



White over Green

JOURNAL OF THE 2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

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NT TWO MEETINGS AT THE GALLIPOLI MEMORIAL CLUB, LOFTUS ST., SYDNEY.

TUESDAY 26 SEPT: Monthly Meeting commencing at 1400hrs. Committee will meet at 1100hrs.

TUESDAY 24 OCTOBER: As above.

TUESDAY 26 SEPT: Ladies luncheon will be held at the Bowler's Club of NSW, 95 York Street, Sydney, (arrive 1200 to 1215). Please contact Heather Fox on (02) 416 1200.

TUESDAY 24 OCTOBER: As above.

FRIDAY 6 OCTOBER: (1700 onwards). Newcastle Region Monthly Meeting to be held at the Hamilton RSL. Raffle held in aid of the Hamilton RSL Swimming Club. Contact Alf Carpenter.

FRIDAY 3 NOVEMBER: As above.

WEDNESDAY 11 OCTOBER: (2nd Wednesday, 1100hrs onward). Central Coast Monthly Meeting to be held at the Gosford RSL. Contact Wally Mangan on (043) 68 3487.

WEDNESDAY 8 NOVEMBER: As above.

MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, 2ND/3RD/4TH OCTOBER, 1995.

2/4TH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION COUNTRY REUNION, GOSFORD N.S.W.

SUNDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER "AUSTRALIA REMEMBERS 1945-1995." COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE AND PARADE OF

BANNERS: The Garrison Church Council invites all associations to attend. The Parade will commence at 10 a.m. and proceed from Observatory Hill to the Village Green, Argyle Place (opposite the Garrison Church) where the Commemorative Service will commence at 10.30 a.m. on top of Observatory Hill. Only Banner Bearers will march and if you feel you would rather your members sit and view the parade, Banner Bearers can be arranged.

"INTERJECTORS".

Interjector: What about abortion Gough? Tell us about abortion. Give us your policy on abortion.

Gough Whitlam: In your case it ought to be retrospective.

...As Mr Froude says...one can learn more from some people when they are wrong than from most others when they happen to be right

MONTHLY MEETING HELD AT THE GALLIPOLI MEMORIAL CLUB, 25 JULY, 1995.

The Meeting opened with President Alf Carpenter in the Chair. The President recited the ODE. A special welcome to Wally Woods, "Spike" Galvin, Nap Alavoine, Mick Gray and the following in attendance: - A. CARPENTER, W. MANGAN, P. BRUTY, L. JONES, J. MEEHAN, N. AUBERSON, V. FORBES, BILL CEARNS, F. STAGGS, P. SMITH, T. FOX, F. ROWELL, T. WILSON, D. WILSON, "SLIM" POWERS, R. EVERSON, W. LAMBOURNE, JOHN RINGROSE, D. PINSON, H. WRIGHT, W. JOHNSTON, A. ARNOTT, A. BOHLE, L. CLARKE, L. DUBBER, R. BERTHELSEN, ALEX MAXWELL, BOB LANE, JACK DUBBER.

APOLOGIES: - Sir Ivan Dougherty, Maj. Gen. Gordon Maitland, John Hawkins, Ferd Pegg, Doug Milne, Gordon Chrisp, Dave Follington, "Curly" Gorman.

The Minutes of the previous Meeting as published in "WOG" were taken "as read" and adopted. Business arising from Minute's NIL.

CORRESPONDENCE: The President reported as follows: - DUDLEY MEACHAM, V.P. SOUTHERN REGION reports that he has hearing problems, with this makes it almost impossible for him to have a telephone conversation, and in the near future would like to resign his position as Vice President Southern Region. Dudley reports that Wal Taylor had a few days in Galvary Hospital, after tests has now returned to his home.

LT. COL. VERTZONIS, C.O. 4TH/3RD BATTALION. An invitation to the President to attend the Battalion dinner, Saturday, 26 August at the Heraklion Lines, Ingleburn.

MAJ. GEN. RAY SHARP, REGIMENTAL COLONEL, R.N.S.W.R. Enclosed the Regiment's "Annual Reports to Associations", this reports that 2 Battalions (2/17 & 41) are currently preparing for Kangaroo '95 participation. In the arena of publications, pleased to finally obtain "system" financial support for production of Soldier's Handbook Part 2, now in wide distribution. A modest "Australia Remembers" grant has enabled the Regiment to get to print stage that portion of the proposed Regimental History detailing the activities of NSW battalions in the period 1939-1945. The Regiment continue to welcome the opportunity to sell copies of "Soldiers of the Queen" and "Tales of Valour."

DOROTHY SWANSON. A thank you card, "Only wish you really knew how many thanks this brings to you... VALE: NX8748 Ted Swanson D.C.M.

CORRESPONDENCE TO THE SECRETARY FROM:-

SECRETARY, PARRAMATTA PIPE BAND. Informing that the Band will support the 2/4th on the 12 th August V.P. march in Sydney. Secretary also reported that owing to Operation Kangaroo '95 had some difficulty in getting a colour party from 4th/3rd for our Battalion's V.P. march, however, the army has decided to provide a small contingent.

CORRESPONDENCE TO THE EDITOR FROM:-

ALLEN & CARMA KIRK: This was re the signing of the Japanese surrender, Cape Wom, and on this an invitation to attend a 2/2nd Battalion Association Wreathlaying Ceremony and dinner at Ballina RSL. Allen reports owing to recent low attendance to East Lismore Bowling Club's Christmas get together and dinner, the 2/4th may lose that particular night at the Club. Sadly, and because of disabilities to our dear friends, Allen and Carma with heavy hearts have decided to discontinue "Kirks Backyard."

NORM (BUCK) ROGERS: In his letter Norm with information concerning the death of NX13407 Don Bundy who was taken PoW on Crete 30-5-1941. Our late member was a T.P.I.

DES LOYDELL: Des, as always touches on lots of interesting subjects, motor bikes, the weather, and quite a remarkable store of nostalgia concerning the activities of the 2/4th, however, & importantly, Des reports that he had won 2nd prize in lotto, says not a lot of money, nevertheless left a smile on our good friend's face.

KEITH BAILEY: After the success of our two previous luncheons on 14 February and 23 May, the Canberra Group decided to hold another luncheon on 4th July.

Present were: - Jack Huston, John Hyles, Frank & Enid Crutchett, Roy & Kath Findlay, Bob and Jean Warrilow, Keith & Rita Bailey. Apologies from: - Dave Taylor, John Falla, M.B.E., D.C.M., Peter Richardson, M.C., Tom Maxwell and Len Griffiths. David Wren will be spending the rest of winter at East Ballina and will be in contact when he returns to Queanbeyan. Such was the enjoyment at the luncheon it was decided to hold another on V.J. Day.

The Canberre Group send their best wishes and good health to all the 2/4th-ers.

FRANK GATTENHOF (QLD.): Well what a nice surprise to see Phil Smith on TV before the boat sailed for New Guinea from Circular Quay. Was he on the trip? (No Frank).

Secondly, in Brisbane Ned Kenna, V.C. and Jim Brown on the boat as the boat was leaving the wharf, singing their hearts off, Jim was loud and clear, should be a professional singer not a retired MP.

Also Ned at Wewak laying a wreath. I trust they had a good trip. I am very proud to have served in the 2/4th infantry.

October 1970, Norma and myself went to "return Wewak" 14 days in New Guinea, Port Moresby, Lae, Madang, Goroka, Wewak, Mapric. Return trip from Wewak, Goroka, Mt Hagen, Moresby, Kokoda Trail, Brisbane/Sydney. Tour lady in Moresby was very good. Cost of the trip ex Sydney and return accommodation, meals, motel, laundry etc was \$444.00 each. We had a lovely time.

I have had a bad time since February, in and out of hospital, but at last I am coming good. Hugh Wittleton and wife spent Anzac Day with me at home - watched Brisbane march on TV. Craig Clark is doing okay, although Henry Elliott is having some problems. Look forward to receiving "WOG". Best of health to all.

TO THE TREASURER FROM:-

RITA KINGSLEY (GRAFTON). Rita encloses a donation in memory of late husband Roy. Sends thanks for receiving "WOG", it seems to keep her in touch with events etc. Rita hopes all have a wonderful day of remembrance at the Victory march on 12 August, and also at all the other functions this 50th year. reports, she was in Canberra last Anzac Day, very impressed by the moving ceremony held in perfect weather. sends good luck, good health to all.

PHONE CALLS.

Jim Brown is sending a resume of the Papua/New Guinea pilgrimage, reports that Esca Riordan is out of hospital, slowly but painfully recovering. A call from Bill Panter, Sunday, 23 July, --- Clayton RSL (vic.) celebrating 50 years; to this Ned and Marj Kenna VC were Official

ists.

WELFARE. July 16, 1995, Doug Milne is in Concord with the skin complaint, Lupus. Condolences to Fi Kesteven and family on the accidental death of her son John who was killed during a parachute jump at Elderslie, which is near Braxton. The funeral service for John was attended by the following members of the Association: - Ted & Heather Fox, Ted & Fran Wilson, Rex & Olga Everson, Harry & Hilda Wright, Harold & Del Silver.

I wish to report the passing of Mona Hennessy, long time friend and companion of Robbie Robson. The funeral service at the Chapel was well attended by family, friends and members of the Hamilton RSL Swimming Club. Condolences Robbie from your many friends of the 2/4th Battalion Association.

Sadly, it is my duty to report the death of David Crossfield, son of Horrie Crossfield (2/1st Fld. Regt.) Condolences Horrie from your many 2/4th friends.

* * *



FEATURE. CAPTAIN OWEN WILLIAMS, 2/4TH AUST. INF. BATTALION.

Captain Owen Williams was born in 1918 and studied medicine at St Andrews College at Sydney University. He was an outstanding boxer, rower and shooter at university. Capt. Williams joined the army medical division as soon as he graduated in 1942 and was posted to New Guinea.

A letter, as follows from Captain Williams to his family is dated 19th

July, 1945.

Dear Family,

Well it's been another busy week but we are having a short rest now. As you've probably guessed from the papers etc etc. - and we're now allowed to reveal - we did the Wewak show and later followed up with the airfield and the big Mission Hill.

Only those who've seen the "Mad Diggers" go into action can appreciate them. I've been on our jungle patrols etc. and its pretty grim work but Wewak was magnificent. A big headland and a plateau on top approached by a narrow sand strip about 100 feet high before the headland itself. In the dim light I could just pick them out vaguely as they moved up & then at the end of the strip they deployed and raced up onto the ridge. Then down and then up again onto the big cliff-like headland. There were plenty of active guns and killing but they just moved straight through it all - their very courage, discipline and training carried them on to their objectives. Full credit for the very light casualties goes to them as our faltering in the face of that force would have been costly.

In the cliffs there was an amazing series of caves and reinforced pill-boxes (Concrete) all deep inside the hill. Snipers from these took a fair bit of clearing for four hours or so but the "Mad Diggers" once again proved their superiority. The airfield caused very little trouble and Mission Hill a very rugged place was taken as Wewak only in the aft and we could see everything clearly. My work was pretty light fortunately. Had a hard time into the hills and spent all night getting patients out when I was called on to help another unit MO out. I lost one of my stretcher-bearers the other day. He was a cracker bloke, been in Rabaul and did that long hike out - as game and as cool as everything and would go through anything at all to get to a wounded man. He was hit by a bit of shrapnel from a shell and though I got to him a few seconds after there was nothing I could do. He was wonderfully game and chatted to me until the end about 15 minutes later. It's pretty sad at times here.

Now we're having a few days blow and a chance to get a much needed wash etc. As I said before only those who've seen these blokes can appreciate what they're doing. I'm glad for their sake that they are now getting a bit of publicity. For just seven months they fought and no mention of who they were was made and yet within a few days of their very small show, 9th Division was announced. It is interesting to note that this battalion alone had killed more Japs in less than a fortnight than the 9th Division killed in 8-9 days. And we got far fewer casualties.

Of course our Division never wear colour patches for obvious security reasons, but being the 9th they can. Also all glamour because they were in action wearing their hats. It would surely be interesting to lots to know that the 6th Division had been fighting the Japs in slouch hats for well over 12 months before the 9th Division ever saw a Jap.

Camped on a beach now for a few days spell and clean up, we've been successful with our fishing. Nobody wastes time with lines or nets etc. but just wait patiently with a grenade in hand and when a shoal or school comes along they get grenade and all. Then everyone dives in and fish come flying onto the sand from all directions. Great fun and the fresh fish is grand. Also I must say food has been good since the show finished - apples and fresh meat and even one egg per man arrived, but we weren't given a bottle of beer each to celebrate V.E. Day as were the 9th Division - our "Digs" were too busy slugging it out with the Japs in the heat & sweat of Wewak. I am amazingly well and full of beans. Swim into the sea - very flat - each afternoon and follow it with a swim and wash in the river. The food is good and I've lost 10 weight. We've captured a great deal of equipment here; a lighting plant which will be very useful when the unit settles in a camp again as it will light 300 bulbs. Also a couple of trucks which ease the strain on our transport. I have been lucky in getting quite a few odd bits of medical gear which is handy.

Your letters of 5th and 9th and Dad's of the 13th have arrived this week thanks, enclosing cuttings from Jeanie. I also received one from her today but it mentions nothing which you haven't heard. Am very glad that you are having a spell in Dubbo Mum and hope you'll feel 100% on your return and no more dizzy spells etc. Well I can't think of anything more to write about now so I'll stop. Cheerio and lots of love - Owen.

Captain Williams was killed on July 3rd, 1945 whilst treating a wounded man on the track to Mt. Shiburangu.

The death of "Doc" Williams came as a shock to the whole Battalion and the appreciation of him was published in The Medical Journal of Australia: "In the present campaign, Captain Williams had on numerous occasions exposed himself to snipers to attend the wounded. It was not only his personal bravery that made him in our opinion an ideal Regimental Medical Officer. He had a quiet charm of manner which had gained the confidence of all the infantry troops with whom he came in contact to a greater degree than we have seen before."

NX114064 CAPTAIN OWEN WILLIAMS WAS AWARDED THE M.B.E.

* * *

PILGRIMAGE TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA - VETERANS' AFFAIRS - AUSTRALIA REMEMBERS 1945-1995.

29TH JUNE TO 11TH JULY, 1995.

The 2/4th Battalion Association was most fortunate in having three of our members selected to attend the above pilgrimage; namely, Ned Kenna V.C., Jim Brown and President Alf Carpenter. The pilgrims boarded the "Mikhail Sholokov" on Thursday morning 29 June, and after a final issue of uniforms, hats and ties they took their seats on the wharf for a lavish farewell concert and addresses. The ship siren called us aboard again for our departure at 12.00 noon. We were accommodated with two persons in a four berth cabin, and I was lucky to be in with Dan Bowden ex-RAN with 25 years service. Dan had previously been with me on the 50th and 53rd anniversary tours of Greece and Crete, also was a good friend of mine. Meals and ship-board service was exactly the same for us as for cruise passengers, in a word - LAVISH. Our first Memorial Service was to commemorate the loss of Hospital Ship "Centaur". Our ship hove to off Morton Island, all on board assembled on the upper after deck, for a impressive Memorial Service. The "Centaur" was torpedoed at 4.10 am on Friday, 14th May, 1943, approximately 9.3 miles due east of Cape Morton Lighthouse. The ship had all lights on and clearly marked with a Red Cross of a hospital ship. The Prologue was read by Dr. Richard Reid, historian from the Australian Memorial, Canberra. He concluded with these words: "Remember the "Centaur"; this ship symbolises the courage of Australian women in war and reminds us of those Australians who served in war and have no known graves but the sea." A gang plank was lowered and a wreath cast on to the sea just as the sun sank on the horizon the Bugler sounded LAST POST & REVEILLE. This was a very impressive and emotional ceremony. Our next service was off Townsville to commemorate the Battle of the Coral Sea, where the U.S. Aircraft Carrier "Lexington" sank on 8th May, 1942, and 216 sailors paid the supreme sacrifice.

Some words from the prologue:- "The Lexington" shudders under our feet and a heavy blast spurts mingled flames and water on our port side forward. A torpedo explosion, then we can see the wake of others streaking towards us. Moments later another torpedo struck its target, & a signalman from HMAS "Australia" recalls - we could hear comments from various pilots, in many cases running low on fuel, and could not land on "Lexington" or "Yorktown" as both were badly damaged, many messages were either good-byes or to friends to pass on to loved ones. Petty Officer Dan Bowden, RAN cast the wreath into the sea with the service concluding with the Last Post and Rouse after the singing of the Hymn for those in peril at sea.

We docked at Port Moresby early on Wednesday, 5th July where a major commemorative ceremony at Bomana War Cemetery was timed to commence at 0830hrs. After another impressive ceremony with the hymn singing by P/NG School Choir, again the reading of the prologue was very impressive, and space does not allow me to quote passages but most of the veterans felt a lump in the throat as they contemplated the loss of so many of their former comrades. Buses transported a small party of pilgrims to Sogeri War Memorial, and after the service a "Ross Bastiaan" plaque was unveiled.

I had the opportunity to talk to a young Australian who had just completed the eight day trek over the Kokoda Trail. Those that served in this area realise that Sogeri is at the Port Moresby end of the Trail. The villagers of Sogeri performed a welcome and farewell "Sing Sing" before and after the ceremony. The buses then transported us along the winding mountain road back to Port Moresby, there we were received at a reception hosted by the Australian High Commissioner. Back on board again in time to depart at 1400hrs for Milne Bay.

Milne Bay is about 46 kms long, and we moved up the bay and berthed at 0930hrs, then bused to Alotau Catholic Church for a memorial service and the unveiling and dedication of a plaque and stained glass windows donated by the 2/12 Battalion Association. The church had been recently constructed, the dedication, the Sunday before our arrival. It consists of a large roof area supported by RSJs with open mesh sides to allow air to circulate.

A ceremony at the Corporal French, V.C. Memorial followed. During the 2/9th Battalion's attack, on K.D. Mission, 4th September, 1942 Corporal French's section met with heavy enemy fire from Japanese bunkers. He attacked and silenced three machine gun posts, and was killed in front of the third gun pit.

Then transfer to the ship in time to depart Milne Bay at 1500hrs. Before this, 1 R.A.R. Band caused quite a stir in town, by marching up the main street, and most of the town turned out to watch this spectacle. Back on board Ned Kenna and I had a few drinks because it was Ned's birthday. Unbeknown to Ned the Composite Guard formed up for him to come through them at Dinner time with the band in attendance making sure "Happy Birthday" was sung with gusto. The chef supplied a birthday cake, illuminated on entry with lusty cheers.

Timed arrival at Oro Bay was 0800hrs. The "Mikhail Sholokhov" manages to keep close to time at all ports. Here the veterans were divided into five groups, to attend ceremonies at Kokoda, Pina, Gona, Sanananda & Rabaul. The Rabaul group boarded a C130 Hercules at 0840hrs, thereby

singing the welcome and ceremony at Popondetta Memorial Park. I managed to be selected to attend the Kokoda Ceremony, and buses transported us to Girua Airstrip where our charter flight was ready to transfer us to the Kokoda Ceremony. The whole town turned out at the Memorial Park for a welcome "Sing Sing" and impressive ceremony, and Con Sciacca was invested as a Chief of the Kokoda Tribe, the Minister for Veterans' Affairs gave a moving address to all in attendance. We viewed a 1.5 million dollar hospital being built by voluntary labour supplied by the Rotary Clubs of Australia. The Rotarians pay their own air fare, and work free of charge for a fortnight at a time, shelter and food is supplied.

Saturday, 8 July, 0700hrs, arrived Lae, and the Veterans' divided into three groups, one each for Lae, Madang and Wewak. I nominated for the Wewak group but because of transport difficulties at the Wewak end, only veterans who served there were chosen, so a tour of Lae with extra time at Lae Cemetery was my lot. Heavy rain hampered the early visit to Lae Cemetery, so after a tour of the town, then back on board for lunch, I was ready to attend the Commemorative Ceremony at 1630hrs. The rain had eased, but still had to plough through mud on the lower level of the cemetery. The 2/4th Battalion has 52 graves in the Lae Cemetery. Time and light ran out as I was searching for our 2/4th Headstones, I managed to take a photo of NX43 Captain Brian Rolf's Headstone*. (*Killed 8.8.1943 as a member of 17 Bde. H.Q.)

Reluctantly we bade farewell to Lae and settled down to shipboard routine for three days on our way back to Cairns. Our last night on board saw the Veterans in concert, a good show. We arrived Cairns at 0700 hrs for a welcome home function at Cairns RSL before our respective flights back to "Home Sweet Home." Submitted by President Alf Carpenter.

2/4TH ASSOCIATION VICTORY IN THE PACIFIC COMMEMORATIVE MARCH AND LUNCHEON, SYDNEY, 12 AUGUST.

Led by President Alf Carpenter, Major General Gordon Maitland, Banner Party, Parramatta Pipe Band, Marshal Mick Gray and forty veterans from the 2/4th braved the cold wind to march with their mates, this march being part of their Victory in the Pacific.

On this day, 12th August, 1995, just three days short of the actual V.P. Day, Sydney welcomed home 12,000 War Veterans' for the first time with a crowd of more than 20,000 lining city streets, wildly cheering and clapping, never before had World War 2 Veterans' been part of an exclusive parade, but on this day Sydneysiders exuberantly made up for the past 50 years. On the march route a jubilant gathering of our ladies re-enacted their own welcome to us, waving white and green banners and flags, at the usual place - "just up from Gowings". Many thanks Heather and the girls of the Association, we are justly proud of your wonderful effort. The Luncheon was held at the GMC's South Pacific Restaurant, where President Alf welcomed all and received apologies from: - Sir Ivan & Lady Dougherty, John & Nell Hawkins, Dave & Sally Follington, Elsie Bradford, Dick Pinson, Cec Powers, Jack & Lew Dubber, John Hyles, Belle Sadler, Harry & Hilda Wright.

The President proceeded with the business and formalities of the Victory in the Pacific Luncheon, these were:-

THE GRACE: BY TED FOX. LOYAL TOAST: BY PETER DENVER. LAST POST - REVEILLE: THE BUGLER.

ODE: JOHN MEEHAN . INFANTEERS PRAYER BY PRESIDENT ALF CARPENTER.

Ted Fox, extracts from Win Walker's letter: - "At present nostalgia is getting to us all, I am. Being way up here in Qld. isn't quite the same as being part of the joy and sadness shared in Sydney during the celebrations of Victory and peace 50 years ago. I will never forget the evening of the 14th August, 1945 when Wink arrived at my home in Allawah. He was so ill and being so tall his loss of weight was unbelievable. He'd been flown out of Aitape after Wewak. (We would have celebrated our 50th Wedding Anniversary this year on Sept. 1.)

I have the latest "WOG" and you are all going to be very busy "turning the clock back", enjoy one another's company. Perhaps the enclosed cheque could be used to have the "dry till" open a few minutes longer and have one for Wink. Sincerely, Win Walker.

Pat Bruty, "I would like to express my feelings as such, "Where Does Greatness Lie".

No one who was born and lived in the twentieth century has been spared from war, from either the reality or the constant thought and threat of war. This century has seen wars fought with ever increasing ferocity. Perhaps no other war stirs the emotions more or exerts more lasting interest than does World War 2. Although a half century has just about passed since V.P. Day, not only in the memories of the survivors, those who fought and those who did not fight, but also in the imaginations of those who were not living at that time, the 2nd World War holds a place of importance which grows stronger as the events of war come gradually to belong to a distance in the past which gives rise to legend and song and poetry, to the tale of war; the mingling of romance and history into which war has merged from the earliest of times. The many brave acts of the men who fought in the Pacific War must not be judged the traditional criterion of prowess or the old concept of the heroic man of action. By no means should these observances imply that the soldiers in this war were not as brave as the soldiers in past wars. For many soldiers bravery became a realised inner experience of surmounting fear of the senseless and pitiless, which at the same time appreciating such things as chance and luck and fate. In other words, bravery was something that a soldier had first to search for and discover and exert in himself, and as such it was to be obtained anonymously. As men of the free world, twice including the 1st World War, and each time for five years, we risked our young lives for the sake of justice and civilisation.

I wish I knew where civilisation lies - certainly not in scientific progress and technical improvements, cars, television, and the rest, junk and gadgets.

Civilisation lies in the hearts of men...if it is not to be found there...it is nowhere. As I look out there at this commemorative luncheon, I see lots of men who up till the last days of Victory in The Pacific served their Battalion well. All those that waited and those that served for the ultimate victory, fulfilled where greatness lies. THAT WAS IN THE HEARTS OF MEN."

* * *

Wally Mangan: Welcomed the ladies and under his auspices, toasted them.

Heather Fox: On behalf of the ladies present and her thoughts were far reaching and fundamental.

Vic Forbes: Welcomed our Official Guests and as such spoke of the importance of the Guests to this Victory in Pacific luncheon.

Major General Maitland: Australia Remembers - and well it might, someone who was always brave

and compassionate,abhorred atrocities as committed by the common enemy.Our own Australian Soldiers whose high training standards and upbringing wouldn't allow such barbaric things to happen,therefore,you did your job better than the enemy,resulting in your Victory in the Pacific,just 50 years ago. "Australia Remembers"- the most important thing,we must never, never forget.

President Alf Carpenter:Congratulated all the marchers for their bearing during the Commemorative March through Sydney,was on the occasion proud to be their leader,special thanks to the Banner Party,Parramatta Pipes,for their brave effort in attending this place on this day, therefore special thanks to:- Bob Fergusson,"Lofty"Taylor,Mat Sydenham,"Spike"Galvin,Peter Denver,Russ McWilliam,Jack Huston,Frank Crutchett,Bruce Cork , Paul Brook,Les Anderson and Harold McKenzie.Special thoughts to Bob's minders,Nina and Jan,Lofty's wonderful effort and all the others mentioned above who travelled long distances to join the Battalion on this day of remembrance.

During the formalities,a smorgasbord of good quality Chinese fare and generous proportions was served.A "dry" till operated during the luncheon and far into the afternoon,judging by some of the garbled conversation and happy smiles the grog had its effects,of course,the kindly donations from Win Walker and Rod Steele helped us along our merry way.

I know,it is of course impossible for one man,and one man only to give an accurate list of names of the Ladies and Gentlemen attending,so apologies to those missed.(Editor.)

adies first:- J.HART.L.LOVELEE,D.MANUEL,O.EVERSON,D.McKENZIE,N.FERGUSON & DAUGHTER JAN, FOX & DAUGHTER CHRISTINE,GRANDDAUGHTER,LARA,FRAN WILSON,Y.DOOLEY,C.MANGAN,M.STUDDART,JOAN ENWRIGHT,E.CRUTCHETT,B.McDONALD,P.PHELAN & ANNE MARIE,FI KESTEVEN,G.MacLENNAN,D.SILVER,BERYL POPLIN,PAT DENVER,DOROTHY MAITLAND,M.FRASER,M.JOHNSTON,J.FORMAN,E.ANDERSON,P.McKENZIE, AND J.HUSTON.

Gents second:-G.MAITLAND,A.CARPENTER,L.JONES,J.Bohle,P.BRUTY,L.TAYLOR,G.PATTERSON,J.MEEHAN, P.DENVER,B.CORK,P.LAYEY,M.SYDENHAM,R.McWILLIAM,P.SMITH,B.LEVER,J.FORMAN,T.FOX,R.BERTHELSEN, L.CLARKE,B.LANE,W.MANGAN,W.JOHNSTON,J.HUSTON,F.CRUTCHETT,W.TAYLOR,TED WILSON,DOUG WILSON, C.GRANQUEST,B.FERGUSON,F.STAGGS,V.FORBES,N.AUBERSON,P.BROOKS,TED JACKSON,ROBERT WILSON, H.SILVER,W.LAMBOURNE,JOHN RINGROSE,H.McKENZIE,MAC WILSON,PHIL SMITH,L.ANDERSON,MAX MORRIS, KOREAN VET.INTRODUCED BY HAROLD SILVER.

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GOSFORD REUNION BOOKINGS AS AT 9-8-1995. GALAXY MOTEL.

ARNOTT A.	DUBBER L.	GRAHAM M.	MEEHAN J.	TRESIDDER H.
ARNOTT M.	DUBBER S.	HART J.	MAITLAND G.	TYNAN M.
ALLARDICE N.	DUBBER J.	HAWKINS J.	MAITLAND D.	TONKS J.
ALLARDICE R.	DUBBER E.	HAWKINS N.	MAXWELL T.	TONKS D.
BROWN J.	DENVER P.	HAWKE M.	PINSON R.	WRIGHT H.
BROWN G.	DENVER P.	JONES L.	POWERS C.	WRIGHT H.
STEWES B.	DENYER R.	LOVELEE L.	FORDHAM A.	WILSON E.
TRAM R.	DENYER U.	JOHNSTON W.	ROBERTSON H.	WILSON F.
BERTRAM J.	EVERSON R.	JOHNSTON M.	ROBERTSON M.	RINGROSE J.
BRUTY P.	EVERSON O.	KENNA E. V.C.	SCHIEBEL J.	<u>GOSFORD MOTOR INN.</u>
BRUTY G.	FORBES V.	KENNA M.	SCHIEBEL M.	GAMBLE H.
BOHLE A.	FRASER M.	KIRK A.	STAGGS F.	GEELAN C.
CARPENTER A.	FOX E.	KIRK C.	STAGGS J.	GEELAN S.
MANUEL D.	FOX H.	LAMBOURNE W.	SILVER H.	LYONS J.
CEARNS W.	FERGUSON R.	MAXWELL A.	SILVER D.	PEGG F.
CEARNS L.	FERGUSON N.	LEVER R.	STEELE R.	STRONACH L.
CAMERON H.	FRIEND G.	LEVER J.	STEELE P.	STRONACH C.
DRAYSON L.	FRIEND M.	ARMSTRONG O.	SMITH P.	SHAW W.
DRAYSON J.	GROVE D.	ARMSTRONG D.	SMITH E.	SHAW M.
				HOPE L.
				HOPE E.

THE PALMS MOTEL

BURT H.	FORMAN J.	HUSTON J.	McCARROLL E.	McKENZIE H.
BURT M.	FORMAN J.	HUSTON J.	MACZKOWIACK R.	MCKENZIE D.
BROOKE P.	FORMAN J.	KING K.	MACZKOWIACK E.	
BROOKE M.	FORMAN J.	KING F.	McCOSKER E.	
BOWMAN H.	DACEYNE J.	HODGSON J.	PRIVETT B.	
BOWMAN N.	DACEYNE V.	HODGSON J.	PRIVETT E.	
CROSSFIELD H.	FLANAGAN E.	McADAM R.	RAE J.	
BUNTING J.	FLANAGAN H.	McADAM I.	RAE K.	

PROGRAMME FOR GOSFORD REUNION 2nd/3rd/4th OCTOBER, 1995.SUNDAY: 1st October. Booking in 2.00pm to 4.00pm.MONDAY: 2nd October. Booking in 11.00am to 4pm. Smorgasbord in Main hall 6.30pm.TUESDAY: 3rd October. Free morning. 4.30pm. Short march to "Rock of Remembrance", Gosford R.S.L. Wreath Laying, Commemoration ceremony.

Drinks - Main Hall - 5.30pm. Main Reunion Dinner, 6.30pm. Battalion Ties, Medals to be worn.

WEDNESDAY: 4th October. Boat cruise, departs Gosford Wharf at 9.15am. Buses will leave Gosford RSL at 9.00am, will pick up at other motels. Return at 12.15pm by bus to motels. At 6pm a smorgasbord will be held in the auditorium.NOTE: All other meals other than those indicated are your own responsibility.FEES: Reunion fees: \$70.00 per head.

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We deeply and sincerely regret the death of the following members:-
NX13407 DON BUNDY who passed on 17th JULY, and was cremated on 21st
 JULY. Don was a member of "C" Coy, was wounded during the Battle of

Crete on 13-5-41, and was taken PoW in that period. Was a T.P.I. Aged 79 years.

Report from Norm Rogers (Narrandera.)

NX2070 A.D. OWERS (MICK) Menaville Nursing Home, Rockdale. Passed on after a long illness.TREASURER REPORT'S SUMMARY OF FUNDS.

<u>WESTPAC BANK:</u> General Account.....	\$1,985
Ben. Fund A/C	703
<u>AUST. GUARANTEE CORP:</u> Debentures (Ben. Fund)	15,000
Growth Bonds (Ben. Fund)	2,000
M.M. Access A/C (Ben. Fund)	2,180
TOTAL FUNDS AS AT 25th JULY, 1995.....	\$21,868

All accounts passed for payment. Les Jones. Hon. Treasurer.

HEATHER FOX REPORTS ON THE LADIES LUNCHEON HELD AT THE BOWLER'S CLUB, 25 JULY, 1995.

Fourteen ladies enjoyed the meeting and luncheon together. We are looking forward to the V.P. March and to after, joining the men and having lunch with them and revive old memories. Those present:- M. ARNOTT, F. WILSON, H. WRIGHT, G. MACLENNAN, Y. DOOLEY, A. PUGH, M. LUPP WITH SISTER FLO, DEL SILVER, M. FRASER, M. JOHNSTON, D. MANUEL, M. KLEEM.

THE LADIES LUNCHEON HELD AT THE BOWLER'S CLUB, 22-8-95. REPORT FROM HEATHER FOX.

What a bright and chatty time we had, helped by the presence of Jack & Evelyn Sumner who generously supplied us with welcome liquid refreshments. Everyone reported on a successful day watching our boys march on 12 August and enjoyed having lunch with them later. Get well wishes go out to Nell Hawkins, Mabs Lupp and reports that Belle Sadler is progressing favourably. Those present were:- M. ARNOTT, M. KLEEM, H. WRIGHT, D. SILVER, Y. DOOLEY, FI KESTIVEN, M. FRASER, LINDA LOVELEE, H. GAMBLE, D. MANUEL, EVELYN & JACK SUMNER & MYSELF.

VICTORIAN REPORT FROM BILL PANTER.

On Sunday, July 23 about 30 of our members and ladies were the guests of Clayton RSL for the celebration of their 50th Birthday and with Ned and Marj Kenna V.C. as their guests' of honour they certainly looked after us a treat with lots of entertainment, a wonderful luncheon along with suitable liquid refreshments and a sincere request that we come again. We are very lucky that they have given us a home to go to and we certainly appreciate it. I wrote a letter of thanks to the President and they must have been impressed as they published my letter in full in the Club's newsletter... It was wonderful to see Ned & Marj along with their children & grandchildren leading the Parade on V.P. Day. I really don't know how they keep up with the work load, especially this year, so we hope that they keep their health as they are off to see the Queen again in November... Jim & Betty Barrow both celebrated their 80th birthday in the same week recently so congratulations to them as they haven't enjoyed very good health lately, but they attended our luncheon, it was good to see them... other sickies recovering now are Claude Raymond after surgery, still as bright as ever. Betty Burns is coming along slowly after heart surgery, all the rest of us with minor ailments still battling on trying to find a cure for old age.

AN IMPORTANT DATE TO REMEMBER FOR VIC. MEMBERS: SUNDAY, 12 NOVEMBER. A PRE-CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON WILL BE HELD AT THE CLAYTON RSL. Hope to have Ned & Marj Kenna attend. Please enter this date in your diary.

All the Victorians who are not attending Gosford hope that you have a great reunion and we wish that we could be with you.

A phone call from Bill sadly reported the passing of Claude Raymond's wife Nan. A mother of six daughters, Nan had been ill for some time. To Claude and your family, condolences from your many 2/4th friends and their families.

ADDRESS BY J.H.BROWN,O.A.M.2/4TH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION - WIRUI MISSION WEWAK,
SATURDAY 8TH JULY,1995 - UNVEILING MEMORIAL.

I am extremely proud, but humble to be part of this unique ceremony acknowledging the role of the 6th Division in the Aitape/Wewak area...I am honoured to be asked to speak as a representative of all those who served their country in this final part of the campaign, which helped avert the threat of Japanese invasion of Australia...Today, naturally I think of the members of the 2/4th Infantry Battalion who gave their lives in this area.

The men I served with were typical Australians - cheerful, brave in the face of adversity, ready to acknowledge the need for leadership but not afraid to speak their mind or take decisive action if the need rose...Such a man, such a soldier was Edward Kenna, known to his battalion mates as Ned...It was my privilege to serve with him and to be part of the camaraderie, the mateship which was present in our unit and, of course, the Army and Australia's other fighting forces.

The attack on Wewak was made extremely difficult because of the large areas of swamp, tangled and often impenetrable mangrove swamp. There was heavy rain. The Australians also had to contend with Japanese artillery of considerable strength and an entrenched enemy taking full advantage of the terrain...After the capture of Wewak the Battalion continued inland with its first objective Wirui Mission. Our own artillery gave us excellent support. The gunners blasted Wirui Hill, knocking out one enemy gun and destroying a bunker. The going was slow because of the hard nature of the country and the tall kunai grass, but our first objectives were achieved. On the second morning, 15th May, well sited bunkers which were encountered before, were still very active. Eight Platoon was given the job of clearing the position. Two sections sent to clean up the area were pinned down until Ned Kenna stood up, in full view & took them on. His courage has been recognised by the award of the Victoria Cross, our highest award for heroism. His citation refers to his amazing coolness, his magnificent bravery in the face of concentrated fire and how his great valour and complete disregard for his own safety prevented many casualties. I can tell you that his action had a marvellous effect on us all.

Quite simply, it was an inspiration. I have been asked to outline the events of Wirui Mission on the memorable day, 15th May 1945. The bunker which he attacked and silenced was just down a bit over 100 yards from where we are now, down to the west - covered as it is today, with kunai grass and heavily timbered. The details of the action have been covered by an earlier speaker. Unfortunately less than three weeks later he was seriously wounded when hit in the lower jaw by an explosive bullet at Mt. Kwakubo. It was not thought he could survive but our Doctor, Captain Owen Williams was soon on the spot; gave him what treatment he could and he was eventually taken out by stretcher bearers and our Fuzzy Wuzzies, eventually getting back to Heidelberg Repat. Hospital where he remained for 18 months.

Today as we near the end of our pilgrimage I would like to pay tribute to the Navy and the Air Force for their support at all times - without their dedication and commitment we could have turned back the invaders. In our case the Navy in particular did outstanding work for over a month approaching and beyond Wewak. To all sections Army, Artillery, Engineers, Commandos, Cavalry Units, Medical Teams who were virtually in the front line, not forgetting the Papuans, our Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels. In every sense of the word, a team effort.

A very special thought and thanks to the people back home, our wives, mothers, sisters, sweethearts - their letters, their parcels had a great effect on keeping up our morale. Ned Kenna personified the team spirit and as I emphasised, I am proud but humble for the opportunity which I had to be part of the campaign and to speak on behalf of my comrades today. I am specially honoured that today I was asked to join the Minister for Veterans' Affairs Hon. Con Sciacca and Ned Kenna V.C. in unveiling the plaque which records for all time those who served but particularly those that laid down their lives for freedom. I am especially pleased that this beautiful plaque contains the citation of our two Victoria Cross winners from this campaign Ned Kenna and Bert Chowne who sadly lost his life on 26 March, 1945 at Dagua in the action for which he was awarded our highest honour.

Thank you Ned Kenna, thank you Marj for the wonderful care you have given him over 48 years particularly as you nursed him at Heidelberg.

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MONTHLY MEETING AT THE GALLIPOLI MEMORIAL CLUB, TUESDAY, 22 AUGUST, 1995.

The Meeting opened with President Alf Carpeneter in the Chair. The President recited the ODE. and welcomed the following: - W. MANGAN, P. BRUTY, W. CEARNS, L. JONES, J. MEEHAN, P. SMITH, F. STAGGS, DOUG WILSON, T. FOX, SID YOUNG (MACLEAN), BOB LEVER, D. PINSON, L. CLARKE, J. DESMOND, A. MAXWELL, R. BERTHELSEN, H. WRIGHT, A. ARNOTT, R. EVERSON, H. SILVER, J. SUMNER, C. POWERS, N. ALAVOINE, G. MAITLAND, W. JOHNSTON, ROD STEELE.

Apologies: - J. Hawkins, T. Wilson, V. Forbes, N. Auberson, F. Rowell, J. Dubber, Bob Fergusson, Bob Lane, P. Cade, Dave Follington, Alan Bohle, Ferd Pegg, Bill Bickley, Chick Sleeman, Sir Ivan Dougherty.

The Minutes of the previous Meeting, as published in "WOG" were taken as read and adopted. Business arising from Minutes: "NIL."

CORRESPONDENCE: The President reported as follows:- Letter to Con Sciacca, thanks for organising the pilgrimage to Papua/New Guinea.. Dudley Meacham, replying to his letter re Dudley's hearing problem, will be resolved during the 1996 A.G.M... Lily Deacon with details of the 1995 cut in veterans' & widows air fares.

The Secretary, a letter from Joy Waterhouse and a letter from Leila Wallace, widow of the late Neil Wallace.. Fi Kesteven, a return thanks card re the passing of Fi's son, John, accidentally killed during a parachute accident.

Editor, Joy Waterhouse, thanks for photo's received.

REPORTS: The President attended the 2/9th Fld. Reg. Dinner. Attended Sydney, 12-8-95 V.P. Commemorative March. On the 15-8-95 attended V.P. celebrations, Martin Place, Sydney, after this together with Doreen attended the Water Transport annual reunion. Attended the Newcastle Showground on 18 August for the "Australia Remembers" nostalgic concert.

THE PRESIDENT REPORTS ON HARRY NEWHOUSE & HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION, GOSFORD RSL 3-9-95. Held in conjunction with Gosford RSL Sub-Branch and with an attendance of about 200, including a contingent of 2/4th-ers, their friends and ladies, Harry's birthday was celebrated in a fashion fitting to this fine citizen and Anzac Veteran.

President Alf reflected on Harry's life and times, his never ending sense of humour and good graces, these tributes were reiterated by other speakers during the day.

Amongst those present were:- Alf & Doreen, Wally & Connie, Les & Linda, Rex & Olga, Mary & Jack, Harold & Madge, George & Margaret, Joe & Peg, Andy & Peg, John Ringrose, John Meehan, Dick Pinson, Bob Lever, Bo Bo & Joyce.

TREASURER REPORTS. SUMMARY OF FUNDS.

WESTPAC BANK: General Account -	\$2,026
Ben. Fund A/C -	703
AUST. GUARANTEE CORP: Debentures (Ben. Fund)	15,000
Growth Bonds (Ben. Fund)	2,000
M.M. Access A/C (Ben. Fund)	2,180
Total Funds as at 22 August, 1995.....	\$21,909

All accounts passed for payment. Les Jones. Hon. Treasurer.

CASH REGISTER.

<u>MEMBER.</u>	<u>SUBSCRIPTIONS.</u>	<u>DONATIONS.</u>
R. STEELE		50.00
Mrs. R. KINGSLEY		30.00
Mrs. Y. DOOLEY, P. DENVER, EACH \$20D.		40.00
J. PROVANS, W. WOODS, J. GALVIN, EACH \$10S. \$10D.	30.00	30.00
L. ANDERSON		8.00
F. ROWELL		5.00
G. RAMAGE	10.00	
<u>COMBINED TOTAL: \$203.00</u>	<u>\$40.00</u>	<u>\$163.00</u>

EDITORIAL: No doubt, many readers, both ladies and gents have memories, some happy, some sad, & these were about, where you were and what you were doing on both V.P. Day, 15 August, 1945 and V.P. Day 15 August, 1995. As Editor, I am particularly interested in these memories and would as a matter of historical interest like to include these in a later copy of "WOG". My address is on the letter head, many thanks. Editor.

* * *

ADDRESS CHANGE, EXISTING MEMBER: Mr. J.C. Clark, 17 Mainsoil Drive, Caboolture, Qld. 4510 ✓

ADDRESSES, NEW MEMBERS: Mr. B. Beck, 33 E/18 Lucy St., Ashfield, NSW 2131. ✓

" " " : Mr. R.J. Thomas, 32 Threlkeld Drive, Cattai, NSW 2756. ✓

ALTERATIONS TO THE MAILING LIST: Mrs. F. Kesteven. Alter initial "F" to "P.M." ✓

" " " " " : A.D. Owers (deceased). Alter to Mrs. M. Owers, 19/364 Bay Street, Brighton-Le-Sands, NSW 2216. ✓

APOLOGY: As depicted as per this newsletter I have had a heavy workload with V.P. Day etc, therefore the rest of business discussed during the 22-8-95 meeting will be held over to the October/November issue. Editor.

A RELUCTANT HERO: Phil Smith read the fire report, Anzac Hostel, Friday, 14-7-95 where Tim Crowley (ex-2/4th) by his actions (in the report) is deserving of special recognition by the appropriate authorities. His repeated efforts to ensure the safety of his fellow residents, at great personal risk is deserving of the highest commendation. We are sure that anyone reading the report will agree that Tim's actions stand above the many brave acts by residents that night. On being congratulated by Les Chigmore, Balgowlah RSL Sub-Branch, Tim's comments, "Anyone would have done it!"

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