



# White Water Green

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE 2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

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

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**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):-

TUESDAY, 26th. May - Normal Monthly Meeting ) Committee will meet at 1130 hours in the

TUESDAY, 23rd. June - Normal Monthly Meeting ) Anzac Room.

**"O.G." PRODUCTION:** WEDNESDAY, 10th. June - Team 7 at 1000 hours in The Anzac Room and THURSDAY, 11th. June - Team 8 at 1100 hours in The Regimental Room.

**DATES TO REMEMBER:-** Re 46th Anniversary of the Battle of Crete and the Greek Campaign - From Ken Kesteven:

SATURDAY, 16th. May - Assemble at 1330 hours at the corner of O'Connell and Hunter Streets for short march to Martin Place for Wreath-laying Ceremony at 1400 hours at The Cenotaph. (Cretan Ball that evening at Westside Lounge, Illawarra Road, Marrickville).

SUNDAY, 17th. May - Assemble at 1000 hours at the corner of Argyle Place and Lower Fort Street, Millers Point, for Memorial Service at 1030 hours at the Holy Trinity/Garrison Church. (Morning Tea after the Service).

SUNDAY, 24th. May - Assemble at 1030 hours for Memorial Service at 1100 hours at the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Cathedral, Cleveland and Regent Streets, Redfern (adjacent to Prince Alfred Park).

**NOTE:** On each occasion, Association Ties, Name Tags, Medals and Decorations are to be worn.

**"CHARLIE" COY. CALLING - from Harry Gjedsted:**

TUESDAY, 16th. June - "This is a reminder to all "C" Company personnel regarding the lunch to be held in the Gallipoli Memorial Club on Tuesday, 16th. June, 1987. All interested Members are requested to 'phone Norm Auberson (632.8225) or me (27.6350) by Friday, 12th. June, so that adequate catering arrangements may be made. I look forward to seeing you there .. Harry Gjedsted".

**TRIVIATA:-**

Extract from "The Blue Light" Vol.1 No.2 - February 1940 - published aboard H.M.T. "STRATHNAVER" (Price 3d.): HITLER: Who are these Australians they are talking about? RIBBENTROP: I don't know, but I once read about an eleven of them beating ALL ENGLAND. HITLER: Gott in Himmel! There's thousands of them coming over.



BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS FOR SIR IVAN:-

On Monday, 6th. April, at The Gallipoli Memorial Club, the President of that Club and the President of 2/4 Bn. Association hosted a party for Sir Ivan in honour of his 80th. Birthday. Those present were afforded an extremely pleasant evening in addition to having the opportunity to extend birthday greetings to Sir Ivan, who is Patron of the two Organisations above-mentioned.

The birthday cake was cut traditionally by an Army Officer's Sword, presentations were made to Sir Ivan and Lady Dougherty, and appropriate speeches and responses completed the proceedings.

In attendance were many of Sir Ivan's associates from military and civil spheres & included among the guests were His Excellency Sir James Rowland, Governor of N.S.W., and Lady Rowland; Sir Colin Hines; Brigadier Sir Frederick Chilton; Major-General R. Fay; Major-General Gordon Maitland and Mrs. Maitland; Major-General Ray Sharp and Mrs. Sharp; Dr. Paul Tomlinson (ex M.O. 2/4 Bn.) & Mrs. Tomlinson; Mr. E. Efstratiadis (Consul-General for Greece) and Mrs. Efstratiadis; The Hon. John Hatton M.P. and Mrs. Hatton; Mr. L. Nix (President 2/5 Fd. Regt.) and Mrs. Nix; Mr. K. Morrison (President 2/2 Bn.) and Mrs. Morrison; Mr. Dick Lenehan (2/27 Bn. - member of "Dougherty" Biography Committee) & Mrs. Lenehan; Mr. J. Tarrant (President Gallipoli Legion of ANZACS); Mr. Tedda Brooks (Past President Gallipoli Legion of ANZACS); Mr. A. Martin (President Gallipoli Mem. Club) and Mrs. Martin; Mr. A. Carpenter (President 2/4 Bn. Association) and Mrs. D. Manuel; Mr. W. Jenkins (Secretary 6 Aust. Div. Association) and Mrs. Jenkins.

On Wednesday, 8th. April, in the Function Room at Concord R.G.H., a 6 Aust. Division party was held for Sir Ivan, accompanied by Lady Dougherty. The birthday cake was decorated with the original four colour patches and a delightful afternoon tea was enjoyed by those present.

General Murchison opened the formal proceedings and wished Sir Ivan a happy birthday on behalf of everyone there. Short speeches were also made by representatives of each Unit, the 39-ers Association, and by our own Fred Staggs on behalf of 2/4 Bn. Assocn. A telegram from Laurie McCosker, on behalf of our Queensland Members, was read. Sir Ivan cut the cake, a piece of which was given to all in attendance, and thanked the gathering for the good wishes extended to him.

We were represented by Norm and Nita Auberson, John and Nell Hawkins, Fred Staggs and Harry Wright.

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MINI-RE-UNION at CITY OF PARRAMATTA  
RETURNED EX-SERVICEMENS' CLUB:-

Because he was not able to attend our Anzac Day Luncheon, but did manage to get to the above Club on Tuesday, 28th. April, Ted McCaffery was the focus of a mini-re-union attended by Lionel Clarke, Ted Swadling, "Slim" Venn, Alex Maxwell, Vic Forbes, Ewen Wood, Trevor Richardson, John Hawkins, Len Smith, Mick Hyam, Fred Staggs, Charlie Granquist, Ron Williams, Norm Auberson, John Ringrose, Harry Wright and Jack Hamilton. They were all officially welcomed to the club, presented with a lapel brooch each, and supplied with several jugs of beer which were dealt with in proper 2/4 fashion.

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WREATH-LAYING, MARCH, 8  
LUNCHEON:-

What a wonderful day it was in Sydney, weather-wise and otherwise and, judging by their applause, the spectators also appreciated the sunshine and the atmosphere and the "newer" as well as the "old" soldiers "on parade".

It was a great sight to see the "Viet Vets" given a belated honour and the just privilege of leading the March.

Our Wreath-laying Parade, led by Parramatta Pipe Band, headed off for the Cenotaph shortly after 0800 hours with 33 Members marching and 10 of our Ladies present at the F.U.P. We were joined by a single veteran from 4 Bn. WW1 and our wreath in memory of our fallen & departed comrades was placed upon the Cenotaph with the reverence due to that ceremony. The main march was attended by 100 plus Members, again led by Parramatta Pipe Band and with a Banner Party provided by 4 Bn. Royal N.S.W. Regt. As always, we were thrilled to see so many 2/4 Bn. Ladies among the watching throng, waving their White-over-Green streamers and cheering us on. In accordance with our established custom, Alf Carpenter gave the "Eyes Left" command as we came abreast of the group, a gesture of appreciation welcomed by our Ladies and applauded by nearby spectators who understood the meaning of it. One problem encountered during the march was that the band at one stage was too far in front of us and those marching at the rear of our column found it extremely difficult to keep in step. Not including the Banner Party, who were also our guests, 125 Members and Official Guests were at the Re-union Luncheon held at The Gallipoli Memorial Club. Preceding the serving the meal, President Alf opened the formal Monthly Meeting at 1230 hours and welcomed all Members and Guests. Apologies for non-attendance were recorded and then the Meeting was closed on a Motion by Harry Gjedsted, seconded by Phil Smith.

At the commencement of the meal, with everyone standing, the "Dick Morris" Grace was recited by Ted Fox, after which the Loyal Toast was proposed by Athol Heath. During the meal a pause was taken when Fred Staggs read out the Annual Honour Roll comprising 36 names. The LAST POST was sounded, President Alf said The Infanter's Prayer, John Meehan recited The Ode, REVEILLE was then sounded, and finally our President proposed a Toast to our Fallen and Departed Comrades as a further token of our respect for them, and in memory of them. Later, the Toast to our Guests was proposed by Allen Lindsay, to which Major-General Ray Sharp responded. Major-General Gordon Maitland proposed the Toast to the Battalion and in reply, and to conclude the formalities, President Alf thanked all present for their attendance, including special mention of Parramatta Pipe Band, the Banner Party. Our great appreciation of services rendered to our Association by The Gallipoli Memorial Club, and all categories of the staff, was also expressed by Alf.

Anzac Day is a very busy time for our Patron and it was good that Sir Ivan was able to be with us later in the day.

After their own luncheon, several of our Ladies joined us & so a "BIG" day ended happily.

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Several letters enclosed dues and donations which will be acknowledged by Treasurer Allen Lindsay in a Cash Register Report.

Received by the President: From Gordon Bladen - enclosing newspaper Funeral Notice re (Allan) Roy Blencowe and saying that he (Gordon) re-met Roy at the first Queensland ceremony for presentation of Greek Medals and had seen him again once or twice thereafter. Gordon also enclosed his cheque for \$50.00 as a donation and to "make my Life Membership look a little fresher". (Thanks, Gordon. The friend's own name has been added to "WOG" Mailing List as you requested - Ed.).

Received by the Treasurer: Letters enclosing subscriptions and/or donations from Cyril Stillwell, M. Eslick for husband C.W. (Bill) Eslick, Norm Everson, J.C.M. Brown, George Moore, Gordon Robins, E.L. (Sub) Graham, M. Morgan for J. Morgan. Also received by the Treasurer: From Bill Gibbs (Long Beach, California) with "Subs. plus" and saying that the regular arrival of "WOG" is much appreciated - Bill had just seen the film "Gallipoli" and thought it was great; from Nancy Shearwin with Subs. for husband Bill who very much enjoys "WOG" and thinks that we (i.e. the Editorial Team) are doing "great job"; from Bill Loy with "Cost plus" for the framed "Dick Morris" Grace and The Infanteer's Prayer as made up by Pat Bruty; from John Whitelaw with Subs. and advising that he was to enter hospital on 24th. April for a by-pass operation on his leg; from H.C. (Pop) Williams with Subs. and apology for inability to attend the Anzac Day march because of knee problems - he expects a walking knee brace to be fitted in about three weeks; from Vin Hallinan (ex C.O. of 4 Bn. R.N.S.W. Regt.) with Subs. for "WOG" and apologising for not being able to attend on Anzac Day; from J.R. (Bob) Gardner with Subs. and "congratulations to all who keep the Bn. Association in such good shape" - Bob sends best wishes to Peter Cade and mentions having seen Max Nerney, Jack Lister, Doug Grove, Idie Slade and Ron Ellem; from Eileen Clarke (two letters) with donation for our Welfare Fund and/or "WOG" postage costs - Eileen's husband was the late John Sydney Clarke or "Froggy" as he was known in "B" Company at the time the late Dick Latimer was his Platoon Sergeant (I think that would have been 12 Platoon - Ed.) - she says she enjoys reading about our activities in "WOG", especially the Country Re-unions. After being hospitalised for seven weeks from last Christmas Eve Eileen is now fully recovered and about to visit an old friend in Tamworth - she then plans to visit other friends in Canowindra, and, about November, Lake Macquarie. In July next year she intends to go to England where she met her husband - she says her friends now call her "the merry widow". Eileen's second letter was written after Anzac Day and relevant extracts from it are printed here: "Many times my sons and younger daughter have been to the Anzac Day march and always have been proud of you ... Linda (daughter) wears her grandfather's medals (Boar War) including a Military Medal awarded for bravery and this year a very nice lady and her ex-Airforce husband became interested in my two sets of medals and Linda's grandfather's

(Continued next column)

# Letter from Eileen Clarke (Contd.):

medals - we gave them a great wrap-up about the 2/4 Bn., of your proud campaign history and of your friendly association with Greece and Crete ... when you arrived in George St. we were immensely proud of you all... you did N.S.W. proud".

Received by the Editor: From Betty Ford with a donation towards "WOG" mailing costs and saying that she enjoys keeping in contact with all that is happening amongst Noel's friends through the pages of our journal (do contact us when next you come to Sydney, Betty, and thank you for the donation - Ed.); from Margaret Rae - as follows: "I would like to say how much I, and I am sure all the other girls (?) (Margaret's ? - not mine), appreciated the ladies' luncheon on Anzac Day, so ably organised each year by Hilda Wright and Heather Fox. This annual function enables us, particularly from the country, to renew friendships with other members' wives, especially the ones we meet at Country Re-unions (your letter was much appreciated by Hilda and Heather, Margaret - Ed.).

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## LAST POST - REVEILLE CASSETTE:-

Members who were at our Anzac Day Luncheon will recall that, at the appropriate times, we were able to sound the Last Post and Reveille bugle calls with our own equipment and since it is portable we can repeat that procedure in future at funerals of our Members. The cassette was presented to us via Vic Forbes by John Swinfield, President of Burwood R.S.L. Sub-branch, to whom we are most grateful. The cassette is double-sided and Vic has provided the following explanation of it: SIDE "A": Last Post and Reveille - trumpet solo played by Jack Welsh of Bankstown District Band - taped in 1980 inside the Hyde Park Anzac Memorial with the doors closed so as to produce an echo - recorded with the field equipment of the Anglican Church Radio organisation.

SIDE "B": Last Post - Ode - Reveille recorded from the 1983 "Lest we Forget" tape with the voice of John Derum - recorded by Frank Furriss.

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## WELFARE REPORT:- (By Harry Wright):-

As at 24th. April, 1987:

### Visited at Concord Repat. Gen. Hospital:

NX89809 - MORGAN, Stanley - Ward 630 - was in "D" Company - skin complaint - now discharged.

NX5167 - BROWNJOHN, C.G. - was in Signal Platoon - waterworks problem - now discharged.

General: Dave McGillivray 'phoned from Bomaderry and apologised for non-attendance on Anzac Day - is expecting to enter hospital shortly to have a toe amputated.

As at 10th. May, 1987:

NX4012 - KESTEVEN, Ken (Pluto) - had a "bad turn" during Anzac Day Luncheon - doesn't remember much about it - Fi with daughter and son-in-law took him to hospital during the afternoon and Ken was confined there until the following Wednesday when he was allowed to go home pending further tests.

NX31210 - WRIGHT, Harry - had a bad fall in the vicinity of Parramatta Railway Station on the evening of 28th. April. (Continued next page)



WELFARE REPORT (Contd.):Re Harry Wright (Contd.):

and was "knocked out cold" - when he regained consciousness, and tried to get up, he found himself restrained by a group of young people who had already sent for an ambulance and who remained with him until it arrived - taken to Westmead Hospital - tests carried out with no serious result - bruising and abrasions to eye, face, knee & elbow - allowed to go home approx. 0200 hours - now recovered.

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**Last Post**ANZAC DAY 1986 toANZAC DAY 1987:-

NX9867 - Carrington, R.  
 NX27172 - Banks, J.W.  
 NX2048 - Cole, R.A.  
 NX32136 - Armstrong, P.B.  
 NX5141 - Wake, R.C.

NX5948 - Kleem, A.E.  
 NX5999 - Lidden, S.G.  
 NX13385 - James, R.L.  
 NX46820 - Casey, K.E.  
 NX5202 - Ford, N.R.  
 NX5239 - Walker, J.W.  
 NX46597 - Smith, G.A.  
 NX1993 - Pollock, I.A.  
 NX5104 - Chapman, H.R.  
 NX58 - Chrystal, C.  
 NX42537 - Wilson, W.N.  
 NX8584 - Buckley, S.E.W.  
 NX191891 - Gillard, C.A.  
 NX460588 - McGloy, J.M.  
 NX66444 - Sargent, A.  
 NX8744 - Siems, M.L.  
 NX4050 - MacIntyre, N.S.  
 NX123835 - McNamara, L.F.  
 NX14083 - Stewart, W.J.  
 NX27977 - Goodwin, L.F.  
 SX29384 - Southam, V.L.

NX46782 - Fredrickson, J.S.  
 NX1995 - Whitaker, J.S.  
 NX130701 - McAlister, A.E.  
 NX147494 - Marriott, W.K.  
 NX122498 - Craninis, A.J.R.  
 NX3654 - Campbell, C.C.  
 NX5530 - Bonham, S.R.  
 NX13262 - Nichols, H.S.  
 NX5957 - Blencowe, A.R.  
 NX175767 - Lockyer, F.W.



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VALE - (Allan) Roy BLENOWE:-

Roy Blencowe was laid to rest at Mt. Gravatt (Q'land) Anzac Cemetery on Tuesday 31st. March following Requiem Mass at St. Fabian's Catholic Church, Veerongpilly, Queensland. Vice President Laurie McCosker represented our Association at Roy's funeral, and to Mrs. Beryl Blencowe and family we extend our sincere sympathy and best wishes.

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VALE - Leonard Francis GOODWIN:-

Len Goodwin died peacefully on 31st. March & was cremated on 2nd. April at Allamby Gardens Crematorium, Nerang, after a Service at The Holy Spirit Anglican Church, Isle-of-Capri (Q'land).

Len was 69 years old at the time of his death and had served with us in Libya, Greece, Crete, Syria and Darwin. In early 1943, when we were performing cliff-scaling and associated exercises in the Darwin area, Len and other

(Continued next column)

VALE - Leonard Francis GOODWIN (Contd.):

2/4 Bn. N.C.O.'s were transferred out and sent to Officer Training Schools. After graduation they were commissioned and posted to other Units, mainly Militia Battalions which lacked battle-experienced Leaders. Len was sent to the 56/53 Infantry Battalion after first serving as an Instructor at the Canungra (Q'land) Jungle-training School. While fighting with 56/53 Bn. on Bouganville Len was awarded the Military Cross for gallantry in an action there during which he was wounded.

Leonard Francis Goodwin was born in 1918 in Yanco, Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area, and at an early age moved with his parents to the Monaro district and then to the new National Capital of Canberra, where his parents took up residence and opened a business. At that period, Len attended school at Telopea Park. Upon leaving school, he secured a position as a hardware salesman with the firm of J.B. Young & Co. (now Grace Bros.). After the war, and back in civilian life, he entered business on his own account in a newsagency which prospered, and subsequently he became involved in Real Estate and Property Development. In 1970, for health reasons, Len migrated to the Queensland Gold Coast and by the time of his death had established himself as a prominent and successful businessman both in Canberra and on the Gold Coast.

Len also took a great interest in community affairs and, among his many activities, had served as Commodore of the Gold Coast Yacht Club which, by his keen business acumen, he built up to an efficient and "surefire" organisation.

At Len's funeral in Queensland our Association was represented by Jack Hughes and Bruce Cork. There was also a Memorial Service held at the Anglican Church of St. Paul, Manuka, A.C.T., on 14th. April, and it was attended by John and Ruve Falla, Roy Findlay, John May, and Frank Crutchett. Jack Huston and John Hyles were out of town and sent apologies for their inability to be present.

The Rev. John Griffiths, who conducted the Manuka Service, mentioned that Len had been a foundation member of that Parish and had served as an Altar Boy in the church.

To Mrs. Grace Goodwin and family we send our deepest sympathy.

(I am indebted to Laurie McCosker and Frank Crutchett for the above information - Ed.). I have a happy personal memory of Len Goodwin who, for a time, was my sergeant when in Darwin I was O.C. 12 Platoon, "B" Company. He and I were in hospital together after the war had ended but before we were discharged and, talking about our future, I advised him to return to his pre-war occupation until things had a chance to settle down. Years later he said to me: "Ted, the only time I didn't take any heed of your advice it led to me becoming wealthy!"

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(Editor).

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

Additional bookings now confirmed comprise:  
PRIVATE ARRANGEMENTS:

Sir Ivan and Lady Dougherty,  
 Keith & Rita Bailey, Harold & Noni Bowman,  
 Bob & Nina Fergusson, Doug Grove,  
 Rex & Olga Everson, Lionel & June Clarke.

SEABREEZE HOTEL:

Roy & Irene McAdam.

(Continued next page)



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

George and Pat Walton, Esca and Beb Riordan, Lyn and Edna Bloomfield.

PENINSULAR MOTOR INN:

Harry and Ada Whitman.

P.W. MOTEL:

Dave, Sally and Olene Follington.

ALOHA VILLA MOTEL:

Jack and Joan Huston, Harry Newhouse, John Lyons, Morrie and Mollie Wilson, Chris and Shirley Geelan.

HALIFAX CARAVAN PARK:

Jack and Mary Partridge, Hugh and Eileen Wittleton, Noel and Mrs. Woolcott, Wally and Connie Mangan.

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SITREPS:-

Queensland - From Laurie McCosker:

Laurie's report is basically a Welfare Report as follows: Wally McKenzie is quite well except for a heavy cold; Norm Everson also is well and advises having met Bruce Cork and John Meehan on the Gold Coast when John was in process of getting a gold-plated hernia repair job in that area recently; Gordon Bladen is getting around a lot better now; Stan Sutherland has had a cataract removed & O.K.; Vera Provians endured a bout of shingles but has now recovered and is "fighting fit"; everything else is "situation normal".

South Australia - From Peter Denver:

"Not long home. Returned from Anzac Day celebrations in Adelaide via Goolwe R.S.L. Sunday Service and had a few refreshers. Wonder the hand still writes! Yesterday I presented to all and sundry the last, beautiful, White-Over-Green. Many were impressed and we have a newcomer for the Association and the "WOG" Mailing List. Subscription enclosed for NX9263 W.J. Geaghan, 8 Hazel St., Blair Athol, S.A. 5084. Bill marched and with wife, Rita, had dinner at The Duke of York before transferring to the Casino for the afternoon - good job I got his subscription beforehand. We all had a wonderful day, a bright sunny march in warm conditions. All made the distance but Robbie and Kelly Carney suffered some. Robbie came good but poor Kelly was a case of home to bed for "R. & R". Do hope the big event in Sydney came up to all expectations without misadventure or misfortune. The Gallipoli Memorial Club is so ideal as venue for Re-union because it is close to everything and, above all, close to the heart of "diggers". Had a quick trip to Sydney 10-14 April and a visit to Woronora Cemetery with my Mum. Only saw family. Thought of Johnny Meehan and specially Frank Mallett who was mothered a lot by her in the old Challis Ave. era and the war years. Best wishes to the Team - blood's worth bottling".

Queensland (again) - 2nd. Report from Laurie McCosker:

"The Queensland 6 Div. Association held its Anzac Day Dinner on 23rd. April and there were approx. 80 personnel present, including the following 2/4thers - Stan Sutherland, Craig Clark, Henry Elliott, Norm Everson, Fred Catley, Laurie McCosker, the wives of the above, Gordon Bladen, Frank Gattenhof, Win Walker, and an ex-member of 48th R.A.R. - John Gasson. Anzac Day started at 8/9 Bn. R.A.R. at Enoggera Barracks and then we proceeded to the City

(Continued next column)

SITREPS (Contd.):Queensland (Contd.):

for the main Brisbane march followed by a "get together" comprising Norm Everson, Stan Sutherland, Wally McKenzie, Laurie McCosker and members of 6 Division!"

Southern N.S.W. - From Bob Jackson:

According to "Dagwood" there is not much to report from his area, apart from the occasional riverside murder and the ejection of anti-South Africa demonstrators from Wagga Wagga Town Hall by police. However, he had heard from Maurie Porter, who was holidaying in Tasmania, and from Jack Lyons, who was with us in Sydney on Anzac Day. Like Peter Cade, Bob claims that he can identify himself in the "Strathnaver" photograph included in April "WOG". He doesn't say where he is in the photo, but Peter says he is the one waving out of the porthole, at the far right of the photograph.

Newcastle - From George Mitchell:

"On Friday 27th. March, Pat and Gwen Bruty, Jack and Mary Partridge, George and Heather Mitchell journeyed to Taree to spend the week-end with Noel and Marie Woolcott. The next day, Saturday 28th., Noel organised a "get together" at Taree R.S.L. of the "boys" and their wives from the area and, in addition to those already named the gathering included Alex and Shirley Watson, Jeff Galvin, Chris and Shirley Geelan, and they all said they would be at Nelson Bay Re-union. (Thank you for a great week-end, Noel and Marie - George).

On Saturday 18th. April, at the home of Doreen Manuel, President Alf Carpenter celebrated his 70th. birthday. There were some 60 guests in attendance - relatives, some from Adelaide and Wagga Wagga, friends from the swimming club and lodge, and 2/4thers with wives from Sydney, Gosford and Newcastle, also 2/1 Field Regt.

After a superb spit roast, cooked to perfection by Ron Miller, and a plentiful supply of liquid refreshments, we all agreed it was a great day."

West Australia - From Doug Slinger:

"Dasher" Deacon, John Storey, Cec Smith and Doug Slinger were involved in the arrangements of 2/11 Bn. Assocn. for the Perth Anzac Day March and Service, and wives Lily, Thelma and Wilma joined them at 2/11 Bn. Re-union Luncheon. President Laurie Sullivan gave a special welcome to the 2/4thers and mentioned that, with them included, the marching contingent totalled 148 personnel - the ladies watching the march said it seemed to be the largest group on parade.

At the Railway Institute Club, venue for the luncheon, Doug and the 2/4thers received a pleasant surprise when the Club President, Phil Fowler, told Doug that he had spoken that morning via 'phone to Max Sydenham in Wagga Wagga and had been informed by Max that he knew from "WOG" that our W.A. Members would be present, and sent them Anzac Day Greetings. Phil and Mrs. Fowler are the parents of Max's son-in-law. Through the pages of this "WOG", Doug & Co. send thanks to Max for his thoughtfulness and reciprocate with best wishes to Max and his wife and all 2/4 Bn. mates in Wagga Wagga which, says Doug, is a lovely place to go for a 2/4ther Re-union. To be different, Ross Elliott marched with the 2/32 Bn., but that is understandable since he served with that Unit in Borneo after

(Continued on page 8)





"AMONGST THOSE PRESENT":-

It will be remembered that some of our troops did not return to Australia from the Middle East with the main body (i.e. the "Rajula" convoy) because they were on duty elsewhere when the Battalion sailed and so they came home in separate convoys later. One of these was Alan Bohlé and the recent death of Monty Siems has prompted him to write the following letter:

Early in 1942, resulting from over-indulgence by the media and assisted by comments from Churchill himself, the Dominion Premiers/Prime Ministers were becoming loud in their protests that most of the fighting was falling to the lot of Dominion Troops. The first Desert Campaign was proclaimed an Australian Victory regardless of the heavy involvement also of British Troops. This caused a considerable outcry in the United Kingdom and, as the Vichy French were fueling Japanese Submarines and Naval Craft in the Indian Ocean, Churchill decided to attack and neutralise Madagascar with a Task Force of all-U.K. Troops, etc.

It was at that time that the inimitable magazine "Punch" came out with a relevant poem which, in itself, was something of a short military history of British Armed Achievements. After refueling in Colombo, which harbour we had entered a few metres ahead of a Nip "tin fish", our convoy adopted "wireless silence" and switched back to Mombasa in Natal and we were there to see, unknowingly, one part of the Task Force building up. Later, from the magnificent facilities of the Port of Durban, a handful of people (including our Lieut. I.W. Johnston, Jim Sibilant and myself - Reg Angel missed it because he was upcountry at an Army Camp with troops of our convoy easing their sea legs) witnessed the departure of the remainder of the Task Force.

During that mid-morning my attention had been drawn to the uncommon sight of the Aircraft Carrier "H.M.S. EAGLE" making up steam in a half-in/half-out position in a floating dock. This was followed shortly after by the noisy arrival of steam trains along the generous series of parallel railway lines reaching the full length of the mile-or-more of dead straight concrete docks.

From these trains came long lines of troops in single file, wearing tropical kit (all up), crossing the lines through the gaps between the troop trains, and then led to gang planks fore and aft of the troop ships, emerging in due course to "dress ship" like the Navy. By then the Destroyer Escorts were ploughing down the beautiful harbour followed by "EAGLE" and "RENOWN" and the Landing Craft in pairs. Then, as though controlled by tapes from above, small tugs drew the troopships into the stream to take up their place in the convoy, followed by two A.A. Destroyers as rearguard.

The moment the troopers left the wharf the Regimental Bands, English-Scottish-Irish, struck up their Regimental Marches. As "EAGLE" drew abreast of us the R.A.F. Fighter Escort dipped above her in "Salute". Throughout the whole procedure I did not see a halt or hesitation on the wharves or on the water - perfect staff work, perfect discipline, absolute security. Apart from small groups working cargoes, or manning the rail-tracked cranes, there was no-one from Durban to see them off.

I would like the poem from "Punch" to be printed in "W.O.G." in memory of those U.K. men

(Contd.)

"AMONGST THOSE PRESENT" (Contd.):

who served with us and particularly to the delightful personality and performance of Monty Siems, both during and after the war. The "originals" will well remember his award on parade of the "Palestine Medal" for the part he played in that campaign.

Mention has previously been made of Monty's prowess with a soccer ball but later members of the battalion will also recall the wizardry, with the ball, of the little Scot, WX15860 Pte. J. McKinlay. Few, however, would know of his earlier active service in the Middle East prior to joining us.

When the first Campaign Ribbon ("Africa Star") was issued, while the Unit was stationed on the Atherton Tablelands, he approached me and politely informed me that he had qualified for that medal before we did - and could I arrange for an issue on his behalf? He apparently was with the British Troops who, after all ammunition was expended, had to fight their way out of British Somaliland with the bayonet, against overwhelming odds. Later in Singapore, with the 5th. Commando Division, waiting for aircraft to fly them over the Himalayas to help "Vinegar Joe" Stillwell's forces, his best mate, who was an Australian, confided in him that it was his intention to desert and "jump a cargo ship" for Australia to join the A.I.

McKinlay declined the suggestion to join his mate on such a venture but agreed to go into the city on leave and have "last drinks".

Next morning he awakened to the sound of a ship's engines and found himself some hours at sea and heading for Fremantle.

The day they tied up at Fremantle he signed on for the A.I.F. - hence his "WX" number, but why he was drafted to a N.S.W. battalion is a matter of mystery.

I informed him that all of us issued with a ribbon were subject to confirmation by the Commanding Officer and that could not apply in his case. I knew that there was quite a large British H.Q. in Melbourne, mainly for the purpose of administration of badly wounded and convalescing British Troops. An application through A.I.F. Headquarters would be directed to them who would not only be in a position to confirm his medal/ribbon entitlement, through the War Office, but also to extradite him from our battalion and hold in custody for Court Martial on the grounds of desertion in Wartime.

A very old friend of my Father (who later became a successful chiropodist, professional musician and outstanding philatelist) as a young man had deserted in Sydney from the Royal Navy before World War 1 and was apprehended on the Desertion Charge in the early 1920's. However, as he had in the intervening years served with the 1st. A.I.F. at Gallipoli and The Somme, etc., that evidence exonerated him from the Desertion Charge and he subsequently lived well into his nineties and died in Artarmon (Sydney) only a few years ago.

Based upon my knowledge of that situation, I advised McKinlay to delay his application for the "AFRICA STAR" medal/ribbon until he had been in action with 2/4 Bn."

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NOTE by Editor: The "Punch" poem was entitled "AMONGST THOSE PRESENT" and it is printed later in this issue of "W.O.G."

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"AMONGST THOSE PRESENT" - from "Punch":-

Oh, them chaps wot writes the papers 'as a mighty lot to tell of the Aussies and New Zealanders an' Indian troops as well,  
 An' them youngsters from South Africa wot's givin' us a 'and - An' mind yer, don't mistake me now, I'll say they're doin' grand!  
 But it some'ow seems to 'appen when they're makin' such a fuss of 'oo took this and 'oo held that, you don't 'ear much of us!  
 But if yer counts the 'eads yer'll find there's five in every nine a-serving in a good old English Regiment o' the Line!

Yus, 'tis English lads wot carries on the grand old tale to-day, wot takes yer back to Charles's time and further, so they say;  
 That marched with Marlborough, cursin', charfin', fightin', dyin' hard, At Blenheim on the Danube, Malplaquet and Oudenarde;  
 Wot beat the French at Minden and at Saragossa, too; Wot 'eld India for the Empire and stood firm at Waterloo;  
 'Twas the lads from Bath and Birmingham, from Thames an' Tees an' Tyne, in a sweatin', fightin', singin' English Reg'ment o' the Line!

Oh, the Scots was there, God bless 'em, an' the Welsh and Irish too, An' no-one's goin' to say as 'ow we don't give them their doo,  
 'Cos there wasn't nothin' in it when it came to facin' hell, But if yer counts the Reg'ments up, 'tis numbers wot will tell.  
 So when yer reads of gallant deeds an' sturdy British grit, an' chargin' with the bayonet, just stop and think a bit - that whoever else was there (and no-one's sayin' they ain't fine) - You can bet your blinkin' vest that we was up with all the rest,  
 The bluff old, rough old, tough old, sluggin', pluggin', good-enough old Stick-it-lads-and-beat 'em to it ENGLISH REG'MENTS O' THE LINE!

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ANZAC DAY WREATH-LAYING CEREMONY, MARCH and RE-UNION LUNCHEON:-

Our official "name-taker", John Ringrose, tried very hard to record the names of everyone who was "on parade" - we apologise for any omissions or mis-spellings. Names followed by \* refer to those who were present at the 0800 hours Wreath-laying Ceremony as well as the March and/or Luncheon:

Major-General Sir Ivan Dougherty, Major-General Gordon Maitland, Major-General Ray Sharp, Alf Carpenter, Peter Cade\*, Athol Heath, Ted Fox\*, Pat Bruty\*, Dave Follington\*, Bob Fergusson\*, Ted Jackson, Harry Gjedstad, Tom Gorman, John Hawkins\*, Bill MacLennan\*, Mick O'Regan, J. "Brig" McAtamney, Cec "Slim" Powers\*, Bill Poplin, Bill Parry, Trevor Richardson, J. "Spike" Galvin, Wal Capper, Phil "Blah" Smith, Len Waterworth\*, Peter Cook, Gordon Crisp\*, Doug Grove\*, Norm Harries, Ron Williams, John "Boo-kie" Rae, Allen Lindsay\*, Jack Gaffney, Mick Gray\*, Harold Silver, Jack Huston, Jack Hamilton, Alex "Biscuits" Arnott, Laurie Waterhouse, Harry Wright\*, Jack Lyons, Bob Lane\*, R. Schwartz, Des Finch, Stan Pretty, Ken Richardson, N. Finch, Charles Grandquist, M. Steele, J. Lowe, M. Broome, J. McLaughlin, R. Hill, A. Manning, C. Calver, S. Farrugia, Harold Bowman, G. Dale, Ken "Pluto" Kesteven\*, Ray Campbell, D. Rodda, Alan Manuel, Jack Dubber, Bruce Cork, Len Killeen, Alec "Blue Eyes" Scott, Ted Swadling\*, Ken "Slim" Venn, F. "Lofty" Taylor, Alex Maxwell, Cec Cameron, Cec Lawson\*, Wal Johnston\*, Bill Little\*, Wally Lambourne, Wal Shaw, Jack Garvey, Tom Tracey, Arnold "Curly" Gorman, Roy Denyer, Bill Fogden, Brian Morris (Son of Dick), Athol Ottley\*, Lou Dubber, Alan Bohlé, Jim Sadler, Les Fox, J. Dampier, Ron "Muscovey Duck" Maczkowiack\*, John "Larry" Dooley, Norm Auberson\*, Vic Forbes, G. Robins, Norm Johnstone, R. "Lascar" Roach and 3 Sons, Ian Wallwork, Joe Bohlé\*, Ron Coutts\*, Ron Barber\*, G. Frater\*, Frank Sadler\*, Eric Toynton, John Ringrose\*, Fred Staggs\*, Wally Mangan, George Stack, John Meehan, Pat Lahey\*, Mack Wilson, Lang Stronach, Frank Pohlmann, E. Heckenberg, Doug Milne, J. "Snow" Downes, Lionel Clarke, Les Jones\*, Charlie Davies, Barney Turley, G. Dale, Jack Partridge, George Mitchell, Alf Schweitzer.

At the luncheon, greetings from the following Victorian "WOGS" were conveyed by Stan Pretty: John Trevan, Herb Vole, Doug Millar, Bill Stephens, Bill Panter, Leo Dunn, Stan Carpenter, Merv Hicks, Syd Valentine, Ken Williams, Jim Barrow, Stan Jones, Jack Sutherland, Doug Yensch, Gordon Robins, Lance Cutcliffe, Claude Raymond.

Peter Cook conveyed greetings and best wishes from Ned Kenna who was required to be at the Hamilton (Victoria) Anzac Day Race Meeting in order to present the trophy to the winner of the V.C. Cup.

Harry Wright conveyed greetings and best wishes from Vera Provians in Brisbane.

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ANZAC DAY LADIES' LUNCHEON:- Present at the Wreath-laying F.U.P. (marked \*) and at the luncheon, after cheering "the boys" on during the march, were: Meg Arnott, Sheila McIntosh, Nell Hawkins, June Clarke, Phyl Chrystal and her sister, Mrs. Alexander, Edith Turton, Doreen Manuel\*, Heather Fox\*, Enid Latimer, Fi Kesteven, Gwen MacLennan\*, Joan Lawson\*, Nina Fergusson\*, Gloria Lindsay\*, Ruby Pead, Molly Johnson, Del Silver, Heather Mitchell\*, Doreen Grant, Mary Partridge\*, Hilda Wright\*, Beryl Poplin, Joan Hart, Vera Walsh\*, Muriel Kleem and family, Nita Auberson, Una Denyer, Joyce Ringrose and daughter Gail, Belle Sadler, Margaret Rae, Molly Irvine, Betty Watts, Yvonne Maczkowiack. (Once again, apologies if we have missed anyone). (Apologies were received from Noni Bowman and Pauline Taylor). At the luncheon a message of appreciation from President Alf Carpenter was read to those present for the continued support of our Association by all 2/4 Bn. Ladies. Alf also expressed his thanks to Hilda Wright and Heather Fox for their efforts in arranging the lunch.

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(Continued from Page 5):-

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

transferring from our battalion. He and his wife, Mona, also attended the 2/32 Bn. Re-union Luncheon.

Bob Griffiths, a 2/4ther from Mildura, Victoria, is in Perth on holidays and on Anzac Day he marched with the "Z" Force Contingent as well as catching up with our W.A. Members. Bob left our battalion and joined "Z" Force when we were in Darwin. Apparently Stan Day, Wally Evans, Fred Stanwell, and their wives, attended the Anzac Day Service of the Scarborough R.S.L., where they are members.

"Dasher" Deacon is, of course, out of hospital after two weeks there, says he is sleeping better and responding to tablets prescribed for him.

(Continued next column)

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

Doug was recently contacted by Ian Whitaker, son of the late 2/4 Bn. Assocn. Member Jim Whitaker who died not long ago in Queensland. Ian had located Doug's 'phone no. from "WOG". Doug now wants to contact Ian but cannot trace him through the Perth telephone directory. Therefore, Ian, should you read this "WOG" please contact Doug Slinger again because he has something to say to you relevant to your previous conversation.

The next gathering of the W.A. 2/4 Clan will comprise a luncheon at Perth Anzac Club on Tuesday 15th. June from 1130 hours. At that meeting Doug anticipates a "carried unanimously" response to his suggestion that the pre-lunch drinks shall be purchased from "Funds already in Hand".

W.A. "W.O.G."s send greetings to all others.

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ALSO APPLICABLE TO POLITICIANS:-

## GLOSSARY OF MANAGEMENT TERMS

**Delegate:** Pass the buck.

**Pending:** What the hell do we do with this?

**Delayed:** Forgotten.

**Urgency:** Panic.

**Extreme Urgency:** Blind Panic.

**Frank and open discussion:** Flaming row.

**Analytical projection:** Guess.

**Forecast:** Guess

**Long-range forecast:** Wild guess.

**Scheduled:** Hoped for.

**Deficiency analysis:** Pointing the finger.

**Ambitious:** Ruthless.

**Strategy:** Low cunning.

**Shrewd:** Devious

**Profit:** Profit.

**Profit before tax:** Loss.

**Deficit:** Staggering loss.

**Industrial by-product:** Our waste.

**Environmental pollution:** Other people's waste.

**Pilfering:** Theft by the employee.

**Fringe benefit:** Theft by the executive.

**Terminal payment:** Golden handshake.

**Supplementary statistical information:** Padding.

**MORE TRIVIATA:-**

Did you know that ice cream has a history which dates back to Roman times? During the first century, Emperor Nero sent runners to the mountains for snow which was then flavoured with honey, juices and fruit pulps. (Why didn't we think of that in Syria? - Ed.).