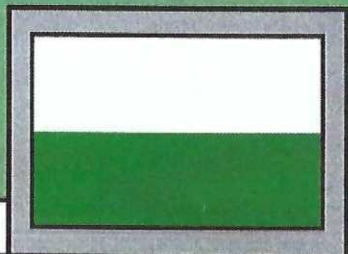


1/16



White over Green

JOURNAL OF THE 2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

PATRONS:

*Major General Ray SHARP, AO, RFD, ED (RL) **** Lieutenant Colonel Vin HALLINAN, OAM, RFD, ED, (RL)*

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Alf Celebrating his 103rd Birthday on the 22nd April.

"White over Green" printed courtesy of Senator Marise Payne, Parramatta, NSW

2/4th Australian Infantry Battalion Honours WWII



-Battle Honours-

- *Palestine:*** July 1940: Haifa: defence of oil storage tanks vs Italian bombers, manning 3.7in Anti-aircraft guns, as X & Y Regts RHA
- *Libya:*** January 1941: Bardia, Derna Wadi, Tobruk, Benghazi
- *Greece:*** April 1941: Vevi, Brallos Pass, Megara
- *Crete:*** April/May 1941: Heraklion
- *Syria:*** 1941/1942: Gjedrie: Garrison Duty
- *Darwin:*** 1944/1945: Larrakeah Barracks: Defence of Darwin
- *New Guinea:*** 1944/1945: Wewak, Wirui Mission

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ASSOCIATION MONTHLY MEETINGS

4th Tuesday or Saturday every month except April (ANZAC Day) and December (Christmas)

Venues: (4th Tuesday) Club York 95-99 York St. Sydney 1st Floor and (4th Saturday) South Newcastle Rugby League Club, 46 Llewellyn St. Merewether (Newcastle)

Time: 1100 hrs. Refreshments provided. ALL WELCOME

NEXT TWO MEETINGS: . Saturday 23rd May 2020 –Merewether Newcastle, 23rd June 2020 Club York.

If you would like to receive the Monthly meeting minutes, please contact the editor.

Battalion Association Ties are available



The price is \$25 per tie if you would like to pick up your tie at an Association Monthly Meeting in Sydney or Newcastle or \$30 posted anywhere in Australia. Please send your cheque to our Treasurer Wayne Finch or make a direct deposit to the Battalion Association's Bank Account and advise Wayne Finch by phone or email, and Keith Morris will send you your tie or ties.

Keys dates for 2020

79th Anniversary of the Battle of Crete & Greece 20th May 2020

Saturday 23rd May 2020 – Monthly Meeting, Merewether Newcastle. TBA

Tuesday 23rd June 2020 – Monthly Meeting, York Club 99 York St. Sydney. TBA

Treasurer's Report

The following have been most generous with their Subscription and Donations: John Moore -Mcilvenna, Paul Taylor (son of NX5885 Wal Taylor), Andrew Bocket, Thelma Crawley , Francesca Lahey (Daughter of NX167969 Patrick Lahey), Mervyn Hicks (son of NX13261 Joseph Hicks), Wendy Moore (Niece of NX46962 Charles T Cross). Robert Staples (son of NX8610 Jim Staples) , Robert Conkey (son of NX154 Harold Conkey MC) Janine Macken (Daughter of NX69386 Graham Waller) , Jacqueline Newtown (Daughter of NX6121 Lt. John Hawkins), Denis Pinson (son of NX3969 Leslie Andrew Pinson). Lance Brooke (Brother of NX36730 Paul Brooke, Robert & Elaine Myers (Daughter of NX11175 Cecel William (Bill) Eslick), Merridy & Tim Anderson (Father NX68484 Les Anderson). Keith & Daniel Morris (Grand & Great Grand Sons of NX11590 Tommy(Punchy) Morris), Michael Hewitt (Son of NX4032 Gilbert Leslie Hewitt), Carla Beer (Daughter of NX6121 John Hawkins.), Parriss McDougall (Son of NX4015 Richard McDougall).

At the February 2020 General Meeting, a motion was passed that if Members have not paid their Membership fees, they will be removed from our mailing list. If you have problems or queries, please contact Wayne Finch (Treasurer) to make an agreement.

If anyone would like to help with sourcing history of the 2/4th, please contact one of the committee.



More Photos from the 2019 Reunion Photos courtesy of Debbie Barker & Joe Elkusch



Photos courtesy of Monica & Colin Byrnes on Alf's Birthday
Great roll up at Alf's , so many people and wonderful neighbours. Warren and Marisa there and his adopted daughter Yvonne. people driving past horns blaring signs out the window, all very festive.

ALF CARPENTER NX5979

**Wishing you a Very Happy 103rd Birthday
22 April 2020**



Dear Alf,

We hope that you might enjoy your very special day despite all the current restrictions and we wish you the happiest of birthday days for your amazing 103rd birthday—

From everyone of us who join you on the meetings and occasions for the 2/4th Battalion – we salute you and raise a toast to your long life.

We look forward to celebrating with you when the restrictions are lifted. xxxx

***Happy Birthday
From 2/4th Association***



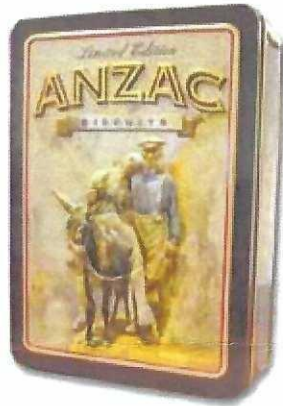
Monica & Colin Byrnes produced this card and baked his Birthday fruit cake for Alf on behalf of the 2/4th.



ANZAC BISCUITS

aka Soldiers' biscuits

- The recipe for what we now call Anzac Biscuits long pre-dates the Gallipoli Landings. It can be traced back to Scotland and the traditional Scottish Oat cakes.
- The name has as much to do with Australia's desire to recognise Anzac as with the idea that they were actually part of the staple diet at Gallipoli.
- They are one of the few things that are able to be legally marketed in Australia using the word ANZAC which is protected by Federal Legislation
- During World War 1, the wives, mothers and girlfriends of the Australian soldiers were concerned for the nutritional value of the food being supplied to their men. Here was a problem.
 - Any food they sent to the fighting men had to be carried in the ships of the Merchant Navy. Most of these were lucky to maintain a speed of ten knots (18.5 kilometers per hour). Most had no refrigerated facilities, so any food sent had to be able to remain edible after periods in excess of two months.
 - A body of women came up with the answer - a biscuit with all the nutritional value possible. The basis was a Scottish recipe using rolled oats. These oats were used extensively in Scotland, especially for a heavy porridge that helped counteract the extremely cold climate.
 - The ingredients they used were: rolled oats, sugar, plain flour, coconut, butter, golden syrup or treacle, bi-carbonate of soda and boiling water. All these items did not readily spoil. At first the biscuits were called **Soldiers' Biscuits**, but after the landing on Gallipoli, they were renamed ANZAC Biscuits.
 - A point of interest is the lack of eggs to bind the ANZAC biscuit mixture together. Because of the war, many of the poultry farmers had joined the services, thus, eggs were scarce. The binding agent for the biscuits was golden syrup or treacle.
 - As the war drew on, many groups like the CWA (Country Women's Association), church groups, schools and other women's organisations devoted a great deal of time to the making of ANZAC biscuits.
 - To ensure that the biscuits remained crisp, they were packed in used tins, such as Billy Tea tins. The tins were airtight, thus no moisture in the air was able to soak into the biscuits and make them soft.



How to make ANZAC Biscuits # 1

This recipe is based on an old grandmother's recipe for ANZAC biscuits. A great Aussie & Kiwi tradition, ANZAC biscuits are very easy to make, take about 20-25 minutes from start to finish, and are pretty healthy.

- 1 cup shredded coconut
- 1 cup rolled oats
- 1 cup plain flour
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 heaped teaspoon baking soda
- 2/3 cup raisins
- 60 grams butter (Approximately - this is on the low side - go up to 125 grams if you like butter)
- 1½ tablespoons of golden syrup.

Combine flour, sugar, oats, coconut and raisins in a large bowl and mix them up a bit.

In a small saucepan, melt butter and golden syrup. Stir mixture so they are combined.

Put baking soda in a mug, and add enough boiling water to dissolve baking soda (about 2 tablespoons worth).

Add baking soda solution to butter and golden syrup. Make sure the golden syrup/butter is still hot, but not quite boiling, else it will foam up and over your saucepan. (You want it to foam up, but not too much.) A foamy, hokey pokey type liquid will result. Smells great.

Pour the contents of the saucepan into the dry ingredients and mix well.

Place spoonfuls of the mixture on a greased oven tray. Bake at around 180C (350F) for approximately 16 minutes, or until they are light brown. Makes about 18 biscuits.

NOTE: I usually double the mixture, and sometimes add chopped nuts. You can vary the proportions somewhat - less sugar, more butter etc. Be warned that ANZAC biscuits can be highly addictive.

Rusty (Russell) McWilliam NX9696 101 Years Young

Photo of my father, 'Rusty' (Russell) McWilliam NX9696 taken today. He is not quite as old as Alf Carpenter. Rusty turned 101 years of age last September. He is well, and in good spirits, although no longer able to walk at all. The Aged Care facility he is in is in lockdown until next week. He will miss not having anyone with him on Anzac Day this year, but will invoke one of his two favourite sayings - 'Grin and bear it' or 'Maleesh the condy's'.

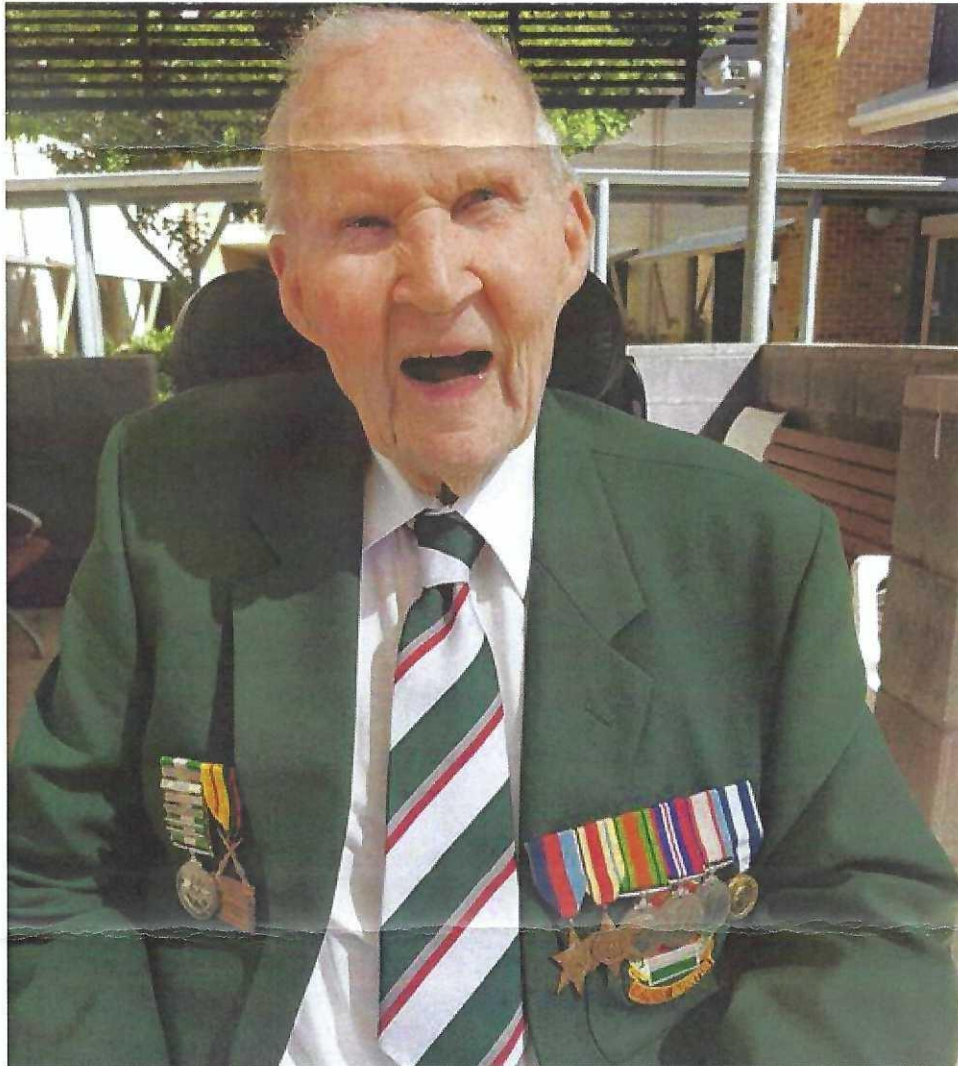


Photo of Rusty McWilliam in face book by is son Ian

Anne Hanley has sent a podcast of her father “Diary of a Soldier”

Listen to an amazing first hand account of WW2 through the eyes of Corporal Roy Moore's edited by his daughter Anne Hanley and read by Scott Levi.

<https://www.abc.net.au/radio/centralcoast/programs/breakfast/diary-of-a-soldier-roy-moores-podcast/12180594>

ANZAC Day 2020



ANZAC Day was quite different this year, we have our President / Secretary Parriss McDougall with Alf outside his home for his Dawn Service. The 2/4th members had a Zoom meeting at 12.00 noon arranged by Ian Cabe , At the meeting was especially Alf, Henry Wheeler who will be 100 years young on the 19th September and his daughter Ruth Huberman both from the USA.

With these trying times, please stay safe and communicate with each other.
(from the 2/4th Committee and Family)

The Kesteven Letter

6th Instalment

Transcribed, illustrated, and annotated by Elvin Andrews

The Greek Campaign - a series of Rearguard Actions

"What Anzac Corps did was conduct a series of successful rearguard actions. Nowhere was there an engagement until plans for the next withdrawal had been made; each was a rearguard action. One lesson was the extent to which artillery, with infantry deployed in front could halt and confuse a pursuer in such rugged country, and how engineers, cratering the roads at selected places after each retirement could delay the advance of a motorised force. The fighting withdrawal of more than 320 km, often at night, and in appalling weather, along one or two roads and with minimal losses, was no small feat."

Major Michael Tyquin
Australian Army Campaign Series No. 13
Greece-February to April 1941- Page 142

[In the last instalment we saw the 2/4th take up a position in the Aliakmon Line and then withdraw to another rear-guard position at Domokos. For the Allies, the campaign became a series of rearward leap-frog movements. In this instalment the Battalion moves south from Domokos to take up a position in the Thermopylae Line at Brallos Pass.¹

The acronyms, abbreviations and initialisms used in the Kesteven letter have been changed to those in common use today. Sometimes initialisms have been reproduced in full. Imperial measurements and their abbreviations have been retained. Punctuation, in most cases, has been retained. Lt Kesteven makes liberal use of exclamation marks, semi colons and dashes between phases rather than commas. Paragraphing has been adjusted to provide clarity. The placename spelling has not been corrected. For clarity in some cases the current spelling or the spelling used in WOG Book 1963 had been added in square brackets. Text in round brackets was as it appeared in the original. Annotations are added as italic text in square brackets. In cases where the explanation demands more than a few words, foot notes are utilised. His letter continues below.]

At 4 am on the 19th [Saturday] we left by transport for the Brallos Pass [*Brallos Pass*]; the trucks took us to the top and at about 4 pm the company moved by foot to positions about halfway down. On the way 11 PI (that's my one) had its first casualty on the field since leaving Australia! We were machine gunned by a Dornier and one of the lads collected two rounds in the leg; rather a remarkable record that as 11 PI has been in the thick of everything. I mentioned the Brallos Pass earlier in this letter. From our position we had a most beautiful view of the plain south of Lumia [*Lumia*²]. This plain

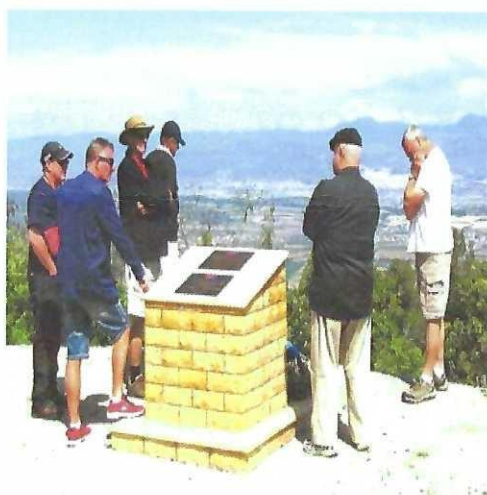
¹ These positions were part of the Thermopylae Line which took advantage of the mountain range which formed a natural barrier across central Greece. The motorised forces of the invading Germans could only cross these mountains at two points; at the eastern end between the end of the range and the sea via Molos and via the Brallos Pass. New Zealand forces were positioned to oppose any advance along the coast road at the eastern end and the Australians defended the road and railway through Brallos Pass.

is about 5 miles wide and about 20 miles long bounded by the pass above Lumia on the north, the coast on the east, mountains on the west, and the Brallos Pass on the south. The plain is well cultivated and from the height from which we looked down on it; (about 1500 ft.) it presented a patch-work quilt effect. There are also several villages set in amongst poplars and English walnut. Some days whilst we were there were particularly clear and this plain presented one of the most beautiful sights I saw in Greece.



The same view described by Ken Kesteven: Looking north to Lumia in the distance. Photographed in 2011

Jerry was very active over us on Sunday [20th Apr] and we had the pleasure of seeing one Hurricane tackle a number of them and shoot one down in flames; the anti-aircraft guns also shot down two. By about 4 pm all transport had come over the pass and the pass at the bottom and bridges across the flat were blown up on Sunday night. *[The furthest line of trees before the rising ground in the photo marks the course of the Sperkios River. The road bridge over this river was one of those blown on the Sunday Night.]*



The 2/2nd Field Regiment Memorial at Brallos Pass to those men of the detachment killed by counter battery fire 22nd April 1941

We dug in and camouflaged our positions. So well did we carry out the camouflage that although German reconnaissance planes flew very low over us frequently in the following two days, they did not find us. On Monday afternoon [21st] the German showed up in Lumia and all night there was a continual flow of trucks into Lumia. Just above our position were two 25 pounders who shelled Lumia and the road all night.³ Early on Tuesday morning [22nd] our position was shelled very heavily by the Hun looking for the 25 pounders, causing rather heavy casualties to our company and the Artillery. Patrols came forward which we soon sent back in a hurry. On Wednesday [23rd] we were again shelled but this time had no casualties.

During our withdrawal from Mikvovoltan I picked up a young New Zealander, Pte Hudson by name, a really decent lad. On Wednesday afternoon a German patrol worked its way up the slope through the undergrowth to about 6 paces from our lines; we probably owe a lot to the presence of mind of this New Zealand lad who was the first to see them. They charged off down the slope when fired on but not all of them got back.

² Lamia Barracks in Holsworthy NSW is the Headquarters of the Royal Australian Corps of Military Police. The barracks are so named in recognition of their involvement in the battle of Lamia.

³ A two gun detachment from the 2/2nd Field Regiment was positioned here to bring fire onto the bridge over the Sperkios River.



Lieutenant Ken Kesteven Circa 1940

At 9 pm I received orders to withdraw at 4 am. The ridge was shelled all night and as each gun flashed we wondered if the shell was for us - fortunately none of them were. But gee was I relieved when we arrived at the back of the ridge at about 7am. Here we found trucks to take us back to our next position. On the way back with 2 others I came to grief! Now I laugh when I think of it. We knew that if we did not reach our destination before it was properly light, we would be caught by the dive-bombers, so we went like mad but were caught by a raid of about 50 M109s, J87s and CR42s. We, 8 of us, piled out of a truck and hid behind a hut. Unfortunately a M109 found us and dived, machine gunned us with explosive bullets 3 of us got hits in our legs but no direct hits. We then decided to disperse again and I went feet first down under a bridge, but it was too small; with a respirator slung on one side, another on the other side and a haversack on the back, I became jammed half way in! And there was I! half way under this bridge with these darn planes flying around trying to find us. They dived around for about an hour, having a crack at various other units in the near vicinity. After it was over we called at the ADS left one of the lads there, had field dressings put on our own scratches and continued on our way to Dadion [now Amfiklia] where we again took up a position. There were several units in front of us but our orders were "to hold this position till a certain time come what may"!

On the 16th April during the withdrawal to 'The Themopylae Line' Brigadier Vasey is reported to have said after the battle for the town of Lamia as they moved towards the Brallos Pass.

"Brallos Pass will be held to the last f-----g man and the last f-----g ground and if you can't shoot them in the bloody stomach shoot them in the f-----g arse."

Vasey was known for expressing himself very plainly and colourfully. The message was translated by one of his Staff Officers to read as

"Brallos Pass will be held come what may"

This quotation is from the on-line book, "The Battle for Greece and Crete" by Matt Walsh, 2005

[The next instalment will be the last and covers the extraction of the Battalion from the Brallos Pass positions to its evacuation from Megara.]

ASSOCIATION OFFICE BEARERS 2020- 2021
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Welfare Officer: John MOORE
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Committee:
Keith Morris, Jacqui Irvin, WO1 Warren Barnes OAM , Robert Kenna, Marisa Pan
CONTACT LIST

CARPENTER, Alf: 66 Chatham Road GEORGETOWN 2298 Tel: (02) 4967 1969	
CRANNEY, John: 86 Carolyn St, ADAMSTOWN HGHTS 2289 M: 0412 431 125	
FINCH, Wayne: 2 Lees Lane, CARLINGFORD 2118 Mobile: 0407 219 528	
Email: wqfinch@bigpond.net.au Tel: (02) 9871 2882	
MORRIS, Keith: 32A Albert St. BEXLEY NSW 2207 Mobile 0413 802 942	
Email: keithmorris@optusnet.com.au	
McDOUGALL, Parriss: 50/150 Tall Timbers Road DOYALSON NORTH NSW 2262	
Email: parrissmcdougall@gmail.com Mobile 0451 150 861	
HICKS, Merv: 183 Cambridge Road MOOROOLBARK 3138 Mobile: 0417 524 568	
mail: mervhicks@icloud.com	Tel: (03) 9779 6686
LANGLEY, Peter: 9 Delia Parade, ENGADINE 2233 Tel: (02) 9262 6199	
MOORE, John: 15 Clifton Street, BALMAIN EAST 2041 Mobile: 0418 676 124	
Email: vanguardestate1@tpg.com.au	



2/4th INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED (INC 1800818)

APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP

I apply to renew my membership of 2/4th Infantry Battalion Association (NSW) Inc 1800818.

Membership commences on 1st January 2020 and lasts until 31st December 2020

<u>Subscription</u>	<u>Annual</u>
() Individual	\$15.00
() Donation	\$
Total	\$

The payments of subscription are not obligatory for life & Honorary Members, TPIs or 2/4th Widows.

Title First name Surname

OR

Service organisation name:

In the case of service organisation members, name(s) of authorised representative(s):

.....

Address

Town State Postcode

Tel () Mob

Email

Signed Date

() Please pay by EFT to Westpac BSB 032-191, Account No 51-1327. Please include surname and initials (or service organisation name), then send application to Treasurer as below

OR

() Please make cheque or money order payable to "2/4th Infantry Battalion Association" and send with application to Treasurer as below

Treasurer: Wayne Finch A: 2 Lees Lane Carlingford NSW 2118
T: (02) 98712882; M: 0407219528
E: wqfinch@bigpond.net.au

