



White over Green

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE 2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

PATRON: Major-General Sir Ivan DOUGHERTY, CBE., DSO & Bar., ED., BEC., LLD., (Hon.).
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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 at a table reserved for 2/4 Bn. Association Members or at a separate table if so desired):-

TUESDAY, 28th. July - Normal Monthly Meeting) Committee will meet at 1130 hours in the
TUESDAY, 25th. August - Normal Monthly Meeting) Anzac Room.

"W.O.G." PRODUCTION:- **WEDNESDAY, 12th. August** - Team 11 at 1000 hours in the Anzac Room and
THURSDAY, 13th. August - Team 12 at 1000 hours (NOTE change from 1100 hours) in the Regimental Room or Anzac Room.

DATES TO REMEMBER:-

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 to be present are requested to advise Fred Staggs by 'phone immediately.

TUESDAY, 4th. August: "C" Coy. personnel plus wives/girl-friends to attend harbour cruise and barbeque lunch on Clark Island (B.Y.O. food and refreshments) - pick-up Tom Watson's boat at 1000 hours at Man-O-War Steps (east side of Opera House) - CONFIRM YOUR INTENTION TO ATTEND by 'phoning Tom Watson after 1800 hours on 327.4817.

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 - Association Ties, Badges, Name Tags and Medals to be worn - tickets at \$15.00 may be obtained from Ken Kesteven ('phone 412.4892).

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

TRIVIATA: Heard by Joan Lawson when Members were having drinks together after the June Meeting: Opinion expressed by Lionel Clarke that these days "No Change" O'Regan would charge us \$6.00 per haircut a preliminary search fee.

Correspondence "IN" (Contd.):

From Arnold (Curly) Gorman advising change of address from St. Marys to Coffs Harbour where he and his wife are purchasing a Mobile (relocatable) Home which they will establish on a site (Lot 218) at Crystal Waters Caravan Park, 200 yards ("Curly!", that's 182.88 metres nowadays - Ed.) from the beach, thus ensuring (according to "Curly") that the main item on the Gorman menu henceforth will be fish. He says it is a "very nice 2-bedroom home which will suit us in our twilight years", and he hopes to catch up with the other 2/4thers in Coffs Harbour shortly. Finally, he has asked that his new address be recorded on our Mailing List so that he will continue to receive "the Lifeline of the Association";

From Roy Palmer with news of the death of Don Thornberry (see LAST POST) and seeking information for Mrs. Thornberry re Pension matters. She has requested that she continue to receive "W.O.G." (which will be done). Roy says he thinks Don served in the Mortar Platoon;

From A.R. ("Snow") Moores with cheque for fees and the following information: "On Sunday 19th April at Doyalson I was present when Mrs. Lee Ryan, widow of the late Teddy Ryan, placed our Colour Patch on the cenotaph. One of the ladies present said "That's my Dad's colour" - she was the daughter of the late Sidney Honnery. On Anzac Day the Colour Patch was also placed on Toukley cenotaph." (Comment by Editor: I think "Sidney" Honnery's initials were A.H.). "Snow" also sends a message to "Bookie" Ray (Rae?) which I (the Editor) hope the latter will understand: "The miniature slouch hat owned by Doyalson is large to another one I know as a lady wears one as a brooch";

From George Friend with donation towards the cost of publishing "W.O.G." and notifying his change of address from Vacluse to Mangrove Mountain;

From Ron Barber confirming his concern that the official collection of "W.O.G." Newsletters complete from the first issue, and which originally was in the custody of successive Association Secretaries, has gone astray and that the practise has been discontinued for reasons unknown. On Ron's suggestion, it has been decided that the complete collection as preserved, placed in hard-cover folders and entrusted to the Editor shortly before his death, be regarded as donated by John Copland to the Association Archives and that it be brought up-to-date and maintained complete by the Editor, and/or successive Editors, as the Official Collection until the final issue of the journal is published, whenever that might be;

From Stan Carpenter referring to the article printed in September-October 1986 "W.O.G." re a statement attributed to a member of the Veterans' Review Board about a Veteran who "benefited from the hard work and healthy exercise associated with his three and a half years as a prisoner of war of the Japanese working on the Burma-Siam railway". The same article had been published in "Barbed Wire and Bamboo" as well as in "The Bulletin" of 3rd June, 1986, in the latter case by David McNicol. In March this year the same article was quoted in Stan's (Beaumaris) R.S.L. Sub-branch publication "Seachhead" and Stan understands that Bruce Ruxton, who is a member of that Sub-branch as well as being Victorian R.S.L. President, "went gunning" for the V.R.B. Member who made the remark. Beaumaris Sub-branch has now had a reply (td. on Page 3)

The Meeting commenced at 1405 hours with President Alf Carpenter in the chair and 42 Members (plus one visitor) in attendance. Apologies were received from Sir Ivan Dougherty, John Meehan, Allen Lindsay, Vic Forbes, Nap Alavoine, Brian Waring, L. McNamara, Barney Turley, Jim Graham, C. Williamson, George Mitchell, Pat Bruty and Peter Cade.

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:

The request from Newcastle Vice-President for a bayonet and scabbard, for use at funerals, was mentioned and Ron Barber and Bill Parry stated that they would check on possible donors of such items.

Certain other matters were brought forward for mention/discussion in General Business at the current Meeting as reported hereafter.

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

Correspondence "IN":

Some letters enclosed dues and donations - they will be formally acknowledged in due course in a Treasurer's "Cash Register" Report. Other correspondence comprised:

From Cec Smith of W.A. re Bn. Medal;

From John Falla of A.C.T. re non-acceptance by War Memorial of photographs of the late Norm MacIntyre's investiture with the Russian Medal (Order of the Patriotic War, 1st Class) and returning the photographs to our Secretary;

From David Copland expressing his thanks for the note of sympathy sent to him by our Secretary concerning the death of his father, John;

From Grace Goodwin thanking our Secretary for his message of sympathy following the death of her husband, Len, and expressing her appreciation of the tribute to Len as printed in "W.O.G.";

From Laurie Waterhouse confirming that he will be delighted to take possession of the late "Slim" Pollock's Bn. War History, of which "Slim" was so proud and of which he took meticulous care. Laurie also feels that it is a proper thing for us to take over the "Strathnaver" name plaque and to have it mounted with the photograph of the ship and hung in the Gallipoli Memorial Club. Laurie will be coming to Sydney in October for a skin cancer check-up - meanwhile has not been feeling 100% due to a heart-beat which gets out of rhythm and so causes breathlessness and led to him spending time in Currumbin Private Hospital having tests and being monitored - he says he is now taking things slowly and enjoying the "bird life" on Kirra beach which is a minute's walk away (Laurie, I'm not sure that such an activity is approved for heart or blood pressure conditions - Ed.). He saw our Anzac Day March on video (courtesy of his daughter) and thought we were "terrific". Laurie and Joy are frequently in touch with Bruce and Angela Cork who live only 10 minutes away by bus. To torment us (i.e. the Southerners) Laurie stresses that at Kirra 4225 it is always "lovely & warm".

(Contd. next column)

MONTHLY MEETING - 23rd. June, 1987 (Ctd.): -

Correspondence "IN" (Contd.):

stating that the offensive remark was NOT made by any Member of the Board but by a medical practitioner totally unassociated with the Board.

Correspondence "OUT":

Expressions of sympathy to the relatives of deceased Members and appropriate responses to the above-mentioned inward correspondence. \

Reports:

The President reported "all systems go" for the Cairns tour - however, at the time of the Meeting there were still two seats available.

The Secretary reported that there had been a poor response to the invitation to attend the Military History night at 4 Bn. The Royal N.S.W. Regt. Depot but several Members at the Meeting signified that they would attend (see "DATES TO REMEMBER" on Page 1). Secretary also advised that Mrs. Laurie Pollock has donated to the Association a lot of the late "Slim" Pollock's war memorabilia - after discussion it was decided that a sub-committee be formed (and it was formed) to evaluate and determine where to place this material to best advantage.

The Treasurer's report, in the absence of the Treasurer and mainly comprising a statement of Accounts Payable, was presented by Ted Fox. The accounts were passed for payment in Committee.

The Pensions Officer advised that he had a request from Graham Woodward (Dawlish, South Devon, U.K.) for assistance with his disability pension application which appeared to be "bogged down" in Australia. He also reported that he had represented a number of our Members at hearings by the V.R.B. and A.A.T.

The Editor reported on continuing problems with our photocopying machine, primarily in respect of the faintness of reproduction, and was authorised to consult our usual Service Technician - whether something needs to be renewed/replaced to produce a better result, or whether the machine has reached "retirement age".

Welfare and 6 Div. reports were delivered to the Meeting and are detailed separately in later pages of this Newsletter.

General Business:

Alex ("Biscuits") Arnott referred to an article in the Sydney "Daily Telegraph" on 22nd. June this year concerning problems being experienced by The Salvation Army in its efforts to help drug addicts, etc., and he addressed the Meeting in the following terms: "I refer to an article in a recent "Daily Telegraph" in which it was stated that Salvation Army Officers and Staff operating in the area of Kings Cross are being harassed, verbally assaulted and physically threatened by pimps and drug peddlars and similar scum of our city and I feel that the time has come for us to support those who supported us in the darkest hours of World Wars 1&2. I now move that the 2/4 Aust. Inf. Bn. Association formally condemn the attacks on the Salvation Army and that 6 Aust. Div. Association be so informed & requested to similarly inform other Aust. Div. Associations with a view to forming a deputation to the Leader of the Opposition in the N.S.W. Parliament to seek to have the "Summary Offences Act" reintroduced so as to allow

(Contd. next column.

MONTHLY MEETING - 23rd. June, 1987 (Contd.): -

General Business (Contd.):

Members of the N.S.W. Police Force the right plus the appropriate power(s) to deal with the scum causing the trouble, thus putting the N.S.W. Police Force back on a proper footing as defenders of the Law instead of being the "toothless tigers" they can only be without the powers of the "Summary Offences Act". The Motion was seconded by Jack Partridge and carried.

Harry Gjedsted spoke of the very successful "C" Coy. re-union luncheon and advised that a second event had been arranged through an offer by Tom Watson to make his boat available for a harbour cruise (see separate information on that subject elsewhere in this Newsletter - Ed.). Concerning "C" Coy. functions, and in answer to a question, Norm Auberson explained that only personnel who served in "C" Coy. were eligible to attend.

Bob Fergusson expressed the view that "attached troops" should be admitted to Rifle Coy. functions and cited Intelligence Section personnel who were members of Bn. H.Q. but who, in action and on manoeuvres, were attached to, and served with, specific Rifle Coys. (Comment by Editor: I personally consider that the above opinion should be sympathetically examined - it was not at Bn. H.Q., for instance, that the same Bob Fergusson won a Military Medal in New Guinea for "Gallant and Conspicuous Bravery", it was while he was attached to, and serving with, a certain Rifle Coy.).

Bill Parry mentioned his feeling of isolation even on Anzac Day because there are none of his Platoon Members now present on that occasion.

Wally Mangan put forward suggestions for aiding the production of "W.O.G."

Ferdie Pegg conveyed greetings to all Members from Ross Smith (the Inverell one - the other was at the Meeting - Ed.).

Harry Gjedsted appealed to any member who has old, but reclaimable, motor cycle parts to give them to him for a member of Gallipoli Memorial Club staff who collects such items.

There being no further business, the Meeting was closed at 1455 hours.

According to the Attendance Book the Members present were: ALF CARPENTER, KEN KESTIVEN, NORM AUBERSON, FRED STAGGS, JOHN RINGROSE, JOHN HAWKINS, TED FOX, LES JONES, HARRY WRIGHT, ATHOL HEATH, HARRY GJEDSTED, JIM FORMAN, ALEX ARNOTT, FERDIE PEGG, WALLY MANGAN, BILL PARRY, NORBERT FLYNN, BOB FERGUSON, JOHN "LARRY" DOOLEY, BILL MACLENNAN, FRANK IVEY, DAVE FOLLINGTON, WAL JOHNSTON, LIONEL CLARKE, KEN RICHARDSON, "POP" WILLIAMS, CEC LAWSON, RAY CAMPBELL, JACK PARTRIDGE, "TICH" FORDHAM, DICK PINSON, HAROLD BOWMAN, S. ROSS SMITH (the Sydney one), ALEX MAXWELL, NORRIE MCGREGOR, RON BARBER, "SLIM" VENN, JACK GARVEY, TOM TRACEY, CLIFF TAYLOR, CEC "SLIM" POWERS, MICK "NO CHANGE" O'REGAN.

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BATTALION MEDALS:-

This is a preliminary warning that the availability of Battalion Medals is coming to an end because we cannot order them in "drips & drabs" due to the manufacturer's reluctance to accept "one off" orders from us. Final details will be announced later but it is stressed now that after the "cut-off" date the production of our medals will cease and the dies will no doubt be destroyed so as to preserve the value of the medals as a collector's item and as a comparative rarity in our own possession.

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ANNUAL CHURCH PARADE - ASSOCIATION OF
4th. INFANTRY BATTALIONS:-

The 17th. Annual Service in the 16 year history of the above Church Parades was conducted by the Rev. Angus Tipping in St. Anne's Anglican Church at Strathfield/Homebush on Sunday, 21st. June, an occasion rendered somewhat sad by the knowledge that it was the last time this Service would be in the control of Angus Tipping because of an early retirement decision.

For the customary short march to the church, the parade assembled at nearby Beresford Road West Municipal Park under the auspices of 4 Bn. The Royal N.S.W. Regt. and before the march began we (the "oldies") witnessed the ceremonial investiture of two members of the Unit with Long Service Medals. As this Battalion will shortly be amalgamated with 3 Bn. under the new identity of 4th./3rd. Bn. The Royal N.S.W. Regt., it was fitting that on this occasion in its own original right the Unit should parade with full ceremony its Queen's and Regimental Colours and carry them on the march and into the church to be received by Rev. Tipping.

The march was led by the Unit's Regimental Band and for the first time we had on parade the banners of ALL the 4th. Battalions - i.e. Association of 4th. Infantry Battalions, 4 Bn. WW1, 2/4 Infantry Battalion, 4 Bn. 1939/1945, and 4 Bn. The Royal Australian Regiment, as well as the previously mentioned Colours of 4 Bn. The Royal N.S.W. Regiment.

At the church the Service commenced with the National Anthem (the REAL one) and the Rev. Tipping then greeted the congregation with the words: "We have come together to worship God and to thank Him for our Country and for those who have given it service in the Fourth Infantry Battalions".

A reading from the Old Testament (from the Book of Joshua) was performed by Sir Ivan and Lieut. Col. Vin Hallinan read from the New Testament (from St. Paul's letter to the Romans). Rev. Tipping's sermon was, as usual, appropriate to the occasion.

At the conclusion of the Service a very delightful afternoon tea was provided, by ladies of the church, in the crypt, where Vin Hallinan farewelled Angus Tipping and presented him with a gift and a badge of the Association of 4th. Infantry Battalions.

Through this Newsletter, on behalf of the President and all Members of our Association, I extend to you, Angus, and to Mrs. Tipping the very best wishes of 2/4 Bn. for a happy retirement in Leura.

Our Association's attendance at the Church Parade was quite disappointing and in the future we really must do better. "On parade" were Sir Ivan, Vin Hallinan, Graham Fleeton and family, Rex and Olga Everson, Vic Forbes, Ted and Heather Fox, Maurie Porter, Bert Flynn, Harold and Del Silver, Bob and Nina Fergusson, Frank Ivey, Norm and Nita Auberson, Bill and Gwen MacLennan, Ken and Fi Kesteven, Molly Irvine, Wally Honey.

Apologies were received from Alf Carpenter, Doreen Manuel, Allen and Gloria Lindsay, John Meehan, Fred Staggs, John Hawkins.

The Foxes and the Fergussons, with others from various Unit Associations, adjourned finally to Sydney Rowing Club at Abbotsford where an enjoyable evening was had.

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(4)

OUTSTANDINGS - REPORT FROM TREASURER
ALLEN LINDSAY:-

Last issue we notified all unfinancial members of their status by the "red cross in a box" method. Ninety-six (96) members received either one, two or three red crosses and so far eighteen (18) members have responded by sending in their overdue subscriptions. This can only be viewed as disappointing, particularly in view of the time and effort it takes to organise the "cross in a box" exercise. Also in view of the number of members who appear on the list who have been supporters in the past. Why, now, the lack of interest and support? Are we doing something wrong? Please write and let us know.

We now formally request that those members who received "red crosses" last issue, and who have not yet remitted their subscriptions to us, would they please do so!!

It is our intention to publish in the next issue of "W.O.G." a list of the names of all members who then remain two or more years overdue. If that action fails to bring a response, then all such members will be removed from our Mailing List.

Whilst that action will be regretted, we consider it unfair to all the rest of the approx. 450 members who are financial to continue to involve the Association in the expense of sending "W.O.G." to people who are obviously not interested in receiving it.

To those unfinancial members who may experience hardship in settling this matter - please write to our Secretary to that effect and your situation, as always, will be handled confidentially by our Benevolent Committee.

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"CHARLIE" COY. LUNCHEON:- (By Harry Gjedsted):-

A most enjoyable and successful gathering of "C" Company Members was held at the Gallipoli Memorial Club on Tuesday, 16th. June. Starting at 12 noon, 16 members were "on parade" with a Roll Call of: HARRY GJEDSTED, NORM AUBERSON, TOM WATSON, LIONEL CLARKE, WALLY JOHNSTON, DAVE FOLLINGTON, BILL FOGDEN, REX EVERSON, WALLY SHAW, ALAN BOHLÉ, NORRIE MCGREGOR, BILL NEWTH (up from Moss Vale), BOB LANE (down from Way Way), MICK GRAY, WALLY MANGAN, FERDIE PEGG. Apologies were received from DOUG SLINGER (W.A.) on behalf himself and STAN DAY, WALLY EVANS, ROSS ELLIOTT, VERN TOWNSEND and CEC SMITH, and from BILL LOY (S.A.).

Everybody voted the occasion a great success and, in addition to the tales of struggling over the desert sands, floundering in the snow and hacking through the jungle, the atmosphere was greatly enhanced by the jokes told by Alan Bohlé.

The "let's do it again" feeling was very strong and after some discussion Tom Watson offered to make his boat available for a day on the harbour including a barbeque lunch on Clark Island - B.Y.O. food and refreshment, etc. Tom's generous offer was received with enthusiasm and accepted for Tuesday, 4th. August (for more details see DATES TO REMEMBER on Page 1). As Tom's boat is restricted to 32 passengers, it is assumed that all who attended the luncheon will include themselves in the harbour cruise (which would make up half the quota of passengers) with wives completing the passenger list, but it is important to confirm with Tom by 'phoning him on 327.4817 after 1800 hrs. Norm and I thank all those who attended our first lunchtime gathering and we are confident that this will become an increasingly popular and regular occasion ... Harry Gjedsted.

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REPORT - 6th.Aust.Div.:-

By Norm Auberson:-



(5)

(1) The Vietnam Veterans have expressed to 6 Div. Association their delight at the place of honour given them in the Anzac Day March, and have thanked 6 Div. for suggesting and promoting that situation.

(2) The official Welcome Home Parade for the Viet.Vets. will take place in Sydney on 3rd. October this year and 6 Div. is desirous of giving them maximum support through all WW2 Unit Associations. The idea is that we shall line the streets and cheer them on their way through the city. (We have agreed to participate - see NOTE at end of this Report).

(3) At the May Meeting of 6 Div. Association the Anzac Day March Marshall, Major Whittle, congratulated 2/4 Bn. on completing the march in formation right up to the dismissal area.

(4) The "A.B.C." has advised that consideration is being given to deleting names of March Leaders due to failure of Units to provide up-to-date information, and incorrect particulars in commentary was causing complaints from Viewers.

(5) For the Annual Re-union on Sunday, 13th. September (see DATES TO REMEMBER on Page 1)

: is hoped to have a short wreath-laying Service at the Memorial in front of the Belmore R.S.L. at 1200 hours before adjourning to the Auditorium for the luncheon.

(6) Two Central Coast Functions are planned for later this year:

(1) Saturday, 17th. October - Luncheon at 1200 hours - \$13.00 per head - finishes at 1530 hours in plenty of time for city folk to get home by train or car;

(2) Sunday, 15th. November - Excursion to Wangi Wangi.

For both functions - contact Norm Auberson or Ken Kesteven in the first instance.

(7) Financial support is still required for the following projects:

- (a) The Peer Support Foundation;
- (b) The Cretan Scholarship;
- (c) The Australian Hellenic Memorial Foundation (Canberra).

NOTE: At our own Monthly Meeting on 23rd. June it was decided that we would indeed support the Viet.Vets. on 3rd. October, in their belated "Welcome Home" Parade, and we will do so by lining the street, at an appropriate location yet to be decided, with our own Banner and Flags on display plus a placard with suitable words to indicate our approval of them and their exploits on behalf of Australia. Put the date in your diary NOW - your Committee wants to make it a memorable occasion for those younger men who did what they had to do, without the Nation-support we had.

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PORT STEPHENS/NELSON BAY RE-UNION:-

From Chic Sleeman:

Additional bookings now confirmed comprise:

ALOHA VILLA MOTEL:

Enid Latimer; Hilda Mairat; Norm and Wilma Johnstone.

HALIFAX CARAVAN PARK:

Allan and Carma Kirk; Wal and Mrs. Lambourne.

PRIVATE ACCOMMODATION:

John "Bookie" and Margaret Rae.

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PORT STEPHENS/NELSON BAY RE-UNION:-

BUS SERVICE:

Monday to Friday:

Depart Newcastle:	Depart Nelson Bay:	Depart Shoal Bay:	Arrive Fingal Bay:
A.M.			
7.10	8.30	8.38	8.45
8.30	9.50	9.58	10.04
P.M.			
12.00	1.25	1.33	1.39
2.00	3.35	3.43	3.49
3.45	5.05	5.13	5.20
5.20	6.30	6.38	6.44
8.00FO	9.15FO	9.23FO	9.29FO

Saturday:

Depart Newcastle:	Depart Nelson Bay:	Depart Shoal Bay:	Arrive Fingal Bay:
A.M.			
9.15	10.30	10.38	10.44
P.M.			
12.00	1.20	1.27	1.34
5.00	6.15	6.23	6.29

Sundays & Holidays:

Depart Newcastle:	Depart Nelson Bay:	Depart Shoal Bay:	Arrive Fingal Bay:
A.M.			
9.15	10.30	10.38	10.44
P.M.			
5.00	6.15	6.23	6.29

NOTE: In anticipation of queries, and for the benefit of all who did not serve in the Intelligence Section, I advise:-

(a) FO in the above time-table does not mean that you would be carried on a Flying Object - it means FRIDAY ONLY;

(b) In order to depart at any time from a nominated place it follows that the bus must arrive there earlier - hence the arrival time at (say) Nelson Bay would be a little earlier than the above departure times;

(c) If there are further queries please address them to John Hawkins - he gave me the schedule and I have merely used my vast "I" Section experience to interpret it - Editor.

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LIKE FATHER - LIKE SON-IN-LAW:-

An editor needs to be something of a detective and in that capacity I have discovered a letter with an obscured date but written in 1918, and another one dated 5th. August, 1918, sent by the Officer i/c Base Records at Victoria Barracks, Melbourne, to a Mrs. A. Gearside of 55 Henderson Road, Alexandria, N.S.W., about her son, No. 5102 Private J.T.L. Gearside of the 4th. Battalion, A.I.F., who at one time during WW1 was Runner to Captain (later Lieutenant-General Sir Iven) Mackay. The first letter reads: "I have much pleasure in forwarding hereunder copy of extract from Second Supplement No. 30424 to the LONDON GAZETTE, dated 11th. December, 1917, relating to the conspicuous services rendered by the undermentioned member of the Australian Imperial Force:

AWARDED THE MILITARY MEDAL

"HIS MAJESTY THE KING has been graciously pleased to approve of the award of the Military Medal for bravery in the field to the undermentioned .. No. 5102 Private J.T.L. Gearside". The above has been promulgated in COMMONWEALTH of AUSTRALIA GAZETTE No. 66, dated 2nd. May, 1918 ... Yours faithfully, etc."

Abbreviated, the second letter confirms the award to Pvt. J.T.L. Gearside of a Bar to the Military Medal.

Further research revealed the following citations, which I have abbreviated to some extent:

(1) "East of YPRES on 22nd. September, 1917, after having worked continuously for the previous 24 hours carrying messages in the shell area, though very fatigued he readily and

(Contd. on Page 7)

SITREPS:-Far North Coast -
From Allan Kirk:

Allan reported that our ranks on the Far North Coast have been further depleted by the deaths of John Hinett, Merv McInnes, and Dorrie Andrews (wife of our Roy Andrews). The information sent by Allan on those unhappy events is contained in the LAST POST section of this Newsletter.

Allan apologises to Roy and family for not being able to attend Dorrie Andrews' funeral. Carma Kirk deputised for him but didn't get the names of others who were there.

"Pom" Wallace has been back in Lismore Base Hospital. Allan says that Carma had a sort of "shouted" conversation with "Pom" in the carpark downtown and he said he was O.K., but his sister said he "tells more lies than Tom Pepper" (I misread that - it was "fibs", not "lies" .. Ed.).

Allan sends his regards to all Members of the Association.

South Australia - From Bill Loy:

Bill's letter was actually sent to Harry Gjedsted: "Having had the privilege of being associated with "C" Company as C.S.M. for a short time, I would dearly like to attend the dinner on 16th. June. But, firstly, I am a long way away and at present, owing to arthritis & a pinched nerve in my back, I have to use two walking sticks. If I arrived with those it might look as though I was prepared for anything! All jokes aside, I saw Bill (Robbie) Robbins (I never knew his name was Bill-Ed.) a few days ago, also Kelly Karney, and we all wish "C" Company personnel in particular, & all Members of the 2/4th., the very best - & we wish we could be with you in person". (Note for Bill Loy: the "Return Address" on our new "W.O.G." wrappers has been changed to my Roseville 2069 location .. Ed.).

West Australia - From Doug Slinger:

(1) To Harry Gjedsted and Norm Auberson: "On behalf of Stan Day, Wally Evans, Ross Elliott, Vern Townsend, Cec Smith and Doug Slinger, all being ex-"C" Company members now living in W.A., I offer greetings to all the "Charlie" Coy. Members who will be in attendance for lunch at the Gallipoli Club in Sydney on Tuesday, 16th. June. We regret that the distance from Perth to Sydney precludes our presence and prevents us from enjoying the company of those who will be there. However, we do hope there is a large attendance and that the luncheon will be a happy occasion with unlimited pleasure for all in attendance.

Over here in Perth we will be having our W.A. 2/4th's quarterly "get together" luncheon at Perth Anzac Club on the very same day as your function and I shall refer to your "do" and we will drink a toast to the "Charlie" Coy. personnel here and at the Gallipoli Club. Have a great day, and I wish you all very good health, long life and good fortune. I hope to meet up with as many as possible at the Nelson Bay Re-union next October".

(2) At the regular luncheon on 16th. June the members present were "Dasher" Deacon, Wally Evans, Ross and Mona Elliott, Edna Ding, Don & Raema Guthrie, John and Pam Storey, Cec and Thelma Smith, Doug and Wilma Slinger. There were apologies from Lily Deacon, Stan and June Day, Fred Stanwell. "We enjoyed a few drinks,

(Contd. next column)

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

had a nice lunch and were kept amused by the special sense of humour of John Storey, who has the ability to spin a good yarn", says Doug. The impending arrival in Perth of Allen Lindsay and John Meehan induced most of those at the luncheon to decide that they would again be present at the Anzac Club to welcome the visitors.

"Dasher" Deacon was previously reported to be in winning vein at the Perth T.P.I. Club Annual Billiards Championship - alas, he was later defeated and knocked out of the competition. Don Guthrie continues to be busy in retirement and is heavily involved in his Lion's Club Community Projects, having been a member of that organisation for 22 years. Wife Raema is a "Meals-on-Wheels" volunteer.

Wilma and Doug, taking time-out from their own Mandurah week-ender recently, had a pleasant afternoon with Cec and Thelma Smith at their Beach Cottage in the same locality. Cec and Thelma built their place themselves over week-ends a few years ago.

Referring to a recent report that Ted Burbidge has not been well, Doug writes: "Ted is one very much in my thoughts and memories of 2/4 Bn. members whom I came to know, to appreciate and respect in the short time I spent with the Battalion as a very young bloke, and I send greetings".

Les Jones' article "Wewak after the Surrender" is proving to be of much interest to Doug Slinger who says: ".. so many of our 'too few points for priority discharge 6 Div. Troops' were involved in the job which had to be done at Wewak and Rabaul - 'caring for the Japs' & getting them back to where they came from - necessary, I suppose, but we were not very impressed at the time. I look forward to what he has to say in the rest of his "Saga". Kindest regards to all".

(Note for Doug Slinger: Alan Bohlé has no record or recollection of Pte. McKinlay's christian name and is unaware whether he went to W.A. or returned to U.K. after the war. He has an idea that McKinlay served in "A" Company. "A" Coy. personnel note: anyone knowing McKinlay's christian name is asked to inform me or Doug Slinger's records - Ed.).

O-O-O-O

WELFARE REPORT - By Harry Wright:-

As at 23rd. June, 1987:

Visited at Concord Repat. Gen. Hospital:

NX2020 - BROOKS, W.G. (Bill) of Inverell - Ward 110 - Prostate Operation.

NX202371(?) - MILNER, Bert of Nambucca Heads - Back problem - discharged.

NX9721 - STACK, George - Ward 630 - operation on nose - discharged.

NX5228 - McALLAN, Arthur R. - Ward 630 - was in process of being discharged when called upon - seen just as driver arrived to take him home to Taren Point - had an arm problem.

At home:

NX 47289 - MITCHELL, George - suffering a bad attack of bronchitis.

Subsequent to 23rd. June, 1987:

Visited at St. George Hospital: (By "Slim" Powers)

NX72564 - McATAMNEY, Jack ("Brig") - Ward 6 - had been there a fortnight - was knocked down by a car outside his home - remembers nothing about it - woke up in hospital with police in attendance - broken pelvis - allowed out of bed with a Walker.

O-O-O-O

LAST POST (Contd.):—

VALE - Doris May Andrews:—

Aged 77 years, Dorrie Andrews died at Lismore Base Hospital on 2nd June and following a Service at St. Peter's Anglican Church, Goonellabah, was buried in the City of Lismore Lawn Cemetery at Goonellabah. Members of Lismore Country Women's Association attended the funeral, as did Carmie Kirk on behalf of our Far North Coast Vice-President, Allan. Dorrie was, of course, the wife of our own Roy Andrews and the mother of "our own" Lieutenant-Colonel Elvin Andrews. On behalf of all our Members, I extend deepest sympathy to Roy and Elvin and their families (Ed.).

Editor's note: I have no further information about R.H. Fuller.

O-O-O-O

LIKE FATHER - LIKE SON-IN-LAW (Contd.):—

cheerfully conveyed a message from the support line positions through heavy shell fire to the Battalion Transport lines, a distance of approximately 9 miles."

(2) "For conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty at BROODSEIRDE RIDGE east of YPRES on 4th October, 1917, as Battalion runner he conveyed a message to the front line and was returning through heavy shell fire when a shell burst and badly wounded him in the hand. Though very faint and sick with the pain of the wound he struggled on and brought back reliable information at a critical time, awarded Bar to Military Medal".

So much for the LIKE FATHER aspect of my story! What about the LIKE SON-IN-LAW aspect?? The answer can be found, and read, on Page 307 of WHITE over GREEN, the Official War History of 2/4th Australian Infantry Battalion. To explain - the 4th Bn. Private Gearside, MM & Bar, later had a daughter christened Nina and when she grew up she married a 2/4th Bn. Private Robert David Fergusson, MM (incidentally, Bob's surname is incorrectly spelt "Ferguson" in the War History - Ed.). END OF STORY!!!

O-O-O-O

WEWAK AFTER THE SURRENDER - PART 2:—

By Les Jones:

New Year's Eve was approaching fast and the troops had been saving some of their beer ration to celebrate the occasion. I also knew that a quantity of "jungle juice" was quietly fermenting in a hidden container. This was an evil-looking purple mixture that tested the courage of those who were game enough to drink the concoction.

As our departure from Wewak appeared to be imminent, we decided that it would be a good idea to "knock over" our hoard of grog, and that we did. Well, it turned out to be a night to remember as, during our celebrations, we completely demolished the fence surrounding the parade ground.

The following morning on parade, after a tongue lashing, all those who had taken part in the wanton destruction were ordered to take "one step forward". To the best of my recollection, everyone did just that and then we were told in no uncertain manner to rebuild the fence, even if it took all week. Everyone got cracking and we finished the job that day. Nothing more was ever said about that incident.

THE TRANSFER TO RABAU:

On 4th January, 1946, we went aboard "S.S. Duntroon" and, much to our dismay, sailed for Rabaul, New Britain. It was disappointing to learn that we were not homeward bound after all.

2/4 Infantry Bn. Association:—



Last Post

NX5961 - FULLER, R.H.
NX136475 - THORNBERRY, D.
NX68844 - HINETT, J.K.
NX46977 - McINNES, M.C.

And also (Mrs.) Doris May
ANDREWS.



VALE - Don Thornberry:—

After a period of ill health lasting some two and a half years, Don died on 3rd June and was buried at Orange on the following Friday morning after a Service beginning at 1100 hours. We were represented at the Service and Graveside by Roy Palmer, who had come to know Don well during his illness.

VALE - John Kitchener Hinett:—

Johnny had been very ill for quite some time, with frequent visits to and from the "Greenslopes" Hospital in Brisbane, and at 71 years of age he finally passed away in Bonalbo Hospital, N.S.W., on 9th June and was buried in Bonalbo Cemetery after a graveside Service. His funeral was attended by members of Bonalbo R.S.L. Sub-branch and our Association was represented by Allan Kirk, Eddie Miller, Mel McInnes, Max Nerney from Urbenville, Doug Grove from Ballina, Hughie Whittleton with Jack and Joyce Lister from Kyogle.

VALE - Mervyn Clyde McInnes:—

Merv died peacefully in Whakatane Hospital (New Zealand) on 29th May and was laid to rest after a Service at Knox Presbyterian Church, Whakatane. A Memorial Service was held in Lismore when Merv's son-in-law, Owen Graham, an accomplished saxophonist, with a friend named Warren Whitney on the organ, played in church "I hear you calling me" and "Bless this House". Allan Kirk felt that it constituted a fitting farewell to a good mate. Merv McInnes was one of three brothers who served in 2/4 Bn., brother Mel living still in Lismore and brother Ken at Alstonville, between Lismore and Ballina. Merv had worked at Lismore R.S.L. Club and had then run his own business at Ballina before migrating to New Zealand. His wife, Nellie Elizabeth, had predeceased him. Our Members present at the Memorial Service were Allan Kirk, Mel and Ken, of course, Eddie Miller, Roy Andrews, Doug Grove, Jack & Joyce Lister, Hugh Whittleton, Bill Sheaffe, Vic and Beryl Slade, Hugh Livingstone and Tom Clarke.

(Contd. next column)

(Contd. on Page 8)

WEWAK AFTER THE SURRENDER (Contd.): -

There was an overnight stop at Finschhafen, where some Americans were still stationed, and we reached our destination after a voyage of a week's duration.

The ship anchored in Rabaul harbour on the evening of the 10th. and there was some confusion as to whether we were to have our evening meal on board. Eventually we disembarked and were allocated to our new Units. Then we were fed. On 11th. January, 1946, I became a member of the 31/51st. Infantry Battalion, 11th. Brigade, which had been in action on Bougainville.

On our first parade the C.O. gave a brief speech about the role played by the 31/51st. in the war and ordered the removal of our 2/4th.Colour Patches. This directive did nothing for our already low morale but to protest would have been useless. The "White over Green" Colour Patch was not to be seen again until, on board ship in July, we finally sailed for home.

We were now in a camp at Talili Bay, the scene of an enemy landing when Rabaul was invaded soon after Japan entered the war. It was not too bad; luckily, there was the surf in which to cool off, as the sun seemed to be fiercer than at Wewak. A recreation hut equipped with table tennis facilities, and an open-air picture theatre, were nearby and both made life more bearable.

One day there was a call for volunteers to join the B.C.O.F. in Japan and a few of the men stepped forward, to be flown out the following morning. I had mixed feelings about this opportunity to see Japan but decided that it was more important for me to return home as soon as possible and resume my career in civilian life.

We were soon assigned to the various Japanese P.O.W. compounds to commence guard duties. Each compound contained about 10,000 men and there were between 100,000 and 110,000 prisoners in the Rabaul area. We would move about from one to the other and were given rest periods back at our camp between the guard duties.

One compound to which I was assigned was situated in close proximity to Rabaul Harbour with its backdrop of volcanoes. While patrolling around the fence in the early hours of one morning, on my way to a Bren gun tower, I almost stepped on a long yellow-spotted snake which was wriggling across the track. Fortunately, I was carrying a torch, otherwise there would have been a nasty

(Contd.next column)

If at the right-hand side of this page a photograph can be delineated, it is that of "A" Coy. 4th Bn. A.I.F., taken 20/1/1919.

Otherwise it must be accepted that our photocopier is not as good as my intention - Ed.

(8)

WEWAK AFTER THE SURRENDER (Contd.):- Two courses of action were open to me; either blast the living daylights out of it with my Owen gun, or remain motionless and hope it would just continue on its way. I chose the latter, with success, in preference to waking up the entire compound - which would most certainly have resulted in pandemonium.

The weather was very hot and humid and, unfortunately, we were now too far away from Talili Bay to go surfing, which would have kept the heat rashes and pimples under control. I was reporting daily to the R.A.P. to be swabbed over with lotion or methylated spirits. I find that this treatment is still necessary during the months of January and February in Sydney. On the bright side, there was quite a good D.R.'s Club nearby which we patronised regularly. The club was equipped with the usual recreational facilities and with constant playing some of the boys became very proficient at table tennis. Not far away there was a barber shop with a young Chinese girl in attendance (and we had to get landed with Mick No-Change O'Regan - might have been better if he had been No Chang O'Legan - Ed.). Rabaul was certainly more civilised than Uewak.

The Rabaul Racecourse was in the immediate vicinity and the Inaugural Meeting of the Club took place on 26th. January, 1946. I still have a copy of the race programme which lists Brigadier R.E. Winning D.B.E. as the Rabaul Army Race Club's President. Maybe this was Lieutenant-Colonel "Bob" Winning listed in our War History Nominal Roll as NX44 Winning, R.E.? (I believe it was - Ed.). The final meeting of the club was held on 20th. April, 1946. Our period of guard duty in this area eventually came to an end and we were transferred to another compound which was situated down the coast beyond Talili Bay. This one held about 10,000 Japs and was guarded by 28 men, divided into four sections each of seven. Each section manned a Bren gun tower and mounted guard at the gate on each corner of the compound. During the day, Jap work parties drove out in their trucks to cultivate their vegetable gardens in the surrounding area. When it became necessary for produce to be transported inside the area, one of us acted as an escort, armed with an Owen gun and ammunition. However, the prisoners were, in the main, docile and there were never any anxious moments during these trips. Some of their Officers spoke English & even a little trading occurred with the exchange of tobacco for hand-painted silk handkerchiefs or other items of interest.

END OF PART 2 - continued in August Newsletter.

