



White and 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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SEE PAGE 4 for IMPORTANT NOTICE from TREASURER, ALLEN LINDSAY.

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

TUESDAY, 23rd. June - Normal Monthly Meeting) Committee will meet at 1130 hours in the
TUESDAY, 28th. July - Normal Monthly Meeting) Anzac Room.

"W.O.G." PRODUCTION: **WEDNESDAY, 8th. July** - Team 9 at 1000 hours in The Anzac Room and
THURSDAY, 9th. July - Team 10 at 1000 hours (NOTE change from 1100 hours) in The Regimental Room or The Anzac Room.

DATES TO REMEMBER:- For the undermentioned (1) and (5) the appropriate tickets may be obtained from Ken Kesteven - 'phone 412.4892:-

SUNDAY, 14th. June : The N.S.W. Committee for the Australian-Hellenic Memorial Trust invites you to a LUNCHEON at 1200 hours for 1300 hours at The Cyprus Hellenic Club Ltd., 150 Elizabeth Street, Sydney, held to raise funds for the Australian-Hellenic Memorial - Donation (by ticket) \$15.00 (per person) includes Smorgasbord Lunch (drinks available at bar prices).

TUESDAY, 16th. June: "CHARLIE" COY. CALLING - luncheon at the Gallipoli Memorial Club - 'phone Norm Auberson (632.8225) or Harry Gjedsted (27.6350) by Friday, 12th. June, if intending to be present.

SUNDAY, 21st. June : Association of 4th. Infantry Battalions Annual Church Parade at St. Anne's Anglican Church, corner of Homebush Road and Beresford Street, Strathfield, Service commencing at 1500 hours - assemble for short march at 1415 hours at Beresford Road West Municipal Park. Association Ties, Badges, Name Tags and Medals to be worn. Afternoon tea provided.

THURSDAY, 16th. July: The C.O. of 4 Bn. The Royal N.S.W. Regt., Lieut. Col. Fred Harvison, has invited Members of our Association to join him and his personnel at a Military History Officer/N.C.O. Training Night at Arncliffe Depot from 1930 hours. Two of his Officers will deliver a presentation on the Battle of Crete, following which he hopes to have Sir Ivan Dougherty speak on that subject from first-hand experience. The invitation includes the presentation and afterwards in the Mess. Members intending

DATES TO REMEMBER (Contd.):

to accept the invitation are requested to notify Fred Staggs by 30th June latest.
 SUNDAY, 13th September: 6 Aust. Div. Association (N.S.W.) Re-union at Belmore Returned Services Club, 427 Burwood Road, Belmore, commencing at 1200 hours - cost \$15.00. Association Ties, Badges, Name Tags, Medals to be worn.

WEDNESDAY, 16th December: 2/4 Bn. Association Christmas "GET TOGETHER" at Gallipoli Memorial Club commencing at 1500 hours.

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MONTHLY MEETING - 26th May, 1987:-

The Meeting commenced at 1405 hours with President Alf Carpenter in the chair and 43 Members in attendance. Apologies were received from Sir Ivan Dougherty, J. Garvey, V. Forbes, J. Ringrose, K. Richardson, F. Pegg, D. Follington, C. Powers, J. Graham, A. Gorman, N. Alavoine, C. Williamson, D. Milne, C. Lawson, J. Copland.

One minute's silence was observed in memory of Fallen and Departed Comrades.

It was Moved, Seconded and Carried that the Minutes of the previous Monthly Meeting, as published in "W.O.G.", be taken as read and adopted.

Business Arising from the Minutes: Advice from Laurie Waterhouse that he had purchased the late "Slim" Pollock's Association Blazer.

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

Correspondence "IN": Several letters enclosed dues and donations which are acknowledged in the Treasurer's Cash Register Report. Other correspondence comprised:

To the President: Letter of thanks from 2/3 Field Regt. Assocn. re Sir Ivan's birthday party at Gallipoli Memorial Club on 6th April.

Magazine "Legs Eleven" from 2/11 Bn. Association confirming their invitation to any 2/4 Bn. Members in Perth to join them for Anzac Day March and Re-union Luncheon, etc. Letter from our W.A. Vice-President, Doug Slinger, expressing appreciation of the hospitality afforded to our W.A. Members by 2/11 Bn. Assocn. on Anzac Day.

To the Secretary: Letter from Sir Ivan conveying to our President and all members his warmest thanks for the kindnesses and good wishes extended to him on the occasion of his 80th birthday, one which he says he will always remember.

Letter from the C.O. of 4 Bn. The Royal N.S.W. Regt. inviting our Members to attend a Military History Training Night at Arncliffe Depot (see "DATES TO REMEMBER" on Page 1).

Letter from Jack Maloney giving his new address - i.e. Unit 1, Newcastle & Lake Macquarie Ex-Servicemens' Centre, Bolton Point, 2283.

Letter from Philip Ruddock, Member for Dundas, via Cecil Calver and also Jack Maloney, stating that he will ensure that our Petition (re non-scrapping of Dept. of Vet. Affrs.) is presented to Parliament at the earliest opportunity.

Newspaper cutting from Kevin Peacock re an Australian P.O.W. who was "detained" in a Concentration Camp in Germany and now having problems with Dept. of Vet. Affairs for not having been confined in a P.O.W. Camp.

(Contd. next column)

MONTHLY MEETING - 26th May, 1987 (Contd.):Correspondence "IN" (Contd.):

To the Treasurer: Letter from Nap Alavoine enclosing \$100.00 for Life Membership and thanking Pensions Officer, John Hawkins, for his efforts with Appeals to Vet. Affairs, etc., during the past 18 months, resulting in a 20 per cent Pension increase with 2 years back payment.

Letter from Eileen Lynch with \$50.00 donation towards "W.O.G." postage costs - says she looks forward to receiving it and sends "many thanks to the people responsible for its publication".

From Gordon Chrisp a letter containing his annual donation to be used as the Committee sees fit - hopes to attend next meeting but asthma causing more problems this year - says age is catching up and he is now nearer to 73 than 72 (we know exactly what you mean, Gordon - Ed.).

Letter from David MacGillivray Jnr. on behalf of his Dad, Dave Snr., enclosing annual subscription and saying that they hope to see us all at Port Stephens/Nelson Bay Re-union.

Letter from Laurie "Topsy" Crispin with subscription - says he hopes to march with us next Anzac Day - this year he was in Adelaide attending the Pathfinder Force World Re-union attended by 192 members from U.K., Canada, U.S.A., New Zealand, South Africa, Zimbabwe and the Australian States - he says they "marched the straight, mile-long King William Street without interruptions, with no halts, no changes-of-step - incredible!" (Sure is, Laurie, we had some problems in Sydney - Ed.).

Letter from Geoff Ings with yearly fee and advising that he has been "in and out of hospital recently, not allowed to drink, and cannot walk very far these days, so no point in getting to the March this year".

Letter from Jim Barrow enclosing subscription and commenting "Remember 'My eyes are dim, I cannot see'? Funny in 1939-45, not so b-----y

funny in 1987". Jim hopes to be able to get up to Sydney again someday as he would love "to see as many chaps as possible at least once more". (Chin up, Jim, and do try - we'd like to see you, too - Ed.).

Letter from Lance Cutcliffe with dues plus donation - enjoyed having a long chat with Phyl Chrystal per 'phone when she was recently in Melbourne - sends best wishes for this year's Re-union but regretfully will not be able to join us on that occasion - exhorts us "keep up the good work - must say it is good to have the newsletter back on a monthly basis".

To the Editor: Letter from Fenton Braund with \$50.00 donation. Fenton was an original member of 2/19 Bn. and was posted to 2/4 Bn. for a short time after we returned from the Middle East. However, from 2/19 Bn. in Malaya he volunteered to join a Force which became Mission 204 to China. The story of this episode is written in the Journal of the Australian War Memorial and we are presently seeking permission to reprint it in "W.O.G." Comments on that story, contained in Fenton's letter, will be used in conjunction with the Article if/when we are able to publish it.

Letter from Bill Newth who, with Gwen, visited Mollymook recently for a wedding and stayed next door to George and Jean Moore. George drove them around to see Betty Ford and they

(Contd. on Page 3)

MONTHLY MEETING - 26th. May, 1987 (Contd.):Correspondence "IN" (Contd.):

To the Editor: had a great old "chin wag". At the Crookwell races in March, Bill and Gwen met Phyl Ormiston who looked very well (why don't we see/hear more of you, Phyl? - Ed.). On 26th. May, via XPT to Sydney thence to "the Alice" thence to Broken Hill and finally by coach, Bill and Gwen were off to the Flinders Ranges where they hoped to find warmer weather than the bitter cold prevailing at Moss Vale. At time of writing, Bill had not heard anything of the Burbidges from Henty or the Denyers of Temora but, having read in "W.O.G." that "Rocky" Denyer participated in the Anzac Day March, Bill has assumed that he is O.K. The last letter from Rose Burbidge said that Ted wasn't so good. Bill sends best wishes to Sir Ivan, albeit belatedly, for his birthday, and to Ken Kesteven & Harry Wright who were reported on the sick list in May "W.O.G.", and says he and Gwen are looking forward to seeing us all at the forthcoming Re-union. (Bill, I do not have a spare copy of April "W.O.G." - to keep costs down we print only the minimum required. However, Norm Auberson told me that our major interest in it was the "Strathver" reprint of which I do have extra copies - so I have given one to Norm to send on to you - is that sufficient? - Ed.). Letter from Jim Brown enclosing funeral notices re our own Clifford Aubrey Gilbert and Mr. Cecil Thomas Hawes who was a 4 Bn. WW1 soldier, the last Port Macquarie survivor of the Gallipoli Campaign, who died aged 90 years. His son-in-law, Gilbert Mant, was an 8 Div. P.O.W. and for many years was the P.R. man for R.A.S., having also written a number of books including a History of the R.A.S. Jim sends best wishes to President Alf Carpenter and to "all who do so much to keep our Association active". Jim also writes: "W.O.G. is tremendously important and is read avidly from start to finish. Have just received May issue and good know about Anzac Day doings and everything else. We were all singularly fortunate to have been privileged to serve in such a great Unit, and to realise that the "W.O.G." journal is now in its 42nd. consecutive year of publication, and that our Association has met every month for an even longer period, is a wonderful tribute to the SPIRIT of the Battalion. Sad, of course, always to read the "Last Post" - but one day all our names will have appeared in it! (Interruption by Editor - as you say, Jim, except for Allen Lindsay who claims to be so much younger than the rest of us that eventually he will be the ONLY one at a Country Re-union and, if he is correct in that matter, there will be no-one left to print his name in "Last Post"). Jim also says that he often wishes he was in Sydney to join "W.O.G." Production Teams. He, Esca Riordan, Harry Dowling and Sam Hughes were the local 2/4thers "on parade" on Anzac Day.

Letter from The Joint Committee for the Commemoration of The Anniversary of The Battle of Crete and The Greek Campaign, per Steve McDougal, thanking me for the (small) part I played in the Memorial Service at The Holy Trinity Garrison Church on Sunday, 17th. May, 1987.

(Contd. next column)

MONTHLY MEETING - 26th. May, 1987 (Contd.):Correspondence "IN" (Contd.):

From Win Walker, holidaying in Sydney, two 'phone calls advising that she has at last obtained a favourable result from Veterans' Review Board concerning the late "Wink" Walker's service-related disabilities.

Correspondence "OUT": Appropriate responses to the above inward correspondence.

Reports: President reported on the marching problems we experienced on Anzac Day when our Pipe Band advanced too far and too fast ahead of us. March Marshall Bill MacLennan also commented on the matter and after discussion it was decided that President Alf in future will consult with the Drum Major and rectify the problem before the march begins. President also reported on the Crete/Greek Remembrance Services at the Cenotaph and the Garrison Church on 16th. and 17th. May (see separate reports later in this newsletter). President further reported that vacancies now exist for the Cairns Coach Tour in August this year (see separate report later in this newsletter).

Treasurer reported a balance of \$952 in the General Account, \$446 in the Benevolent Account, \$8,335 with The State Building Society, \$5,000 I.B.D. with "Westpac", and \$500 advance to Nelson Bay Re-union Committee - total of \$15,233.00. Current accounts were approved & passed for payment.

Welfare Officer reported on our sick and/or hospitalised Members and read the "Last Post" Honour Roll details (see separate reports later in this newsletter).

6 Aust. Div. Representative, Norm Auberson, advised that the President of 6 Div. Association had complimented us on our marching (with which we were not ourselves very impressed) and discipline on Anzac Day, saying that we were the only Unit to march right up to the "break off" point and thus lessen congestion in that area.

Editor reported on the mechanical and "damp paper" difficulties encountered during production of May "W.O.G." and apologised for the resultant poor quality of some copies and the lateness of mailing of the entire issue. He also advised that the Slouch Hat with Pugaree donated from Inverell Light Horse Detachment is now in the custody of Welfare Officer, Harry Wright, together with Bayonet. A colour patch has been supplied and these accoutrements are now complete and ready for use at the funerals of our Members.

Pensions Officer, John Hawkins, reported on cases handled and pending.

Secretary, Fred Staggs, reported that matters under his jurisdiction were "administrative normal" and had been attended to accordingly.

General Business: Alan Bohlé submitted The Journal of the Australian War Memorial including Articles on Gen. Vasey and Mission 204 to China. These will be printed serially in "W.O.G." when we have permission to do so. Alex "Biscuits" Arnott requested that 6 Div. Assocn. be encouraged to investigate the differential scale of compensation payment for loss of limb (etc.) between civilian and service personnel.

Jim Forman displayed a Plaque he has made for presentation to 2nd./4th. Bn. R.A.R. at Townsville during the August Coach Tour - it shows the war records of ALL 4th. Battalions.

Ron Barber queried the existence of a collection of "W.O.G." Newsletters complete from No. 1.

(Contd. on Page 5)

OUTSTANDING SUBSCRIPTIONS -**SEE BELOW:-****COST INCREASES in "WHITE OVER GREEN":-**

Treasurer Allen Lindsay reports that the postage on "W.O.G." has increased by more than 100% since January 1984 when the monthly postage bill was \$62.00. It is now \$126.00. Also, paper, ink and machine maintenance has more than doubled (labour has remained constant - FREE). Postage for our Category "A" Publication will increase again on and from 1st July by one cent (1¢) per copy. We mail 580 copies - another \$5.80 per month.

The cost advantage that this Association achieved when we proceeded to print our Newsletter ourselves, in lieu of contract printing, has now been lost. Treasurer now estimates that the annual cost of "W.O.G." will be in the vicinity of \$3,500.00, including production and postage, and that is about 75% of the Association's total annual income. This leaves very little margin for the conduct of our other affairs. While we have ample funds, at present, any call on those funds to finance month-to-month operations, including "W.O.G.", will lead to a rapid diminishment of those funds.

The Treasurer does not, at this stage, anticipate the need for an increase in the annual subscription rate to take care of the situation. He points out that Members and Widows have been generous in their voluntary donations, in addition to payment of normal subscriptions.

He states that the present gap between expenditure and income can be bridged if ALL Members pay their dues on a regular and up-to-date basis. At present there is approximately \$1,450.00 owing to the Association in outstanding fees.

Therefore, we now appeal to the relevant Members to pay their outstanding dues. At the top of this column there is a box divided into three sections:

- (a) If there are NO red crosses in that box you are financial;
- (b) If there is ONE red cross in the box then you owe for the current year - please send \$6.00 to the Treasurer;
- (c) If there are TWO red crosses in the box then you have not paid since 1985 and you owe 2 years - please send to the Treasurer the sum of \$12.00;
- (d) If there are THREE red crosses in the box then it is 3 years OR MORE since we received a subscription from you - please now remit to the Treasurer a minimum of \$18.00 and you will become a financial Member again.

An alternative to the annual remittance of subscriptions is to make a one-time payment of \$50.00 which will provide you with paid-up membership for life.

PLEASE ASSIST THE ASSOCIATION BY YOUR PROMPT ATTENTION TO THIS MATTER.

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CASH REGISTER REPORT:-

The Treasurer reports receiving subscriptions and donations from Members, Widows and Supporters covering the period February to end of May, 1987, as follows:

\$6 - Dick Lenehan, Joe Lowe, Pat Bruty, Jack Partridge, Alan Mann, George Mitchell,

(Cont'd. on column)

CASH REGISTER REPORT (Contd.): -

\$6 - Ken Watt, Norma Blanksby, Harry Russell, Cec Smith, Horrie Crossfield, George Thompson, Gus Kyle, "Pop" Williams, Vin Hallinan, Bill Gibbs, Ray Butler, John Downes, W. Cardwell, Bill Shearwin, Bill Geaghan, Laurie Crispin, R. Bertram.

\$10 - Olive Willchams, Mrs. R. Hodgkinson, Wally Shaw, Rex Everson, Elvin Andrews, Frank Wright, Eric Jones, I. J. Taylor, P. A. Lane, C. L. Barwick, Jack Huston, John Hawkins, George Coles, Vic Pike, Les Jones, Des Finch, Jim Sadler, Bill Newth, Des Loydell, Helen Martin, "Brig" McAtamney, Charlie Grandquist, Laura Wallace, Joyce Stewart, Mick O'Regan, Trevor Richardson, Ernie Gumbleton, J. Harrison, "Bub" Graham, John Whitelaw, J. Morgan, Alan Bohlé, Cec Cameron, Eric Toynnton, "Lascar" Roach, John Rae, Muriel Kleem, Dave MacGillivray, Geoff Ings, C. Barrow, Jim Barrow, Jim Graham, "Tich" Fordham, Ian Fitchett, Norm Auber-son.

\$12 - John Storey, Norm Rogers, Wal Johnston, George Moore.

\$15 - Vera Walsh, Norm Everson, Ron Williams.

\$18 - Wal Capper.

\$20 - Roy Findlay, H. J. Ellway, Elsie Bradford, Bob Lane, Norma Cork, Gordon Robins, Len Clark, Jimmy MacBrown, Bill Eslick, Alan Manuel, Gordon Chrisp, Lance Cutcliffe, Betty Ford.

\$22 - Fred Taylor.

\$26 - Bill Gibbs.

\$30 - Roy Denyer, Shirley Faulder.

\$40 - Frank Ivey, Ken Kesteven, Frank Pohlman.

\$50 - Bob Gardner, C. Stillwell, Eileen Lynch, Gordon Bladen, Fenton Braund.

\$100 - Nap Alavoine.

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BATTLE OF CRETE - GREEK CAMPAIGN:-

Memorial Services - 46th Anniversary: 16/5/87:

After a short march along Pitt Street, led by the band of 2nd Military District, Veterans arrived at The Cenotaph at 1400 hours where the Service commenced with the singing of "God Save The Queen". Prayers were said by The Very Rev. Father Miltiades, Chancellor of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia, followed by The Rev. Alan MacLachlan, ending with The Lord's Prayer. The assembled congregation was addressed by Major-General Dimitrios Kitiazopoulos (Commander of the Greek School of Infantry - Guest of Honour) and by Brigadier I. L. Bonifant, DSO, E.D. (New Zealand) and then wreaths were laid as arranged, after which the Bugler sounded "Last Post", the Ode was recited by Mr. E. Efstratiadis, President of the Greek Sub-Branch R.S.L.A., then "Reveille" and the Greek and Australian National Anthems. After the Parade was dismissed we adjourned to the Greek Consulate building for refreshments. During the reception we were surprised and delighted to meet two sons of ex-2/4 Bn. men - one was Lieut.-Col. Robert Martin, son of the late George Martin who performed such a marvellous job, as Bn. Quartermaster, by feeding the whole Unit with two hot meals a day during our speedy advance along the coast in preparation for the attack on, and capture of, Wewak in New Guinea, for which he was justly awarded the M.B.E. - the other was Eric Waite whose father was NX4026 Jack Waite and whose uncle was NX5111 Charlie McBride, also 2/4 Bn. Eric works for the A.B.C. as a freelance Video Photographer.

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BATTLE OF CRETE - GREEK CAMPAIGN:-(Ctd.):

Memorial Services-46th Anniversary:16/5/87:
At the Saturday ceremonies our Association was represented by Sir Ivan, Major-Gen. Ray Sharp and Margaret Sharp, Alf Carpenter and Doreen Manuel, Des and Helen Finch, Alex Arnott, Norm Auberson, Ken and Fi Kesteven, Harry and Hilda Wright, Ted and Heather Fox.

Memorial Service:17/5/87:

The Rev. Brian Seers, Dip. Theol., conducted a Memorial and Thanksgiving Service, and Prayers for Peace in the World, on Sunday 17th. May, in The Holy Trinity Garrison Church in Sydney's The Rocks Area, commencing at 1030 hours. The congregation was asked to stand while the Colours of the various Units were received into the Sanctuary by the Rector, being piped in by Pipers of the Parramatta Pipe Band. The Service began with the singing of "God Save The Queen" and the Greek National Anthem. The First Lesson was read by Mr. P. Kelly, President of the Federation of Naval Ship Associations (Numbers, Chapter 32, Verses 1-12); the Second Lesson was read by Major-General A.C. Murchison, A.O., M.C., E.D., President of Sixth Australian Division Association N.S.W. (Luke, Chapter 16, Verses 19-31); General Prayers were said by Ted Fox. Then followed a General Thanksgiving, The GRACE, Last Post, The Ode, Lament (Flowers of the Forest), Reveille, Address by Rev. Seers, Hymn (Abide with me), final Prayer and Blessing and the Australian National Anthem. The congregation stood while the Colours were received from the Sanctuary and retired from the church, then adjourned to the Church Hall for morning tea. Ken Kesteven & Norm Auberson participated in the Service as Ushers. Association Members in attendance at this Service were Sir Ivan and Lady Dougherty, Major-General and Margaret Sharp, Alf Carpenter and Doreen Manuel, Des and Helen Finch, Norm & Nita Auberson, John Meehan, Harold and Del Silver, Ken and Fi Kesteven with daughter and son-in-law, Ted and Heather Fox.

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MONTHLY MEETING - 26th. May, 1987 (Contd.):General Business (Contd.):

In answer to his query, Ron Barber was informed that the only known collection of complete "W.O.G.'s" for Association Archives is the one held presently by Ted Fox from John Copland.

Harry Gjedsted spoke of a necessity for one or more members of Committee to be present in the Gallipoli Memorial Club the day prior to Anzac Day to meet and greet Country and Interstate Members who report there.

Harry Gjedsted also stated that he had raised with the Editor of "Reveille" the matter of the 6th. Aust. Div. not having been named specifically in conjunction with the Australian-Hellenic Memorial Appeal.

There being no further business, the Meeting was closed at 1540 hours.

Those in attendance were: Alf Carpenter, Allen Lindsay, Ken Kesteven, Norm Auberson, Fred Staggs, Bill MacLennan, John Hawkins, Ted Fox, Les Jones, Harry Wright, Athol Heath, George Stack, Harry Gjedsted, John Meehan, Bill Parry, Jim Forman, Peter Cade, Alex Arnott, Lionel Clarke, Wal Johnston, Wally Shaw, Bill Fogden, Norrie McGregor, Bill Poplin, Jack Partridge, George Mitchell, Pat Bruty, "Porky" Williams, Mick O'Regan, Dick Pinson, Alex Maxwell, Ron Barber, Frank Ivey, Rex Everson, "Bub" Graham, "Slim" Venn, C. Taylor, Tom Tracey, "Tich" Fordham, Alan Bohlé, Trevor Richardson, S. Ross Smith, Bob Fergusson (if there were any more, they didn't sign the book).

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CAIRNS TOUR - 4th. to 21st. August, 1987:-

Progress Report from Alf Carpenter and Doreen Manuel - Tour Organisers:

Vacancies exist for 4 seats (due to health cancellations, etc.).

Cost is \$1,250.00 per person which includes dinner, bed & breakfast on a twin-share basis with lunches also included on Cruise Days, etc.

Itinerary/Programme:

A visit to our Camping Site at Wondecla; Cruise to the outer Reef with under-water viewing; Official Birthday Visit to 2nd./4th. Bn. R.A.R. at Lavarack Barracks, Townsville; Cruise the Hinchinbrook Passage and spend two nights on Daydream Island where you can join a launch cruise around the Whitsunday Passage - and much more is included in this tour.

Interested personnel are asked to contact Alf or Doreen on 049/67.1969 or 049/61.2366 - immediate action is necessary to secure the existing 4 vacancies.

Personnel already booked for the tour are reminded that final payments will be due at the end of June - please remit in plenty of time.

Sydney personnel requiring motel accommodation for the night of Monday 3rd. August are to let me or Doreen know and you will be booked in at Broadmeadow Motel where the Coach will pick-up at 0600 hours on Tuesday, 4th. August. Such bookings have already been made for Vera Walsh, Garry and Joan Hart, Roy and Una Denyer, Bob and Joyce Bertram.

Broadmeadow Motel is a short taxi ride from Broadmeadow Station - if you inform us of your E.T.A. at Broadmeadow we will be there to welcome you.

A pre-tour Banquet and "Get-to-know-you" at Adamstown R.S.L. is being arranged for the Monday night - that's just a short walk from Broadmeadow Motel.

If you are in the Newcastle area and do not wish to attend the Banquet then please let us know for catering purposes.

Alf and Doreen.

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PORT STEPHENS/NELSON BAY RE-UNION:-

From Chic Sleeman:

Additional bookings now confirmed comprise:

PRIVATE ARRANGEMENTS:

Tom and Sheila Gorman.

ALOHA VILLA MOTEL:

Ken and Faye King; Jim and Eve Kendall; Muriel Kleem; Enid Vickery; Mrs. I. Nielsen; Ray and Una Summerfield; L.J. and E. Anderson; Jim and Nella Graham.

Members are reminded to send DEPOSITS to Chic Sleeman as confirmation that they do intend to be at the Re-union.

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MINI-RE-UNION of LINE SECTION of No.1 Pl.:-

John Meehan and Allen Lindsay have apologised in advance for non-attendance at our June Meeting as they will be constituting themselves as a 2-man motorcade heading to Perth, via a visit to our South Australian Vice-President (about which I hope he has been duly warned - Ed.), in order to participate in (and no doubt disrupt - Ed.) a re-union of the abovementioned Section of the Signal Platoon to take place on 29th. June at the Anzac Club, St. George's Tce., Perth.

(Doug Slinger NOTE - don't let them get involved in a game of Bridge - they'll tell you why! - Ed.).

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WELFARE REPORT:- (By Harry Wright):-

As at 25th.May,1987:

Visited at Concord Repat.Gen.Hospital:

NX5961 - FULLER,R. - Ward 610 - Hernia operation.

Mrs. - Eileen Clarke - Widow of Jack ("Frog") Clarke - Ward 24 - to have tests on heart.

Visited at Lady Davidson Hospital:

NX53929 - GRAHAM,J.P.(Jim) - Ward "A" - having physiotherapy after hip replacement.

NX15504 - WILLIAMSON,C.A.(Cec) - Ward "A" (bed next to Jim Graham) - artificial leg fitted - other leg being treated for ulcer.

Visited in Lidcombe Hospital:

NX8596 - MANNING,A.E.(Alan) - admitted for neck artery operation - after tests was found to have diabetes - discharged and having treatment - to be re-admitted later for operation. Alan was visited by "Slim" Venn.

Visited in Auburn Hospital:

NX18162 - WHITELAW,W.J.(John) - had leg by-pass operation - now home. John was visited by Wally Lambourne.

Visited in Baulkham Hills Pvt.Hospital:

NX68484 - ANDERSON,L.B.(Les)

NX9692 - ALAVOINE,N.L.(Nap) - Les and Nap were both in the hospital in the same Ward - therefore they visited each other - Les had operation on his leg and Nap had a knee replacement - both now discharged.

General:

NX2028 - FORMAN,J.L.(Jim)-acquired a mystery virus while visiting Inverell and spent some days in hospital there - being of Forman Material he recovered and returned home,but is to have tests at Concord Repat. Hospital.

Marge Gjedsted was admitted to St.Vincent's Hospital with suspected heart trouble but that,fortunately,was not so and,after resting for some days,she was allowed home.

NX42194 - LAWSON,Cec - was experiencing pain in chest and back-having physiotherapy locally - says he is "O.K."

NX5870 - WATERHOUSE,Laurie - admitted to Palm Beach-Currumbin (Q'land) Private Hospital with chest pains - after check-up says he is "O.K.". Laurie was visited by Bruce Cork, who also reported this matter to us via John Meehan.

NX5309 - MacGILLIVRAY,Dave - was confined to bed with sore toes as at 5th. May and it was expected that it would be another week or two before he could walk about. Reported by his son,David Jnr.

As at 9th.June,1987:

Eileen Clarke now at home and very appreciative of visits by Welfare Team -reported by her daughter.

Jim Graham now also at home and hopes to be at next Meeting.

NX36407 - HOPE,L.A.(Lindsay) - ex Mortar Platoon - knee operation in Moden Valley Hospital - Bill MacLennan

**Last Post**

NX72610 - BLACKLOCK,J.T.

NX5095 - UUSUY,T.

NX13308 - REES,C.E.D.

NX4047 - GILBERT,C.A.

NX2096 - LOVELEE,D.W.

NX164 - COPLAND,J.S.

**VALE - Duncan Walker ("Snow") LOVELEE:-**

"Snow" Lovelee was an original member of 2/4 Bn.Transport Platoon in those early WW2 days when horses were still in vogue,motor transport being a luxury of the future. Horses were thus the only means of transport within the Unit and the original Transport Section was made up of men who were essentially horsemen,the first Officer-in-charge of the Section being Lieut.Harry Sundstrom who was a veterinary surgeon in civil life. So,men like "Snow" Lovelee with brother Jeff,and "Gunga Din" Valentine,Joe Galvin and Colin Campbell (the "soldier bites horse's ear" man who retaliated in that manner after being savaged by (horse) Regimental No.333) will always be remembered for their efforts in Battalion's far off "horse & buggy" days.

"Snow" died in Tamworth Hospital on 26th.May and was laid to rest in Narrabri Lawn Cemetery on 28th.May. It was a most impressive Service,a large number of people in attendance including representatives of "Snow's" R.S.L.Sub-branch and Bowling Club. The R.S.L. ceremony was held with Narrabri Sub-branch, sprigs of Rosemary being placed on the casket by ex-Service Personnel.

Our Association was represented by "Nick" Allardice and Wal Lambourne,and I (Ed.) indebted to the latter for this report.

O-O-O-O

VALE - John Snowdon COPLAND:-

At the age of 83 years,John Copland died peacefully on 1st.June and,after a Service at St.Anne's Anglican Church,Ryde,was committed to his final rest at Northern Suburbs Crematorium on 4th.June.

Sir Ivan Dougherty delivered the Eulogy at the church and referred to fact that John was born in England and,although having been brought to Australia as a very young boy and having grown up here to become very much an Australian,he had not lost his love for his motherland.

John went to school in Drummoyne and was then educated at Sydney High School. Pre-WW2 he served with 30th.and 56th.Militia Battalions,joined 2nd.A.I.F.at outbreak of the war in 1939 and was posted to 2/4 Bn. as a Lieutenant,having been commissioned in the militia at age 21 years.

In Palestine in 1940,the year which marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of Anzac Day, John Copland - then a Captain and temporarily seconded from the battalion - was responsible for timing and organising a March of United Kingdom and Commonwealth Troops from the Russian compound to the Y.M.C.A.where an impressive Service

(Cont'd.on Page 7)

VALE - John Snowdon COPLAND (Contd.): -

was held and broadcast to the world.

Sir Ivan mentioned John's exploit on the first day of the first Battle of Tobruk, the capture by John, accompanied by Vic Hill and "Nobby" Clarke, of the Italian General Petassi Manella who was the Commander of Tobruk, also the Commander of the Italian XX11 Corps.

Later, in Greece when the withdrawal began following the German breakthrough on the Unit's right flank and communication between Bn.H.Q. and Companies became very disrupted, John failed to receive a withdrawal message and was consequently outnumbered by the advancing enemy, shot and taken prisoner. He spent the remainder of the war in P.O.W. camps.

After returning to Australia John was for a time attached to Victoria Barracks in Melbourne, where his duties were to assist repatriated Servicemen. At that time he lived in Melbourne, where he had originally met his wife, Eileen, and they had a young son, David.

When his Victoria Barracks period ended, John and family moved to New South Wales and he worked for P.D.S., travelling extensively in the country - actually being away two weeks in every month. First they lived at Milsons Point, then purchased a home at Putney where John continued to live after Eileen died and until his declining health caused him to transfer to R.S.L. Nursing Home at Narrabeen.

John had many social interests and pursued them earnestly. He was active in the Ryde R.S.L. Sub-branch, a Delegate to R.S.L. Conferences and a Life Member of the R.S.L. He was a Member of Ryde Masonic Lodge, the Gallipoli Memorial Club and, of course, he served 2/4 Bn. Association as President in 1961/62, as a Committeeman and as Welfare Officer, in the latter capacity visiting Concord Repat. Hospital and others on many occasions.

John served on the "Dougherty" biography committee and on the committee which produced our War History - "White Over Green". In the latter project, Phyl Chrystal well remembers the huge task he and Eileen assumed in sorting through hundreds of cards and making corrections so as to have the Nominal Roll as accurate as possible.

Eileen, his beloved wife, died in 1970 and (typical of the man) John thereafter cared for himself immaculately, home and garden in perfect order. To use Phyl Chrystal's words, he was for many people "a much loved friend".

There was one other characteristic by which John will always be remembered - he never failed to correct the pronunciation of his surname when someone called it COPELAND instead of COPLAND.

At the Crematorium the R.S.L. Ceremony was performed in a most dignified manner by Harry Wright.

The 2/4th's attending the funeral were: Sir Ivan Dougherty, Fred Staggs, John Ringrose, Les Jones, Vic Forbes, Norrie McGregor, Bill MacLennan, Alan Bohlé, Athol Heath, John Meehan, Bob Fergusson, Bill Parry, Tom Gorman, Alex Arnott, Ted Wilson, Jack Eastham, Tom McNamara, Wal Lambourne, Frank Ivey, "Slim" Powers, Dick Pinson, Harry and Hilda Wright, George Stack, Allen and Gloria Lindsay, Norm Johnstone, Rex Everson,

(Contd. next column)

VALE - John Snowdon COPLAND (Contd.): -

Ken and Fi Kesteven and sister Nao Chatfield, Phyl Chrystal with son Rolfe and daughters Angela and Amanda, Ted and Heather Fox, Bill & Beryl Poplin, Norm Auberson. Apologies were received from Alf Carpenter, John Hawkins, Muriel Kleem, George Cole, Tim West (wife has broken hip), Wal Taylor, Jack and Joan Huston, Frank and Enid Crutchett. (Name Recorder John Ringrose apologises for anyone's presence he missed at the church or crematorium).

O-O-O-O

SITREPS:-

Newcastle - from George Mitchell:

"On the first Friday in May our usual "get together" was held at Hamilton R.S.L. Club and those in attendance were Alf Carpenter and Doreen Manuel, Doug and Deidre Milne, Pat and Gwen Gruty, George and Heather Mitchell, Chic and Dot Sleeman from Nelson Bay, Ron and Yvonne Maczkowiack from Loxton, S.A., who have since returned home, and Paul Brooke from Branxton. Apology was received from Jack and Mary Partridge who were holidaying with son Geoffrey in Queensland. As always, a good time was had by all present.

We wish to perform the same honours at our local member's funerals as is now done in Sydney but we lack a bayonet. We will be most grateful if anyone can provide us with a bayonet so that our funeral accoutrements will be complete."

West Australia - from Doug Slinger:

"Things have been quiet here since Anzac Day and I don't have much news about the W.A. WOGS except for "Dasher" and Lily Deacon. Our Quarterly Meeting/Luncheon at Perth Anzac Club will take place on 16th. June and should produce news about our Members for July newsletter.

Wilma and I have seen a lot of the Deacons & we have been involved with them at T.P.I. Assn. outings and activities. With them we went on a coach tour on 7th. May to Lancilen, a fishing village 70 miles north of Perth; then we headed off on a Swan River Cruise from Perth to Fremantle and returned on Monday 18th. May. Both outings were very enjoyable.

"Dasher" is currently competing in a Billiard Championship at the T.P.I. Club in Perth and has won his two games to date, with me as an onlooker. He is a good billiard player and is the centre of much interest in the competition because the two players he beat are regular players at the club.

Our Ced Smith mentioned to me on Anzac Day that he had collected a lot of signatures for the "hands off Vet. Affairs" petition, sent them to the nominated M.P., and is quite impressed at having had a formal written reply. The 2/11 Bn. Assn. in conjunction with the Cretan Brotherhood and the Greek R.S.L. Sub-branch in Perth will have their annual 1939/45 and Cretan Dinner on 28th. May and a large crowd of Veterans' Assns. and Hellenic Community personnel will be attending, including Wilma and I and "Dasher" and Lily - and I've been told that another two 2/4th's will also be there.

Alan Bohlé's "Amongst those Present" article is most interesting and I would like Alan to know that I enjoyed reading it. The part about WX15860 Pte. J. McKinlay has solved one of my mysteries - a "missing" WX member I could not trace. Can Alan tell me his first name so

(Contd. on Page 8)

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

that my records can be completed - nobody here knows anything about Pte. McKinlay."

(I will ask Alan if he can supply you with McKinlay's christian name and any further information about him - Ed.).

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

"Stan Blacksley has been in hospital again with leg problems - otherwise "all quiet on the Southern Front".

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MEMORIES OF JIM "COCK" ROBIN:-As told by John Ringrose:

John was recently thinking about our departed comrade and columnist and recalled that he wrote many humorous pars about his battalion mates and enjoyed a joke.

On one occasion he rang John to ask him could he visit Jim Crowe who was in the Royal North Shore Hospital. John's daughter Gail (then a young schoolgirl) answered the 'phone in John's absence and "Cock" said: "My name is Jim Robin from your father's battalion and I would like him to visit Jim Crowe in hospital".

Gail had already met Des Finch, and cheekily asked how many more of her father's battalion had bird names.

"Cock" then informed her that there was another Finch, two Partridges, a Wren, a Hawke, a Swan, an Eagle and a Peacock - & added that there were a few galahs, too, and sometimes "we also have cockatoos to watch out for Orderly Officers, Sergeant-Majors and other pests".

John had trouble trying to explain to Gail about the galahs and cockatoos - he also sadly misses "Cock" Robin and his column ... as do we all.

So much for bird names! How about animals? I can think of 3 Foxes (Ted, F.J. & L.F.), 1 Catt (W.G.), 2 Bulls (B.A. & J.), 1 Bullock (A.), 1 Calf (W.C.), 1 Goat (J.P. Kidd), 1 Lion (J. Lyons), 2 Horses (R. Brumby and E.J. Dobbin), 5 Dogs (4 Barkers, D.R., E.A., G.E. & L.E. and 1 Bassett, R.L.), and we also had Cattle (H.) - Ed.

O-O-O-O

WEWAK AFTER THE SURRENDER:-

(This article, written by Les Jones, formerly a member of the Signals Platoon, H.Q. Company, describes the events he experienced in Wewak after the Japanese surrender and his posting later to Rabaul for participation in garrison duties which were to involve guarding Japanese P.O.W. compounds. Les sailed home to Australia on 2nd July, 1946, and finally was discharged from the Army on 4th December that year - Ed.).

PART 1:

With the surrender, the time had now come to say good-bye to those original and longest serving members of the battalion with whom I had the privilege to serve alongside at Wewak. These personnel sailed for home on the "S.S. Katoomba" and after a round-about voyage (described on page 291 in our War History) finally arrived in Brisbane.

After a period of welcome relaxation in the battalion's camp alongside the beach at Wewak, which afforded excellent surfing, those

(Contd. next col)

WEWAK AFTER THE SURRENDER (Contd.):PART 1 (Contd.):

of our Unit who remained behind were posted to other Formations.

On 6th October, I was transferred to the 35th Battalion of the 8th Brigade, at Dove Bay. This was the scene of an amphibious landing by the 2/6th Cavalry Commando Regt. in conjunction with a company of the 2/3rd Machine Gun Battalion, early in May.

I was not very enthusiastic about my new surroundings, as the narrow strip of solid ground behind the beach did not afford too much room to move about.

To keep everyone occupied, educational activities were commenced and each man could select the subjects of his own choice to study. Additionally, qualified personnel were available to give lectures.

During some of the nights, large snakes were apparently slithering about in the camp, because on two consecutive mornings I awoke to see a fellow from the next tent burying one in the sand on the beach.

On one day during our stay at Dove Bay, we were transported to the airstrip at Wewak for a rehearsal parade as we were to be reviewed soon by (then) General Sir Thomas Blamey. Major-General H.C.H. Robertson, "Red Robbie" as he was affectionately known, "Good in" for General Blamey and made a fine sight striding the length of the parade area with his tall and erect figure.

Soon after, and prior to Christmas, we were moved to a camp on the plateau at Wewak Point. This area was vastly superior to Dove Bay and there was space for a proper parade ground, around which the tents were pitched. Here it was possible to walk about in all directions instead of being confined to a narrow strip of land.

Those of us who had commenced educational activities continued with them to pass the time away. Also, there was an open-air picture theatre in close proximity to the camp site and that was very welcome.

Christmas Day was celebrated at this camp and Ben Chifley, Prime Minister at that time, made a surprise visit during the day. He was agreeable to be subjected to a barrage of questions - the principal one being, of course, "When are we going home?"

The troops were becoming edgy due to their prolonged stay in Wewak and yearned to return to their families in Australia. I know of one who tried unsuccessfully to stow away on board a ship in the harbour. However, the consensus of opinion about the P.M. was that he was "a pretty good bloke" who had sacrificed his Christmas with his family back in Australia in order to be with the boys in N.G. Not long after, there was a rumour circulating to the effect that we would be shipping-out very soon and naturally it was thought that at last we were going home.

END OF PART 1 - to be continued in July issue of this Newsletter.

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STOP PRESS - URGENT NOTE re PORT STEPHENS/ NELSON BAY RE-UNION:-

The correct dates are as published in February "W.O.G." - the Re-union actually starts on TUESDAY 20th. OCTOBER (but many Members will arrive on MONDAY 19th. OCTOBER) and continues on WEDNESDAY 21st. OCTOBER and THURSDAY 22nd. OCTOBER. I am told that some Members have asked for bookings for other dates - please do check.

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