



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. CRYSTAL, E.D.

Editors: PETER CADE, FRED STAGGS

Vice-President: FRED STAGGS

Vol. 14, No. 7

Price, 5½d.

JULY 1, 1959

THE SECRETARY'S MAILBAG

Arthritis of the wrist has broken out badly again chaps! Very few letters of this month and that's bad for business.

Don Taylor has shifted camp; still living in Canberra though, at Flat 23, Lachlan Court, Barton.

Due to his travelling around, Ross Ellerman just missed the July meeting but whilst in Broken Hill he called on member, John Robertson and his wife Dawn, both of whom made me extremely welcome. They entertained me to dinner at their home and I was able to reciprocate with a couple of drinks at my hotel. Incidentally, John has been off the hard stuff for eighteen months! I understand that John and Dawn are great friends of Fred Burke (now at Long Jetty").

There you are, Fred; if you haven't already got it, their address is 201 Chloride Street, Broken Hill.

Incidentally, John, we have one of the 2/11th boys up your way who is pretty sick. He is Rusty Hollow and if you could find time to look him up and see how he's going we and Gordon Moray of the 2/11th would appreciate it. His address is Cobalt Street, Broken Hill.

Bill Reaney has been missing out on a WOG or two. Sorry Bill, don't think it's our fault. However, the situation has been rectified. Hope to see you at the August meeting.

Comes now a burst from some bloke called Sailor Harvey, written on long strips of paper. (No! You're wrong again.) "For many years now I have promised myself a visit to Canberra to stay, especially to see the War Memorial which, up to this date, I have only passed.

"I spent the Queen's Birthday week-end this year at Canberra. The day I arrived was a bleak day. Blizzards and snow in Canberra; the snow was not that heavy but nevertheless, snow, a rarity in Canberra. The cadets of Duntroon had a bleak day for the Ceremony in honour of the Queen's Birthday. The G.G. Sir William Slim had to wear his overcoat at the inspection of the cadets Guard of Honour.

"The War Memorial was to me a wonderful place. I am sure everyone should try and see it at some

time, all the thousand and one things would take weeks not hours.

"I was very pleased to read of the exploits of some of our Battalion on Crete and to read under the exhibit of a parachutist's belt buckle that it had been donated by Brian Rolfe who collected it in Crete from the Nazi himself, Capt. Rolfe himself being later killed in New Guinea. The bravery of our one and only V.C., McKenna, was mentioned also at great length.

"Could not make Cootamundra because I travelled a different way, but wrote the Crowe Boy from Canberra before I fell into bed, tired. Tired, man, don't misquote me."

Through Sailor we hear from Jim Crowe too. For those who didn't know (we didn't) Jim is a starter at the races in Canberra. It seems that a passel of the Coota boys are pretty keen to have the Country Re-union there again this year. "We would like the Re-union here again this year and you can rest assured we will again look after you and will make it a bigger and brighter show than the previous year."

To this date, Jim, we can't say that we have been flooded with offers of organising the "Do" in any other district, so it could be Cootamundra at that, but that's in the hands of the Committee.

Here's one that really concerns everybody and we print the text in full: "Would you be kind enough to inform me if there has been any attempt to write a history of the 2/4th. If not would it be possible to obtain the assistance of the men who were in the unit so as to make the story one hundred per cent correct?"

"I might add at this stage that my father was a member of the unit, Les Leech (Lizard Leech).

"I think that with the co-operation of the members a good seller could be produced and the proceeds divided so that one third of the proceeds could go towards the establishment of a fund to assist the ill and needy ex-members.

Thanking you in anticipation of your kind co-operation

I remain, etc., etc.,

Robt. L. Leech.

How about that, Chaps? We think it concerns chiefly those of us who have always been going to do something about it but haven't made it yet. Members know, of course, that such a fund as Mr. Leech suggests, is already in existence.

Well boys, the war's been over fifteen years and we haven't a published history yet. WELL!

TRAVELLER'S TALES

From Johnny Morrison (continued):

"Really meant to see Port Said on leaving but yes, you are right: woke up in mid-Mediterranean; cold too. We passed on the southern side of Crete and all I can say is how fortunate we were in the old Battalion that we did not have to climb over the snow covered peaks and join the navy or what have you on this most inhospitable coast. From the ship it looked most spectacular but I should imagine as a fugitive from the Hun it would have its drawbacks.

"The Straights of Messina are very narrow, villages being visible from both sides of the ship. In fact our course at times was only a quarter of a mile off shore. The nearest point has an overhead cable from Italy to Sicily. Our next point of interest was Mt. Stromboli, an isolated peak stuck in the middle of the Mediterranean. There's a village on each end of the island with the active volcano towering over them."

And from Alf Carpenter (continued):

"Morning found us off the Victorian coast, still putting into a heavy land swell but with clear skies. Deck games were the order of the day and a few fast sets of deck tennis and the taste of salt on our lips made the appetites very keen. Meals aboard are quite good but one has to acquire a taste for Italian cooking. A young lad from Trieste soon put us wise to the necessary garnishings for the different courses. Grated cheese with soup, oil and vinegar with salads and meats, all washed down with glasses of vino or sour red wine which is supplied in large decanters for lunch and dinner. The language difficulty is a slight disadvantage, but with the waiter's little English, our very limited Italiano and much gesticulating we make the grade.

"Pictures are shown after dinner in the forward lounge on most nights. To-night we are having horse racing and for those who don't wish to gamble a dance will be provided at the 'Verandah Bar'.

"Also on board are a team of Spanish dancers whom we were privileged to see on a few occasions on television. We are hoping for a performance from them before the journey is completed.

"A young lad who is a school teacher going to England for a working holiday tells me of the mixed nationalities in his cabin. There is an American going to Spain, just because he has never been there. A Dutchman visiting his home after eight years in Australia. An Irishman who worked for five

years straight on the Snowy Scheme going to visit his homeland. He was most emphatic that he hasn't found a country as good as Australia and he has travelled most of the world. Next, a German, also a Snowy worker, going home for a holiday and also a cockney who found Australia not to his liking."

(Both articles to be continued)

AUGUST 7th IS "C" COMPANY NIGHT, BOYS.
WE WANT A GOOD ROLL UP!

LITTLE BITS FROM HERE AND THERE

Roy Hobman (Penshurst), ex A Coy., was seen in the local the other day taking in some nourishment. Both he and Stan Deevey, also a local, wish to be remembered to the boys.

Dick Bawden after a few spells in hospital has had to give the garage away and is now breeding poultry just out of Mudgee. He looks O.K.

Dick Morris met Bob Ferguson recently. Bob is a draughtsman at the G.P.O.

Tony Parkinson, Superintendent of Royal Naval House, will have a chance to renew acquaintances with General Dougherty at the August meeting. Tony was in H.M.A.S. Gascoyne when it took the General when he was Brigadier of the Twenty-first Brigade into Macassar just after the war.

Dining with Smiling Jim Grahame has some advantages even if Jim does get them all. A disarming boyish smile had our table wiped down in no time. A few more volts from his electric personality brought extra butter without asking (but only for him!) He got all the kind smiles, too; I got on with my dinner, I couldn't compete against all that charm.

BATTLE HONOURS

We have received notice from the Army that Battle Honours are being awarded. These are to be emblazoned on the Regimental Colours with the present 4th Bn. C.M.F. Roughly speaking this is the situation: We as a recognised unit association are authorised to select a maximum of ten Battle Honours from a total of sixteen for which the 2/4th qualifies. The 4th Bn. A.I.F. ('39-'45) will do the same though they only qualify for two, one of which is common to both units, i.e., "The Liberation of Australian New Guinea". So it means that if the 4th get both of the Honours we will have nine on the Colours, including the one that is common to both. We have formed a sub-committee for the purpose of selecting our Honours. This selection will be forwarded to the Colonel in Chief of the 4th Bn. C.M.F. as will those of the 4th Bn. ('39-'45) and we presume that he will do the final selecting. On the face of it, it must turn out that a minimum of nine Battle Honours earned by the 2/4th Bn. will eventually appear on the Colours with a maximum of two for the 4th.

COUNTRY RE-UNION

The Country Reunion will be held again this year in Cootamundra. This was decided for the following reasons: That Cootamundra is the only country centre to date that had come up with any concrete proposals. That if it is to be held this year, we must get moving straight away. That last year in spite of other organisations' functions clashing with ours we had a good roll up and the whole show was a great success.

The Reunion will be on Eight Hour week-end and the same booking arrangements, etc., will apply. That is, city members can book through the Secretary of the Association and country members notify Jim Crowe direct at 49 Gundagai Road, Cootamundra. More details, including the programme of activities, we hope to publish in the August issue of W.O.G.

The August Meeting is "C" Company Night!
The August Meeting is "C" Company Night!!
The August Meeting is "C" Company Night!!!

Dear Editor,

I wish to acknowledge the following snaps from members:—

Harry Nicholls, 2 post card photos? Group of 3. Reg Morgan, Vic. Gibson and Harry Nichols very spick and span in summer uniforms. 2nd photo, group of 7. Jack Tully, Ray Johnston, H. Nichols, Danny Karanges, "Dasher" Deacon, George Lowe, "Brick" Hill.

From Billy Parry: 1 snap description by G. Stack, a group looking like stranded mariners, being the following: Tiny Bleakley, Merv Langham, Stan Woods, Greg Holland, Ted Ryan, Gordon Ramage. George Stack taken at Burg el Arab, Dec., 1940, after a big rainstorm, which flooded half the Battalion area and washed away A Coy. Q. Store. From Percy Lane, of Angus Place, via Wallerawang, 13 photos, 10 snaps, 3 post cards. 1 post card at Quastina. Percy Lane, George King (K.I.A., Tobruk, 21-1-41) and Stan Harris among tents at Quastina. Post card of grave of George King at Tobruk in battle area. 1 snap of grave of George King at Acroma after removal from battle area. 3 small snaps: Ted O'Hara fully clothed in pool at Tel Aviv. Jack Marshall in rather thoughtful mood at Jericho. Don Coy. Guard at Gaza. Don Coy. on parade at Julis. 3 of Don Coy. on a bivouac in Hebron Hills, 9 Sect. 18 Pl. after Greek campaign at Khassa. Percy Lane and Pat Constable, Fred O'Hara and Pat Lynch in Hebron Hills. Snap taken in Turkey of Percy Lane, Colin Campbell and Ted Steel, during their escape and return to the Unit at Julis.

Received from Bill Andrews, via "Slim" Pollock, an excellent post card size photo, Squad of 20 C Coy. chaps having instructions around a Lewis Gun at Ingleburn, Nov., 1939. "Slim" has named 17 of these in small print on photo and there are 3 chaps not identified. From left to right they are: Lance

Baker, John Forrester, Ernie Plummer, Reg Ansel, Norm Self, Leo Fling, —?—, —?—, McFarland, Bill Andrews, Stan Bowen, Slim Pollock, —?—, Cliff Price, Joe Gilland, Toby Clarke, John Fallon, Emit Holzical, Des Dalton. Huts in blackground. I am very sorry, Slim and Bill, for the delay; this should have been in last issue; anyhow, many thanks.

Recently I met George Quigley; he wished to be remembered and will try to get along to a meeting and bring "Sailor" Harvey (not our Keith, but one who is also known as "Hambone" Harvey) with him. Both live on North Shore. Albert Innes Fletcher (Trans) promised to come to the next meeting, and I was very pleased to see him turn up as promised. Remember the quip: "A.I.F. is now in the A.I.F." I also met Frank Mallett, whose ship had just returned to Sydney. Frank reported having met Johnny Morrison in London, also Colonel Shepherd. He met Peter Denver in Adelaide, and others in Fremantle and Melbourne. Say Frank, where is that letter you promised with the news?

"Cock" Robin.

SICK PARADE

E. Dobbin Ward 6
 A. Nelson-Slee Ward 5

Discharged recently: Ray Robinson, Peter Cook and Jock Ferguson.

As a backdrop to our usual bare statement as to who is in hospital and who has been discharged, we have a small report from NX 164, one of our "in the background workers" (for want of a more apt phrase).

Here's his report: "Called at R.G.H. on Saturday, 11th July, to see Alan Nelson-Slee. He hopes to be out again soon. He told me that Ted Dobbin was in the next ward. So I moved across to ward 5 and found him. Was pleased to renew an old acquaintance of "A" Coy. Ted works in the Repat. and soldiered on with the C.M.F. and retired with the rank of Captain. He is in R.G.H. now with a touch of the old dysentery wog and getting the full treatment. He is very interested in old comrades and our monthly meetings so I promptly collected £1 from him for Association subs. and one tie. Promises to be a regular attendee at our monthly meetings".

NX 164 was quick off the mark! Fred Searle, our chief forward scout in Concord, went down to spread a bit of cheer but found himself on this occasion, out-scouted.

THE AUGUST MEETING IS "C" COY. NIGHT, CHAPS!

SUBS., CHANGE OF ADDRESS, Etc.

Literary contributions should be sent to the Editors.

Changes of address should be sent to the Secretary.

Subscriptions should be sent to the Treasurer.

President: Cec Chrystal, 24 The Battlements, Castlecrag. XL 1993.

Vice-President: Fred Staggs, 18 Bundarra Avenue, Wahroonga. JW 3441.

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

Treasurer: Fred Searle, 31 Griffith Avenue, West Ryde; WY 4905.

Editors: Peter Cade, 60 Pacific Avenue, Penshurst; LU 6391. Fred Staggs, address as above; JW 3411.

THE AUGUST MONTHLY MEETING WILL BE A "C" COMPANY NIGHT!!!

THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD IN OUR NEW PLACE IN GROSVENOR STREET.

IF IN DOUBT AS TO THE EXACT LOCATION PLEASE RING ONE OF THE ABOVE OR ANY OF THE COMMITTEE.

THE MEETING WILL START PROMPTLY AT 8 P.M.

THE NIGHT, GENTLEMEN, IS FRIDAY, 7th AUGUST, AND WE WANT THE MEETING SWAMPED WITH "C" COMPANY. THIS IS NOT TO THE EXCLUSION OF OTHER COMPANIES, OF COURSE.

GUEST SPEAKER

The Guest Speaker at the August Monthly Meeting will be the Patron of the 2/4th Infantry Battalion Association and Immediate Past President of Sydney Legacy, MAJ.-GEN. I. N. DOUGHERTY. The General will be speaking as the Past President of Legacy and on Legacy. We don't have to emphasise that if the "Doc" has something to say he will say it and get the meaning across, as quite a few of us have found it. (Remember the "Spitfire Fund"?) The General has just recently completed his year as President and is still a member of the Board of Management.

We will hear him elaborate on Legacy in general and learn something of the lesser known activities of that great organisation.

MUSTER PARADE FOR "C" COMPANY AT 2000 HRS., FRIDAY, 7th AUGUST, AT 8 P.M.!!!

MONTHLY DOINGS

Remember how it was to day-dream through a map reading lecture, with your mind on canteens, and then have some bull-voiced character wake you up with a question on the magnetic variation at Quastina or something equally unlikely? Well, much the same thing happened to me at closing time on Friday night when our Secretary, Ron, hoisted me on my feet and declared me the scribe most likely to succeed with this month's social jottings. One thing is certain, there will be plenty of room in this issue for the odd bits of news which lack of space has precluded the Editor from publishing in the past.

AUGUST MEETING NIGHT IS 7th AUGUST.
THE GUEST SPEAKER IS MAJ.-GEN. DOUGHERTY.
AND IT IS ALSO "C" COMPANY NIGHT.

The meeting itself (and I mean that part which takes place before the shutter goes up) was almost impossible. Due to a slip up somewhere in the Naval planning of a Reunion, we were obliged to give up our usual room to the Senior Service—and what a Reunion. Our temporary accommodation was immediately above them and they turned out to be the noisiest bunch of Sailors we've met since the gunnery crews on the voyage from Crete!

Fortunately there wasn't a lot of general business to discuss. One thing you will be interested to know is that there appears to be a move on for the country reunion. It wouldn't be proper to divulge the Host's identity until the offer is formal, but if you are fond of sausages you will probably enjoy the grub there!!

Another item was the decision to change our rather garish official notepaper for something more quietly dignified!! With this in mind Dick Morris (our authority in these matters) is about to run a competition to exploit any latent talent you might have in designing letter-heads.

The "grogging on" part of the evening's activity was carried out in the much more congenial atmosphere of the Petty Officers' Lounge (which sort of proves that they can't be all that petty).

The star turn was an informal address by the well-known Radio and TV commentator, Eric Baume. His theme was that "we who fought for the country, should have a greater say in running it", and as is usual with Eric's talks he brought up several controversial issues, e.g., his assertion that some war-time politician had a guts bigger than his. Joking aside, we appreciated his coming along, particularly after he pointed out that he served his military training with the old Fourth Bn. after the First War. So he's one of us.

This was "A" Coy.'s Special Night and it brought to light one or two "not often seen" faces. The advantage of these Company nights is that they provide the little extra incentive to be in it.

Before winding up with the attendance list I must tell you of poor old Mary Pickford's unique problem—and let it be a lesson to the rest of us against taking tickets in lotteries. He complains that the humid Sydney weather is sending his folding money mouldy. Mary had had a few, of course, but, unfortunately, not enough to fall for our suggestions.

C. Crystal, R. Barber, J. Copland (Wot no E?), P. Lahey, T. Gorman, R. Smith, R. Morris, L. Waterworth, J. Robin, J. Graham, F. Searle, J. Morgan, A. Fletcher, S. Barham, C. Hawey, S. Pollock, P. Cole, S. Young, J. Rognini, C. Dolan (2/15th visitor), M. Pickford, W. Hyde, R. Pinson, Basher Boyd, L. Szaby.