



White Water Green

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE 2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

Registered at the G.P.O., Sydney, for transmission by Post as a Periodical

Patron: Major-General I. N. DOUGHERTY, C.B.E., D.S.O., E.D.

President: CEC. CHRYSTAL, E.D.

Editors: PETER CADE, FRED STAGGS

Vice-President: FRED STAGGS

Vol. 14, No. 11.

Price, 5½d.

NOVEMBER 1, 1959.

THE ANNUAL COMBINED SMOKO

This most important evening was held in our usual meeting place, i.e. The Royal Naval House, Grosvenor St., City, and the management of this establishment provided all the refreshments and eats and the cost charged, taking into consideration the costs of other years and the extra work performed by the committeemen to organise and cater for the night, I consider they should be congratulated. This, I think, would be the only show held so far where most of the Committeemen were able to relax and enjoy themselves, which is only rightly so. Even under these circumstances there are still certain duties to be performed by some of these hardworking men.

Visitors

Owing to the passing of years, the 4th Bn. members were few, but those who did come along were made welcome, and I feel each and everyone enjoyed themselves. The official list is as follows: Keary, Dunne, O'Keefe, Browe, Gorman, Conaty, Brew and Sainty, with apologies from the President and quite a few others.

The toast for the Visitors was proposed, after the silent Toast to Departed Comrades and the Royal Toast to Her Majesty, by our President, Cec Chrystal, who officially welcomed the visitors and also stressing the point of the 20th Anniversary of the formation of the 2/4th Bn. at Ingleburn in 1939. This toast was supported by Fred Staggs.

Pat O'Keefe responded on behalf of the visitors.

After the formalities had been dealt with, a feature film was shown on the last Anzac Day March and although silent, was appreciated by those present.

The film commenced very fittingly with a full size shot of the 2/4th Banner and followed by good views of the march generally with repeated views of the Bn. and many an old face was seen smiling into the camera. Some feet of film was also exposed at the 4th Bn. Dinner at the Dungowan.

After the film it was free and easy with good entertainment by our old Anzac Day friends, the Parramatta Pipe Band.

Thanks

I feel that at this stage a little space should be set aside to thank the following for contributing towards a good night:

1. Our official guests and friends of the 4th Bn.
2. L. W. Evans, Sec. Parramatta Caledonian Pipe Band and members, who provided good entertainment.
3. The Chatswood-Willoughby R.S.L. Club, who kindly provided the projector for the showing of the film, thus saving us a big expense.
4. Bill Lane and Jack Sharp, Chatswood-Willoughby Club, who gave their own time to operate the machine.
5. A.T.N. Channel 7, who made the film available.
6. The management and staff of the Royal Naval House for catering and services supplied.
7. To the members who attended and so made the night a success.
8. Last, but far from least, the President and Committee, who put so much work into organising the night.

I don't think it is necessary to mention the names of our own men present, owing to space. (Some may have been A.W.L. and I would not like to top them off.)

The grand finale of the night was the showing of a film which started off with a poor reception but it was not long before the old familiar cries were heard: "Sit down in front!" "Move your head!" and "Sit down, I can't see!" etc.

Jackpot question for the month was what was the film about? Wrong, it was a travel talk on Bali.

Stop Press

"Starver" Jack Pearce came to light during the night with some "Buckshee" cigarettes. As these are the first thing the old "Q" bloke has ever been known to give away, it caused some comment. Jack insists these are the genuine White over Green — 2/4th Bn. cigarettes. The packet does feature the Battalion's colours and the smokes were very good.

Jack gave us a spiel about the quality of the cigarettes and one point I remember was that it is the "first cigarette that breathes". (Enough said, no free commercials in this paper.) A few of the cigarettes were sampled and the majority were passed over to the treasurer for issue to the boys in hospital.

Our thanks to the manufacturer who kindly donated them. (I knew there was a catch, Jack still has not given anything away, as they were given to him "Buckshee".)

Brooklyn Cottage "Nominee Quartis"

While the 4th Bn. 1914-18 is fresh in your minds I feel it is a suitable time to mention he remarks of their Secretary, Bede Keary, re the above cottage.

As our friends are not using the cottage very often, he suggests that our members avail themselves of the opportunity to occupy same.

We all know that a vacant house soon falls to pieces and the more it is used the better it weathers.

Anyone wishing to spend an inexpensive holiday on the Hawkesbury River I suggest they contact the Sec., Ron Barber, for full details. It is a self-contained unit and all you have to provide is food and a small donation and the laundry bill when leaving. The cottage is large enough to accommodate the average family with a little to spare.

Don't let this opportunity slip through your fingers, book now and avoid disappointment later.

RESULT OF GUESSING COMPETITION

1st Prize, No. 1345, G. Coles, 11 Carey Avenue, Wallerawang. 2nd Prize, No. 6806, N. J. Wilkinson, 47 O'Connor Street, Haberfield. 3rd Prize, No. 1199, John Roberts, 12 Queen Street, Botany. 4th Prize, No. 2707, Con Grove, 31 Irwin Street, Kyogle.

The winning tickets were drawn by Mr. Evans of the Parramatta Caledonian Pipe Band. George Cole, upon being advised of his win, replied: "Am I surprised. It's the first thing I've ever won. Who pulled out the tickets? It wasn't Slim Desmond, was it? Keep your eye on the lottery results now I've got started."

I regret that the result was not published in the "S.M.H." as stated on the tickets. The results have been published at least in the five previous years, but unexpectedly this year the "S.M.H." explained that they could not accept the advertisement. Although I regretted this, it left me in a position where I was unable to do anything about it. I hope the results published in W.O.G. will be adequate for those members and supporters who made the competition the greatest success ever.

Ron Barber.

Capt. D. Wren, who is on leave from New Guinea, has offered his services in the compilation of the Official History of the 2/4 Inf. Battalion. These services have been accepted with thanks, and David has been co-opted to the committee to liaison and work on this project.

W. Duffy (ex A Coy.) of Bonville St., Urunga, would like the addresses of Sid Furness and Jackie Douglas.

From Vince Sparkes: "Please find enclosed £5. £3 for subs. and £2 to cover ticket butts which I had overlooked returning and feel I'd like the money for these to be a self-imposed fine." Many thanks, Vince.

Dave Endean hopes to be in Sydney over Xmas and New Year.

Peter Cade can now be contacted at 19 La Boheme Ave., Caringbah.

From A. Harradine donation of 10/- and subs. Many thanks, Arthur.

Bill Irvine reports: "I have been rather busy lately working on an Atlantic petrol station, which I am building on over property adjoining the Princes Highway. It will be the first on the left approaching Orbost from the N.S.W. side. I don't know how it will be, but it should grow as the tourist traffic is increasing every day." Best of luck, Bill, there is not much room left in Sydney for cars now, so they'll have to spill out somewhere. (Ed.)

R. A. Perram reports a visit from Charlie Reynolds. They had quite a long pow-wow over events in Germany and the Middle East. However, he hopes Charlie will drop in again some time in the future when he hasn't a house full of friends.

BATTALION PHOTOGRAPHIC COLLECTION

Dear Ed,

Received from "Sailor" Harvey (Keith) six snaps, with information on back. (Good work, "Sailor") 5 are of Palestine 1940-1, 1 of Japan; 1 "Sailor" wearing steel helmet, holding rifle, donkey in distance; 2 "Sailor" and Bill Irwin (killed in Greece) in summer uniform sitting among equipment, men, stacked rifles,

hut in background; 3 Elliott Schofield and "Sailor" sitting on bed in tent. "Sailor" is holding a cake with two small flags stuck in it, glass and beer bottle on ground but I can't define the brand. 4 another of "Sailor" on his own, in same position, holding cake. 5 Elliott and Keith doing their washing in buckets outside tent, bag of empties at back, Nesseratt. 6 is one of "Blue" Hayles (D Coy.) taken outside Ebisu Camp, Tokyo, Japan. Sign on building 66 Aust. Inf. Bn. Thanks, Keith, I won't request you to do the Sailor's Windpipe again.

From Reg Cole, at September Meeting. Nine snapshots, 7 standard size, 2 small ones, with names and information on back (that's how I like 'em). 1 of Palestine, 5 of Syria, 3 of Darwin. 1 Reg Cole in summer garb, holding Battalion Mascot, a brown and white dog, Palestine. 2 Now Syria, a party of boys clearing away the snow from around the tent. Sam McCready, Tex Richards, Wally Taylor, Sid Croker, Jim Brown, Jim Coombes, Keith Costello. 3 A group erecting barb-wire in the snow, Jack Blacklock, Charlie Groves, Bill Poplin, Les Barker, Herb Murphy, Claude Ellem. 4 Party of chaps taken after a day's work. George Martin, Jack Pearce, Mick Doherty, Limmy Mack Brown, Brownie Laurence, Allan Shanahan. 5 Sammy McCready holding pet dog, men, tent and snow in background. 6 Dick Westwood standing outside tent. 7 Soldier standing in a large Jap bomb crater outside Darwin, at R.A.A.F. Drome, Jan. 10th, '43. Some say it is Geoff Hawke. The two smaller snaps are of Norm Johnson in Darwin standing on rack, near rees and leaning against a hut. Thanks, Reg.

Also met Bill Rielly and he has promised to come to a meeting and bring photos.

Cock Robin.

MONTHLY MEETING

The next monthly meeting will be held at the Royal Naval House, Grosvenor Street, City, on the first Friday in December which, according to my book of dates, is the fourth day of the month. Again the President has arranged for a guest speaker, who will be Mr. Newington, War Compensation Officer for the R.S.L., and should be able to give you all the perks re war pensions and claims. As this is the last meeting for 1959 we are expecting a bumper roll up, so come along and help swell the crowd.

Hospital List

Latest information, 5th Nov.

Ray Robinson	Ward 53
Jack Mooney	" 7
Ernie Tarr	" 210

Out of hospital — Wally Brooks.

Sick at home — Johnnie Morrisson, neumonia, who, incidently, apologises for the Smoko.

THE SECRETARY'S MAILBAG

Telegram Roy Moores: "Proud to say happy birthday, 2/4th Bn."

Would you please thank all members of the Association for the ties, which we think are fabulous. We shall certainly wear them with pride, and we know that Mum will feel like taking us out, wearing them. We think it is wonderful of you to have done this for us. Brian and Peter Watts.

I am forwarding a note herewith from Brian and Peter. I took the ties out to them on Saturday last and they were both thrilled with them. Would you please thank all the boys of the 2/4th on my behalf for the special honour given to my boys. This I very much appreciate, realising as I do the rules, regulations, etc., you must have had to by-pass or alter. All the best to you all always. Kath Watts.

Please find enclosed postal note to the value of 10/6 for subs. There are not many members of the 2/4th Bn. around here. Jimmy Brownjohn from the Sigs. and a chap by the name of Smedley who used to be in H.Q. Coy. wishes to be remembered to all the boys, especially "Curly" Day. Best wishes to all the boys and if any of "Don" Coy. are passing through Lithgow, I would only be too pleased to see them. E. "Snow" Morgan.

Subs from: Frank Wright, who suggests a different colour wrapper for unfinancial members instead of the little memo. slip. Subs 1959-60.

H. C. Greedy, subs 1959-60.

Dave Endean, subs 1959-60.

H. S. Conkey, subs 1959.

There is also a large number of letters from members returning guessing competition butts and moneys, and these will be acknowledged in a later issue along with other supporters of the competition.

Subs., Changes of Address, etc.

Perc Dalla, 37 Phillip Ave., Wagga.

John Meehan, for six months, c/- Davis Gelatine (N.Z.) Ltd., Christchurch, New Zealand.

Literary contributions should be sent to Fred Staggs. Changes of address to the Secretary, and subs, donations, etc., to the Treasurer.

President: Cec Chrystal, 24 The Battlement, Castle-crag. XL1993.

Vice-President: Fred Staggs, 18 Bundarra Avenue, Wahroonga. JW3411.

Secretary: Ron Barber, c/- Mosman Post Office, Mosman.

Treasurer: Fred Searle, 31 Griffith Ave., West Ryde. WY4905.

TRAVELLERS' TALES (Cont.)

Alf Carpenter

The old tub was late as usual in arriving at Aden, for we did not tie up at the buoys until 1.30 a.m. There are no wharf facilities and ships tie up at mooring buoys fore and aft. Floating pipelines and lighters are used to replenish the supplies of oil and water.

The familiar Aden skyline of rugged rocky peaks stretching high into the night sky was presented before our eyes as we moved into the shallow harbour. We went to bed early and had a few hours sleep and were up again to see the entrance to the harbour. All passengers seemed anxious to get ashore for no matter how entertaining life is aboard, after fifteen days it is good to get some land underfoot, even if it is at 2 a.m. and in as desolate place as Aden, for it is said that it only rains once in every fifty years. The ferries were soon alongside and we piled in to go ashore. The shops, which depend entirely on ship trade for a living, open whenever there is a ship in port, no matter what the hour.

I was not surprised to see the same red-headed, red-bearded port master at the port post office. No doubt he will still be remembered by those who have passed through Aden. It is part of the trading at Aden to put prices up a couple of pounds above their value and then let the customer bargain the price down. In this way the customer thinks he gets a bargain and the storekeeper is quite satisfied. But as Aden is a duty-free port prices are very cheap. Cameras, field glasses, transistor radios, nylon shirts, typewriters, etc., can be purchased at a big saving. The familiar shops, Solomons and Coy., etc., are still on the job. Having looked over the port, we decided to get a taxi and go the six miles into the crater city of Aden. Bartering with the taxi driver over the price, after picking a slightly honest one (very hard to do as far as "Wogs" go), we got an assurance of a price and off into Aden we went. All along the road (newly constructed with divided traffic) new buildings are being built — Air Force barracks, new shopping centres, hotels, etc. All Government sponsored, I was told. How anyone could choose to live in such a desolate hole I will never know.

Anyone who has not been to the East gets quite a shock on seeing the inhabitants sleeping on the footpaths, in doorways, or any other place that may offer sufficient room to stretch out. The fortunate may have

a rug wrapped around them and the real rich may have a stretcher bed, but others just lay down and sleep in what are their worldly possessions (their clothes), white pantaloons and white shawl cloak, or I should say they were white many years ago. Filth and squalor go hand in hand and the stench of these unfortunate wretches takes some getting used to.

I invited Mrs. Carpenter to come in and have a cup of coffee, but she most definitely declined the offer and preferred to suffer her headache caused from lack of nourishment. We had had enough of the Arab Quarter by 5 a.m. and rounded up Saaid, our taxi driver, to take us back to the port. Dawn was just breaking as we returned and after another argument over the fares thrust some money into his hand and dismissed him.

We were glad to leave the ship but as glad to be back on board again. The "Bum Boats" had taken up their position and were endeavouring to make sales to those who were sorry they did not get this or that ashore. The sun rising behind the peaks made a glorious picture and I got the camera out and took a few slides of these characteristics which are Aden.

The port was full of ships, from passengers to Arab dhows. Tankers streamed in and out and all around was an air of activity. Big refineries have been built and tucked away amongst the peaks in pockets of flat land where the temperature soars up to 125 degrees. Again and again I say, who would choose to live here? (To be continued.)

J. M. Morrisson:—

Dear Ron,

Time is catching up with me, just fifteen days and I will be among you again. Work a distressing thought.

Will you please book me in for Cootamundra. I had a letter from Peter, but as he will be in the throes of preparing for his life sentence, I thought you would make the arrangements.

America was a pleasant surprise for me. Our trip was much too hurried. Will have to do it again sometime. Visited New York, Washington, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto and Niagara Falls, a really magnificent sight, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Vancouver. It was as humid as February at its worst right through America, even in Vancouver. It was quite a relief to get to sea and a cool change.

Honolulu, Thursday, 7 a.m. Leave midnight. Still don't know what night you meet at Navy House. Will have to wait until I get home. Tell Peter I received the letter informing me about returned letters, especially the one costing 5/6. Would have been better to buy a lottery ticket. Still, Peter's got plenty NOW. 15/9/59. Cheerio, Jack.