



# 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.M.

Editors: PETER CADE, FRED STAGGS

Vice-President: J. COPLAND

Vol. 15, No. 10.

Price. 5½d.

OCTOBER, 1960

## THE COUNTRY REUNION

It is only natural that the main topic for this issue will be about the country reunion held at Wagga. According to all members present on this week-end it was, without doubt, the best attended, the best organised and the most enjoyable reunion yet. I, attending for the first time, say I will not miss any more, no matter where they are held. To put it in the words of one of our members who travelled from Melbourne, "It was worth travelling 2,000 miles for, instead of 200."

This same man also said the Bn. tie was a measley-looking arrangement, but now that he has seen all the boys together he would willingly pay £5 for one. (It was a different story when he was asked to part with the "spin".)

I did leave Sydney with a brand new notebook to collect notes for W.O.G., but on arriving home found that I could not decipher the scrawl. As my mind is hazy on some of the details perhaps someone could help me out by answering the following questions:

Who was seen with the supplement of all known names and addresses with quite a few names being marked? The owner claimed they were chaps who still owed him money from the old army days, and that he had travelled from Melbourne to collect. Did not see you collecting much, Ken.

Who was the honourable member from Bourke who used the women's showers and toilets for twenty-four hours before someone gave him the drum? Surprised at you, Roy, or is it that there is only one sex in Bourke?

Who was mine host who invited a party home for drinks and to meet his wife? After the usual formalities. Bob took the order for drinks and departed to the kitchen to dispense same and returned with one glass of beer in his hand and took the floor for some ten minutes, until some impolite guest made the remark that he was still thirsty.

Who arranged with the publican at the Royal Hotel, Goulburn, to send George Martin a bogus account for lodgings, damages, theft, etc., caused by the party for whom he arranged the bookings? I was told the amount was somewhere near the £100 mark. Now I know why you would not call in and see him on the way home, Bill.

Who disturbed the peace in the early hours of the morning at the Australia Hotel with unnecessary noise? Shame on you, "Brick".

Who was the best-dressed man in Wagga? He changed to a new tie every time he went to his room. (No answer to this one.) This silly business could go on for a long time, but space is valuable so will have to cross out the rest.

The local paper gave a good write-up as regards the whole affair, but personally think they could have had a better set up, because in the next column was the headline "Busy Week-end for Wagga Police". This, however, was caused by the local drivers, not us.

The roll call for the week-end is as follows: F. Apthorp, Griffith; W. Andrews, Sydney; F. Archer, Wagga; S. Blacksley, Humula; Mr. and Mrs. Bradford, Griffith; W. Brooks, Sydney; J. Brown, Kempsey; S. Buckley, Sydney; D. Bundy, Narrandera; C. Chrystal, Sydney; R. Cole, Sydney; H. Conkey, Cootamundra; J. Copland, Sydney; B. Cosier, Wagga; S. Croker, Wagga; F. Crutchett, Temora; P. Dalla, Wagga; N. Farrell, Griffith; T. Gamble, Sydney; R. Gilliland, Sydney; T. Gorman, Sydney; B. Hale, Wagga; J. Hardstaff, Narrandera; K. Harvey, Sydney; A. Harridine, Temora; J. Huston, Canberra; Mr. and Mrs. D. Jackson, Griffith; B. Jackson, Wagga; J. James, Narrandera; Mr. and Mrs. Kleem, Young; W. Lambourne, Sydney; F. Mooney, Sydney; R. Moores, Bourke; J. Morisson, Sydney; O. Regan, Sydney; A. Powell, Wagga; S. Pollock, Sydney; Padre Reid, Sydney; Mr. and Mrs. Rip-lan, Sydney; J. Robin, Sydney; F. Staggs, Sydney; B. Stewart, Wagga; T. Swadling, Griffith; W. Wells, Junee; J. Worthington, Old Junee. Late listings: Mr. and Mrs. H. Wright, Sydney; G. Robins, Melbourne; J. Cummings, Wagga; J. Crawford, Wagga; F. Driscoll, Griffith; J. Pearce, Sydney; F. Sadler, Dubbo; A. Binstead, Sydney; D. Pinson, Sydney; W. Taylor, Cootamundra; J. Crow, Cootamundra; M. Bristol, Junee; P. Foster, Tamworth; P. Leahy, Broken Hill.

As far as I know this is the official list and if I have missed out on anyone it was not done intentionally. I might add that the only reason for printing these names is to satisfy wives, etc., that these boys were really there and not just using the reunion as an excuse to go elsewhere.



Dear Fred,

What a beaut week-end! Well worth going much further afield for such a reunion.

Here are a few things that amused me and might amuse a few of those unlucky enough not to be there.

As you know I said Mass in the Wagga Cathedral for "Fallen Comrades" and gave an occasional sermon. Afterwards some of the lads present, the majority of whom, although not of the flock, paid me the compliment of coming along to the Mass that I had worn the Bn. Colours for the occasion and that I had the altar boys dressed in those of our sister Bn., the 2/8. (White over Red.) It was just one of those happy coincidences that the Liturgical colour for the Day happens to be Green and the Alb is always White, and the altar boys wear a red cape over their white surplice. Incidentally, to make the colours right, one would have to stand on one's head as it was Green over White and Red over White. (Are you sure they were not standing on their heads, Padre?)

The other was 'Sailor's Farewell to Wagga.' Ken Moses and his mate Robby who drove them up from Melbourne for the Reunion, drove me out to the teachers' college on Monday at mid-day, and after dropping "Sailor" (who came along for the ride) back at Romano's, were to head for Melbourne. I discovered later that they took too long to say "Good-bye" to "Sailor" and eventually left at 3 p.m. and "Sailor" missed the Daylight Express back to Sydney. While I was having tea at the Bishop's House I got a ring from "Dagwood" to come and help him get "Sailor" aboard the 8 p.m. train as he was reluctant to leave and was not packed. "Dagwood" packed for him and then we discovered that "Sailor" had lost his wallet with all his "Falooss" in it, and was not a bit concerned about it. All we could get out of him was that it was a Commonwealth Bank folder. We went out to Jackson's where Mrs. Jackson had tea ready and eventually got to the train at 7.55 to catch the 8.05. For some unaccountable reason the train was delayed at the station and we had to wait until 8.20 p.m. to ensure "Sailor" got away safely. I was anxious to find out at the meeting last Friday night how he fared but alas! he was not there.

I would like to record how I was blackmailed by a certain person at last Friday's meeting into buying a Bn. tie after resisting all sales talk for several years. I was threatened with a letter to the Cardinal on my doings at the Reunion. Of course, I had to go quietly and part up with my 10/-. What am I going to do with it is a fair question — wear it as a cummerbund or a sporan. The blackmailer suggests I wear it peeping out of the front of my coat.

— "Paddy" Reid.

On behalf of the Griffith branch of our Association, I would like to extend sincere congratulations to those worthy members who arranged the recent reunion at Wagga, also our sincere thanks to the caterers for their part in the show. It was indeed a pleasure to see such

a good attendance, and I would vote this our best country reunion. Old times were recalled recently during the visits to Griffith of Major-Gen. Dougherty, who was on an inspection of Civil Defence Organisations, and of Brig. McCarty and Capt. Bohle, all of whom were able to renew war-time acquaintances. It appears that Mac was greatly impressed with our cadet units which he inspected whilst in our town. The members of the R.S.S.A.I.L.A. local branch also received a very enlightening address on the present army organisation from the Brig. No doubt he found us a very interested audience. With best wishes on behalf of Griffith members.

— Fred Apthorpe.

### "OLD SOLDIERS NEVER DIE . . . THEY ONLY FADE AWAY!"

There was a lot of truth in the words of that old army song, brought out by the spirit and enthusiasm of the 2/4th Battalion Reunion, which was held in Wagga last week-end.

From nine o'clock on Friday morning the "boys" started arriving in Wagga from practically every quarter of N.S.W., and even Victoria.

By ten on Saturday morning "Operation Wagga" was under way. They came by car, train and plane. By mid-afternoon there were knots of men dotted all around the Australian Hotel, which was the main venue for the Reunion. Others at the R.S.L. Club, and still others, assembled with their mates in private homes in and around the city.

Faces not seen in many cases for ten or fifteen years were alive with excitement as they connected up with fellows who fought together in the arid sands of Tobruk, or the snow-capped mountains of Greece, on the throbbing decks of troopships, or the steaming jungles of New Guinea.

The climax of this phase of the operation came when the bugler (Stan Lugton) sounded "On Parade" and civilians of nearly twenty years' standing became once again the soldiers of yesterday. Straight of stature, clear of eye, and with that "something" that makes a digger always a digger, over sixty men took up their position behind the Turvey Park Pipe Band in the march to the Cenotaph. Here, in the hushed silence of the approaching sunset, the men paid tribute to their Fallen Comrades. To the skirling pathos of a Scottish Lament, the Wreath, comprising the Battalion colours, surmounted by laurel leaves, was laid with reverence by the President of the Battalion Association, Mr. C. Chrystal, of Sydney.

The March completed, the fellows gathered in readiness for the Dinner. With appetites no less enthusiastic than the men themselves, the guests and members alike were brought together in an atmosphere of "joie de vivre" and conviviality reserved usually for Anzac Day and other special occasions.

Personalities, so well known in the days of 1940-1945, lived once more. Every man bore a badge of



identity which told who he was, what company, his nickname (where known) and his home town. Here they all were from Bourke, Bathurst, Kempsey to Temora, Griffith to Gundagai: from Melbourne, Broken Hill, Cootamundra, Dubbo, Sydney and a dozen other places round the Riverina.

Names like "Sailor" Harvey, "Slim" Pollock, "Mas-sa" Brooks, "Cock" Robin, all of Sydney, "The Horse Doctor" Jack Huston, from Canberra, "Johnny" Morrison, "Brick" Bradford, and "Dagwood" Jackson, just to mention a few, came to life, as in days of old.

The dinner can hardly be described in words. There was fun and games in all directions. There was a serious side and the funny side. There were times when the chairman's voice was almost a voice in the wilderness—there were toasts that were carried out with quiet reverence, and others which were carried with fervour and sincerity that left nothing to be desired.

Time passed quickly and, like all good things, the night came to an end.

Now came the last phase — the departures. Some went that night, others made their way on the bright and sunny morrow, others stayed yet a while, and by train, car and plane they took their courses homeward full of happiness of friendship re-united. These memories will be treasured until October next year when the men of the Battalion will foregather, probably in Kempsey, to pay tribute to the richness of experience gained in war, and, by the grace of God, preserved in peace.

"The time is out of joint; Oh cursed spite that I was ever born to put this right," said Hamlet. At least one of the organisers felt a bit this way in the course of the week-end, especially when we were trying vainly to find accommodation for some of the stranded fellows in the wee hours of Sunday morning. Still, that's the way it goes!

This Reunion marked the twenty-first anniversary of the formation of the Battalion. Down through those years, some 8,500 passed through the ranks of this unit alone. Down through the years, the ranks have thinned, but for time everlasting the pride of serving together, of fighting for the preservation of treasured principles, of giving allegiance to a beloved Sovereign, and to a nation's heritage, will live on.

There was plenty of life yet left in these men. But few have yet faded away. They will be back again and again, year after year. Not just to steep in maudlin sentimentality, but to renew the richness of comradeship learnt in war, to work together for the betterment of each other, of their families and their children, and of a nation to which we proudly belong.

The 2/4th Battalion is more than a name. It is a living spirit. "White over Green — always to be seen" is what we have been saying about our colours. It's quite true. Wherever the men of this Battalion foregather, there is a spirit of friendship and selflessness that will live till the end of time.

— Bob Jackson, Wagga.

## COMBINED SMOKO

This most important annual social gathering with the boys of the 4th Bn. 1914-18 will be held in lieu of our usual monthly meeting at 8 p.m. the **FIRST FRIDAY IN NOVEMBER** at the Royal Naval House, Grosvenor Street, City, in our usual room.

Entertainment will be supplied by the Parramatta Caledonian Pipe Band and the eats and refreshments will be provided by our old friend Tony Parkinson, the manager of the Naval House.

This is one night where your President insists on all to be present, and give the men who paved the way for us a right royal time which they richly deserve. Don't let your President and Committee down. Make this night a must.

**Make This a Date! . . . .**

**COMBINED SMOKO WITH THE  
4th BN. 1914-18**

**Royal Naval House  
Grosvenor Street, City**

**4th NOVEMBER**

**THE FIRST FRIDAY IN THE MONTH**

Be entertained by the stirring deeds of the old boys. Be entertained by an A class pipe band and also enjoy the hospitality of the Royal Naval House.

## WANTED

W. J. (Buzz) Bennett of 45 Victoria Ave., Concord West, wishes to buy from any of the boys who were P.O.W. in Germany photos or negatives of any German Guards who were at the Weinberg, Pickla and Grossling Camps in Austria or the Gosdorf Canal Job.

Anyone who can assist in this matter contact the Sec. or write direct to "Buzz".



**SUBS., CHANGES OF ADDRESS, ETC.**

Subs have been received from the following:

D. Meacham, "Fang" Coughlan, S. Blacksley, P. Dalla, W. Bennett, F. Sadler, J. Hardstaff, J. Powell, G. Murray, W. Hale and F. Archer.

Please send subs and donations to the Treasurer, change of address and general correspondence to the Sec., literary contributions to the editor.

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

Vice-President: John Copland, 23 Belmore St., Ryde. WY 3771.

Secretary: Rex Gilliland, 157 Norton St., Leichhardt. Treasurer: Fred Searle, 31 Griffith Ave., West Ryde. WY 4905.

Editor: Fred Staggs, 18 Bundarra Ave., Wahroonga. 48-3411.

**PLEASE NOTE.**— There will be no general meeting in November, the Combined Smoko being held on that night. The Committee will meet as usual.

**BIRTHS**

To Mr. and Mrs. Ken Moses a baby boy. Congratulations.

**LADIES' NIGHT**

I cannot overstress the importance of this night as it is some years since your committee have had the courage to again venture into a mixed social gathering, owing to the grave lack of support shown in the past. This year they have decided that owing to the passing of time members should be in a better position in relation to families and housing, etc., and they feel that the majority of our metropolitan members should be able to attend. As your committee is putting a lot of effort into the organisation of this night, please do not let them down. This evening will be held on the first Friday in December, the second day of the month to be exact and will take the place of the normal monthly meeting. Don't forget, the Royal Naval House on 2nd of December, 1960. First class music by Dick Pinson and his 2/4 Rhythm Boys. Visitors welcome!

**HOSPITAL LIST**

J. Ferguson — Ward 24.

W. Brooks — Ward 23.

J. Mooney — Ward 9.

The following have been discharged: Bill Barrett, Bull Wilkinson, Frank Mooney.

**LAST POST**

It was decided at our last committee meeting to publish, when available, the names of the 4th Bn. 1914-18 boys who have passed on. In the September issue of Reveille the following were listed: 5179, Pte. R. P. O'Dwyer, 4636 Pte. C. C. Wardrope. To their next of kin and close relatives we extend our deepest sympathy.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Most of the correspondence this month mainly concerns the Wagga show, etc., so owing to lack of space in this issue it will not be printed. Any of the most important ones will be left over until next month.

**PHOTOGRAPHIC COLLECTION**

This again will have to be cut short. At Wagga, from Padre Reid a postcard size, group of 3, Wally Lambourne, Padre Reid, Jack Carroll, on back "Memories of Anzac Day 1955".

From Ken Moses, two photos showing H.M.S. Dido refitted after Crete evacuation. One shows inspection by the late King George and Queen Mary. Ken had his albums there which were very interesting. He has the negative and is going to have a print made of each for our collection. Ken also handed me a copy of The Daily Telegraph dated February 13th, 1940. In it is a large pictorial of the first contingent of A.I.F. leaving Australia. There are quite a few photos of the 2/4th Bn., the most prominent being one of Fred Driscoll and Ken Moses both looking out of portholes. Under Ken's photo is the heading "Handsome Soldier". Marvellous what the passing of years does to one, Ken! Met Sid Thompson NX5551; enlisted at Bathurst and went to Ingleburn. Sid is a friend of Fred Aphorpe and was formerly of the sg. pln. and later Div. Sigs. He is now Postmaster Military P.O. Kapooka (near Wagga). He retired from 4th Bn. C.M.F. after 30 years' association with the Army.

A "Cooee" to Vic Crowhurst. What happened, Vic? We missed you at the reunion. I was going to sing "Bill Bruck" to you again, sorry you could not make it. Also Bill Collie. I asked Mrs. Klem to pass on my regards. I also met Norm Lane in Sydney. He has promised to look up some snaps. From Dudley Meachan, Warialda, seven photos, and they will be described in future issue.

— "Cock" Robin.

I might add that quite a big interest was taken by the country boys, at the Dinner, in Jim's collection. At all times there was quite a large crowd around the table, with Jim standing guard lest someone spilt beer on them.

**PUBLICATION OF WAR HISTORY**

The following have been elected to the War History Committee: D. Wren, J. Houston, K. Moses, R. Jackson, J. Copland, C. Chrystal, M. Brooks, F. Staggs, P. Cade, J. Robin, F. Searle, R. Gilliland, R. Barber. A meeting of this committee was held on Friday, 14th of October last.