



White over Green

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE 2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

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

42nd year of continuous publication.

Registered by: Australia Post: Publication - NAS 1532.

Price: 50c. per copy.

Vol. 42 - No. 9.

SEPTEMBER, 1987.

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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 preferred):-

THURSDAY, 22nd. SEPTEMBER - Normal Monthly Meeting) Committee will meet at 1130 hours in
THURSDAY, 27th. OCTOBER - Normal Monthly Meeting) The Anzac Room.

"W.O.G." PRODUCTION:

- WEDNESDAY, 14th. October	- Team 3 at 1000 hours in The Anzac Room;
- THURSDAY, 15th. October	- Team 4 at 1000 hours (NOTE change from 1100 hours) in The Anzac or Regimental Room (check on arrival at the Club).

DATES TO REMEMBER:-

SUNDAY, 13th. SEPTEMBER	- 6 Aust. Div. Association (N.S.W.) Re-union at Belmore Returned Services Club, 427 Burwood Road, Belmore, commencing with a short Wreath-laying Service at 1200 hours and followed by luncheon in the Auditorium. Association Ties, Badges, Name Tags, Medals and Decorations to be worn. Tickets at \$15.00 will be available at the Re-union from Ken Kesteven and/or Norm Auberson. YOUR ATTENDANCE IS REQUESTED - SUPPORT THE COMMITTEE IN THIS MATTER.
SATURDAY, 3rd. OCTOBER	- Viet. Vets. National Re-union (that is what they want it known as) and March (Military Parade) through Sydney - 0800 hours F.U.P. at Sydney Domain - move off at 0900 hours. WW2 Units of 6 Aust. Div. will line George Street in the area of Sydney Town Hall. Further details will be promulgated later. Please DIARISE THIS DATE - YOUR COMMITTEE LOOKS FOR A MAXIMUM REPRESENTATION.
TUESDAY, 20th. OCTOBER	- Actual commencement date of Port Stephens/Nelson Bay Re-union - but many Members will arrive on Monday, 19th. October, and some on Sunday, 18th. October. Re-union continues to, and inclusive of, Thursday, 22nd. October.
TUESDAY, 17th. NOVEMBER	- "Charlie Coy. Calling" luncheon at The Gallipoli Memorial Club - 'phone Norm Auberson on 632-8225 or Harry Gjedsted on 27-6350 by Friday, 13th. November, if you wish to attend. Payment for luncheon is to be made to Norm Auberson on arrival at the Club.

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DATES TO REMEMBER (Contd.):

WEDNESDAY, 16th. DECEMBER - 2/4 Bn. Association's Christmas "GET TOGETHER" at The Galipoli Memorial Club commencing at 1500 hours.

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QUESTION OF THE MONTH:-

What is it that Sir Ivan Dougherty and Mick "No Change" O'Regan have in common?

The answer may be found in the following IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT:-

Mr. M. J. O'Regan wishes it to be known that on 23rd. August this year he, in common with Sir Ivan, became a member of the OCTOGENARIAN CLUB.

(Editor's comment: Congratulations, Mick - may many more years pass before you need to "hang up your scissors and comb". What would I do without you to feature in my Triviata attempts at humour?).

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MONTHLY MEETING - 25th. August, 1987:-

The Meeting commenced at 1405 hours with President Alf Carpenter presiding and 43 of our members, plus one visitor, in attendance. Apologies were received from Sir Ivan Dougherty, J. Graham, K. Richardson, J. Meehan, J. Ringrose, K. Kesteven, G. Stack, R. Everson, J. Partridge, R. Campbell, R. Mitchell, J. Forman. One minute's silence was observed in memory of our 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: Nil.

Assistant Secretary, John Hawkins, recorded the following Business dealt with at this August Meeting:

Correspondence "IN":

Letters enclosing dues and/or donations are mentioned hereunder as confirmation that they have been received. However, formal acknowledgements will be made at a later date in a Treasurer's "Cash Register" Report.

Letters to Fred Staggs from:

- (1) Ada Thornberry (and Family) expressing appreciation of our sympathy as conveyed to her upon the passing of Don on 3rd. June this year.
- (2) Bob Griffiths confirming his receipt of Bn. Medals and stating that balance of funds from his cheque comprise a donation towards "W.O.G." postage costs.
- (3) Jean Cole with photographs/wartime newspapers relating to the late Reg Cole.
- (4) Mrs. Tomlinson with request for Bn. medals on behalf of (Dr.) Paul Tomlinson.
- (5) Doreen Sibilant referring to the lost medals of the late Jim Sibilant and advising that she has written to Army Records Office-Medal Section to ascertain whether replacements can be obtained. Doreen wishes to continue receiving "W.O.G." and enclosed a donation to help with postage - concerning our Newsletter she says: "I enjoy reading it and I have found out more about my husband's army life since his death than I knew before, as he never talked about his service, but he was very proud of the 2/4 Inf. Battalion. I would like to thank the 2/4th. for attending his Service at the Crematorium. It is now nearly 2 years since his death, but the memories are always there".
- (6) Dudley Meacham with cheque for Bn. medal.
- (7) E. H. Mackey with funds for Bn. miniature medal and tie - says he was in Nelson Bay last October

(Contd. next column)

MONTHLY MEETING - 25th. August, 1987 (Contd.):Letters to Fred Staggs (Contd.):

and "had a pow wow with Ken Webb, we were in Germany together".

(8) Arthur Harradine with current subscription plus donation for Welfare, etc., and enquiring about Bn. and Greek medals - sends his regards to Sir Ivan and all Officers and Members of the Association.

(9) Shirley Vaughan enquiring about the Bn. medal and thanking the Association for continuing to send "W.O.G." to her. In our 2/4 Bn. sphere, Shirley is probably unique in that her late husband and father both served in our Unit (NX41489 F. Vaughan and NX46461 W. H. J. Hyde).

NOTE (especially Doug Slinger): I can now tell everyone concerned that NX41493 McKenzie, H., is most definitely NOT the H. McKenzie who was reputed to have been a member of 2/4 Bn. and reported in the "West Australian" newspaper to have died. NX41493 is our Harold McKenzie who lives four houses away from Shirley Vaughan and who, after recovering from hysterics induced by the suggestion of his death in August "W.O.G.", has asked Shirley to advise us that he is alive and well and he sends his regards to all - Editor.

(10) Mrs. U. Andrews, widow of Bill Andrews, with donation and request that "W.O.G." still be sent to her. She keeps herself busy by being totally involved with St. George Division of Legacy Widows' Club, Torch Bearers for Legacy and the War Widows Guild. In concluding her letter she writes: "My husband, Bill, John Tully and Cec Chrystal joined the A.I.F. together - when my husband was gravely ill at Calvary, I remember he said to Cec "I am dying" - Cec came straight back "Well, in that case I've got a message you can take to John" - and they laughed and talked of past events. Now the circle is closed and they are together again".

Letters to Allen Lindsay from:

- (1) Alex Dick, Vic Slade, Bill Poplin, Jack per Molly Scheibel, Athol Watts and Ken King - all with subscriptions and/or donations and/or payment for blazer pockets, etc.
- (2) Harry Smith referring to the paid-up Life Membership he took out in the '70's and when supplemented by a donation later. Since his retirement from work at Blacktown, Harry has had quite a few changes of address - to Erowal Bay to Umina to South Woy Woy to Woy Woy. He wishes to make donations to The Cretan Scholarship and Hellenic Memorial Foundation and has been referred to Ken Kesteven for that purpose.
- (3) Nance Smith with donation to "W.O.G.", which she enjoys receiving and reading. Nance advises that she was recently granted a War Widow's Pension - "quite a shock after all these years, but very acceptable - all thanks to Legacy".
- (4) Noel Woolcott referring to the "Cross-in-a-Box" subscription reminder and saying: "Fancy putting me in the box! I have far too much to do and I'm not ready for that for a long time yet - and I really do doubt I'll be extended from corner-to-corner". Since he does appreciate receiving "W.O.G.", Noel has provided the appropriate funds which will keep him out of that box a little longer.
- (5) Joe and Bobbie Wells with \$100 donation "for printing or what-have-you".
- (6) John Falle with \$100 donation for

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Letters to Allen Lindsay (Contd.):

"W.O.G." production costs. John regards the Newsletter as "so valuable to keep us all in touch, especially those of us who are almost never in Sydney". Referring to our thinning ranks, John says: "It was sad to lose Norm MacIntyre, so closely associated with me in the Intelligence Section in the first years of the Unit's operations and training. Ruve and I were able to visit him each year for the last few years on our annual visits to Queensland, also taking in our old friends Wally and Betty McKenzie and, until his death last year, "Wink" Walker - we keep in touch with Win Walker. Another old friend has gone in John Copland, my Platoon Commander in the 56th. Battalion at Leeton in 1938/39, and a church warden to Ruve's father, the late Rev. Charles Sims, then Rector at Leeton; truly we were a goodly company in the 2/4 Bn. Cheers to those who remember us, and our gratitude to all who make the Association tick so well".

(7) Chris White referring to the visit of the Cairns (and elsewhere) Touring Party & the visit to our old camp site at Wandecula, Herberton, etc. Chris enclosed photographs and the front page of the local newspaper featuring the recent invasion of the area by 2/4 Bn. Veterans and their wives, & asked that a copy of each be given especially to Harry and Hilda Wright. His only complaint is that our tourists were there for too short a time to enable him "to pick the brains of the Home Brewers" and that on the trip to Wandecula via the Gillies Highway he was forced, being part of a captive audience, to endure "that terrible yarn which Allen Lindsay kept going for 6 miles and which Alf Carpenter then had to try and beat".

Letters to Ted Fox from:

(1) Win Walker with donation towards "W.O.G." mailing costs and saying that she enjoys it very much, every now and again picking up a familiar name - Tom Riboldi last month, who served with "Wink". Win is off to Atherton this month, where her son - Ross - is located and where she hopes to meet up with Jack Reynolds who was caring enough to contact Ross when he (Jack) learnt of "Wink's" death. Subsequently, Ross found that (as a D.P. I. Dairying Advisory Officer) he was working with Jack's son on his farm, which was Jack's farm before he retired. Veterans' Affairs matters appear to be as prolonged in Queensland as here in N.S.W. Win advises: "Vet. Affairs wheels are still turning slowly up here. I have received mail from Brisbane, Canberra and South Australia and was advised that my papers are being processed in Victoria. Seems there are so many retired & ailing Veterans in Q'land that the back-log of work is having to be sent to less busy departments. I have been treated with much respect & kindness and am very grateful for the turn of events. I would that "Wink" were here to know, and to benefit from the outcome himself. Will be with you all in thought at the 1987 Re-union - best wishes for a great time of togetherness".

(Win, in answer to your question, I am still waiting for my appeal to be heard - I applied on 1st. September last year - John Hawkins says that such a delay is not unusual).

(Contd. next column)

Letters to Ted Fox (Contd.):

(2) Ella Crosthwaite confirming correct name spelling and address details.
(Ella, thanks - a new address stencil will be prepared in due course and, meanwhile, existing particulars on "W.O.G." wrappers will be altered each month by hand).

(3) Doug Grove - not a letter, a 'phone call - advising that the Cairns/Coach Tourists had enjoyed a very good night in Ballina on the north-bound journey. They were joined for a momentous dinner by Ray ("Raggsie") Butler, Hugh Burghof (hope I've got that spelling right, Hugh) and Doug himself - a momentous dinner occasion because it was Allen Lindsay birthday and, apparently suffering from Coach Momentum Instability, our Treasurer bought the wine for the entire party (Harold Silver, I demand an immediate audit of our Benevolent Funds - Ed.).

Correspondence "OUT":

Letters responding, where appropriate, to the above-mentioned letters "in", and general administrative correspondence.

Reports:

President Alf Carpenter reported on the excellent reception extended to our Tourists by 2nd./4th. Battalion The Royal Australian Regiment at Samichon Lines, Lavarack Barracks, Townsville, during the visit which coincided with the Unit's 14th. Anniversary. The ceremonial TROOPING the COLOURS was performed in front of guests and Reviewing Officer, The General Officer Commanding Field Force Command, Major-General N.R. Smethurst, AO., MBE. The President further reported on the fine time had by the touring party in general, and later in this Newsletter there appears more information on the above matters.

Two other items were featured in the President's Report: (a) a 'phone call from Squadron Leader Geddes to finalise details of our visit to Williamtown R.A.A.F. Base during the forthcoming Nelson Bay/Port Stephens Re-union; and (b) he is now accepting bookings for the trip to Tasmania beginning approximately 28th. February next year - the cost is \$1,215.00 per head.

Secretary Fred Staggs reported having received 12 applications for Bn. Medals and/or Miniatures and requests any others who apply for them to STATE THEIR ARMY/REGIMENTAL NUMBER & RANK in addition to NAME & ADDRESS (etc.), so as to avoid him having to research our records or refer back to the applicant.

Treasurer Allen Lindsay reported that no response has come from 32 non-financial members of our Association and resultantly it was resolved that their names be removed from the mailing list.

Treasurer announced the following Account Balances as at 25th. August, 1987: General Account \$7,677.00, Benevolent Account \$257.00, State Building Society \$8,635.00, Re-union Committee \$500.00; Total Funds are therefore \$17,069.00. Welfare and 6 Div. Reports were presented by Harry Wright and Norm Auberson respectively and are printed later in this Newsletter. Editor reported that the copying machine had been serviced, a new Drum installed, and an improvement achieved in the clarity of reproduction. The new supply of "W.O.G." Journal Letterheads has arrived, thanks to the efforts of Bob ("Dagwood") Jackson.

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MONTHLY MEETING - 25th. August, 1987 (Contd.):REPORTS (Contd.):

Pensions Officer quoted a report which appeared in the Sydney Daily Telegraph on 22nd. August re a Federal Court ruling implying that T.P.I. pensions were invalid in the case of Veterans over 65 years of age and that such pensions were now likely to be drastically reduced.

General Business:

Alex Arnott spoke at length on the subject of possible reductions in T.P.I. pensions and the apparent lack of advice from R.S.L. Headquarters that such a matter was being considered. He also expressed the opinion that the R.S.L. has become less than effective in fighting for the protection of Veterans' entitlements and he moved a censure motion against the R.S.L. and its present Executives, such to be transmitted to State and Federal Branches via direct communication and/or via G Div. Association. After lively debate the motion was defeated by 20 votes to 15 on a show of hands. The consensus of opinion of the majority was that the matter should be taken up at R.S.L. Sub-Branch level by Members. Allen Lindsay mentioned that the present C.O. of 2/4 Bn. R.A.R. had been at Duntroon at the same time as Ian McWilliam and Mick Hill, who are sons of our Members.

Vic Forbes reported meeting Greg Holland at Balina and receiving a Membership Subscription from him.

Pat Bruty presented to Harry Gjedsted, for mounting in the Anzac Room at Gallipoli Memorial Club, a framed photograph of Sir Ivan Dougherty at the Battalion Parade held on the oval at Crafers, S.A., in 1942, when he was about to leave 2/4 Bn. to take command of 23rd. Brigade.

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

According to the Attendance Book, the Members present were: ALF CARPENTER, ALLEN LINDSAY, NORM AUBERSON, FRED STAGGS, VIC FORBES, JOHN HAWKINS, HARRY WRIGHT, TED FOX, LES JONES, ATHOL HEATH, RON BARBER, HARRY GJEDSTED, CEC POWERS, LIONEL CLARKE, NAP ALAVOINE, BERT FLYNN, WAL JOHNSTON, GEORGE MITCHELL, PAT BRUTY, ALEX ARNOTT, MERVE NICHOLSON, CLIFF TAYLOR, MAURIE PORTER, BILL MacLENNAN, BILL POPLIN, TOM TRACEY, MICK "NO CHANGE" O'REGAN, FRED TAYLOR, ALEX MAXWELL, "SLIM" VENN, "TOLGA" JACK GARVEY, HAROLD BOWMAN, DICK PINSON, "TICH" FORDHAM, WALLY SHAW, BOB FERGUSSON, NORRIE MCGREGOR, DAVE FOLLINGTON, WALTER WOODS, FRANK IVEY, FERDIE PEGG, BILL PARRY, PETER CADE and visitor ANDY PHILLIPS.

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EDITOR'S NOTE:-

Re the T.P.I. Pension situation, at the recent National Congress (R.S.L.) in Queensland the Prime Minister announced that handicapped war veterans over 65 will continue to receive full pensions despite the Federal Court ruling implying those pensions are invalid. Mr. Hawke said the Government is to amend legislation to ensure full pensions are paid to the over-65s.

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WEWAK AFTER THE SURRENDER - PART 4:-By Les Jones:

As I went to sleep that night I was happy in the knowledge that, after a brief train ride, next morning I would be re-united with my family. We docked at a wharf in Walsh Bay at about 8 a.m. and during the slow passage across the harbour the commuter ferries sounded their sirens in welcome. Whilst we were still on board, a wharfie shouted out for some cigarette papers which were apparently pretty scarce in the shops, as were cigarettes and

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WEWAK AFTER THE SURRENDER - PART 4 (Contd.):

tobacco.

Once ashore, waiting buses transported everybody to the Army Depot at Marrickville where twenty-four hours leave was granted immediately. I reported back the following morning after an overnight stay with my family, and was then given one month's leave.

After arriving back at Marrickville, the 5th. of August, I was posted to 2AESBD, an Engineers' Stores Base Depot at Haberfield. I had now become a Sapper.

This Depot was situated in Hawthorne Parade alongside a canal, and each day we were driven to a storage yard where there were stacks of steel and all manner of engineers' equipment. Actually, we were labourers, not engineers, and were required to shift around lengths of steel and equipment within the yard. This was purely all physical work that required no brainpower and I found it to be rather humbling. There was relief from the tedium on some days when working parties were needed at the wharves in Walsh Bay or Woolloomooloo Bay.

One morning on the wharves became sheer misery for me as I intermittently sweated and shivered and was incapable of working. Upon returning to the Depot for lunch, I went on Sick Parade and was then taken by ambulance to 101 General Hospital, situated somewhere near the George's River. I suspected that I had a bout of malaria, which was confirmed after a blood test.

I had exhausted my supply of atebrin tablets so I suppose the malaria attack was to be expected. Almost a month's confinement at the hospital followed whilst I was undergoing treatment with Paludrin, a new drug which had then become available. This proved to be successful and cured me of Malaria.

After reporting back to 2AESBD at Haberfield I was transferred to the depot at Penrith, which occupied the site of the former speedway. The duties there were similar to those experienced at Haberfield but at least there was a change of scenery.

Discharge at last:

My stay at Penrith was not to be for too long, as shortly afterwards arrangements were made for my return to Haberfield as I was to be discharged.

In due course, on 27th. November, I reported to the depot at Marrickville for demobilisation. On 4th. December, 1946, I became a civilian once again and, after a month's holiday, I resumed my studies and a career in Advertising. Soon after, on 7th. May, 1947, I celebrated my 21st. birthday.

NOTE:

With the exception of actual dates listed in my Service Documents, all the events experienced in my Service life have been described herein purely from memory as I did not keep a diary. However, I am confident that this article is substantially correct in its content .. Les Jones.

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TRIVIATA - A PREVIOUSLY UNPUBLISHED STORY:-

Not long after WW2 ended, there was a session at The North British Hotel and among those 2/4thers present were Mick "No Change" O'Regan and Ken "Slim" Venn. After leaving that establishment, the two proceeded along Loftus Street and passed

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TRIVIATA - A PREVIOUSLY UNPUBLISHED STORY (Contd.):-

a nearby newsagency outside which was displayed a sign saying: "WANTED - TWO MEN FOR ARMED ROBBERY". So, they went in and applied for the job!

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REPORT - 6th Aust. Div.: -

By Norm Auberson:



SIXTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

(1) A committee has been formed to seek an open & full inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the dismissal of Air Vice Marshall Flemming as Director of The Australian War Memorial. A letter is to be forwarded to the Federal Government in support of the objectives of that Committee and protesting strongly at the proposed change of name for The Australian War Memorial.

(2) It is stressed that Units must correct their previous failure to provide up-to-date commentary for the Anzac Day March - for 1988 March the commentary should be forwarded by December 1987, and the name of the March Commander by March 1988.

(3) A badge identifying the Sixth Aust. Division is to be produced and its design will be determined at next 6 Div. Gen. Meeting.

(4) Vietnam Veterans' National Re-union

(that is what they want it known as, not a "Welcome Home Parade") in Sydney has snowballed in respect of numbers expected to attend. They have booked-in over 5,000 interstate visitors and have been assured of at least another 1,000 from overseas. A dawn Service will be held at the Cenotaph at 0430 hours on Saturday 3rd. October. There will be a candle-light vigil as part of this and each candle will represent one of those Australians who lost their lives in the Vietnam conflict, or who subsequently died of wounds. This means that over 500 candles will be lit and carried, hopefully, by Scouts, Guides, etc. The march will begin at 0900 hours, much the same as on Anzac Day - first the disabled, then the Colour Party (Tri-Service), the Commander, then the Corps in "Right-of-the-Line" order. WW2 Vets. lining the route of the March are to wear medals, etc., and stand an armslength apart so as not to impede the view of the crowd behind the barriers. Unit Banners are to be held chest high for a similar reason.

(5) Visitors travelling alone and on organised tours to Greece and Crete have been finding it difficult to locate points of interest such as battle sites, war graves, memorials, etc. Our Ambassador in Athens has suggested that tourists contact the Embassy and advise what places they want to see and what they want to do.

(6) 6 Div. Association (N.S.W.) is considering ideas which have been put forward as to how to celebrate the Fiftieth Anniversary - e.g. a full Divisional Parade such as on Anzac Day, an Ecumenical Commemorative Service, picnics, sight-seeing tours and walks, etc., also methods of securing accommodation for country and interstate visitors.

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TRIVIATA:- Old Proverbs - Modern Version:

"People who live in glass houses should't nt.

"The Rolling Stones have gathered much money.

"A friend in need is a pest.

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SITREPS:-

Newcastle - From George Mitchell:



On 3rd. August the local Members, Wives and Friends gathered at Adamstown R.S.L. Club on the pre-departure eve of the Cairns Coach Tour. For the dinner there were 48 personnel present, the majority being members of the touring party and the remainder being there to farewell them.

Yvonne and Ron Maczkowiack, from Loxton, S.A., are holidaying in Newcastle.

West Australia - From Doug Slinger:

In early August a very severe tornado built up in the Indian Ocean and crashed through the township of Mandurah, creating a path of destruction. Mandurah is where Cec and Thelma Smith have a very nice beach cottage, and Doug and Wilma Slinger have a week-ender. Fortunately, the tornado swung away from the Smith locality, leaving their property unharmed, but it blew in where the Slinger week-ender is situated. Doug describes the place as "a very old and frail structure" and he and Wilma drove down to Mandurah to inspect the damage, fearing the worst. A nearby brick Medical Centre and two houses had been partly brought down and numerous roofs of homes, patios and outside structures were blown away, and have not been seen since. When they drove into the outskirts of Mandurah, Doug and Wilma saw iron sheets wrapped around very high trees. All of that "hardware" must have been flying through the air when the tornado was blowing full force, yet nobody was killed or injured. Doug was amazed that their place did not "cop it" but has reasoned it out that their particular site lies lower than where all the damage occurred, so the tornado must have passed above them at its destructive worst.

One of the regular attenders at the W.A. "W.O.G." functions is Edna Ding and her support is much appreciated by Doug Slinger and the other 2/4thers. At the time of Doug's report, Edna had been in touch with him to ascertain if any news had come to hand from Cairns Tourists "Dasher" and Lily Deacon - Doug had received a card from them.

The "Legs Eleven" fellows have repeated their previous co-operation by inviting 2/4thers to buy tickets and join them on Tuesday 3rd. November at their Annual Luncheon at the Hotel Wentworth in Perth. All who intend to join the 2/11th. Bn. Association on the above occasion are asked to notify Doug Slinger during the next 2/4 Bn. "Get Together" at Perth Anzac Club on Tuesday 15th. September, commencing at 1130 hours.

Northern N.S.W. - From Esca Riordan:

Esca's report features the Cairns Coach Tour: "As most of the Association knows, the trip commenced at Newcastle, with most of the group boarding the coach there. The Riordans were picked up at their home in Kempsey and we gathered the remainder of the troupe at Ballina, Ross and Nance Smith, and at Coolangatta, Bruce and Angela Cork, Laurie and Joy Waterhouse, and John Meehan. Then on to Brisbane for Laurie and Evelyn McCosker, and Herb and Marge Robertson at Woodburn.

We made a fairly quick trip to Cairns, stopping at Maryborough and Bowen en route.

During dinner at the Castle Motor Lodge, Bowen, several young couples who were also dining there, who were members of the Young Farmers Organisation, realised that we were an ex-servicemens' group and generously

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SITREPS (Contd.):Northern N.S.W. (Contd.):

provided wine for our tables. Alf Carpenter then thanked them for their fine gesture and in reply they said that our generation had made their lot and life as good as it is because of our sacrifices and hardships during the war. Jim Forman then presented them with a 2/4 Bn. plaque.



At Gordonvale we had the pleasure of inspecting Chris White and his wife's prize-winning garden and Chris then accompanied us on a trip up the Gillies Highway to the Atherton Tablelands where we proceeded to the Wondecia area. There we were met by Jack Reynolds and a Bill Evans, and their wives. They escorted us to our old battalion camp site (which is now a wilderness) and we spent some time trying to locate the various Company areas. Then we proceeded towards Herberton, but were delayed for some time by an overhead railway bridge which had a clearance of only 3.6 metres. However, our wonderful driver "Barry" had a closer look at the height and was able to squeeze the coach under the bridge with only inches to spare. Actually, the coach was 3.8 metres high overall. (The tyres must have been flat - Ed.). In the meantime Alf and Bill Evans (who lives in Herberton) had gone ahead to hire another coach to take the crowd into town. By this time about half the passengers had begun to walk. When Alf and the school bus arrived back at the scene of the hold-up, our coach had got through. The young driver of the school bus refused to accept any payment for his trouble, saying that it was the least he could do for a group of old "diggers" and their wives.

At Herberton Bowling Club we had a very hearty luncheon. Then, at the Lake Eacham Hotel in Yungaburra, where we were made most welcome, Jack and Marie Reynolds joined our group after dinner for socialising. When finally we arrived back at Surfers' Paradise we learned that "Bub" Graham had had part of his leg amputated, and when we reached Coffs Harbour we were given the sad news of his death.

While we were dining at Coffs Harbour, "Massa" Brooks joined us for a yarn - he is very fit.

After "Bub's" funeral we all adjourned to Bowraville R.S.L. Club for tea and sandwiches and other refreshments. There, Allen Lindsay settled the party down in a corner the most distant he could find from the bar, to the amazement of us all.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Nelson Bay/Port Stephens Re-union".

(NOTE: Esca's report on "Bub" Graham's funeral appears in "LAST POST" - Ed.).

O-O-B-O

"CHARLIE" COV. CALLING:-

Members and wives who attended the Harbour Cruise on 4th. August wish once again to thank sincerely Tom Watson, Skipper of "Coaster II", for a wonderful day on the harbour in perfect weather, including an enjoyable lunch on Clark Island.

See "DATES TO REMEMBER" for details of the next luncheon.

O-O-O-O

PORT STEPHENS/NELSON BAY RE-UNION:-

Additional Members who have indicated their intention to attend the October re-union:
 Fred "Lofty" Taylor - Private Accommodation.
 Max and Pat Sydenham - " " " 100.
 Tom and Peg Tracey - " " "
 Pat Moulds - " " "
 Paul and Myrna Brooke - Aloha Villa Motel.
 "Chic" Sleeman's address: Mr. D.C. Sleeman,
 92 Tomaree Road, Shoal Bay, N.S.W. 2315.

O-O-O-O

WELFARE REPORT - By Harry Wright:-

As at 24th. August, 1987:

Visited at Concord Repat. Gen. Hospital:

NX9721 - STACK, George - Ward 110 - now discharged after Prostate Op.

Visited at Lady Davidson Hospital:

NX42194 - LAWSON, Cec - Ward "C" - treatment for back problem.

NX15504 - WILLIAMSON, Cec - Ward "A" - fitted with artificial leg and having treatment for ulcers on other leg - ulcers now clearing up and, after five months in this hospital, Cec expects to be discharged soon.

Visited in Sutherland Hospital:

NX11389 - COOK, Peter - admitted with suspected heart attack - visited by Peter Cade and "Slim" Powers and now discharged but was to have tests in St. George Hospital on 25th. August - was to be admitted on 24th. and expected to be discharged on 26th.

NX68638 - CAMPBELL, N.R. (Ray) - Ward 2 East - gall stones operation.

Baringa Private Hospital, Coffs Harbour:

NX5917 - GRAHAM, E.L. ("Bub") - leg amputated below the knee - sadly he died on the morning of 20th. August.

To be admitted to St. Vincent's Hospital:

NX42709 - CUNNINGHAM, Des - will enter the hospital on 20th. October for open-heart surgery. (Has had to opt out of October Re-union).

As at 6th. September, 1987:

Concord Repat. Gen. Hospital:

NX4048 - HYEM, R.C. (Ray) - Ward 520 - eye (cataract) operation - now O ".

Royal North Shore Hospital:

Noni Bowman - tests for dizziness, headaches, and pain in neck (Noni, isn't Harold enough? - Ed.).
 Now home again and feeling much better.

Visited in Moonbi Private Hospital (30 km north of Tamworth):

NX11145 - SUGDEN, G.J. (George) - confined to bed after suffering a stroke last year - visited by Bob Fergusson & has also been visited by Mornie Peters and Dave Follington. Bob requests that any Members being in the area make a point of seeing George.

Stop Press:

"Slim" Powers has spoken to Peter Cook who is now home after tests in St. George Hospital - one artery to heart blocked, but surgery not required.

O-O-O-O

TRIVIATA:-

A tutor who tooted the flute
 Tried to teach two young tooters to toot;
 Said the two to the tutor:
 "Is it harder to toot, or
 To tutor two tooters to toot?"

O-O-O-O

VALE - E.L. ("Bub") GRAHAM (Contd.): -

community has benefited from his energy and ability.

Secretary of Bowraville R.S.L. Sub-Branch for 29 years and still in office at the time of his death; Delegate to North Coast District Council of R.S.L. for 25 years and Secretary for some time. Bowraville Ex-Services Club benefited from his organisational ability and foresight for thirty years. The Recreation Club made great progress under his direction - President for four years and service on every committee.

"Bub" was a caring man and had a great love for his fellow men and women. Nowhere was this more demonstrated than in his service to Legacy. His sound counsel, his untiring efforts for widows to assist them overcome the loss of their husband, meant that the loss of a loved one was softened.

His care of the elderly was legendary - always available with his car to pick someone up, take them to a friend, to Margaret for some hair care, or just an hour or two away from their home for a change of scenery or environment. His work as a Union Delegate at Midco Abattoir was distinguished by his efforts to make things better for his fellow workers. Father Crowley has spoken of "Bub's" outstanding contribution to the work of the Parish, where for so long he worked almost as a stand-in for the Priest when he was ill.

His great love was for Margaret, Ronald, Bill, Kathy and families, with a special love and pride for/in his five grandchildren. We who were privileged to serve in the battalion with "Bub" have come here today from Southport, Lismore, Sydney, Kempsey and elsewhere to honour someone whom we all admired and respected. He might be lost from our midst but his great good, his great love, his great care for others, will be felt and enjoyed for many years by us, by this community, and by all those he helped. Today, whilst we are saddened, we are all the richer for having known "Bub" Graham, a true friend - and a mate.

Our special thoughts and sincerest sympathy are with Margaret and family as we pay our final tribute to a man who loved and served his God, his family, his country and his community - "Bub" Graham.

Our Association was represented at the funeral by Allen and Gloria Lindsay, Allan and Carmie Kirk, Jack and Joan Hughes, Tom and Sheila Gorman, "Curley" and Maureen Gorman, Harry Dowling, Rick Carter, Wally Lambourne, Esca and Bev Riordan, Jim Brown, and Billie Bennett (widow of the late John "Bushy" Bennett). Sam Hughes, from Kempsey, was not well and so was not able to attend.

DO--DO

VALE - P.A. (Paul) TOMLINSON: -

Paul Tomlinson died on 27th. August and was privately cremated. A Memorial Service of Thanksgiving for his Life and Service was conducted by the Rev. Bern Stevens on Wednesday 2nd. September in St. Stephen's Uniting Church, Macquarie Street, Sydney. The Service began with an Organ Prelude, followed by an Introduction from Rev. Stevens, Prayers, and the singing of Psalm 23 (to the Tune: Crimond). Psalm 102 was then read by Robert Tomlinson and 1 Corinthians 13 by Peter Tomlinson. The texts used by Rev. Stevens were Romans 8:18, 28, 31b-32, 35, 37-39, and (after a Tribute by Dr. Munro Alexander) John 14:1-6, 18-19, 27. The Service concluded with a Prayer of



VALE - E.L. ("Bub") GRAHAM: -

Following Operative Surgery at Baringa Private Hospital, Coffs Harbour, "Bub" Graham died on the morning of 20th. August and at his funeral, at Bowraville, the church was packed with Ex-Service Personnel, including 2/4thers, and others who had known and respected him for many years. Jim Brown delivered the Eulogy in the Bowraville Catholic Church, on 22nd. August, in the following terms:

"Army records will simply show, as they do for all those who served, a number and a name - in this case NX5917 GRAHAM, E.L. - for our old friend, but we who were privileged to know "Bub" Graham also know that there was so much more about him.

"Bub" Graham enlisted in the 2nd. A.I.F. as soon as the call was made in October 1939. He was posted to the 2/4th. Aust. Infantry Battalion and sailed with the Unit on the "Strathnaver" on 10th. January, 1940.

He was a young man with a love of country and family - prepared to lay down his life for their freedom. He served in the battalion with distinction, and for a time was the driver for the Commanding Officer, the then Lieut.-Col. Dougherty who later became Major-General Sir Ivan Dougherty, one of Australia's finest citizens and soldiers.

Last night I 'phoned to tell Sir Ivan of "Bub's" passing and was advised that he was in bed with a heavy cold. I was asked to wait whilst he was given the message and it was only a few seconds before Sir Ivan came to the 'phone himself. He was saddened by the news and asked that his deepest sympathy be conveyed to Margaret and the family. He said: "We were a team of two, and "Bub" was much more than my driver". Such was the respect and regard Sir Ivan had for "Bub".

It is interesting to know that "Bub" and Margaret had their first contact by mail during the war. His mother had left Bowraville many years before but remained a close friend of Margaret's mother. When he enlisted, his mother wrote to Margaret's mother and suggested that she, and perhaps the girls, might write to him. Thus was a simple beginning made to what became a wonderful relationship based upon affection, then love and trust.

"Bub" Graham was a great character and it almost seems today that a part of Bowraville has been lost. Every section of the

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VALE - P.A.(Paul) TOMLINSON (Contd.):—

Thanksgiving, the Hymn "Our God, our help in ages past", Benediction and Organ Postlude. In his Tribute, Dr. Alexander dwelt primarily upon Paul's professional life and achievements. Born at Wyong, N.S.W., on 9th. July, 1913, Paul was educated at Sydney Grammar School and the University of Sydney from where he graduated with Honours in Medicine. Post-war he became Honorary Surgeon & Consultant to the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital. He married Marjorie (Hammond) in 1943 and his eventual Army Rank was Lieut.-Col. However, it is as Captain Paul Tomlinson, 2/4 Bn.R.M.O., that we shall remember him. Original R.A.P. Members will no doubt recall the day at Burg-el-Arab when Major-General Lavarack visited the Unit and paid particular attention to the mobile Regimental Aid Post. He was very impressed with this unit and readily saw its advantages. This was a thing that the Regimental Medical Officer, Captain P.A. Tomlinson ("Uncle Paul") and his R.A.P. team had devised, and it proved its value in the action which followed in a few weeks. It was Paul who wrote a medical report on the campaign in Greece and said: "I have never seen a body of men more completely worn out than those who evacuated Megara on April 26th." and he listed some of the prime causes as loss of sleep (the troops were lucky if they averaged one night in three of decent sleep throughout the campaign), exposure to cold, and the long marches on foot with heavy loads over difficult country. Paul quite recently told the young soldiers of 4 Bn. Royal N.S.W. Regt. of the very great problem he had, especially on Crete, in treating our casualties because of the lack of medical equipment and supplies - no anaesthetic or serum, few instruments and none of the normal equipment that is needed for establishments holding battle casualties for more than a few hours. There were no beds. The wounded were laid on the floor of caves that served as the R.A.P. There was a steady accumulation of wounded from many Units, as many as twenty-five being brought in at one stage and not able to be evacuated to the Dressing Station because of the tactical situation, despite being badly in need of treatment with equipment and drugs that the R.A.P. simply did not have. Somehow Paul and his staff managed for four days, when it became possible to clear them to the Dressing Station.

Paul's devotion to duty was justly rewarded by the award of M.I.D. He will be remembered as a fine doctor and soldier.

At the Memorial Service our Association was represented by Sir Ivan Dougherty, Alf Carpenter, Allen Lindsay, Fred Staggs, John Hawkins, Ken Kesteven, John Meehan, Vic Forbes, Les Jones, George Mitchell, Ferdie Pegg, Harry Gjedsted, Rex Everson, Alex Arnott, Pat Bruty, Bob Fergusson, Maurie Porter, Tom Tracey, Ron Coutts, Harry Wright, Doreen Manuel and Fi Kesteven.

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Did you know?

* THAT in just two months — from December, 1940, to February, 1941, — General Wavell's Western Desert Force of no more than two divisions, of a total strength of 31,000 men, had advanced 500 miles, destroyed an Italian Army of 10 divisions, took some 130,000 prisoners, captured 850 guns, 400 tanks, and thousands of trucks and other vehicles. Their casualties totalled under 2000: 500 killed, 1373 wounded and 55 missing.

Men of the 2/4th AIF return to the Far North

A busload of compatriots of the 2/4th Battalion, one of the first four units to be formed when the second Australian Infantry Force (AIF) was created in 1939, returned this week to visit one of their old training grounds in Far North Queensland.

The history of these brave fighting men is recorded from the four main operational areas of World War 2, to which the 1st Division was committed from 1939 to 1945 - Palestine, Libya, Greece, Crete and New Guinea - from which arose a wonderful mateship still in existence today.

The men were in the Far North at Wondelcia, on the Tableland, for a year of jungle training which launched them into the New Guinea Campaign in 1944.

They came from the battlefields of Africa, the Middle East and Europe.

Some had been left to lie beneath the soil of foreign lands, others were behind the barbed wire of prisoner of war camps in Germany and still others invalided with injuries.

The 2/4th was more than a Battalion forged in the wake of the outbreak of hostilities in Europe.

With its creation came a heritage born by the men of the "old 4th", the Battalion formed in 1914 whose company on April 25, 1915, went ashore at Gallipoli.

They were the battalion of 800 men who led the attack of the 1st Brigade at Lone Pine. Only 170 came out alive.

It was this tradition of fighting men which took the men of the 2/4th AIF into battle in Palestine.

At Tobruk, they were the men who first entered Benghazi, the men who, from the deserts of Africa were sent to fight in the snows of the northernmost frontier of Greece.

Those not killed or captured were among the 19,000 troops rescued from the beaches of Greece when the Allies were forced to withdraw.

They were the men who defended at Suda Bay and Heraklion.

The men who were returned to the fighting of the bitter Palestine Campaign.

Brought home in February 1942 the 2/4th were the first returned men to be sent to the Northern Territory following the raids on Darwin.

It was from Darwin they arrived at Wondelcia for jungle training prior to being sent in to help with the New Guinea Campaign.

In all the men of the 2/4th Battalion saw action in 15 major battles.

These were the men who returned this week to visit the site of one of their old World War 2 training grounds.

Keep The Flag

Our flag bears the stars that blaze at night
In our southern sky of blue,
And a little old flag in the corner
That's part of our heritage, too.

It's for the English, the Scots and the Irish
Who were sent to the ends of the earth.
The rogues and schemers, the doers
and dreamers,
Who gave modern Australia birth.

And you, who are shouting to change it,
You don't seem to understand.
It's the flag of our law and our language,
Not the flag of a faraway land.

(Though there are plenty of people
who'll tell you,
How when Europe was plunged into
night,
That little old flag in the corner
Was their symbol of freedom and
light.)

It doesn't mean we owe allegiance
To a forgotten imperial dream.
We've the stars to show where we're
going
And the old flag to show where we've
been.

— Mark Time, Australasian Post