



White over Green

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE 2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Anzac Day for 1959 has passed and what a glorious day it was for our Association as well as a great thrill for your executive to see the excellent roll up, and the enthusiastic feeling of Comradeship which was so evident throughout the day.

We were greatly honoured this year, being led by our beloved Patron, "Our Doc", and our sincere thanks and appreciation go to the boys of the Parramatta Caledonian Pipe Band for once again heading our column and entertaining us afterwards at the Coronet. Our thanks also go to Mrs. Iriotis of the Coronet who catered so well for us under great difficulties.

We paid our usual visit to the Original 4th Bn. at their luncheon and they did us honour in a very sincere welcome and toast to the 2/4 Bn. Later a number of the boys called on us, led by their stalwart President, Jerry Gerrard. No doubt Fred Staggs will enlighten you as to why Jerry was wearing a 2/4 tie, and introduced as the "self appointed Honorary Colonel of the 2/4 Bn."

The march was excellent, and many great compliments have been paid to us on our turnout and bearing, and of course the uniformity brought about with the great number of Unit ties which were so prominent.

My personal thanks are extended to all Office Bearers who toiled so hard and so willingly all day. They did a sterling job and I know all in attendance will agree with me on that point. I know also that they were well rewarded for their efforts in seeing everyone have such a wonderful day.

We look forward to next year with renewed vigour and with the future arrangements we have in hand regarding accommodation for our Country Members, it is hoped we will see lots more of them in the future.

Once again my thanks to all for your help and support and my congratulations on such a successful Anzac Day.

—Cecil Chrystal.

THE SECRETARY'S MAILBAG

Don Taylor (Canberra) has seen a couple of the boys recently, Len Goodwin and Jack Huston. He tried to talk Jack into coming down for Anzac Day but he couldn't get away.

And from the old Horse Doctor himself we get subs. for two years and cheque for the tie and best wishes to the Association. Jack hopes to be with us next Anzac Day.

A Telegram: "Anzac Day greetings to Major-General Dougherty and all members of the 2/4th Battalion Association from Bill Sumpter, Tolga".

A brief note from Pat Galvin, Treasurer of the Old Fourth, enclosing some books of tickets, a swag of which we are pleased to say we sold before the deadline.

Also from the Old Fourth: from the Secretary, Bede Keary, came an invitation for 2/4th representation at their luncheon at the Quo Vadis on Anzac Day. This invitation was definitely accepted. (See elsewhere in this issue for a full report.)

Mick Green forgot to sell his tickets for our last Guessing Competition but sent back the books plus a donation covering the tickets, also sent subs. for two years. (That's the way we like it!) Written just before Anzac Day, Mick was on holidays, and was proceeding in the wrong direction to be with us on Anzac Day; was going to the Grenfell District. He says: "I see a few of the boys in Grafton now and again — Leo Lynch, Pat Gleeson, Keith Lindeman — and they are all going strong. By the way, I work at the Jaccaranda Hotel and if any WOGS are passing through Grafton, though I don't drink myself, I will be willing to shout for them."

Anzac Day Cable: "Greetings from London. Mallett and Morrison." (Self explanatory, chaps.)

Seems to have been raining a bit up Collarenebri way according to C. Scully. He sends a message to Sid George also (see Missing Friends section) and also best wishes to the Association, and cash for the Badge.

From D. Anderson (Parramatta) comes cash for tie and subs.

"One Punch" Adams sends two years subs. and cash for the tie.

Letter to Fred Staggs

Congratulations to the President and best wishes to all come from Duncan Russell (Brisbane), also subs. and a donation. Please excuse the delay in WOG, acknowledging your letter, Duncan. Got a bit fouled up along the line somewhere.

Subs. from Ted Fox (Castlecrag).

Another of us that is in the world tour class is Cliff Curran (Stockton). He's the most secretive of the lot, he managed to get away and back again and confess before we city slickers knew about it! That's what we call good security. He reports that Ray Robinson recently returned from New Zealand had gone home to Stockton before going into Concord. (He's since been discharged.) Cliff sends cheque for subs. and Association tie.

Cheque for subs. and tie from Joe Bohle (New Lambton) also and best wishes to the Association.

Tom Clarke (Dorroughy, via Lismore) sends cheque for tie and subs. Tom suggests that the next Battalion Country Re-union be held in Lismore. What about some support from you Murwillumbah, Tweed Heads and Kyogleites and some suggestions on what and where? A welcome to any ex-2/4th-ers on the first Friday night of each month at the South Lismore R.S.L. Alan Kirk and Tom will be your hosts.

Bill Wall sends subs. and a postcard for Jim Robin's collection. Bill went Walkabout last year and covered a lot of ground where the Battalion had been in South Australia and the N.T. and New Guinea. He has more snaps available to Cock if he wants them, including one of Crafers Hotel and the Adelaide River and Port Moresby War Cemeteries. He was running too late to get a snap of the old camp site at the Adelaide River but seems to have got a fair collection, nevertheless.

Sailor Worthington (Old Junee) who hasn't been the fittest of late sends us a brief note with best wishes for Anzac Day.

A brief note from Kathe Watts, enclosing some documentary and material from Harry's papers. Thanks Mrs. Watts.

Subs. and cash for the tie from Fred Burke (Long Jetty).

George Bindley wasn't in the best of health for a week or so prior to Anzac Day so that's why we didn't see him. Sends cheque for the tie and best regards to the boys.

From King Island, Bill Hamilton writes of meeting Ken Moses during his recent visit to Melbourne. It was the first meeting since 1941. Dare say they had a fair bit to talk about. It paid dividends too: Bill kicked in with his subs. Also on King Island is Ray Ford. Bill says that there are about 150 soldier settlers on the island of the "1939-45 brew" and it seems to be a pretty good place. Bill is Senior Vice-President of the local R.S.L. and his wife is president of the ladies' Auxiliary. Anzac Day there is just as big as it is anywhere else. Did you go down Ken Moses? What about a report? A couple of ties are on their way to King Island for Bill and Ray Ford.

Re Ross Ellerman's letter of last issue. It has been

pointed out by several people that Jimmy Brown is not the Battalion first M.P. One horsey member pointed out that Brig. Cox was home and hosed before Jimmy lined up at the barrier. However, no harm done and thanks to all who put us straight.

[WE PAUSE FOR A MOMENT FOR A WORD FROM YOUR SPONSOR — **THE JUNE MEETING IS B COY. NIGHT** — DID YOU GET THAT, BOOF WILSON?]

SNAPSHOTS

Dear Editor,

Acknowledging 83 snaps and photos recently received; will detail and describe later. Letter from "Slim" Pollock, enclosed 2 snaps from Bill Irvine (C) Coy., Box 23, Orbost. At General Meeting Ces. Chrystal: 5 photos, 1 post card size 4 snapshots. Dick Pinson: 1 postcard size photo. Received at Re-union: "Soccer" Coombes: 1 postcard size photo. W. Parry: 1 snapshot given him by George Stack, who described it. Harry Nicholls: 2 postcard photos of troops. Bill Wall: 1 postcard. Jack Bell: 19 standard size snaps, including album, 8 smaller ones. Percy Lane: 3 postcard size photos, 3 smaller ones, 7 snapshots. John Harrison, of Warradale, S. Aust.: 3 pages from album, 30 snaps, were posted to Ken Royal at Cremorne, who delivered them to me. Many thanks to these chaps. I would like to express appreciation for the manner in which they have been good enough to give up these photos, no doubt many of them treasured possessions, in order to assist the Association to build up a photographic history of the Battalion. I also wish to thank Dick Morris for large leather attache case which he has given to carry the albums in. I just mentioned casually that I was going to buy one so he presented one of his together with new clips and locks he had bought.

"Cock" Robin.

MISSING FRIENDS

CHARLIE SCULLY (Collarenebri) is looking for S. George's address. Dig out that pen, Sid, just in case we haven't got it.

LAST POST

The Association regrets to hear of the death of two of the Battalion.

Johnny Hallwood and Ron Clark of Inverell. Ron, who had been in poor health for some time, passed away 16th April.

The Association extends its sympathy to the relatives of these men.

SUBS., CHANGES OF ADDRESS, Etc.

Literary contributions should be sent to the Editor. Changes of address should be sent to the Secretary.

Subscriptions, etc., should be sent to the Treasurer.

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June's Monthly Meeting will be held in Grosvenor Street, as advertised by circular from the President, on 6th June (D Day). If in doubt, please ring any of the above telephone numbers.

The Committee are requested to attend earlier as arranged for despatching of Association business.

THIS MONTH'S BEAUTIFUL THOUGHT

"A singer that has his voice under control is the singer that DOESN'T sing every time he's asked."
—The Buckshee Philosopher.

SICK PARADE

Sid Turner, Ward 420.

THE JUNE MEETING IS "B" COMPANY NIGHT—
THAT MEANS YOU, FRED HUDSON!!

THE JUNE MEETING IS "B" COY. NIGHT—JIM HARDY, YOU **ARE** TO ATTEND. IF YOU HAVE ANOTHER ENGAGEMENT—**TEAR IT UP!!**

MONTHLY DOINGS

The first meeting in our new locale was quite successful though a little lighter than usual as regards numbers.

The highlight of the meeting was the donation of £100 to the Association by Mary Pickford. As reported elsewhere in this issue, Mary (Ern) won the lottery recently and his very generous donation to the Association is very much appreciated. Mary, you are now a Life Member of just about the oldest and best of the Second World War Associations.

Newly inaugurated at this meeting was the Hospital Comforts Box. Fred Searle has charge of this department and this is more or less the idea. We don't intend to dun you for money. It's just a box in which you toss threepence or a penny or two ha'pennies or sixpence to buy tobacco, cigarettes, etc., for any of the 2/4th that are in hospital. Of course they're not impoverished but they are us, and of us, and during our regular visits to those in hospital we think that it would be good to give out small comforts that were personally and especially subscribed to by individual members.

Another new Life Member is Don Anderson (Parramatta).

[BY THE WAY CHAPS—HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN? THE JUNE MEETING IS "B" COY. NIGHT.]

We have in the process of being lined up, a few

guest speakers at our meetings. These will not be dry bla-bla-bla talks but talks by men who knew and know now what they are talking about. We can't list any of them as yet because nothing is finalised. However, we will let you know in due course.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN VISITOR (AND MEMBER)

The Association was very pleased to welcome to the April Meeting on Anzac Eve, Ken Royal, of the South Australian section of us. Ken was passing through on holidays and made it his business to be in Sydney around Anzac Day. He attended the meeting and the March and re-union on Anzac Day, and we were pleased to give him a right Royal (sorry) welcome.

M&B

We are pleased to announce that another one has been marched in for discipline and rations to the Cole household. Pommy's the proud poppa and it's a boy, David. Congratulations to all three. February 5th was the date.

THE HAPPY WANDERINGS

This month we were supposed to start giving account of the travels of our two happy wanderers, Johnny Morrison and Alfie Carpenter, but, gee whizz, there's no space left. Hang on, it will definitely appear in June's issue.

ANZAC DAY

There was quite a good roll up for the wreath laying ceremony at 0815 hrs. The wreath, as of previous years, was donated by Fred and Mrs. Searle. We moved off on time (I think) behind the Old Fourth and though we did get tangled up with the 1st Div. Engineers a little we were in position at the bottom of Barrack Street and stayed put behind the Old Boys until they turned off to their F.U.P. for the march proper, that is after we had laid our wreaths.

We had a good number for the general march too. As far as we know there was no attempt to count them but it must have been around the three hundred mark, which is better than previous years.

The Committee dropped out of the march quietly at Park Street and went off to prepare for the luncheon. The luncheon, also, was better attended than last year; in fact it looked for a while that we weren't going to have seats enough. However, we all squeezed in.

There were many notable faces and we won't attempt to enumerate them all. However, those seen at the March or at the re-union or both include Johnny Lane (at as ever), Mary Pickford (who has had a divvy out of the State Lottery—£12,000, no less), Teddy Hopkins and as skinny as he was last

year. All the regular Anzac Day shower-uppers were there too: Blah Smith, Lescar Roach, Norm Johnstone, Bill Parry and Johnny Reynolds, etc.

A notable country chap whom we haven't seen for quite a while was Stan Blacksley who was at the meeting the previous night also. Stan had recently seen a lot of the Griffith gang, including Ted Swadling, Fred Driscoll, Jack Hamilton, Carr Balthazzer, Bert Poyner, Fred Apthorp, Keith Ross from Temora, and Jack Bradford.

Top marks to our old stalwart—Padre "Paddy" Reid. He fell in as usual but was not able to march the full distance because he was on duty at noon at the Cathedral. Nevertheless, his duty done, he came back to join the boys at the "Coronet".

ODD REPORTS: Says Wally Lambourne: George Moore has made a packet over the last ten seasons and is now retiring. By the way George was smiling when this statement was made we are dubious as to its accuracy.

There was a report last Anzac Day that Sailor was passing around the very same packet of cigarettes that he offered around in 1957. We had a spy on him this year and that statement is definitely not true of this year. This year he just wasn't passing around anything! He did, however, bring a couple of visitors: two sailors with Korean ribbons who were made very welcome.

Apart from Sailor the two fattest blokes at the turnout were Johnny Lane and Charlie Groves who was down from Kyogle.

As of previous years, Billy Parry donated a grand amount of Vincent's A.P.C.'s (for the morning after), of which Fred Staggs took charge and opened the R.A.P. issuing centre.

We have in the Editors' little black book here, a few disjointed notes that are supposed to ring a bell but they don't.

The first says that "Troop Starver" Jack Pearce met Les Buckler but where and when and what transpired eludes us at the moment.

The next one is "Grahame and Searle with Mrs. Aereotis". Can't remember what that's about either. These chaps couldn't be associated with monkey business but there must have been a story in it somewhere.

Next: "Winston Walker as R.S.M." That's for sure!

Major-General Dougherty, who led us in the march (for which we feel flattered, because he's entitled to lead a bigger formation than a battalion), addressed the gathering after everybody had eaten. Everybody shut up and everybody heard what he said. Unfortunately, Staggs or Waterworth sent my pencil off prior to this and no notes were taken. However, he had a very rousing reception and the President's call for three cheers was well and truly complied with.

At the invitation of the Old Fourth, four of us visited them during their Re-union in "Quo Vadis" in Martin Place. We, who represented the 2/4th,

were Cec Chrystal (President), Fred Staggs (Vice-President), Dick Morris and Peter Cade. The two of the "Old Boys" on their door were lousy forward scouts as we got to within five yards of them before they spotted us. However, the President, Gerry Gerrard, introduced us and we were at home.

Bede Keary (Secretary) proposed the toast to the visitors and remarked on the close affiliation of the '14-'18 Fourth and the 2/4th, and made flattering comments on our Association ties.

Cec Chrystal responded nobly and thanked Bede for his kind remarks and hoped that we would be able to carry on with the same clan and tenacity of purpose as the "Old Firm" are doing. There is a standing invitation to the "Old Boys" to attend our meetings and Cec re-issued this invitation for them to attend at our new meeting place.

Amongst those also present at the Old Fourth were, of course, Pat Galvin, Jack Noakes, R. L. Burton, Bill Brennan and Harry Burrows, who send their regards to all, and Pat O'Keefe and many others. Incidentally, Pat whose birthday it was, was on T.V. that night wearing the Old Fourth tie and was ably supported by Ebbie Dunn.

Most of the above paid a reciprocal visit to our turnout later on in the day. Amongst them was Tom Gorman's uncle so one little section of it developed into a family affair.

Cec Chrystal, John Copland and Bluey Peake paid an unofficial visit to the '39-'45 4th Bn. A.I.F. who were having their re-union on the floor above us. The three of them batted the breeze with several of the fourth, including Clive Neville, one time C.O. of the 4th.

The Parramatta Caledonian Pipe Band who always lead us in the march, were represented at the luncheon and afterwards they gave us a few selections, which was much appreciated.

We forgot to mention that Fred Staggs lost his Association tie somewhere between the time he went into the Old Boys' re-union and when he came out. Later on in the day Jerry Gerrard was seen to be wearing something very similar. He sort of borrowed it we think.

All in all it was a pretty good day. There were well over two hundred at the re-union and a good attendance at the march. Eight nines and millions of bottles were disposed of at the luncheon and if there are any complaints we'd certainly like to hear them.

During the visit to the Old Fourth Cec Chrystal drew their raffle. Not one 2/4th subscriber's name did he pull out of the hat but, however, here are the prizewinners:

1st Prize: Mantel Radio, No. 1193, Mrs. K. Ryan, 185 Evans Street, ROZELLE.

2nd Prize: Electric Iron, No. 6850, Mr. P. O'Keefe, 375 Great North Road, FIVEDOCK.

3rd Prize: Electric Toaster, No. 5911, Mr. J. R. Wills, 29 Highland Avenue, WAHROONGA.