



White and 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. 4.
APRIL, 1987.

President: Alf Carpenter, 66 Chatham Rd., Georgetown, 2298. 'Phone: 049-612366 or 049-671969

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:	Allen 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, Dayswater, 6053.	09-2717027

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, MC, ED., John Meahan, 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:-**
- (1) SATURDAY, 25th. APRIL - ANZAC DAY RE-UNION LUNCHEON following the Wreath-Laying Parade and the March - 1200 hours for 1300 hours in the Dining Room and Annex at the Gallipoli Memorial Club;
 - (2) TUESDAY, 26th. MAY - Normal Monthly Meeting - 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).
Committee will meet at 1130 hours in the Anzac Room.
- "W.O.G." PRODUCTION:-**
- WEDNESDAY, 13th. MAY - Team 5 at 1000 hours in the Anzac Room and
THURSDAY, 14th. MAY - Team 6 at 1100 hours in the Regimental Room.

TO YOU, SIR IVAN, WE WISH A VERY, VERY

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

The "Birthday" part
of this wish
is meant for the day...
the "Happy" part
is for always!

The "WE" means ALL MEMBERS of our
Association and OUR LADIES and

ANZAC DAY ARRANGEMENTS:- There is no alteration to the details published in March "W.O.G." and therefor the full programme will not be repeated herein.

Summarily: 0745 hours - Assemble at the corner of York and Erskine Streets for Wreath-Laying Parade to the Cenotaph - then march to corner of King and Phillip Streets, led by Parramatta Pipe Band, and form up there at

0945 hours - Main March - Unit ties, Name tags, Medals and Decorations to be worn.

March Marshall:- Past-President Bill MacLennan - personnel will form up under his orders at the Wreath-Laying and at the Main March assembly areas. As previously advised - assemble outside the CAMELLIA RESTAURANT. The cost of luncheon at Gallipoli Memorial Club will be \$10.00 - buy your own drinks (same as last year - NO inflation in our Assocn.).

Ladies:-

Members:-

MONTHLY MEETING - 24th.March,1987:-

The Meeting commenced at 1410 hours with President Alf Carpenter in the chair and 49 Members in attendance. Apologies were received from Sir Ivan Dougherty, A.Bohlé, J.Meehan, J.Graham, J.Copland, B.Waring, A.Fordham, C.Williams, T.McNamara.

One minute's silence was observed in memory of Fallen and Departed Comrades and then the Minutes of January Monthly Meeting were read and confirmed. There was no Business Arising therefrom.

Minutes Secretary, John Hawkins, recorded the following business dealt with at this March Meeting:

Correspondence "IN": from ex-R.S.M. Robbins, Ernie Gumbleton, Laurie Waterhouse, Joyce Stewart, Bill and Gwen Newth, Des Loydell, Helen Martin, H.W. Russell, "Brig" McAtamney, Charlie Granquist, Laura Wallace, Bill Gibbs, Pat Bruty, Vera McNamara, Laurie Pollock, Norma Cork, Jack Huston (enclosing a letter from Kay Stirling, niece of Monty Siems), Frank Mallett (to Harry Wright). Relevant items from this correspondence are mentioned elsewhere in this issue of "W.O.G."

Correspondence "OUT": A letter of thanks to Tumut R.S.L. for the reception given to our members who were present at the presentation of the 19th. Brigade Plaque.

President's Report: Association Members and Friends assembled at Tumut R.S.L. Club on Sunday, 15th. March, at 1200 hours and in presenting the 19th. Brigade Plaque to the President of the club, Mr. Frank Delaney, President Alf referred to the hospitality we received from the club members and staff during our outing to Blowering Dam at the time of our 1986 Reunion in Wagga Wagga. He explained that on that occasion it was noticed by Jim Forman that among all the other plaques on display in the club there was not one representing 19th. Brigade. Jim thereupon set out to design and make one for presentation on an appropriate occasion, and 15th. March was subsequently chosen because the Annual General Meeting of the club was also held on that day. After the plaque presentation, Vera Roddy gave to Frank Delaney, also for the club, a framed copy of our 2/4 Bn. Association GRACE (the Dick Morris Grace), also incorporating "THE INFANTEER'S PRAYER".

At the conclusion of these ceremonies those present were invited to participate in refreshments and finally lunch. Those in attendance at this function were Alf Carpenter, Doreen Manuel, Ferdie Pegg, Bev Moores, Vera Roddy, Perc and Betty Dalla, Bill and Irene Crossier, and Claude Day ex 6 Div. A.S.C.

At our Meeting a copy of The Tumut & Adelong Times was passed around, by Alf, containing photographs of the above-mentioned presentation.

Treasurer's Report: Allen Lindsay gave current details of our financial situation, which remains healthy. He also spoke of arrangements made to date for our 50th. Anniversary and requested all Members to inform him if they can offer accommodation to our Country Members during our Anniversary Week. Accounts presented by the Treasurer were passed for payment.

Pension Officer's Report: John Hawkins advised of further successes in the Pensions area and stressed that Members with problems should get in touch with him.

(C--td.)

MONTHLY MEETING - 24th.March,1987 (Contd.):

Welfare and 6 Div. Reports: Delivered to the Meeting by Harry Wright and Ken Kesteven & are published elsewhere in this Journal.

General Business: President Alf gave a resumé of our Anzac Day programme and requested all Members to attend our own Wreath-Laying Parade and Ceremony preceding the official March.

Pat Bruty announced that he has produced a number of framed copies of the Dick Morris Grace, also showing "The Infanteer's Prayer", and these are available from him at \$5.00 each, the proceeds to go to our Association to assist in "W.O.G." postage costs.

"Slim" Powers produced a copy of Cronulla R.S.L. monthly magazine describing a "Dougherty Day" to be held at that club to celebrate Sir Ivan's birthday. "Slim" also advised having received a card from Laurie Waterhouse indicating that he and Joy have settled-in at Cabarita Court, 1/10 Lord St., Kirra, Q'land 4225, and are both well. They send best wishes to all "WOGS".

Pat Bruty presented to Harry Gjedsted, for Gallipoli Memorial Club, a framed photograph of General Adachi's surrender to Major-General Robertson on 13th. September, 1945. He suitably responded.

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 1510 hours.

Those "on parade" were: ALF CARPENTER, KEN KESTEVEN, NORM AUBERSON, FRED STAGGS, JOHN RINGROSE, VIC FORBES, JOHN HAWKINS, TED FOX, HARRY WRIGHT, ATHOL HEATH, ALLEN LINDSAY, GEORGE STACK, LES JONES, HARRY GJEDSTED, JIM FORMAN, RON BARBER, DICK PINSON, "SLIM" POWERS, TOM WATSON, DAVE FOLLINGTON, BARNEY TURLEY, FRANK IVEY, BILL FOGDEN, WAL JOHNSTON, "NO CHANGE" O'REGAN, "LARRY" DOOLEY, RAY CAMPBELL, WALLY SHAW, "CURLY" GORMAN, JACK PARTRIDGE, GEORGE MITCHELL, BILL POPLIN, PAT BRUTY, BOB FERGUSON, BILL MACLENNAN, TREVOR RICHARDSON, "SQUIZZY" TAYLOR, "SLIM" VENN, JACK GARVEY, TOM TRACEY, REX EVERSON, CES LAWSON, BILL PARRY, NAP ALAVOINE, PETER CADE, LIONEL CLARKE, ALEX "BISCUITS" ARNOTT, WALLY LAMBOURNE, ALEX MAXWELL.

O-O-O-O-O

CORRESPONDENCE "IN" :-

Several letters enclosed dues and those payments will be acknowledged by Treasurer Allen in time via a Cash Register Report.

To the President from "Robbie" (ex R.S.M.) Robbins advising his inability to attend the Port Stephens/Nelson Bay Reunion.

From Laurie Waterhouse concerning disposal of a copy of our War History and other memorabilia which belonged to the late "Slim" Pollock.

From Laurie, Noel and Gaye Pollock, and their families, "Sincere Thanks" cards for distribution to each Association Member who had attended "Slim's" funeral.

From Ernie Gumbleton who wants to trace Albert and Bill HEMBREW (NX68884 & NX68885) ex Machine Gun and/or Carrier Platoons - anyone with information about them is asked to notify Fred Staggs.

From Bill Gibbs, now of Long Beach, California, U.S.A., thanking Fred Staggs for obtaining and sending him the Greek Medalion and Scroll. The package was collected by Bill's "small fry" neighbours who were curious about its contents, the possibility being that it might contain "candy", so Bill opened it and showed them the medal, etc. I quote from Bill:-(Contd.)

CORRESPONDENCE "IN" (Contd.):

"The boy, aged 11, said it was 'cool' and the girl, aged 8, opined it was 'awesome' - I don't know what they are talking about half the time."

From Vera McNamara thanking Association Members for the expressions of sympathy tendered to her in the loss of her husband, Les, and especially commending those Members who attended at the graveside "proudly wearing their White over Green colours".

From Bill and Gwen Newth enclosing cheque and advising that they had spent a few days at Mollymook where they visited Jean and Garney Moore and Betty Ford, each of whom is well.

From Des Loydell with dues plus donation and sending his regards to all Members.

From Helen Martin, of Goulburn, enclosing a cheque to be used for "W.O.G." postage costs and saying that she enjoys reading what we are all doing. Helen also expressed sadness over the passing of Cec Chrystal.

From H.W. Russell, of Repton 2454, with 1987 subscription.

From "Brig" McAtamney with cheque to make Allen Lindsay happy but saying what a sad year it has been, 2/4th's having passed "into the great beyond" in numbers we can ill afford. "Brig" was especially shocked when he learned of Noel Ford's death, not having been aware of his declining health and therefor not having visited him, a man for whom he had great respect. "Brig" is still Tipstaff to Judge Moran in the Workers' Compensation Court of N.S.W. and that takes him all over the State. He says that he reads every line of "W.O.G." and hopes to be with us on Anzac Day.

From Charlie Granquist with cheque for the Treasurer and an excerpt from Godfrey McLeod's "The Anzacs" which Charlie feels is typical of the mental state of a Prisoner-of-War when first separated from his Battalion - "In bitter safety I awake unfriended, And while the dawn begins with slashing rain I think of the Battalion in the mud".

From Laura Wallace enclosing a donation for "W.O.G." and notifying a street number address change. Laura says "I do enjoy reading all the 'going ons', meetings, re-unions and so forth. I'm always sad when I read the "Last Post", so many names are familiar. Keep up the good work while you can".

From Laurie Waterhouse (a later letter) including his new 'phone number -075/363745. Laurie says he has been busy "taking wallpaper off and putting other wallpaper on". A pleasant surprise for Laurie and Joy was a visit from Bruce Cork and John Meehan on 30th. March. John is in Queensland to speed up a hernia operation, having been told in Sydney that he would have to wait several months. Bruce Cork's doctor has organised for John to enter a hospital in Southport and the whole thing is expected to be over in about ten to fourteen days from now (now being 1st. April - I wonder if there is any significance in that date, Ed.). Bruce & John had also called on Col Halmarick and had apparently located "Moose" Mathews in the Southport area, ex B.H.Q. Orderly Room Sgt. Laurie was due to visit Ballina and intends to contact Harry Whitman and Doug Grove if possible. On 21st. April Laurie will come to Sydney for an appointment with a Specialist

(Contd.)

CORRESPONDENCE "IN" (Contd.):

and, all being well, he will join us on Anzac Day.

From Norma Cork, of Burleigh Heads 4220, with donation towards "W.O.G." postage costs and expressing pleasure that we have continued to send the Journal to her. Norma enjoys our monthly newsletter because she knows some of our members personally and recognises the names of others.

From Joyce Stewart, of Bateman's Bay 2536, with a donation towards "W.O.G." postage and a request to remain on our mailing list as it provides a link with the Association following Bill's passing. Joyce also expressed her gratification that Mortar Platoon Members from their Narooma Re-union were present at the funeral.

From Kay Stirling (U.K.), via Jack and Joan Huston, saying how heartening it has been for her to receive letters from folk who were fond or appreciative of her Uncle, Monty Siems. She mentions a Mr. Hannon who met Monty in the 1920's in the foothills of the Himalayas, shared barracks with him for four or five years and remained in contact. Kay advises that Monty died on 14th. January at Heath Hospital, Tendring, Essex. Monty's second cousin, Peter Egan (ex-R.A.F.), has his medals, etc., and will value them. He, and his Mother, Ivy Crabbe, were very helpful to, and supportive of, Monty right up to his death.

From Frank Mallett (U.K.), via Harry Wright, referring to Monty Siems and, in brighter vein, conveying messages to Bill and Gwen MacLennan, to whom he sends best wishes, and to John Meehan, to whom he sends an assurance that he had nothing to do with the outcome of the recent Cricket Test Series between England and Australia.

O-O-O-O-O

"CHARLIE" COY. CALLING - Message from HARRY GJEDSTED:-

A "C" Company Newsletter was produced in the Middle East during 1940-41 by C.S.M. Harry Watts, Jim Barrow and Dave Tearall, under the name of "Charlie Coy. Calling".

Once again "Charlie" Coy. is calling on the basis of holding a lunch get-together of all ex-"C" Company members.

Norm Auberson and I have had this in mind for some time, with the idea of making it a bi- or tri-monthly gathering at the Gallipoli Memorial Club.

To get your ideas and thoughts on this, we have set the date for the first gathering to be Tuesday, 16th. June, 1987, at 12 noon. All interested Members are requested to 'phone Norm (632-8225) or myself (27-6350) by Friday, 12th. June.

O-O-O-O-O

"BITS and PIECES":-

Congratulations to Ted Jackson on being re-elected to Warringah Council.

Thanks to John Copland for entrusting to this Editor, on behalf of the Association Archives, seven (7) bound volumes of monthly "W.O.G." Journals comprising EVERY issue from No. 1 of May 1946 to Volume 40 No. 12 of December 1985. Thanks to Bob ("Dagwood") Jackson for providing an original Colour Patch for the pugaree on the hat we use at funerals.

Suggestion for any Member who has our War History but no-one to whom to bequeath it: Why not "Will" it to this Association for disposal as the Committee thinks fit. That book is, of course, out of print and won't be reprinted.

O-O-O-O-O

**REPORTS - 6 DIVISION,
ASSOCIATION OF 4TH. INF. BNS.,
CRETE-GREEK ANNIVERSARY:-**

By Ken Kesteven:

Re proposed Australian/Hellenic Memorial - adjacent to War Memorial:

- (a) Fund raising will be necessary and Dr. Spiro of Greek National Tourist Organisation will provide prizes for a Lottery:
- (i) Trip for two to Greece, Crete & Islands - including air travel, accommodation, plus \$2,000.00 spending money;
- (ii) Trip for two to New Zealand;
- (iii) Trip for two to Hayman Island.
- (b) Project Brochure being prepared - to be ready early April.
- (c) Model of winning design will travel all around Australia in very near future.
- (d) Federal Govt. consideration being given to donations being tax deductible - looks favourable.
- (e) Total sum required exceeds Aust. \$1m. - this will also cover Scholarships - i.e. Greek children to Australia and Aust. children to Greece for 12 months.
- (f) First Fund Raising event will be at Garden Island from 1200 hours on Sunday 3rd. May - a charge of \$5.00 per family: Raffles; Entertainment by Greek and Cretan Fraternity; General inspection of the Garden Island establishment - BYO food and grog.

Leaflet will be available for distribution on Anzac Day.

Re 46th. Anniversary of the Battle of Crete and the Greek Campaign:

A preliminary fund raising luncheon was held at South Sydney Businessmen's Club on Sunday 15th. March and was attended by Sir Ivan and Lady Dougherty, Ken and Fi Kesteven, Harry and Marge Gjedsted, Ted and Heather Fox, John Meehan. The Sydney Programme of Activities is:- Saturday, 16th. May - Wreath-laying Ceremony at The Cenotaph at 1400 hours - Assemble at the corner of O'Connell & Hunter Streets at 1330 hours for short march to Martin Place, led by 2nd. Military District Band - Assocn. ties, name tags, medals & decorations to be worn;

Cretan Ball that evening at Westside Lounge, Illawarra Road, Marrickville;

Sunday, 17th. May - Holy Trinity/Garrison Church - Memorial Service at 1030 hours - Assemble 1000 hours at corner Argyle Place & Lower Fort Street, Millers Point - Assocn. ties, name tags, medals & decorations to be worn - Morning Tea after the Service;

Sunday, 24th. May - Memorial Service at 1100 hours (assemble 1030 hours) at Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Cathedral, Cleveland & Regent Streets, Redfern (adjacent to Prince Alfred Park). Assocn. ties, name tags, medals & decorations to be worn.

Re Assocn. of 4th. Infantry Battalions:

Meetings at 4 Bn. R.N.S.W. Regt., Arncliffe, on 10th. April and 12th. June, 1987; Annual Church Parade at St. Anne's Anglican Church, corner of Homebush Road & Beresford Street, Strathfield, on Sunday 21st. June, 1987, time to be advised (afternoon anticipated) - Assocn. ties, name tag and medals/decorations to be worn.

0-0-0-0-0

TRIVIATA:-

There was a young man of Tarcutta, Whenever he spoke he would stutter; To his teacher, said he: "P-p-lease t-tell me, Is a b-buttruss a f-f-feminine b-butter?"

0-0-0-0-0

SITREPS:-

Newcastle: From George Mitchell:

"Our Monthly Get-together was held as usual on 1st. Friday (6/3/87) at Hamilton R.S.L. Club when the Present Book recorded Jack & Mary Partridge, Chic & Dot Sleeman, and locals comprising Pat & Gwen Bruty, Doug & Deidre Milne and George & Heather Mitchell. Apologies were received from Alf Carpenter & Doreen Manuel".

South Australia: From Peter (and Pat) Denver: "A special "THANK YOU" to the "W.O.G." Production Teams, to Harry Gjedsted and Gallipoli Club facilities, from we "further afield" members of the Association, for the great benefit of monthly news, information, and the pleasure of feeling "in touch" with people and events all over Australia.

I'd like to make a quick reference to the Inverell Re-union: GREAT! The friendliest of all those I've attended, 100% participation of good fellowship achieved and with a good introduction of "first timers". Top Job, Ross Smith, and honourable mention deserved by the many helpers. I found the contribution by the "Viet.Vets." outstanding at the B.B.Q. where lots of us met. It so impressed me that Goolwa R.S.L. (a dear little meeting place) ran a B.B.Q. for the younger boys in January. Nearly 90 people attended, and heaps of kids. Please, Ross Smith, tell 'em from us - WELL DONE.

Anzac Day last year, and the preceding night's re-union, was one of our S.A. best. The pleasure was to be found at the Duke of York Hotel where we usually meet, but for the first time certain wives filled a table just a bit remote from us and they must have enjoyed themselves because, later in the evening, when told they may join us their answer was a positive NO! They included Pat Walton, Dorothy Cullen, Mrs. Bill Loy, Betty Rungie and Pat Denver (all no doubt spoilt by being given the Vote). Our first B.B.Q. of the year, Anzac Day to Anzac Day, was organised for Riverton (last Sunday in June each year) at Dorothy and Jack Cullen's. It was a super occasion, first one North of Adelaide. I had a ball and beat Jack at 8 Ball, 4 games to 3. It's very news-worthy that Jack will arrive Brisbane this Anzac Day to represent S.A. in the National Blind Bowlers' Competition. Dorothy guides and directs Jack and we are so proud of them both.

In November we met at Middleton and on 1st. February at Fred and Kitch Dibden's in Adelaide. It was really hot, more than 40 of us, some in - but most around - the pool, when an overweight and over-eighty ex 2/4th. R.S.M. plunged into the deep end. Down the middle lane he went, veered left and just made the steps. Robbie!! Scared hell out of all of us.

Last Sunday we had a good roll-up here & our R.S.M. was a little subdued - perhaps because the Maczkowiacks weren't here to stir the devil in him. Missed the Loys - Bill has not been at all well for quite a while, so we wish him better health. George Walton's bright & chirpy Pat has had a bad time since visiting Tom Mort's Mortars but tests have revealed that this Mortar is in the clear. She was a victim of medical prescription error but is recovering".

(Contd.)

SITREPS:-South Australia (Contd.):

"I saw Ken Raymond at Crafers not long ago and was surprised at what a big man he is now. He's well except for leg circulation and bad hearing.

Last year's Coach Trip Brigade will be pleased to know our plaques have been hung at Goolwa R.S.L. and, with great prominence, above the Saloon/Lounge Bar at Crafers Hotel - for all to see.

Betty Rungie drove Marj McCarty and Robbie down here last Sunday, and had no need at all for her car radio. Thanks, Betty.

Kelly Karney travelled here with wife, daughter and son-in-law, Allan McIntyre, who has lived neighbourly to Wally Mangan on the Central Coast of N.S.W. Unlike Wally, Allan is about 20 stone - and every ounce likeable.

Long-time-no-see Keith Bentley, with wife Trudy, joined us at Fred Dibden's and again here and has promised to attend his first Anzac Day this year. Keith has a really good voice, like Paul Robinson (?? - does he mean 'Robeson'? - Ed.).

Last May our 'Mario Lanza', Shorty Southam, died suddenly and was buried at Kadina. Eight of us were able to be there. He and Ron Maczkowiack were pretty close mates & the big funeral attendance showed a depth of affection.

Haven't booked for Nelson Bay - still hope to go but the late timing in October means S.A. women bowlers (Pat and Dorothy) would miss their first two Pennant Matches and the men one plus the trials I have always bolted home to attend.

Very best wishes to all - may your Anzac Day be successful in every respect."

West Australia: From Doug Slinger:

"Five of our W.A. "W.D.G."s and the President of 2/11 Association, Laurie Sullivan & his wife Olga, met Alf Carpenter & Doreen Manuel for lunch at the Anzac Club on Friday, 27th. March. A bus strike (I didn't think you had them in W.A. - Ed.), suddenly sprung on the community, making city parking impossible, prevented the attendance of others not living near rail services.

We had an enjoyable meeting, talking about old mates living in N.S.W. and hearing of Association activities at first hand from Alf. Those attending were: Alf and Doreen, Laurie and Olga, 'Dasher' and Lily Deacon, Ross Elliott, Wilma and myself. Bus Strike apologies were 'phoned in from Don Guthrie, John Storey, Ted Hards, Stan Day, Vern Townsend, Wally Evans and Edna Ding.

The 2/11th. President, Laurie Sullivan, had called me during the week to request to meet Alf and I invited him to come along. Alf was delighted by Laurie's gesture.

'Dasher' Deacon is to enter hospital for two or three weeks. He is suffering from accute neck pain and finding it hard to sleep. Hopefully the spell in hospital will rectify the situation and we will see that he has visitors.

Eric Jones (WX29573) of Cook, A.C.T., wrote to me to advise his whereabouts after my list of "WX" known and missing members was published in "W.D.G." and I have now listed him as a located W.A. 2/4 Bn. Member. Eric was with "D" Company and we over here are all delighted to learn that he is alive & well. Some of our boys will march on Anzac Day

(Contd.)

SITREPS:-West Australia (Contd.):

"With 2/11th. Bn. Association and we will be at their Re-union at the Railway Institute Club with our wives after the Service. Our "girls" (the inverted commas are his, Girls, not mine - Ed.) will view the Parade from the Westpac Bank on the corner of William Street and St. George's Terrace and the marching "boys" (this time the inverted commas ARE mine - Ed.) will meet them there at the conclusion of the March. Any 2/4ther in Perth on that day may join us by falling in with the 2/11th. at Pier Street on the South side of St. George's Terrace. There are other 2/4thers here who, with their ladies, will attend the Doubleview R.S.L. Memorial Club Service.

Wilma and I have just returned from a 14 day holiday in Thailand, along with our youngest son and two of our grandchildren. We enjoyed the experience very much. While we were there I encountered a JAP tourist (don't ask me to pronounce or spell his name) who was at Wewak. Japs are not my "cup of tea" but it was interesting to come across this one after all those years. He treated me with utmost courtesy.

You and your "W.D.G." Teams are doing a wonderful job in the interests of all of us, right across Australia - Thanks".

O-O-O-O-O

PORT STEPHENS/NELSON BAY RE-UNION:-From Chic Sleeman:

"Some of the Motels, etc., are now booked-out so I will have to make future reservations at which-ever Motel (etc.) has vacancies and is reasonably convenient.

The 458 Squadron R.A.A.F. is booked into most sites for the three days prior to our function and some of them have decided to prolong their stay by a few more days. One Motel offers 15% discount to Card-Carrying Members of The Bowlers' Club of N.S.W. so if I am advised by Members, when they send their deposits, I will ensure they reap the benefit."

Re-union bookings for the past month are:
Peninsular Motor Inn:

Jack & Eunice Dubber; Nick & Ruth Allardice; Henry & Maisie Elliott; Bill & Hilda Fogden; Roy & Una Denyer; Arnold ("Curly") & Maureen Gorman; Bob & Gladys Lever; Norm & Nita Auberson; Alex ("Biscuits") Arnott; Ian & Edna Wallwork; John Meehan; Garry & Joan Hart; Pat & Gwen Bruty; Doug & Deidre Milne; Bruce & Angela Cork; Bill & Aimee Facey; Jack & Mollie Scheibel; Charles & Wendy Granquist; Craig & Edna Clark.

Marlin Motel:

Elsie Bradford; Vera Walsh; Molly Irvine; Frank & Enid Crutchett; Cec & Joan Lawson; Bill & Beryl Poplin.

Halifax Carravan Park:

Bill & Una Sheaffe; Reg & Jenny Wilkinson; George & Heather Mitchell.

Leilani Court Motel:

Harry & Marge Gjedsted; Bill & Gwen MacLennan; Allen & Gloria Lindsay.

Country Club Hotel: Seabreeze Hotel:

Bill & Ida Mitchell. Roy & Irene McAdam.

Port Stephens Motor Lodge:

Ferd & Margaret Pegg; David & Judith Smith.

P.W. Motel (privately booked):

Herb & Marjorie Robertson.

Private Arrangements:

Harry & Hilda Wright; Bill & Gwen Newth;

(Contd. on Page 8)

THE STORY OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER

Mr A.R.P. Jackson of Ballina, N.S.W., a former member of the 31st Bn. (1st AIF), recently wrote to Bruce Ruxton, State President Victoria R.S.L., enclosing an article on the origin of choosing the body of an unknown Soldier for burial in Westminster Abbey.

We are pleased to include this story in our Journal - thanks Mr Jackson.

HOW THEY CHOSE THE "UNKNOWN WARRIOR"

(Extract from N.Z. "Review" dated December 1967).

The inscription on the Tomb reads "Beneath this stone lies the body of a British Warrior, unknown by name or rank, brought here on Armistice Day, November 11, 1920, in the presence of His Majesty King George V, his Ministers of the State, the chiefs of his forces and a vast concourse of the nation. Thus are commemorated the many multitudes who during the Great War of 1914-1918 gave the most that man can give, life itself, for God, for King and Country, for loved ones, home and Empire, for the sacred cause of justice and freedom of the world. They buried him among the kings because he had done good towards God and towards His House".

* * *

In the days of old, kings, chiefs and famous men were often buried in magnificent tombs. The pyramids, mausoleums and great barrows of earthworks stand as their memorials. After a great battle, the victors would set up a trophy of arms, helmets and armour and even a cenotaph or empty tomb; but the idea of an unknown man being buried with honour is a comparatively recent idea.

It sprang from the imagination of an Army Chaplain, the Rev. David Railton, M.C. During the First World War, near Armentieres, he noticed a grave bearing a pencilled inscription "An Unknown Soldier of the Black Watch". It was this which gave him the idea that later became a national memorial. It was not until 1920, however, that he was able to put forward the plan which had been developing in his mind. He approached the Dean of Westminster Abbey, and the Dean was able to persuade the Government to accept this.

A committee headed by the foreign Minister, Lord Curzon, recommended that his office should arrange for an unknown soldier to be disinterred in France and brought to Westminster Abbey. It further recommended that the burial should be on Armistice Day of that year and that King George V should be asked if, after he had unveiled the Cenotaph in Whitehall, he would follow the Gun Carriage, bearing the body, to Westminster Abbey. And so an unknown

soldier was brought from the battle fields of France and buried with ceremony amongst the tombs of the most illustrious in the land.

The British authorities gave very little information about the selection of the "Unknown Soldier" and it was not until Armistice Day, 1939, 19 years later, that Brigadier-General L.J. Wyatt, DSO, in a letter to "The Daily Telegraph", gave the facts.

Six Bodies: The Brigadier-General, as General Officer in charge of troops in France and Flanders, and Director of the War Graves Commission, was given instructions that the body of a British soldier, which it would be impossible to identify, should be brought in from each of the six battle areas - the Aisne, Marne, Cambrai, Somme, Arras and Ypres, on the night of 9th November, and placed in the Chapel at St. Pol.

The party bringing in each body was to return at once to its area so that there should be no chance of anyone knowing on which the choice fell. Working parties carried out these instructions, and the bodies carried in ambulances were received by the Reverend George Kendall, OBE, at the Army hut not far from Ypres, which had been draped with a great Union Jack, and a guard was set on the door. In front of the altar was the shell of the coffin which had been sent from England to receive the remains.

At midnight, 9-10th November, the Brigadier-General, with Colonel Gell, entered the hut. The Brigadier was blindfolded as he turned towards the bodies. They had been placed in a row, on stretchers, each covered with a Union Jack. He was then turned in the direction of the coffins and moved towards them. The body in the first coffin he touched was to be that of Britain's "Unknown Soldier". He, with the help of Colonel Gell, placed it in the shell and screwed down the lid. To quote, "I had no idea even of the area from which the body I selected had come, and no one else can know it".

The guard remained over the solitary coffin, and nobody entered the hut that night. The other bodies were reburied in the Military Cemetery at St. Pol.

Mixed Service: The following morning the Chaplains of the Church of England, the Roman Catholic Church and the Non-Conformist Churches held a service in the Hut. On the same day at noon, the Rev. Kendall came with an ambulance and the body was sent, under escort, to Boulogne. At 3.30 p.m., after passing through troops lining the outskirts of Boulogne, the ambulance drew up at the ancient castle, the local headquarters of the French Army. Here to meet it were Colonel Bradstock, Colonel Gell, Major Fitzsimons, Major Diedbold of the French Army and M.

Labeau, sub-prefect of the district.

Eight soldiers including a Sergeant Major of the R.A.S.C., a Sergeant of the Royal Engineers, a Gunner of the Royal Field Artillery, an Australian Light-Horseman, a Private each from the Canadian Infantry and the Machine Gun Corps, and a Rifleman from the 21 London Regiment (First Surrey Rifles) stepped forward as bearers. The library of the castle had been turned into a Chapelle Ardente. Into this, through corridors lined by Poilus, the body was taken. A French Company furnished the guard throughout the last night on French soil. No British troops were with them. At noon the next day, the rough wooden shell was placed in a plain oak coffin which had arrived from England the previous night. This had wrought-iron bands, through one of which was passed a Crusader's sword from the Tower of London collection.

The coffin of Hampton Court oak, presented by the British Undertakers' Association, and bearing the inscription "A British Warrior who fell in the Great War 1914-18 for King and Country", was placed on a French military wagon, drawn by six horses, and under escort of French troops was taken to Boulogne Quay, where a destroyer was waiting. The Admiralty had sent HMS "Verdun" as a special tribute to the French nation, and the gallant defence of that city. The cortege was a mile long. The French Government sent a division of all arms to pay their last tribute. Marshall Foch, who represented the French nation, made a touching speech, and Lieutenant-General Sir George Macdonagh, representing King George, replied. General Weygand and many distinguished French and British officers were present.

French Soil: Aboard the destroyer the same bearer party laid the coffin on the deck abaft the stern gun platform on the port side. Six barrels of earth from the Ypres salient were put on board, to be placed in the tomb in Westminster Abbey, so that the body should rest in soil on which so many of our troops gave up their lives. HMS Verdun moved off slowly, a guard of blue-jackets at "The Present" and the guns on shore firing a salute. An escort of six destroyers joined her. HMS Verdun steamed slowly into Dover harbour and a salute of 19 guns was fired from the castle.

Six Warrant-officers from the Royal Navy, the Royal Marines, Army and the Royal Air Force acted as bearers, and six officers from all services brought the body ashore. It was followed by Sir George Macdonagh, the officers of the garrison and the Mayor and corporation of Dover, to the Marine Station, where it received a salute

from the Guard of Honour furnished by the 2nd Connaught Rangers and the Duke of York's Military School. The saloon in which the body was placed was that which carried home Nurse Edith Cavell and Captain Fryatt.

There was an interval of more than one hour before the train started, during which time four sentries, one from each service, stood on guard. An escort of one officer and fifteen men travelled in a second saloon. The body remained in the train during the night at Victoria, and was then taken over by 1st Bn. Grenadier Guards. The coffin, covered by a Union Jack on which had been placed a steel helmet, side-arms and a webbing-belt, was put on a gun-carriage and drawn by six horses, started in slow time by a long route to reach the Cenotaph. Led by a firing party and the Bands of the Coldstream, Scots, Irish and Welsh Guards, came the gun-carriage. Troops from all services followed.

The pall-bearers were Sir Hedworth Meux, Earl Beatty, Sir Charles Madden, General Gatliff, Sir Henry Jackson, Lord Byng, Lord Horne, Sir Henty Wilson, Earl Haig, Lord French, Lord Methuen and Sir Hugh Trenchard.

Cenotaph Arrival: The gun-carriage drew up at the Cenotaph. King George stepped forward and placed his wreath of red roses and bay leaves on the coffin. After "The Silence" the gun-carriage again moved forward. King George, as chief Mourner, took his place immediately behind it, followed by the Prince of Wales, the Duke of York, Prince Henry, the Duke of Connaught, the Marquis of Milford Haven, the Speaker, Mr Asquith, Mr Lloyd George, Lord Curzon, Mr Bonar Law and the Ministers of State.

The coffin, borne by the NCO's of the guards, passed through two lines of 100 wearers of the Victoria Cross, some in uniform, some in plain clothes, under the command of Colonel Freyberg, V.C. Behind these were widows and mothers of the fallen.

The Queen, the Princess Royal, Queen Alexandra and the Queens of Spain and Norway had been driven from the Cenotaph to the West Door of the Abbey and had already taken their places.

The service was conducted by the Dean. The music was by English composers, and included Kipling's "Recessional". During the singing of "Lead Kindly Light" the bearers came forward, removed from the coffin the helmet and side-arms, and at the conclusion lowered it into the tomb. At the committal, the King scattered earth from the battlefields from a silver shell. After a long roll of drums the poignant notes of the "Last Post" rang out, followed by "Reveille". Finally, the two lines of the holders of the Victoria Cross filed past on

either side of the grave. The service was the mourning of the Nation.

The honours that had been paid were those due to a Field Marshall.

"THEY BURIED HIM AMONG KINGS, BECAUSE HE HAD DONE GOOD TOWARDS GOD, AND TOWARDS HIS HOUSE".

By 27th November it was estimated that one and a half million had passed slowly by in homage. They knew, they understood. Today, thousands pass by. DO THEY KNOW? Time has elapsed; this has been written to give you the chance of knowing, too.

O-O-O-O-O

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

Private Arrangements (Contd.):

John & Joyce Ringrose; Alex & Jean Maxwell; Brian Waring; Cec Loughnan.

NOTE for Chic Sleeman: Add to the Private Arrangement category the following whom I have told to fill-in the Form and send it for catering (etc.) purposes:

Bob & Nina Fergusson; Harold & Noni Bowman.

O-O-O-O-O

LAST POST:-

NX175767 - LOCKYER, F.W.
NX5957 - BLENCOWE, A.R.
NX27977 - GOODWIN, L.F. (LEN).



O-O-O-O-O

EDITORIAL:-

Future of the Dept. of Veterans' Affairs:

Following our last Monthly Meeting, plus the efforts of George Stack, we have sent to Mr. Philip Ruddock, M.P., six completed pages of Petition in the above matter - i.e. approx. 90 signatures - please keep it up, it may help, irrespective of which Political Party is in Government.

On this subject, the T.P.I. Association, in answer to its own letter to the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, received a reply from Senator Gietzelt saying (in part): "It is this Government's view that pensions, treatment and other services needed by Veterans and war widows should continue to be provided through the Dept. of Veterans' Affairs as long as there is a need to have a separate organisation

for this purpose. I expect that this need will remain for another ten to fifteen years. (The underlining is mine - Ed.).

I should add that the Prime Minister, the Hon. R. J. L. Hawke, AC, MP, has assured the Labor Party Caucus that no such amalgamation will take place under this Government. (The underlining again is mine - when does a Govt. cease to be "this" Govt. and become a new Govt.?).

In a reply to a question from Senator Tate on this same matter, as confirmed in "Hansard", Senator Gietzelt made the same response and added that "The threat comes not from this Government, but from the Opposition" - he then referred to the recent Liberal Party Thredbo Conference and implied that such a decision was made there.

(8) WELFARE REPORT:-

By Harry Wright:

As at 23rd. March, 1987:

Visited at Concord Repat. Gen. Hospital:

NX69090 - STURT, J. - when called upon he had just been discharged.

NX53929 - GRAHAM, J.P. ("Gentleman Jim") - was in Ward 430 for right hip replacement - transferred to Lady Davidson Hospital for rehabilitation and physiotherapy.

Visited at Tregothan Nursing Home, Leura:

NX3939 - BARKER, E. (Ted) - visited by Bob Lever who reports that Ted is in satisfactory condition.

As at 6th. April, 1987:

Visited at Lady Davidson Hospital:

NX53929 - GRAHAM, JIM - visited by Ted & Heather Fox and by Harry Wright and George Stack - now in Ward "A" - bright and progressing but will be there for another month or so - vows never to trip again over the local Council's footpath lawn strip.

NX15504 - WILLIAMSON, C.A. (Cecil) - transferred from Wagga Wagga Base Hospital - visited by Harry Wright and George Stack - Ward "A" with Jim Graham - artificial leg being fitted and will be there for some time yet. Cec was with "D" Company and taken P.O.W. in Greece before Jim joined the Bn. so they didn't know each other until at breakfast they found out that they had both served in 2/4 Bn.

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

NX164 - COPLAND, J.S. (John) - visited by Phyl Chrystal and daughters, and by Ted & Heather Fox and Ken & Fi Kesteven on the occasion of his 83rd. birthday - John looked 100% and was quite excited by the prospect of arrival of a grandchild.

Visited at Milton Nursing Home, Roseville:

Lady MACKAY: On the occasion of her 96th. birthday was visited by Heath Fox (Lady Mackay was in a deep sleep and couldn't be wakened) & by Ken and Fi Kesteven. Heather left one of our 2/4 Bn. cards to wish her a Happy Birthday from us all.

General: (1) Bob Fergusson has reported that George Sugden has been in Tamworth Hospital suffering from a stroke.

(2) Alan Bohlé has had a double heart by-pass operation in Royal North Shore Hospital in February, and, not being content with that, also an Aorta replacement - now recovering at home.

(3) As reported elsewhere, John Meehan is having a gold-plated Hernia operation on the "Gold Coast" in Joh's Territory.

IMPORTANT: Re our people in hospital:

In the Repat. Hospitals we have reasonable control over information re admissions. Our problem lies in the current practise of members being hospitalised outside this system. Next-of-kin, relatives, anybody who knows, tell us, please.