



White over Green

JOURNAL OF THE 2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

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CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR GREETINGS.

PATRONS' SIR IVAN DOUGHERTY AND
MAJOR-GENERAL GORDON MAITLAND,
PRESIDENT ALF CARPENTER AND COMMITTEE,
TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO WISH ALL MEMBERS AND
FRIENDS OF THE ASSOCIATION, A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND
MAY THE NEW YEAR BRING HEALTH AND HAPPINESS TO ALL.



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

TUESDAY, 28 NOVEMBER: Monthly Meeting commencing at 1400hrs. Committee will meet at 1100hrs.

TUESDAY, 19 DECEMBER: 2/4th Association Christmas Party will be held at the South Pacific Restaurant, Gallipoli Memorial Club, Loftus St., Sydney. A limited "dry till" will operate beer tickets will be made available together with pre luncheon nibbles. Luncheon will be served at your own expense from 1230hrs.

NOTE: NO MONTHLY MEETING IN DECEMBER.

TUESDAY, 19 DECEMBER: The President, Patrons, Committee and Members of the Association extend a cordial invitation to the ladies their families and friends to attend the annual Christmas Party to be held at the South Pacific Restaurant, Gallipoli Memorial Club, Loftus St., Sydney.

SATURDAY 25 NOVEMBER: FAR NORTH COAST CHRISTMAS PARTY: Yes, it's on again, Saturday, 25 November at East Lismore Bowling Club, the Far North Coast Christmas Party. The Bowling Club activities begin at 6 P.M. and the smorgasbord at approx. 7.30 P.M.

A big welcome goes out to all 2/4th-ers their families and friends. It's on record that there are an average of 35 people on the Nominal Roll from the postcode 2460-2480, I mean out of those it would be wonderful if say 20 attended the Bowling Club function, otherwise, as advised by Allan, if numbers drop below a certain attendance there is a good chance that the Bowling Club facility will be lost.

NOTE: Sadly, and because of disabilities, our dear friends, Allan and Carma have decided to discontinue "Kirks Backyard."

FRIDAY, 1ST DECEMBER: Newcastle Region Monthly Meeting, held at the Hamilton RSL. Raffle in aid of Swimming Club.. 1700hrs onward, contact - Alf Carpenter.

WEDNESDAY, 13 DECEMBER: Gosford Region Monthly Meeting will be held at the Gosford RSL 1300hrs onward, contact - Wally Mangan.

SATURDAY, 16 DECEMBER: A cordial invitation is extended to members and Ladies of the 2/4th Association from Hamilton RSL Swimming Club to attend the Club's annual Christmas Party to be held in the auditorium Hamilton RSL.. Cocktails will be served between 6 P.M. and 6.30 P.M. "Santa" will be in attendance, as usual handing out goodies. A "dry till" will operate during the evening. COST \$20.00 per person. For bookings, please phone the President of the Swimming Club, Mr. Alf Carpenter, (phone number on page (1) this issue.)

FIRST TWO MEETINGS TO BE HELD IN 1996.

TUESDAY, 23 JANUARY, 1996: Normal Monthly Meeting to be held at the Gallipoli Memorial Club, Loftus St., Sydney. Committee will meet at 1100hrs.

TUESDAY, 27 FEBRUARY, 1996: Annual General Meeting commencing 1400hrs. Committee will meet at 1100hrs. NOTE: For this, annual reports from the President, Hon. Secretary, Minutes Secretary, Pensions Officer, Editor, needed to include in the Dec/Jan issue of "WOG". Hon. Treasurer's annual report will appear, in full Feb/March issue.

FRIDAY, 5 JANUARY: Newcastle Region Monthly Meeting at Hamilton RSL. (1700hrs onward.)

FRIDAY, 2 FEBRUARY: As above.

WEDNESDAY, 10 JANUARY: Gosford Region Monthly Meeting to be held at Gosford RSL. (1130 onwards.)

WEDNESDAY, 14 FEBRUARY: As above.

BORROWING: Always borrow from a pessimist - he never expects to get it back anyhow.

DID YOU KNOW? The body of Pocahontas rests not in the happy hunting grounds, but in England, at St George's Church, Gravesend, Kent. Barely 22 when she died, her life has been much embellished. John Smith claimed she saved him from death at the hands of her tribe, but as the chief's daughter, she was actually her father's stand in at an initiation ceremony based on mock execution and salvation. She was 10 at the time. The palefaces later kidnapped her and, despite her existing marriage to Chief Kocum, forced her to marry John Roles to cement peace moves. She accompanied Roles to England in 1616 and was received at court. She died of smallpox, though her son Thomas had several well known descendants, including Mrs Woodrow Wilson, wife of the American President. Churchill was part Indian, his American Grandmother's grandmother was a full-blood Comanche.

* * *

NOTE: As per my apology, Page (10) Aug/Sept issue, business discussed during 22 August Meeting is:-

TREASURER REPORTS: Attended V.P. celebrations in Narrabri, (a full report re this should appear in this issue.)

EDITOR REPORTS: Attended the V.P. March in Newcastle, after the march was one of many who attended the Service in Civic Park.

GENERAL BUSINESS: The President - usual donation to Parramatta pipe Band for their help during the 12-8-95 V.P. March in Sydney. Discussed 2/4th Christmas Party, Tuesday, 19 December. Maj. Gen. Maitland spoke of the support which will be given to all 4Bn. Associations by the younger members of 4Bn R.A.R. Gordon spoke of the wrangle concerning 6th Div. Battalions marching in numerical order on Anzac Day, didn't seem to get a positive answer to this. It was resolved at this time and place, we should retain the status quo. Gordon Maitland had a long chat to Sir Ivan, reports that Sir Ivan is still mentally alert, although frail, intended attending his 21 Bde V.P. celebration on 12-8-95, somewhat disappointed that he couldn't make it.

WELFARE: Bill Cearns reported that he visited Dave Follington on two occasions. Doug Milne has been discharged from hospital. Rod Steele reported that he had a couple of weeks in Concord - had an aneurism, this was complicated by having gallstones removed.

Allan Kirk reported Bill & Amy Lacey both O.K. Bill and Una Sheaffe, Bill is well, Una isn't well, Tom & Freda Clarke are both well, self & Carma like all of the others, as well as that "Arthur B.... Ritis" will let you be, also reports that Harry Whitman is not in the best of health.

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 2.45 P.M.

* * *

THICK SKIN: A certain moderate thickness of skin is surely the indispensable condition of any reasonable living. Energetic movement cannot be always intrinsically dignified; no one has ever got anything done who had not the courage to be occasionally ridiculous.

MONTHLY MEETING HELD AT THE GALLIPOLI MEMORIAL CLUB, 26 SEPTEMBER, 1995.

The Meeting opened with President Alf Carpenter in the Chair. The President recited the ODE. A special welcome to those in attendance: - A. CARPENTER, L. JONES, BILL CEARNS, J. MEEHAN, W. MANGAN, P. BRUTY, T. WILSON, D. WILSON, N. AUBERSON, F. STAGGS, V. FORBES, T. FOX, J. DUBBER, A. MAXWELL, DICK PINSON, W. LAMBOURNE, L. CLARKE, R. BERTHELSEN, MICK GRAY, H. WRIGHT, H. SILVER, W. JOHNSTON, ALEX ARNOTT, NAP ALAVOINE.

APOLOGIES: - Sir Ivan Dougherty, Maj. Gen. Gordon Maitland, John Hawkins, Phil Smith, Frank Rowell, Bob Lever, Rex Everson, Ferd Pegg, Bob Lane, Lew Dubber, Allen Bohle, Dave Follington, Bob Fergusson "Slim" Powers & Gordon Chrisp.

CORRESPONDENCE: The President reported as follows: -

CON SCIACCA (MINISTER OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS): Thank you for your letter of 26 July concerning your participation in the Australia Remembers Pilgrimage to Papua, New Guinea. My department and I greatly appreciate your kind words of thanks.

R.M. DEAN, HON. SEC. GOSFORD RSL SUB-BRANCH: An invitation and two complimentary tickets to attend Harry Newhouse 100th birthday.

CHRIS WHITE (GORDONVALE): Writes in regards to the battle to have the last remaining air raid shelter retained at Gordonvale, the good news is that now the shelter will be retained as a memorial to the civilian population up North who sacrificed so much during the dark days of 1942. A photo of Chris enclosed, inside the shelter, table and chair and Chris seated, I guess working to drum up support for this important project, which will enhance the concept & that the forecourt design was offset to cater for it being left in place.

DON BOWDEN (EX RAAF): Thanks for the enclosed tapes describing the Papua/New Guinea Pilgrimage.

COMMENTS. "I congratulate you on your expertise, you excel as a radio commentator describing a from start to finish.

THE EDITOR: NORM ROGERS: Norm writes re the widow of the late Don Bundy and the availability of "WOG" going out to her.

BILL PANTER: In his report, gave his thoughts on the 50th Birthday of Clayton RSL, with Ned & Marj Kenna as Official Guests.

KEITH BAILEY (5th September): The Canberra Group had another happy luncheon reunion at the Tradesmen's Club, Woden, on 22 August. All the spirit and camaraderie of our previous meetings was evident in the attendance of: - Frank & Enid Crutchett, Jack & Joan Huston, Dave & Vi Taylor, John Falla, M.B.E., D.C.M., and wife Ruve, Tom Maxwell, John Hyles, Peter Richardson, M.C., yours truly and Rita. Apologies from Pam Hyles, Barry Saxby, O.A.M., and Len Griffiths. Bob and Jean WarriLOW, Roy and Kath Findlay were on holidays and indicated that they are looking forward to the next luncheon. Jack Huston has been a tower of strength in getting us together, along with Frank Crutchett, I will continue to support them in any way I can.

The next luncheon will be held at the Canberra Club. Jack Huston, who is a member will make the necessary arrangements... All the best, to all the best, from some of the best.

PHILIPA BURGESS (P.O. BOX 5008, CHISHOLM ACT 2905.) A phone call from Philipa, re the whereabouts of her father, NX11385, Alan Burgess, ex-sigs 2/4th Battalion. His nickname is "pud", and possibly known since 1952 as Alan Brown, Alan Black or Bradley. Philipa, who hasn't seen her father w'd like any info in regards to the above to be sent to her.

BROWN, OAM. I have seen Doug Kerrigan who represented Association of 4th Battalions on the Pilgrimage, sent me the following news with the heading "White and Green": -

When I first boarded the "MIKAIL SHOLOKHOV" I noticed the ship's colour scheme was white & Green. When the Pilgrimage group arrived at Eagle Farm, Brisbane for lunch, the dining room was decorated with white and green balloons. Later, while attending the newly dedicated Church at Milne Bay I was delighted to see the decor white and green. Someone was catering for our colours.

When I was talking to one of the four War Widows on the Pilgrimage trip, she showed me the telegram that was sent from the Minister for Defence informing her of her husband's death, over fifty years ago. It was handwritten, and the person had made two mistakes and then carelessly crossed them out. She said to me, "You would think that in such a telegram as this, they would be more careful". The contents were heart-rending enough without the crossed out mistakes being included. She went on to say that she has never re-married because she couldn't find a man as good as her late husband. I gathered that she found strength in her children & her religion. She showed me photographs of a small coastal town where she lived, included was one little weatherboard church. It was modest in design. I noted it was freshly painted white and green. I asked her "Why did you paint the church white and green?" She answered "We thought they were nice colours." I had no difficulty in agreeing with her.

FI KESTEVEN: During the 12 August luncheon at the GMC, I was fortunate to take lots of photos, one in particular depicted, Jack Huston, Gwen MacLennan, Fi and Joan Huston, this I forwarded to Fi, and as usual a letter from Fi acknowledged receiving same. Fi reported the photo gave her a "big lift."

REPORTS: The President reported that he attended the 20th Anniversary reunion, central Coast

Branch of the PoW Association at Gosford RSL 27-8-95. On the 6-9-95 attended the Annual Childrens Service, Civic Park, Newcastle. Sunday, 17 September, together with Doreen attended the Parade of Banners held in the Rocks Area, owing to the train being delayed they were an hour late, however reported that Les Jones and Wally Mangan carried out their duties as Banner Bearers with lots of dignity. Following the Parade of Banners, a Memorial Concert was held in the Garrison Church, this concert was arranged by Andrew Pell and Michael Tesoriero, with a spectacular line up of artists, including John Campbell, Jill Eagle, Michael Tesoriero, The Band of the 23rd Fld. Regiment R.A.A., the Bankstown City Choir and the 2/17th RNSWR Pipe Band.

THE HON. SECRETARY: Fred made it known that this will be his last year as Hon. Secretary, will resign at the A.G.M.

EDITOR REPORTED: There were 501 copies of Aug/Sept issue of "WOG" mailed out, printed by "Snap Printing", and posted at the Warrabrook M/C.

TREASURER REPORTS. SUMMARY OF FUNDS:

WESTPAC BANK: General Account ---	\$1,506
Ben. Fund A/C	703
AUST. GUARANTEE CORP: Debentures (Ben. Fund)	15,000
M.M. Access A/C (Ben. Fund)	2,180
Growth Bonds (Ben Fund)	2,000
TOTAL FUNDS AS AT 26TH SEPTEMBER, 1995 ----	<u>\$21,389</u>

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

* * *

6TH DIV REPORT: Norm Auberson reported the Victorian Branch of Legacy were able to provide four trees propagated from seeds from the original Lone Pine trees.

GENERAL BUSINESS:- The President reported that Con Schaicca has been made a Honorary Member of the RSL. Alf has made arrangements for sandwiches and bite size morsels to be provided prior to the Tuesday, 19th December Christmas Party, also beer tickets will be provided for the occasion. An interesting interlude from the President, Alf spoke of the 2/4th Honour Roll, and the part played by Fred Staggs and others on it. Fred was depicted as follows; President 1950 - 1956, Editor 1959 - 1962, Hon. Secretary 1984 to the present year, 1995.

WELFARE: Paul Brook's wife Myrna has early Alzheimer's disease. Olga Everson, on this day, had been admitted to hospital with a severe asthma attack. Dave Follington isn't well, has been in and out of hospital three times during September. Enid Latimer has heart problems, had to cancel the reunion at Gosford. May Shaw, wife of Wally also has heart problems. John Hawkins still has problems with his balance, he was ready to come to this meeting, Phoned Alf to say that he had a bit of a turn, therefore apologised for his absence.

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 2.45 P.M.

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REPORT ON THE LADIES LUNCHEON HELD AT THE BOWLER'S CLUB, SYDNEY, 26 SEPT. REPORT BY HEATHER FOX.

Owing to the damp weather and many ladies on the sick list we were a small gathering this month. We all enjoyed our time together, catching up on with our news and looking forward the Gosford reunion. Members might be interested to know that Mona the proprietor of Mona's Cafe, our venue for the past two Anzac Day luncheons is the proud mother of a baby boy, Joshua born last month. Ladies present at the luncheon were: -Hilda Wright, Fran Wilson, Doreen Manuel, Del Silver, Molly Johnston, Yvonne Dooley and myself.

JIM BROWN, O.A.M. PILGRIMAGE TO PAPUA, NEW GUINEA.

To be chosen to be a member of the Pilgrimage is a honour which I will never forget. There were only 84 from the Army from all states, 11 from the Navy, 15 from the Air Force, 4 War Widows, 1 Nursing Sister, 1 Rep. from the Womens Services and Marj Kenna accompanying Ned, a total of 117, included 1 Coastwatcher and 1 from the Merchant Navy. There was a full medical team, the senior Doctor was Dr Killer. Also included were representatives from the Australian War Memorial who had researched and issued a book on the campaigns in all areas, Kokoda, Milne Bay, Buna, Gona, Sanananda, Rabaul, Aitape & Wewak.

A tribute was paid with a special service for those who lost their lives when Centaur was lost. The ship stopped on the spot and a wreath was placed on the sea. I had special permission to place a wreath on the sea as two Kempsey boys were lost on Centaur and have local streets named after them. My thoughts on this...an emotional few minutes, particularly watching poppies face up drifting away on the surface of the sea.

Following on to Jim's report, somehow or other, if I continued on the same lines as President Alf's report (Page 4 & 5 Aug/Sept issue), would mean that I would be doubling up. (Editor).

(But), there is more, Jim tells us, "There is so much, I wish to tell you, Because I learnt so much of the fighting at Kokoda, Milne Bay, Gona and Buna, those Militia Boys, untrained fought gallantly and did much to delay the Japanese and save the advance on to Port Moresby."

It was spoken, "A milestone in history, Gallipoli was where the Anzac Spirit was born, Kokoda will become another Gallipoli, is irrevocally burnt into the minds of Australia."

The highlights for me; the recognition of the 2/4th Battalion boys with their name, number and unit, date of death at Cape Wom; the beautiful memorials at Cape Wom and Wirui Mission, particularly the honour of taking part in the unveiling ceremony at Wirui Mission. Jim Brown, OAM.

SITTING ON A NEW GUINEA MOUNTAIN: AUGUST 15, 1945. By Gordon Vesperman.

On VP Day 50 years ago, Gordon Vesperman was sitting on top of Shiburangu Mountain, overlooking New Guinea's Sepic Valley. The men - who included Cootamundra's Jim Crowe - had been told to "expect some news". Then, as evening fell, the 2/1st Field Artillery situated in the valley opened up with "everything the men could lay hands on", firing over the heads of the men on the mountain - 25 Pounders, flares, starshells: "That's when we knew the war was over."

There was a number of Riverina men in the 2/4th at Wewak: Sgt Bill Smith (who married a daughter of Town Clerk Dunkley); Sgt Geoff Galvin of Coota, who had a leg smashed and a finger shot off in action; Lin Hope, corporal of a three inch mortar platoon.

Gordon was in the honour guard at the surrender of General Adachi at Cape Wom, 13 September, 1945 & then came home to "the girl I've loved all my life" his wife Isabel.

Gordon Vesperman and Isabel Petts went to Cootamundra Public School together, then worked together at Harpley's laundry, became engaged, and married in February 1944, before Gordon went to New Guinea.

VP DAY - WINGHAM REMEMBERS.

Wingham ex-serviceman Chris Geelan describes himself as one of the lucky ones. He emerged from the horrors of jungle warfare in New Guinea with a couple of bullet holes in his hat (and a MID for distinguished service in the capture of Mt Tazaki).

More recently he's had two hips replaced and had a (successful) tussle with bowel cancer. However, Chris is still going strong and he attributes his health and happiness to 45 years love and care from his wife Shirley. Shirley was another lucky choice - he married her rather than moving to Darwin after his return from war service.

Chris recalls one lucky break, when on the troopship RAJULA he (& the rest of the 2/4th), were headed for an unknown destination and two days into the voyage the ship turned back to Suez, their unknown destination according to history being Java. However, if they had landed in Java it's possible all would have become Pow's.

During the actions in New Guinea, Chris spent much of that time as forward scout, and on one of these sorties he took two bullets through his hat, just missed a couple of vital parts - another of his lucky days. Chris was mentioned in dispatches and a report published in the Wingham Chronicle at the time headlined "Good work by soldier from Elands" Lance-Corporal Geelan's section had been fired on by a heavy machine gun, with the Bren gunner receiving wounds. Lance-Corporal Geelan took over the Bren gun and engaged the enemy while the remainder of his section recovered the casualty. When the position was recovered later, it was found that a Juki machine gun had been knocked out.

When V.P. came, Chris and his mates were left guarding the Japanese for many weeks - another lucky break - one night the "SHROPSHIRE" arrived off Wewak, and word came through that nine men could be taken on board, Chris's name went into the hat, guess what - he was number nine. Chris was discharged in time to enjoy Christmas 1945.



Les Jones joins in the Narrabri V.P. Day Celebrations.

MEMORIES OF VP DAY 1945 and 1995. BY LES JONES.

My recollections of this historical day in 1945, are basically in accordance with the last two paragraphs on page 289 of our War History, "White over Green". It was Bruce Cork, of the Sig Platoon who relayed the message regarding the surrender of the Japanese, to me. I found it hard to believe, that the war had come to such an abrupt end.

This year, VP Day was certainly a lot different. I was present in Narrabri, NSW, for the town's activities, which began with the dedication of a memorial to those members of the Armoured Division who lost their lives whilst training in the Narrabri District.

Then there was a parade along the main street, led by a group of mounted troopers of the Northern Rivers Lancers, followed by privately owned military vehicles, vintage cars and a fire engine. This same fire engine also featured in the VP Day celebrations 50 years ago. Then came the marchers contingents of ex-servicemen and women; groups from the Red Cross and sundry organisations.

The parade terminated at the centre of town, where a remembrance service was conducted, attended by local dignitaries.

A fly past by the local aero club, complimented the day's programme of events. A concert then followed, performed by the Narrabri Musical and Dramatical Society. In addition to the local townspeople, schoolchildren helped to swell the large audience.

Later in the day, a moving sunset candlelight service was held at the R.S.L. Club's memorial, prior to a dinner dance at the Club; entertainment again being provided by the Narrabri M.&D. Society. Members of the Armoured Division were also in attendance, having been invited to participate in the town's celebrations.

All in all, it was certainly a day to remember! Les Jones.

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2/4TH BATTALION ASSOCIATION 38TH COUNTRY REUNION, GOSFORD, 2ND, 3RD & 4TH OCTOBER, 1995.

If there was a single event that symbolised, "Along the road of memory, the old Battalion swings," this happened early in October, 1995, these three days, more than ever, after celebrating the 50th anniversary of the end of the Pacific War, how could we, the veterans' and families not feel drawn by the magnet of memory?

For most of us, the return at this time to the 38th Country Reunion was at once a sweet paradoxically nostalgic pilgrimage back to the years of our youth when we relived the battles & trials. Can we push away the thought, that soon there will be no more witnesses left of those dramatic times which were worldwide and operating at the same time, whose dimensions therefore cannot be encompassed either by personal recall or by collected remembrance.

Quite naturally, then in the reawakened sense of truly brotherly comradeship, that of my mates whom I joined in this country reunion, have found myself led to question myself anew; I mean, as the crowd of our old comrades in arms thins out from year to year, some quite severely disabled still appear; what can be the real meaning and the import, short lived or long lasting of the testimony these will have left?

LETTER OF WELCOME FOR THE 2/4TH AUST. INF. BATTALION FROM COUNCILLOR TONY SANSON MAYOR GOSFORD CITY COUNCIL.

It is with very great pleasure I welcome all members of the 2/4th Aust. Inf. Battalion Assocn. to the City of Gosford. You have travelled from all parts of Australia to an area that prides itself on its past, is protecting its scenic beauty and looks forward to the future with confidence.

Your unit, its members and its Patrons, Sir Ivan Dougherty and Major General Gordon Maitland enjoy a respected place in Australia's military history and we are honoured that the City of Gosford has been chosen to host your 38th country reunion. My thanks to the Central Coast Branch of the Association for doing the groundwork necessary for such an occasion and my best wishes to you for a successful reunion... Tony Sanson.

THE REUNION.

From late September, 1995 to early October 1995 troops and their wives and friends started arriving in Gosford from practically every state in Australia. Motels had been booked as far back as Ballina, for this, thanks go out to Wally & Connie Mangan, George & Margaret Friend, & other members of the reunion committee.

The Gosford RSL, a substantial building served us well during the three days with its spacious auditorium, bar areas and every other convenience, including the Galaxy Motel, all necessary for a successful country reunion. This scene soon became a hive of activity, "White over Green, always to be seen", sinking a few ales with their comrades, all ex-members, wives, widows and friends outstanding and agleam with badges and name tags.

The scene is set, so, let's record some of the sweet moments from the thoughts and activities of some of the people who attended, after all, they are the important ones.

Our Senior Vice President, WALLY and lovely wife CONNIE both doing a stirring job, booking in people as they arrive, at this stage noticed FRAN WILSON issuing name tags... From TED & FRAN WILSON - a short message, enjoyable company, well organised, therefore, no complaints... JIM & GLAD BROWN, main features, comradeship that exists and the friendly atmosphere... HAROLD TRESIDDER & MARJ - one of the best reunions we have attended... PRES. ALF & DOREEN, as always, thanked the organisers, the RSL, and most importantly the people who attended, by doing this, keeps the Association in a top notch position... NED KENNA V.C. - "Wow", getting better every time, so far was looking forward to the London trip with Marj, hopes to take son Robert along with them... JACK & JOAN HUSTON, to be able to do something like this, you must be good... BILL & LYEL CAIRNS - always look forward to country reunions to see old mates and make new friendships... JOHN & NELL HAWKINS, the history of the 2/4th is made up of legends which we relive during these days of gathering of our wonderful Association... ALLEN & GLORIA LINDSAY, although the Tweed Heads reunion is in its infancy they hope to have a good roll up 1st to 3rd October, 1996, Allen thought the Sig. Platoon dominated the reunion with 9 ex-members in attendance... FRED & JOYCE STAGGS, really enjoyed the good company, met up with a lot of old friends during the three days, congratulated Wally & team... RON & YVONNE MACZKOWIACK, pleased to see so many of the "boys and girls" looking so well and prosperous, although didn't make a killing on the "bandits" - enjoyed the ferry trip. "out of this world"... BASIL & EILEEN PRIVETT, the good attendance made them proud to participate... ROY & UNA DENYER, had a very stressful time on the farm last year owing to the drought, this year, so far, wheat, canola, lupins and oats looks promising, the result of good rain, Roy thought it was like a good tonic to see lots of his old mates again... WALLY & MOLLIE JOHNSTON, enjoyed the dinner and speeches, thought this

reunion was one of the best,gave thanks to Wally and team,everything "spot on"...DAWN AND HAROLD MCKENZIE from Raleigh,enjoyed the boat trip and the excellent food served during the three days of the reunion...LES & ENA ANDERSON,same area as the previous members (Urunga), thought it worthwhile to make the trek,both would like to make Tweed Heads next year,Les is in the market for a Battalion jacket,anyone out there,who has one (large size) please contact Les at 22 ALLISON PLACE,URUNGA NSW,2455...RUS MCWILLIAM reported that he has recently left Darwin,is going to live somewhere between Brisbane and Northern NSW,always looks forward to these functions...MARJ KENNA gave me a rundown on the coming VC reunion which will be held in the U.K. The Queen is the President of the VC Association and will meet the VC winners at Buckingham Palace;then on to a luncheon;next,a Church Service at St Anne's In The Field.During the week they will have afternoon tea with the Queen Mother at St.James Palace. A coach tour to Gretna Green follows,then a cruise up the Thames to London.On 1st November VC winners two yearly meeting will be held at the Cafe Royal - the dinner will be attended by Princess Margaret...BO & JOYCE,enjoyed the reunion and renewed friendships which both have made with 2/4th-ers over so many years.KEITH & RITA BAILEY thought the set up was "terrific",having a wonderful time,again thanked Wally and team for organising the reunion. HARRY & HILDA WRIGHT both happy with the reunion thought the programme refreshing,food good, accommodation first class...LILY DEACON & SISTER NOES VAN DERBERG,Lily's sister Noes from Holland has been visiting lily,during this time have toured West Australia,Central Australia and other attractions,after returning home,both will be going to Holland.Lily gave apologies for Wilma Slinger and son Keith...JIM & JEAN FORMAN came along with the clan,bringing along DICK DAKEYNE ex RAAF & DFC,during Darwin Jim met up with Dick while both were in hospital, do you know,both have kept in touch for all of these years...PETER & PAT DENVER,on Alf of South Australian members,sends best wishes to all those who attended this reunion, to those members,through sickness or distance couldn't attend,both reiterate the above message...I must mention EMMA BROOKE,8 years old,daughter of Paul's son HILARY who attended all functions,and as the youngest member,this friendly little girl breathed a breath of fresh air of goodwill to all of us oldies.

A SPECIAL MENTION TO:- HEATHER FOX with her donation of a painting,all of her work,and the painting was donated by Heather as a prize in the raffle...ALF & DOREEN,as always contributed a wreath...JOHN RINGROSE,his substantial input into the memorabilia of the Association, an extensive array of photos depicting Battalion members over the last 5 or more decades... BOB LANE,his version on military matters...WO 2 WARREN BARNES,by his attendance gave the reunion a military air...THE PIPES & DRUMS FROM PARRAMATTA,their donation of Scottish airs accepted with gratitude.LES & LINDA,always working for the betterment of the Association... DICK PINSON,my old mate from the band days,still plugging along...GORDON & DOROTHY MAITLAND, we,at the Assocn.think you are both wonderful...ALEX MAXWELL,still has that vice like grip,when shaking hands,sign of a strong character...NICK & RUTH ALLARDICE,showed interest in the VC Norfolk Island picture,would like a copy of the book "MARK OF THE LION", biography of N.Z. double VC winner,the late Charles Upham,...CHRIS & SHIRLEY GEELAN,gave me an article from their local Wingham paper,I thought it was magic,and have included excerpts from it in issue..."SLIM"POWERS,had a blackout,resulting in a short stay in the local hospital,last time I saw "Slim",he was on his feet,in the process of departing for home...BOB & NINA FERGUSSON,apologised for their early departure,nevertheless,it was great seeing both at this our 38th Country Reunion...ALEX(CALL ME BISCUITS)& MEG ARNOTT,as always,enjoying the activities.

MONDAY,2ND OCTOBER:On this day,the main events were,booking in,general get together of members in the bar and bistro areas of the RSL. At 6.30P.M. in the main hall,we were served a delicious smorgasbord,during this,M.C.Alf Carpenter made all welcome,called on convenor Wally Mangan to say a few words,Wally on behalf of the Committee,spoke a few words of wisdom, in the main the 2/4th Battalion,emphasised the importance of country reunions,particularly in this year of "Australia Remembers."

TUESDAY,3RD OCTOBER: A free morning,for this,the RSL proved to be the most popular place to be,I guess,a good reason for this,rain threatened.

4.30P.M. Although slightly damp,members marched to the Rock Of Remembrance for the Associations Wreath Laying Service,and accompanied by the usual V.I.P's- the Parramatta Pipes & Drums,Banner Party from 2/17 Bn RNSWR Gosford Branch,Maj.Gen.G.Maitland,Ned Kenna,V.C. Alf Carpenter,Wally Mangan and reps from the Gosford RSL & Sub-Branch.

Owing to a heavy downpour and a prior arrangement the Ceremony was conducted in the Main Hall at the RSL

THE OPENING ADDRESS: PRESIDENT ALF CARPENTER...LAST POST:BUGLER...LAMENT: PIPER.

MINUTES SILENCE FOR DEPARTED COMRADES:PRES ALF CARPENTER:INFANTEERS PRAYER:ALF CARPENTER.

ODE:MR JOHN MEEHAN: REVEILLE:THE BUGLER.

OFFICIAL WREATH LAYING 2/4TH BATTALION ASSOCIATION:MAJ.GEN.G.MAITLAND & NED KENNA V.C.

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT:NOEL ARMSTRONG,REP.DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS.

CITY OF GOSFORD:WALLY MANGAN,ON BEHALF OF COUNCILLOR TONY SANSOM,MAYOR OF GOSFORD.

GOSFORD RSL CLUB:GEOFF MORRIS & ALAN PORTAS.

GOSFORD RSL SUB-BRANCH:BOB STURGEON & ATHOL FREWIN.

NX6023 THE LATE BUTCH WARREN:WREATH LAID BY HIS DAUGHTER.

NX4011 KEN KESTEVEN MC,ED: ON BEHALF OF FI KESTEVEN & HER FAMILY.

MAIN REUNION DINNER,6.30P.M.

MC Alf Carpenter introduced and welcomed Official Guests.Our Guest of Honour - Edward Kenna, V.C. and wife Marj...Major General G.Maitland and wife Dorothy...Athol Frewin - Vice-President Gosford RSL,with wife Glad...Geoff Morris,Vice-President and Treasurer Gosford RSL, with wife Olga... President Alf Carpenter,Master of Ceremonies with friend Doreen Manuel... Noel Armstrong:Representative Department on Veterans' Affairs.

Ted Fox,Imm.Past Pres: Battalion Grace & Loyal Toast.

Apologies from:- Sir Ivan & Lady Dougherty,Joan Chaseling,Val & Noeleen Cunningham,Les and Joan Drayson,Fi Kesteven,Doug Grove,Heather Fox,Alan & Carma Kirk,Hugh & Eileen Wittleton, "Tich"Fordham,Ferd Pegg,Ken Webb,Hazel Gamble,Gwen MacLennan,Enid Latimore,Horrie Cameron, Wally & May Shaw,Rex & Olga Everson,Jack & Doris Tonks,Ted & Hazel Flannagan,Merve & June Jones,Frank & Norma Gattenhof,Dave & Sally Follington,Lew & Shirley Dubber,Wilma & Keith Slinger.

DEPARTED COMRADES,JIM BROWN:Of course,the first and most relevant thoughts from Jim were our Departed Comrades,now resting in far away places.The departed ones that still bring back vivid memories to him were those whose memorials are at Cape Wom Park,Wirui Mission,Lae and other parts of the world - Greece,Crete,Libya,Syria and Australia.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PATRON,MAJ.GEN.GORDON MAITLAND:This year,the 50th Anniversary of the 1 of the 2nd World War,is the year "Australia Remembers". It is good that Australia does remember..However the 2/4th has never needed a special year to cause it to remember.It has always taken pride in its outstanding performance in the war.Its brilliant victories in the Western Desert,and its fighting record in Greece and Crete,when it was never defeated,are testimony of that performance. And the mixture of old and new members who undertook the arduous New Guinea Campaign sustained those traditions,particularly with the capture of Wewak and Wirui Mission where Ned Kenna won the Victoria Cross.During those years the battalion never forgot its departed comrades in peace,still led by an outstanding team,the battalion association has always remembered its own,But there were others who died.The absence of the airforce in Greece and Crete was a reflection of the number of air crew that were killed.And one cannot reflect on Greece & Crete without remembering the sailors that died together with the 2/4th-ers in those seas. And what about the other units in the 19th Brigade.They also paid a heavy price.Indeed all who went to serve Australia and their fellow Australians paid a price of some description.We went for varying reasons but we certainly went to combat the forces of evil and went with the clear knowledge that we were putting our lives on the line.Most significant to today's generation and to our way of life in Australia,we went and did it better than the Italians,Germans or Japanese.

And so we come to this reunion.Like all those that have preceded it,it conjures up the senses of the endless sense of loss.But it also conjures up the great pride that all those present have and will always have in that great family of soldiers-the 2/4th Australian Infantry Battalion.

GEOFF MORRIS: A toast to the 2/4th.ALF CARPENTER:Response to the toast.Wally Mangan:A toast to the visitors.BOB STURGEON:Response to the toast.

PRESENTATIONS: Pat Bruty presented framed certificates to Wally Mangan and Les Jones for their years of faithful service to the Association.Also presented,a framed picture of the 5 V.C.winners,Charles Upham V.C.&Bar(N.Z.)Jack Hinton V.C.(N.Z.),Sir Roden Cutler,V.C., Ned Kenna,V.C.,& Keith Payne,V.C. This was accepted by Bob Sturgeon.

During the above proceedings we were served a delicious meal,including beer and wine etc: My thoughts,the 38th 2/4th main reunion dinner will always be remembered by me by Bob Sturgeon's final remarks,"Please come again,the 2/4th is always welcome."

WEDNESDAY,4TH OCTOBER,BOAT CRUISE ON BRISBANE WATER: What we have,immediately transcribed, almost without pause for reflection is a boat cruise up the Brisbane Waters and return,the event was to highlight the spectacular scenery and lavish accommodation the affluent seem to enjoy,but we were not denied a few luxuries - a rather historical vessel,the decor not opulent,nevertheless seaworthy - toilets his and hers,unfortunately some didn't comprehend the symbol(on the doors),this led to a couple of embarrassing moments.During the voyage morning tea was served,the bar was open,so what more do we desire,just settle back and enjoy the scenery,the company of so many of our old friends.

6 P.M. Once again,the Gosford RSL's caterers served us well with a delicious smorgasbord,& served in the Main Hall. M.C. Alf Carpenter gave his farewell speech,full of goodwill and meaningful thoughts..Convenor,Wally Mangan,likewise,gave a long comprehensive run down on "Australia Remembers",thanked all for their attendance,particularly the help given by the Gosford Committee. That's it folks,my report on our 38th country reunion..Pat Bruty.



WE DEEPLY AND SINCERELY REGRET THE DEATH
OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS.

NX2012 G.A.RAMAGE (GORDON) ✓ NX5555 N.AUBERSON (NORM) ✓
QX1258 P.R.COHEN (PETER) ✓ VX66434 W.J.GORMLEY (BILL).

VALE: NX5555 NORM AUBERSON died during October, 1995. He was born at Orange in 1918, and after working in the district for a number of years, Norm joined the 2/4th Battalion in 1939. As an original member of the Battalion, he served in Libya, Greece, Crete, Darwin and New Guinea. During the actions around Minga Creek on May 8, 1945, Sergeant Norm Auberson was wounded, then returned to Australia and spent some time in hospital, during this time, he met Nita. Norm and Nita were married at St. John's Church Parramatta and had two daughters, Margaret and Rhonda, both were married at St. John's to Boris and Andrew, later on, four grandchildren, Jane, Meredith, Jacqueline and Gregory.

Norm served the Association well as a Committeeman, Senior Vice-President and during the latter part of his life was the Association's 6th Division Representative. He was made a Life Member of the 2/4th Bn. Association in 1989.

Our late esteemed member's Funeral Service was conducted at St. John's Church Parramatta by the Rev. Zackery Veron. The Eulogy was given by Frank Rowell and the 2/4th Service by Harry Wright. Association members in attendance were:- John Hawkins, Fred Staggs, Nap Alavoine, Alf Carpenter & Doreen Manuel, Pat Bruty, Bill Cearn, Ted & Heather Fox, Harold & Del Silver, "Chick" & Dot Sleeman, Allan Bohle, Joan Hart, Harry & Hilda Wright, Ted & Fran Wilson, John Meehan, Wall and Mollie Johnston, Wally & Connie Mangan, Bob Lane, Lionel Clarke, Alex Maxwell, Dick Pinson, Yvonne Dooley, Ferd Pegg and Bill Jenkins representing the 6th Division Association.

Eulogies from Gordon & Dorothy Maitland, Les Jones & Linda Lovelee.

VALE: VX66434 BILL GORMLEY. Hugh Wittleton rang to say that Bill had passed on. A letter from Ken Peacock, ex- "C" Coy from Ashmore Qld. reported that our late member Bill was buried at Nanango, Qld. on the 9th of October. Ken in his letter to me reported that the funeral notice for Bill that appeared in the "Courier Mail" gave no indication of Bill's army service. He spent many years of his working life at the Mt. Isa Mines. "MAY HE REST IN PEACE."

QX1258 P.R.COHEN (PETER). His Funeral Service was held in a Chapel at the Northern Suburbs Crematorium on Friday 13 October. Peter is survived by his son Nick. Was aged 81 years.

The Eulogy was given by Wally Mangan, it was reported that there were eight from the Assoc. paying their last respects.

VALE: ANN MARIA RAYMOND. BORN: January 9, 1908. DIED: August 30, 1995.

The high regard in which Ann (Nan) Raymond was held could be measured each Christmas by the extraordinary amount of mail she received. Despite the pressures of her own life - she raised six daughters almost single-handedly during the war while her soldier husband Claude was serving overseas - Mrs Raymond was always ready to help others in crisis.

"Mum had to be strong because she had to raise us and pay the bills, ... she had backbone and she was independent and proud," daughter Rosemarie Carman recalls. Mrs Raymond was a stalwart of St Fidelis' in Moreland, devoting much of her spare time to the parish and school committee. In 1992, suffering from Alzheimer's Disease, Mrs Raymond entered the Queenscliffe Nursing Home where she lived out her final days. She is survived by her husband, six daughters, 18 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

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VICTORIAN NEWS BY BILL PANTER.

On Sunday October 15, we were privileged to attend the Book Launch of Doug Christian's autobiography "Diggers Mate" at the Salvation Army Citadel in Brunswick and with the Moreland Army Band in full swing with their stirring music we heard speakers including our own Jim Brown praise the work of this wonderful man and his dedication to serve his fellow man and continue his Christian teachings in conditions which tested all of us. We who served with him all received comfort from him and at times we wondered how he got there so quickly, but he was always there when most needed and we certainly appreciated that. Doug was very pleased that Ned and Marj Kenna made the trip from Hamilton to support him and Ned presented Doug with a table coaster with instructions how to make a cup of tea, I think Doug might have made a few in his day. Other members who attended were:- Ken & Joan Williams, Hugh & Doris Burgdorf, Val & Noeline Cunningham, Merv Jones, Les & Joan Drayson, Doug Grove, Claude Raymond & daughters Julie & Ann, Rose Hicks & son Merv & wife Margaret, Jim Barrow & son & grandson, Sue Maddern, yours truly and Bonnie Panther. I am sure that all our members will want to buy this book and read of the life and exploits of this great man.

On the sick list we have some unfortunately as Hugh Burgdorf is waiting now for his other hip to be replaced, Betty Burns is not well after her heart operation and is having tests at this time, and awaiting the results of those, Merv Jones tells us that June Plenter is struggling with her illness at present after another spell in hospital. To all our sickies, we hope they will soon be well again... As this will be my last report this year, on behalf of all Victorian Members, "A Merry Christmas" and a Safe and Healthy New Year. Bill Panther.

THE BOOK - "DIGGERS' MATE" BY MAJOR DOUG CHRISTIAN.

Comments by Commissioner Leslie Rusher(R). Editor and Author: "A story that reaches into the private lives of brave men in the front line of battle; into their hopes, fears, pain, fatigue and thoughts of home, and gives the reader a glimpse of the Christlike concern motivating the Red Shield Representative by their side sharing the hardness and uncertainty while imparting assurance and calm in the time of crisis. For Doug Christian, whether in war or peace, the front line ran through the hearts of the people and does to this day." If interested in buying the book, which has a recommended retail price \$18.95, plus postage, please contact Major Doug Christian, 1A UNION ROAD, SURRY HILLS, VIC. 3127.

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DATES TO REMEMBER: TUESDAY, 19 DECEMBER, 2/4 TH ASSOC. CHRISTMAS PARTY TO BE HELD AT THE G.M.C., LOFTUS ST., SYDNEY. A MESSAGE TO THOSE THAT INTEND HAVING THEIR LUNCHEON IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC RESTAURANT. PLEASE PHONE TED OR HEATHER FOX ON (02) 416 1200 SO AS ADEQUATE TABLE RESERVATIONS CAN BE MADE FOR THIS FUNCTION.

2/4TH ASSOC. COUNTRY REUNION, TWEED HEADS, SUNDAY, 29 SEPTEMBER, 1996 TO FRIDAY, 4 OCTOBER, 1996.

NOTE: BOOKING IN PRO FORMA WILL APPEAR IN DEC./JAN ISSUE OF "W.O.G."

CONVENOR FOR THE TWEED HEADS REUNION IS ALLEN LINDSAY, 10 MIRREEN DRIVE, TUGUN QLD. 4224. PHONE NUMBER IS (07) 553 43183.

Those people booking in for a full week or more should contact Allen with details. Those arriving by air, should let Allen know, he will arrange to pick up from the airport. For smorgasbord meals served at the Twin Towns Club, tickets will be issued to members to join the ongoing smorgasbords actually in progress.

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MONTHLY MEETING HELD AT THE GALLIPOLI MEMORIAL CLUB, ON THE 24TH OCTOBER, 1995.

The Meeting opened with President Alf Carpenter in the Chair. The President recited the ODE. A special welcome to the following in attendance: - MAJ. GEN. G. MAITLAND, A. CARPENTER, TED FOX, P. BRUTY, J. MEEHAN, B. CEARN, F. ROWELL, T. WILSON, L. JONES, P. SMITH, BOB FERGUSON, F. STAGGS, D. WILSON, J. RINGROSE, R. EVERSON, J. DUBBER, R. BERTHELSEN, W. JOHNSTON, H. WRIGHT, A. BOHLE, H. SILVER, L. CLARKE, N. ALAVOINE, DICK PINSON & ROD STEELE.

Apologies from: Sir Ivan Dougherty, J. Hawkins, V. Forbes, W. Mangan, F. Pegg, B. Bickley, "Slim" Powers, Dave Follington, Lew Dubber.

It was resolved that the Minute's of the previous Monthly Meeting as published in "WOG" be taken "as read" and adopted. Business arising from Minutes: NIL.

The following Matters/Business were recorded in the Minute's of this 24 October, 1995 Monthly Meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE: The President reported as follows:-

CLAUDE RAYMOND: A return thank you card. JOHN HAWKINS: Owing to the uncertain state of his health, at the moment, would like to resign as Minutes Secretary, however will still continue as Pension's Officer. JOE KELLY (newspaper cutting) presenting a tapestry made by him to Canterbury College (Qld) students. THE BROTHERHOOD OF VETERANS' OF THE GREEK CAMPAIGN 1940-41: Newsletters in regards to the Brotherhood and how it started, also news about the invitation by Civic Authorities and the Mayor to Kalamata, May 1996... from the same authority, a copy of page from the 8th Army Veterans' newsletter, The New Crusader reporting:- A shining new marble and Bronze memorial stands in Kalamata, in the southern Peloponnese. Its inscription in both Greek and English reads. "IN MEMORY OF THE ALLIED FORCES & GREEKS WHO FELL AT THE BATTLE OF KALAMATA, 28 APRIL, 1941, OR WHO WERE TAKEN PRISONER OR WHO ESCAPED TO FIGHT AGAIN THAT THE WORLD MIGHT BE FREE. DEDICATED BY THE VETERANS' OF THE GREEK CAMPAIGN, 17TH MAY, 1994."

THE HON. SECRETARY REPORTED AS FOLLOWS:- CLAUDE RAYMOND: A thank you card in regards to the passing of his wife, Nan. SELBY DEAN: In regards to the V.P. Day celebrations, and general news. GEORGE (KING) COLES: A letter passing on news and greetings from local 2/4th-ers. THE OWERS FAMILY: A thank you card, in memory of their dear departed, Mick Owers.

CORRESPONDENCE OUT: FROM THE SECRETARY. Congratulating the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Con Sciacca on becoming a member of the RSL.

REPORTS: The President reported he attended the Gosford reunion, congratulated the organisers. On 9th October, attended the 39ers Association Dinner in Sydney.

TREASURER REPORTS: Account balances as at 24 October, 1995 were: General Account \$1,752, Benevolent Fund \$20,384. Total funds \$22,136. All accounts passed for payment.

NOTE: Treasurer's Cash Register list for October will appear in the Dec/Jan issue. (This is no fault of the Treasurer, circumstances beyond my control have necessitated me posting this newsletter a week early. Editor.)

This is my 6th year as Editor, with that in mind, many thanks to those who with their help, have made it possible for me to carry on and print this newsletter.

Well folks, on behalf of Gwen and myself, "A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HEALTHY HAPPY NEW YEAR."

That's all folks, "Tis time to put the clock outside the door, wind up the cat and then retire and snore."

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