly Point is directly outside the CAMELLIA RESTAURANT at 462 George Street, City, not far from Market Street. After the March, your luncheon will be at the same CAMELLIA RESTAURANT.

HILDA WRIGHT has to confirm a "blanket" reservation prior to Anzac Day and to ensure that adequate catering is arranged it is important that, as soon as possible, you notify your intention to be at the luncheon. Please do that by 'phoning HILDA on (02)871.5312 or HEATHER FOX on (02)46.1200 (isn't that odd - their 'phone numbers are the same as Harry Wright and Ted Fox on the front page of "W.O.G.").

Later in the afternoon you may wish to join "the boys" at The Gallipoli Memorial Club & have "one for the road" with them before the day's activities come to an end.

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CORRESPONDENCE "IN":-

From Roy Findlay (with Subs. & Donation) - "I attended the January monthly meeting & would like to congratulate the President & Committee on the informative and friendly manner in which the meeting was conducted."

From Jack Huston (with donation) - "When I became a Life Member the cost was only \$30 so I enclose my annual donation to help keep the "Financial pot" boiling."

From Laurie Pollock - "It was with great pride that we watched the members of Ivan's battalion paying their last respects. Ivan really loved his battalion mates & on behalf of our son, Noel, & daughter, Gaye, & their families, I would like to say "Thank You".

From Wally Lambourne - "I would like to express my thanks to Johnny Hawkins who, in his voluntary job as Pensions Officer, was instrumental in helping me get a substantial increase in my disability pension."

From Laurie Waterhouse - had a bad attack of gout before migrating north but expects to be with us on Anzac Day. Laurie advised that he had been entrusted by Laurie Pollock with the task of disposing of the late "Slim" Pollock's Association Blazer for no charge and when this was reported at our Meeting the offer was immediately accepted by Bob ("Dagwood") Jackson who will respond with a suitable donation to Assocn. funds.

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CORRESPONDENCE "IN" (Contd.):-

From Win Walker - containing additional information about the late "Wink" Walker, which appears later in this Journal, and asking to remain on our "W.O.G." Mailing List in her own name henceforth. Win intends to remain in her home at 79 Lamerough Pde., Golden Beach, Q'land 4551, and she says she would be so pleased to hear from any 2/4th'er who intends travelling to that area. Both her sons live on the Atherton Tablelands, Ross in Atherton and Doug in Mareeba, while her only daughter, Annette, and her husband (also Ross) live in Hall's Creek, W.A. Son Ross and wife Glenys have two bonnie children, Adam 7 yrs. & Catherine 4 yrs., but Win feels that they are all so far away. Son Doug is not married. Win says there are beds to spare at "79".

(Win, in answer to your query I advise that you are entitled to receive "W.O.G." with no financial commitment as long as you want it but most of our Widows make an annual donation towards "W.O.G." postage costs, according to their circumstances. This is certainly NOT an obligation, however, and in any case your "Wink" was fully financial until the end of this year - Editor).

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MEMO FROM SIR IVAN:-

(1) Mr. John Barham ('Phone 02/570.1816), the elder brother of our Major Ken Barham who was K.I.A. in the Veve action in 1941, has mislaid a map of the area where Ken was killed, showing details of what happened, and thinks it was left at Inverell at the time of our Re-union. Any Member seeing the map is requested to let Mr. Barham know its whereabouts.

(2) A book on the Battle of Crete is being written by a Mr. John White, whose father at one time was a member of The Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers. Mr. White would like to contact our Association Members who served in the Battle of Crete. His present contact address is C/o 1 Dew Street, Kent Town, South Australia 5067. Apparently he has already been in touch with Peter Denver.

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"WOG" TRADING:-

(1) Available from LES JONES - (02)93.2660 in the evening: One Association Blazer, short 42 size, complete with 2/4 Bn. Assocn. Pocket Badge, worn only approx. 20 times - Price \$100.00 or near offer.

(2) Available from KEN KESTEVEN - (02)412.4892:

(a) "Royal Litton" Electric Typewriter in need of overhaul;

(b) Bellow equipment for "Victor" Player-Piano in need of overhaul (rubber tubing perished).

Price for each above item is \$5.00 donation towards "W.O.G." mailing costs.

(3) Available from JOHN RINGROSE - (02)451.5761: Reproductions of "W.O.G." Volume 1 Nos. 1, 2 & 3 - Price \$2.00 per copy or \$5.00 for the set of 3.

(4) Available from Fred Staggs - (02)671.1765:

T Shirts @ \$12.50 Plus Postage;

Lapel Badges @ \$6.00 Plus Postage;

Ties @ \$10.00 Plus Postage;

Blazer Pockets @ \$8.00 Plus Postage;

Campaign Bars @ \$2.00 Plus Postage;

Plaques @ \$25.00 Plus Postage;

Bn. Miniature Medals @ \$6.00 Plus Postage;

6" Bn. Medal Ribbon @ \$1.00 Plus Postage.

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SITREPS:-Queensland:(1) From Laurie McCosker:

Stan Sutherland has been in hospital for an eye operation but is now home. Wally McKenzie has been attending the Radium Institute for treatment and says he is doing well. No other "Sick Parade" Reports have been notified to Laurie.

(2) From Bruce Cork via John Meehan:

At Inverell Re-union somebody gave to Bruce the current location of former Carrier Platoon Sergeant C.T.(Col) Halmarick (NX 9706) and Bruce subsequently made contact with Col, and his wife Val, at their place of residence - Unit 7, Links Retirement Village, 160 Gardon Ave., Miami 4220. When some Bren Gun Carriers, Vickers Machine Guns and Mortars were allocated to the 2/4Bn. to replace what had been lost in Greece, Col Halmarick was one of a party of men who drove to Suda Bay on the night of 15th. May, 1941, to collect this equipment. After the war, Col worked with Ken Moses for a time, then joined up again and spent time in Vietnam. His latest involvement has been the setting-up of a newspaper called "Army" ( the Soldiers' Newspaper - fortnightly circulation of 43,000). Col told Bruce it was his intention to join our ranks.

(I have added you to our Mailing List, Col, and all you now need to do is send your annual subscription to our Treasurer, Allen Lindsay - Editor).

West Australia: From Doug Slinger:

The W.A. "WOGGS" held their "Get Together" Luncheon at Perth Anzac Club on Tuesday, 24th. February, and after drinks and a nice lunch those attending enjoyed a happy afternoon in each other's company. Present were STAN DAY, "DASHER" & LILY DEACON, ROSS ELLIOTT, CEC & THELMA SMITH, VERN & LORIS TOWNSEND, EDNA DING, DOUG & WILMA SLINGER. Apologies were received from WALLY EVANS, DON GUTHRIE & RAEMA, JOHN STOREY, FRED STANWELL, TED HARDS and JUNE DAY.

Appropos to "Biscuits" Arnot's action in having Sydney-based 2/11Bn. members invited to join us on Anzac Day, Doug says that the 2/11 Bn. Members & their Association have virtually adopted the 2/4thers in W.A. and for several years our W.A. people have accepted an open invitation to march with 2/11 Bn. and participate with them in the Perth Esplanade Service each Anzac Day as well as attending their Re-union at the Perth Railway Institute.

By the time he reads this Journal, Cec Smith will have received the surprise his wife, Thelma, planned for him by sending through Doug Slinger an annual subscription to our Association so that Cec will receive "W.D.G." monthly from March onwards.

South Coast - Narooma:(1) From Tom Mort:

The Mortar Platoon Re-union at Narooma was held between 13th. & 20th. February and those attending were: MAX & PAT SYDENHAM (WAGGA), GEORGE & PAT WALTON (S.A.), TOM & PEG TRACEY and friend PAT MOULDS, BILL & GWEN MACLENNAN (SYDNEY), FRED & PAULINE TAYLOR (SYDNEY), HUGH & DORIS BURGDORF (VIC.), BOB & NINA FERGUSON (SYDNEY), ALF CARPENTER & DOREEN MANUEL (N'castle), BERRY & VONNY MOODY (Associate Members), LARRIE & YVONNE LEY (SYD...  
(Contd.)

SITREPS (Contd.):-South Coast - Narooma:(1) From Tom Mort:

BOB & JEAN WARRILLOW (CANGERRA), LINDSAY HOPE ( & ELIANNE - she couldn't - in spirit, YES), BILL & BONNIE PANTER (VIC.), TOM & DOT HART (S.A.), TOM & JOAN MORT.

TOM MORT was glad to see ALF CARPENTER at this function for the first time - says he usually sees ALF each year when the George Bass Surf Boat Race takes place. Seems ALF is the shore man who sees that participants are housed & fed at each port - they row from Sydney to Eden (they must be mad - Ed.). Two events had a dampening effect on the proceedings - one was the death of Bill Stewart at Bateman's Bay and the other was a necessity for Bob & Nina Fergusson to rush back to Sydney, just as soon as they reached Narooma, to attend to family members who had suddenly been struck down by a meningitis viral infection. Other than that, the gathering was a very happy one and Tom & Joan are delighted to have hosted the event once again.

(2) From Bill MacLennan:

Bill endorses Tom Mort's remarks and confirms that the happy band of 2/4 Mortarmen & their Ladies enjoyed their sojourn in Mort Territory, except for the two unhappy circumstances mentioned by Tom.

In addition to the "regulars" it was good, Bill says, to welcome the newcomers into the fold - ALF CARPENTER, DOREEN MANUEL and TOM ("WISHY") & DOT HART.

Four of the Mortarmen, who had suitable attire with them, attended Bill Stewart's funeral in Bateman's Bay.

On behalf of all the others, Bill extends a BIG vote of thanks to "our lovely hosts Tom & Joan Mort (lovely? Tom? I don't know about that -Ed.) and Hon. Members Vanny & Berry Moody for their much appreciated hospitality which always goes a long way towards completing a great annual 'get together' of old mates". (I think Bill means "long standing" rather than "aged" - Ed.).

Bill Panter was so carried away by the camaraderie that upon rising early one morning he was inspired to his thoughts and feelings being expressed in verse which reflects the sentiments of all who attended:

"Narooma plays host to the Mortar Platoon at a certain week-end each year,  
And they come from all over the Country to see the mates they revere.

There's Lofty and Larry and Max and "Big Shan",  
And Alf came this year to increase the gang,  
With Hughie and Tommy, George, Bill and Snow,  
"Wishy" and Lindsay complete the rest of our show.

There's Tom Mort, our Leader - one hell of a guy  
with that great hand of friendship that no one can buy.

We think of our mates that have gone on before,  
But we know they are free and are troubled no more.

With our wives & our friends that we meet each year,  
They're part of our re-union that we hold so dear.

So until next year we look forward to when we come to Narooma for mateship again."

(The Poet Laureate has nothing to fear -

But I do hope they don't write a poem each year-Ed.)

6 DIVISION REPORT:-

By Ken Kesteven:

6th. Australian Division,  
A.I.F., Scholarships:

From a small beginning in the Academic Year 1976/77 the Annual Scholarship of \$A200 awarded to a student in the Prefecture of Rethymnon in Crete, initiated by 2/11 Bn. Association and supported by other Unit Associations in Victoria and New South Wales, has increased in value to \$A1,000.00.

Up to 1986/87 some 15 students attending High School and University have received financial assistance totalling approx. \$A7,000.00. It is hoped to continue these Annual Grants of \$A1,000 up to and including the Academic Year 1991/92, the 50th. Anniversary of the Battle of Crete, by which time most of the ex-Servicemen donors who served in Mainland Greece and Crete in 1941 will be well over the age of 70 years.

Preveli Monastery Fund:

The appeal for funds, (commenced several years ago by Geoff Edwards of 2/11 Bn. Association) to commemorate the memory of Monks of Preveli Monastery and Cretan Villagers who hid and fed allied soldiers escaping from the German Army of Occupation, resulted in approximately \$A9,000.00 being invested from donations made by British, New Zealand & Australian Ex-Servicemen & Organisations & the N.Z. and Australian Governments. After consultations between the Greek Education Dept., Nomarchs in the Prefectures of Chania, Rethymnon and Heraklion (the three areas of wartime operations of Allied Forces), the Bishop of Spili on behalf of the Preveli Monastery, and the Australian Ambassador in Athens, the Trustees of the Fund allotted \$A2,000 in the 1986/87 Academic Year to two students attending Athens University (\$A750 each) and to the Bishop of Spili (\$A500) who was expected to include this sum in a local fund held for the benefit of destitute or disadvantaged people in the villages of his Diocese including people in villages around Preveli.

In the year 1987/88, and annually thereafter, one scholarship (of \$A800 increasing by \$A50 per annum to allow for inflation but finally limited to \$A1,000) is to be awarded to the Prefectures in rotation. The Preveli Award has been named the Archimandrite Agathangelos Lagouvardos Preveli Memorial Scholarship in memory of the Head Monk of the St. John the Theologian Monastery, who did so much for the Allied cause in 1941 and beyond.

Peer Support Foundation Limited - Peer Support in Schools:

It has been suggested that 6 Div. should somehow participate in the above project. The Foundation (Chairman is James Dibble, M.B.E.) is also seeking donations from interested persons to enable the Peer Support Programme to be expanded. Peer Support is a project for Secondary Schools whereby senior students help younger ones to settle into high school, discuss problems, and resist the pressures to develop harmful life styles, e.g. drug abuse, etc.

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6 DIVISION REPORT (Contd.):

The Programme is run by students and monitored by teachers, supported by volunteers. It is already operating in more than 200 schools in N.S.W.

In December 1985 the Senate Select Committee on Volatile Substance Abuse in Australia stated "... the Peer Support Programme has the potential to play an extremely important role in the prevention of drug abuse ...".

The Foundation's philosophy is that "CARING CHILDREN WILL CREATE A CARING WORLD". Donations should be sent to The Peer Support Foundation, P.O. Box 701, Manly, N.S.W. 2095 or 1/56 The Corso, Manly. Further information may be obtained from the Foundation's Managing Director, Elizabeth Campbell - 'phone (02) 977.5011 or 977.7201 between 9 am and 4.30 pm on weekdays.

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WELFARE REPORT:-

By Harry Wright:

As at 23rd. February, 1987:

Visited at Concord Repat. Gen. Hospital:

NX6024 - WATTS, ATHOL - Ward 34 - emphysema & nervous disorder - discharged.

4 Bn. WW1 - CAMPBELL, ALEXANDER - aged 90yrs. - 5064 - back problem - said he was in for a "bed rest".

Visited at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital:

NX50357 - FORDHAM, A. ("TICH") - heart bypass operation - successful - discharged.

Visited at R.S.L. Nursing Home, Narrabeen:

NX164 - COPLAND, J.S. (JOHN) - visited by "Slim" Powers - John is still having trouble with his legs, but is bright & cheerful - he now has his own 'phone and would appreciate hearing from Association Members - his No. is (02) 971.1415.

As at 9th. March, 1987:

Visited at Dalcross Private Hospital, Killara:

NX35366 - CRUTCHETT, F.F. (FRANK) - visited by Heather & Ted Fox - optical lens implant in left eye - discharged - returned to Canberra on 8/3/87.

Visited at Milton Nursing Home, Roseville:

Lady MACKAY - visited by Ken & Fi Kesteven and by Heather Fox - too frail now to pursue her former activities but bright and happy to see her visitors.

General Report:

NX9846 - Cec ("Slim") Powers suffered a severe breathing problem while carrying out his welfare duties recently at Concord Repat. Hospital - spent approx. 4 hours in Casualty having treatment & tests - confined to his Unit for a few days & ordered to "take things easy".

NX5960 - J. St. H. (John) FALLA is to enter hospital shortly for a hip-joint replacement operation (the other hip has previously been done).

Dave McGILLIVRAY 'phoned on eve of our Annual General Meeting to say he would not be able to attend as he is not enjoying the best of health. He is having "waterworks" problems & has had two spells in hospital over the last few months. His doctor advised Dave not to travel to Sydney on this occasion from his home in Bomaderry.

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WELFARE REPORT (Contd.):General Report (Contd.):

John MEEHAN was also prevented from attending the A.G.M. as he had an appointment at Concord Repat. Hospital for a hernia operation assessment.

Bob ("Dagwood") JACKSON has reported that Joe WELLS is now home-bound and that Cec WILLIAMSON will be entering Concord Repat. Hospital for further leg treatment.



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VALE - H.S. (Harry) NICHOLS:-

Harry Nichols died on 10th. January and his passing was reported in last month's Journal. Following a service at St. Francis Xavier's Catholic Church he was buried in Northern Suburbs Cemetery where the R.S.L. Service was conducted by Gordon Bergman of Kirribilli Ex-Service Club. The Club's President & Vice-President, Val Savage & Jim Lockhart, were also present. Harry Wright, Norm Auberson & Ted Fox represented our Association. At the church, the Eulogy was delivered by Gordon Bergman and it referred to Harry's service in the Middle East & New Guinea with 2/4 Bn. It also mentioned that he was one of the original members of Kirribilli Ex-Service Club and R.S.L. Sub-branch.

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VALE - W.J. (Bill) STEWART:-

Bill Stewart died on 16th. February in the Calvary Hospital in the A.C.T. and was buried at Bateman's Bay on 18th. February after a Requiem Mass at St. Bernard's Catholic Church in Bateman's Bay. Bill was a member of "D" Company and served in the Middle East, Greece, Crete & Australia. He had lived at Dolls Point near Sydney before moving to Bateman's Bay some six years ago. Our Association was represented at the funeral by Tom Mort, Fred Taylor, George Walton & Max Sydenham and the family was grateful for their attendance. Bateman's Bay R.S.L. attended to the usual R.S.L. formalities.

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VALE - L.J. (Les) McNAMARA:-

Les McNamara died on 14th. February and was buried on 19th. February at Pine Grove Lawn Cemetery after a service at St. Anthony's Church, Toongabbie. Les was T.P.I. and a member of The Limbless Soldiers' Association, being a double amputee. Before joining 2/4 Bn. he was a member of the 56th. Bn. He served with us in "D" Company and the Tank Attack Platoon in Queensland and New Guinea. At the graveside the R.S.L. Service was performed by Parramatta R.S.L. Association. Members in attendance were Fred Staggs, John Hawkins, Norm Auberson and Harry Wright.

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VALE - M.L. (Monty) SIEMS:-

First news of the death of Monty Siems in U.K. was contained in a letter received by Jack & Joan Huston from Monty's niece, Kay Stirling. His illness was apparently brief but at this time we have no details of it. Frank Mallett has since written to Harry Wright and is trying to obtain further information.

Monty was a soccer enthusiast and was a member of 2/4 Bn. team in its first game at Rishon, against a Jewish team - Rishon le Zion. The team also included Dave McGillivray, Bill Wright, Bill Gibbs, Tom Dean, Tom Ross and Sid Zartman. Our team was defeated on that occasion, but only after a very creditable performance. A composite team was later made up from the whole Division and Monty Siems & Dave McGillivray were included in it.

On January 3rd. 1941, during the morning, Monty became one of two early Bn. casualties when he sustained a shell splinter wound in the leg and was evacuated to the Advanced Dressing Station nearby. This took place when the Battle of Bardia was commencing.

After the war ended, Monty returned to the U.K. where in subsequent years he was visited by several of our Members, including Jack & Joan Huston. Joan confirms a remark made by Kay Stirling in her letter - that she will always remember her uncle as a "very, very generous man". I quote now from a letter sent to me by Joan Huston:

"I am truly sad to-day, we saw a lot of Monty on our three trips to England - he was a fine man. I remember the last time we saw him - he arrived at Heathrow Airport all dressed up and as he said goodbye to me he handed me a parcel wrapped in newspaper - no frills at all - and when I opened it on the plane it contained a gorgeous silver-backed mirror. I had admired it in a shop but he told me not to buy it as it was a "brummy" but he must have gone back and bought it. I wept real tears for about an hour on that journey home."

In his letter to Harry Wright, Frank Mallett says it is really sad for him each time "W.O.G." arrives and informs him of the passing of yet another old friend. This time that situation has been reversed.

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VALE - Joseph Winston ("Wink") WALKER:-

The passing of "Wink" Walker was reported in November/December 1986 "W.O.G." but further details are now known. "Wink" was a "C" Company man and, despite having been transferred to Brisbane 25 years ago, he remained an ardent 2/4th. He was born and grew up at Emu Plains, N.S.W., enlisted in the 2nd. A.I.F. on 3rd. November, 1939, and served in our Bn. in all theatres of war where the Unit was engaged. Since retirement eight years ago he and his wife, Win, attended all our Re-unions with the exception of Southport and they enjoyed immensely the recent one at Inverell. He died very suddenly, but peacefully, sitting in his chair and talking to his eldest son, on 26th. October last year - just 12 days after returning from Inverell. In 1983 he suffered his first heart attack whilst visiting his daughter and her family in Hall's Creek, W.A., but with many restrictions and medical care he had since then kept fairly well. Unknown to most of us, he had an Angina

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VALE - Joseph Winston ("Wink") WALKER:-  
(Contd.):

attack while walking home from the Saturday night official dinner at Inverell but he bounced back for the Sunday Coach Tour and Barbecue. There was nothing more to prepare Win and family for the sad event shortly to follow.

"Wink" had kept his Army uniform in perfect condition and Win has donated it to 49th.Bn.Army Reserve Unit ("Bush Rifles") at Wacol. It was complete in every detail including the full uniform down to lanyard and whistle, hat, boots, webbing, etc., and even including the greatcoat. There were many souvenir items, too, of German and Italian origin. A War Museum for the Army Reserve Unit has been started by two of its members and Win has been assured that in the event of the Unit ever being disbanded the donated items will be forwarded to the National War Museum. "Wink's" youngest son, Douglas, has been a member of the Unit for some years and Win feels that "Wink" would approve the donation of his gear and related items to that Unit Museum. Laurie McCosker previously reported that our Association was represented at the funeral of "the gentle giant" by himself, Craig Clarke, Henry Elliott, Roy McAdam, John Falla, Frank Gattenhoff, Norm Everson, and wives.

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EDITORIAL:-

Rumours persist concerning the future of The Dept. of Veterans' Affairs and Jack Maloney has received another letter from Philip Ruddock, M.P., Member for Dundas, enclosing a Form of Petition and asking that it be signed by as many people as possible and then returned to him so that he may present it to Parliament. He says such action is important in bringing the issue to notice in respect of the desirability of this Department being retained as a separate entity and not merged with, or absorbed by, some other Dept.

If you feel, as I do, that the interests of Ex-Service Personnel will be jeopardised if The Dept. of Veterans' Affairs is allowed to be lost among the affairs of some other Department, where our special circumstances will not be recognised, you should take the attached Form of Petition to your own R.S.L. Sub-branch and elsewhere and collect as many signatures as possible. Then return the Petition to Jack Maloney at 1 Isabel Street, Ryde, N.S.W. 2112 (or to Editor if you lose that address) so that he may deliver same to Mr. Ruddock in bulk. For Members attending our next Monthly Meeting I will have Petition Forms available there for signing. Remember that this is a Federal matter - interstate Members are asked to participate in the project.

In your consideration of the importance of this subject I draw your attention to the following extract from a recent issue of "SALUTE", the Official Journal of the T.P.I. Association of N.S.W.:

"There has been considerable coverage in the media in recent weeks of the H.R. Nicholls Society, known as The New Right. The Society is reputed to have given the Leader of the Federal Opposition twelve

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EDITORIAL (Contd.):-

months to adopt "radically conservative policies" otherwise it will set up a new conservative party to contest the next election. The measures that the New Right would have introduced in the 1986/87 Budget are said to include:

The Dept. of Veterans' Affairs to be abolished and merged with Dept. of Social Security; an end to indexation of pensions & benefits - actual rises would be left to the discretion of Cabinet and would depend on an "export index factor" and/or depreciation of the dollar; disability pensions to be taxed for Veterans and Dependents and the Assets Test to apply; Assets Test to remain; pensions to taper off at a rate of \$25 per week for every \$10,000 over the threshold, instead of the present \$10 per week.

I stress that there IS pressure mounting in certain quarters to introduce the above measures which are obviously detrimental to Ex-Service Personnel and I believe that it is up to us to take any action we can to protect our wartime-promised concessions.

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PORT STEPHENS/NELSON BAY RE-UNION:-

Please ignore the "SYDNEY to NELSON BAY by COACH" data contained in last month's issue of this Journal as Chic Sleeman has informed me that the details given to me to publish are out-of-date - Deluxe Coachlines have ceased to run and Port Stephens Buses service is subject to Government review in May this year. Chic will advise when he is aware of the outcome of the review. Meanwhile he has provided a current Newcastle to Nelson Bay bus timetable in response to a request from Mollie Scheibel of Evans Head: The service is operated by Port Stephens Buses Pty. Ltd. and the bus leaves from the eastern end of Newcastle Railway Station, which is Watt Street, and can set down passengers in the middle of Nelson Bay township from where taxis are available:-

Monday to Friday: Depart N'castle-Arrive N. Bay:

	7.10 am	8.30 am
	8.30 am	9.50 am
	12.00 noon	1.25 pm
	2.00 pm	3.35 pm
	3.45 pm	5.05 pm
	5.20 pm	6.30 pm
Friday only:	8.00 pm	9.15 pm
Saturday :	9.15 am	10.30 am
	12.00 noon	1.20 pm
	5.00 pm	6.15 pm
Sundays & Holidays:	9.15 am	10.30 am
	5.00 pm	6.15 pm

The fare is not stated but "Concession fare passes must be shown or full fare will be charged".

The following Re-union Bookings have so far been made:

Accommodation Privately Arranged:

Alf Carpenter and Doreen Manuel.  
Perc and Betty Dalla. Harold Tressider.  
Norrie McGregor and Mrs. D. Aylmer.  
Art and Grace Power. Vic and Gwen Eason.  
P.W. Motel:

Jim and Glad Brown. Jim and Jean Forman.  
Mick and Jess Whinfield. Rita Fox.  
John and Nell Hawkins and Sheila McIntosh.  
Ross and Jean Smith. Bill Parry.  
Ned and Marj Kenna.

Peninsular Motor Inn:

W. and Mrs. Johnston. Doug and Wilma Slinger.  
"Dasher" and Lily Deacon. W. and N. Taylor.

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

George and Mrs. Moore. Harold &amp; Del Silver.

Seabreeze Hotel:

Merv and Rose Hicks. Gordon Bladen and

Beryl Greenwood.

Marlin Motel:

Les Jones. Ross and Nance Smith.

Laurie and Evelyn McCosker. Ted and

Des and Beryl Cunningham. Heather Fox.

Ken and Fi Kesteven.

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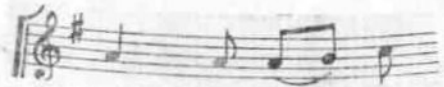
"W.O.G." PRODUCTION TEAMS and PROGRAMME:-Wednesday dates: Printing/Photocopying.Thursday dates: Stapling/Folding/Wrapping.Wednesday dates: 1000 hours-The Anzac Room.Thursday dates: 1100 hours-The Regimental

1987:- Room.

- Wed. 11/3 - Team 1 - Ted Fox, Ken Kesteven, John Hawkins, Allen Lindsay.
- Thur. 12/3 - Team 2 - Ted & Heather Fox, Ken & Fi Kesteven, Cec & Joan Lawson, Harry & Hilda Wright, Phyl Chrystal, Alex Arnott, Peter Cade, Allen Lindsay.
- Wed. 8/4 - Team 3 - Ted Fox, Ken Kesteven, John Ringrose, Allen Lindsay.
- Thur. 9/4 - Team 4 - Ted & Heather Fox, Ken & Fi Kesteven, Jim & Jean Forman, John Meehan, Alex Maxwell, Vic Forbes, "Slim" Venn, Allen Lindsay.
- Wed. 13/5 - Team 5 - Ted Fox, Ken Kesteven, Gordon Chrisp, Allen Lindsay.
- Thur. 14/5 - Team 6 - Ted & Heather Fox, Ken & Fi Kesteven, Harry & Hilda Wright, "Curly" Gorman, Wally Mangan, Fred Staggs, John Hawkins, Allen Lindsay.
- Wed. 10/6 - Team 7 - Ted Fox, Ken Kesteven, Peter Cade, Allen Lindsay.
- Thur. 11/6 - Team 8 - Ted & Heather Fox, Ken & Fi Kesteven, Cec & Joan Lawson, Phyl Chrystal, George Stack, Bob Fergusson, Dave Follington, Lionel Clarke, Allen Lindsay.
- Wed. 8/7 - Team 9 - Ted Fox, Ken Kesteven, John Meehan, Allen Lindsay.
- Thur. 9/7 - Team 10 - Ted & Heather Fox, Ken & Fi Kesteven, Harry & Hilda Wright, John Ringrose, Wally Shaw, Wal Johnston, Alex Arnott, Allen Lindsay.
- Wed. 12/8 - Team 11 - Ted Fox, Ken Kesteven, Les Jones, Allen Lindsay.
- Thur. 13/8 - Team 12 - Ted & Heather Fox, Ken & Fi Kesteven, Jim & Jean Forman, Alex Maxwell, Vic Forbes, "Slim" Venn, Dave Follington, Allen Lindsay.
- Wed. 9/9 - Team 1 again.
- Thur. 10/9 - Team 2 again.
- Wed. 14/10 - Team 3 again.
- Thur. 15/10 - Team 4 again.
- Wed. 11/11 - Team 5 again.
- Thur. 12/11 - Team 6 again.
- Wed. 9/12 - Team 7 again.
- Thur. 10/12 - Team 8 again.

Wives are welcome to attend with their husband (where not already nominated) on the Thursday dates and anyone else at "a loose end" may present themselves also on Thursday dates. Team members unable to attend on a day specified for them are asked to notify Ted Fox by 'phone beforehand.

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THE BARBER OF SEVILLE SECOND/FOURTH:-

Words by M.J.O'Regan - Music by N.O.Change:

I now reveal to my mates some things that happened to me as Bn. Barber. First, in Palestine a Bn. member went to Tel-A-Viv and bought clippers which were kept at Bn.H.Q. for anyone who thought he had the ability to use them. Any old Tonsorial Artiste is aware that the clipper is a very sensitive instrument and can easily be put off-set if handled by the inexperienced & that is exactly what happened. A runner from H.Q. was sent to me with instructions to rectify the fault. I immediately recognised the threat to my financial prosperity, so I went through the motions of re-setting but deliberately threw them off-set again. I warned George Locke in "B" Company, who was also a barber in Civvy Street, what had happened & when the clippers were sent to him, he did exactly the same as me. Those clippers were never used again. I've never known for sure where I got the name "No change" but have concluded that it was on the ship "Rajula". The currency was Rupees & Annas, so I checked the canteen to assess what I would charge if pinned-down to a price & decided on One Rupee which was equal to 2/-. Previously I charged Other Ranks 1/- and Officers whatever they offered above 1/-. As no-one was familiar with this new currency I acted accordingly. Soon an Officer came for a haircut & tendered a Five Rupee Note which I pocketed. I can still see the stunned look when the Lieut. got no change & I think he pinned the name on me. If he is still alive, perhaps he will remember that incident. Later, in Adelaide, John Collins had a haircut and then sent his mate out. He gave me 2/6, then went into Capt. Collins and said "Who is that bloke? I gave him 2/6 but did not get anything back." Collins replied "Don't you know him? That's "No change" O'Regan." In Darwin the Brigadier sent for me to cut his hair. We were on parade & Major Robbins called me out & said "If I had my way you wouldn't go, but it's an order. In the British Army you'd have 3 stripes & the money would go to Bn. funds. How long will you be?" I said "There's quite a few Officers there so I'll be all day". Now, seeing as I was a V.I.P. I decided to play it up so went to Bn.H.Q. & saw the Duty Officer (the late Noel Ford, I think) & asked for a Staff Car. He said "I can't get one. Don't you know petrol is rationed?" Then I said "You ring Brigade & tell them 'No car, no haircut'". I got the car, put in the day, and was brought home in our C.O.'s car with him for company. I must finally tell you that I did not draw a pay in the Army. I only went to the Pay Sgt. to put money in my Pay Book, which was pretty often. (Sgd.) "No Change" O'Regan.

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4 Bn. ROYAL NEW SOUTH WALES REGIMENT:-

The new Commanding Officer of 4 RNSWR is 256868 Lt. Col. Fred C. Harvison.

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TRIVIATA:-

Marriage : The deep, deep peace of the double bed after the hurly-burly of the settee. (Remember???)

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