



White War 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: J. COPLAND

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FEBRUARY, 1960

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This meeting was held on Friday, the 5th of February, at our present Headquarters, Royal Naval House, Grosvenor Street, City, and commenced at 8 p.m., with Cec. Chrystal presiding.

The meeting was attended by 26 financial members and three visitors.

Major-General Dougherty (Patron) was present with one representative from the 4th Battalion Association (1914-18), Bert Sainty.

After the usual formalities were dealt with the Annual Report was read by our Secretary, Ron Barber, for and on behalf of the President and Committee. This report was most informative and gave a good account of the Association's activities during the past twelve months, both social and official, and after it had been received and adopted by the meeting, the Secretary was complimented on both the compiling and reading of the report.

The financial statement was presented to the meeting by the treasurer, Fred Searle, and after it was received and adopted, the President congratulated Fred on his sterling work during his first year in office. A motion to this effect was moved and carried by acclamation.

The next business on the agenda was the election of Officers. Bert Sainty, of 4th Battalion Association, was elected Returning Officer, and, ably assisted by two other visitors, Sid Deserens and M. Wilson, soon disposed of this business.

The following were declared elected:—

Patron: Major-General Dougherty.

President: Cec Chrystal (2nd year).

Vice-President: John Copland (Fred Staggs declining).

Secretary: Rex Gilliland (Ron Barber declining).

Assistant Secretary: Sid Buckley.

Treasurer: Fred Searle (2nd Year).

Committee: Fred Staggs, Sailor Harvey, Massa Brooks, Ron Barber, Peter Cade, Ted Gamble, M. Wilson, Ian Waterworth, and finally but far from least our old stalwart, Cock Robin.

Auditors: Bill Andrews and Slim Pollock.

On the President taking over the meeting after the election of Officers, he gave a short speech, thank-

ing the members present for the confidence placed in him by his re-election, and he introduced the elected Committee, giving a brief summary of their history in the activities of the Association.

David Wren, who is at present spending a long leave pass from New Guinea, has been filling in his time on the compilation of the Official War History. At a special Committee meeting he had been shovelled into the position of editing the Middle East portion of this history. David has spent quite a lot of his holiday typing out copy of the Official War Diary lent from the War Memorial Trust in Canberra and filling in gaps by letters sent in over the period of years. As we have now made a definite move in this direction we ask for your support in the matter and at an early future date a paper will be sent out to all financial members for a vote. The text of this circular is explained later in this issue.

MONTHLY MEETING

The March Meeting will be held at the Royal Naval House, Grosvenor Street, City, on Friday, the 4th of March, at 8 p.m.

Cec. Chrystal has arranged for an authority from the Snowy River Scheme to be present as the guest speaker. Mr. Dunn will give a short talk and show films and slides which will take approximately an hour. Mr. Dunn was a member of the 2/1st Bn.

This talk should be most interesting, and it is hoped that all our city members will turn up in force.

SECRETARY'S MAILBAG

From A. Nelson-Slee, of "Carinya", Gregory Street, South West Rocks, via Kempsey: "As I am now retired, T.P.I., to the above address, I would be pleased to see any of the 2/4 who happen to be in this region. The 'local' would tell them where my cottage is situated. Enclosed photo for 'Cock' Robin, and compliments of the season". Apology from Tom Gorman, who is laid up with a bad leg, and unable to attend meetings. (Hope you are on the mend, Tom.—Ed.) From Bede

Keary of 4th Battalion Association: notice that his Association would be represented at our Annual Meeting. From Ern Pickford: Greetings, £1 and a request for an Association badge. Met G. Johnson, of Lismore, recently. From Don Anderson: 10/- for another badge. Don is making a trip to Tasmania, via Goulburn and Gundagai, and would like to meet "Chappie" Mortimer in Tassie. Don Taylor is now at Flat 12, Block 19, Northbourne Flats, Braddon, Canberra, A.C.T. From R.S.S.&A.I.L.A.: a request on behalf of Mrs. Barnett for information as to the name of the village where her brother, Pte. John James Ryan, NX 5849, A. Coy., 2/4 Inf. Bn., was killed in action on 13th April, 1941. The letter states: "On reports given to my family by two of his soldier mates, who say they were present when he died, the area is a small village situated about 11 miles from Florina. The reason I desire you to gain this information is the fact that my mother knows a person who will shortly be visiting Greece, and has promised to visit the place where my brother was killed." R. Hobman, of 102 Penshurst Rd., Penshurst, but who is in Ward 430 at R.G.H., Concord, would like Ken Northrop to contact him. From Pat Lahey at Technical College, Box 659, P.O., Broken Hill. Pat was down in Sydney for six days at Xmas and called in at North British. It seems Pat and Sid Buckley did a bit of celebrating. Most of the exams are over but it seems there's a hectic period ahead for Pat with the new enrolments. Pat continues: "For a break you can go to Adelaide (320 miles), 9 hours travelling, Roadlines Coach, cost £5 return. Any other direction means 200 miles at least of merry hell, on the supposed highway. Boulders 10 inches across, plus soft sand, etc., 10 to 1 inches deep, are regular on these roads. The pubs here are open from 10 a.m.; close the main doors at 10.30 p.m., but with something to eat you may kick on. Middies 1/5 each (R.S.L. 1/2). You don't see any drunks or skirmishes going on. Betting can be done in the pubs up to 12 noon if the local races are on, otherwise you can bet all day. Their prices are much better than you can get from Sydney Bookies. Most shops, homes, etc., are of the mining type, more or less, built as a temporary measure, but over the last few years they have started building the permanent types. You can join a club here for anything you can think of; in fact, besides the straightout clubs, pubs have their own musical club, picture club, etc. Of course this is all necessary, as even though this is a city (it covers an area of roughly 5 by 3 miles) it has a town atmosphere, and because of the isolation, you depend for social life more or less on each other, and what you can organise. It has three picture theatres, one swimming pool with an additional one started last week. I had a yarn with Lew Johnstone (President of the local R.S.L.) and got J. Robertson's address but have mislaid it; will check again at the office. Give my regards to all the boys, and I hope the Association heads for bigger and better things this year. Pat Lahey. P.S.: Is it still Wagga?"

BATTALION HISTORY

As reported earlier in this issue David Wren has made quite some progress in compiling the first half (Middle East) and making it ready for publication. This portion should be completed by June when David has to return to New Guinea.

Now that we have made a definite move to get this history published, we of the Committee ask for your full co-operation in helping us edit this long overdue History. You can assist by sending us anything relevant to the job in hand. This need not necessarily be of official nature but can include things on the more personal and humorous line. In short, anything that you yourself think will assist us. On receiving these they will be sorted out and those considered suitable for publication by the special committee set will be used.

As this project will eventually involve financial expenditure you can assist us in the following way:

On making inquiries we found that the War Memorial Trust will, providing the book passes their censors, meet us pound for pound in the cost of publication. This money will only be made available on the proviso that we can obtain a 66% vote from all financial members of the Association.

Shortly, a ballot paper will be forwarded to you for a vote and we sincerely hope that you will give the matter urgent attention, fill in the paper and return immediately.

If the paper is not returned it would have to be counted as a vote against, so you see the necessity for returning this paper promptly.

We also appeal to you for your support by voting in favour of the publication as we feel it should be published as early as possible.

Thank you for your support.

M. & B.

To Mr. & Mrs. Bob Lever, a son was born on the 24th of November, 1959. Bob and his wife recently spent three weeks at the Brooklyn cottage and strongly recommend it to all who wish to have a nice, quiet holiday.

HOSPITAL LIST

At the moment of going to Press we can only locate one 2/4th Bn. man in hospital:

Roy Hobman, Repat. Hospital, Ward 430.

SUBS., CHANGE OF ADDRESSES, Etc.

Literary contributions, etc., should be sent to Peter Cade, 19 Boheme Avenue, Caringbah.

Change of address and general correspondence to the Secretary, and Subs., Donations, etc., to the Treasurer.

President: C. Chrystal, 24 The Battlement, Castle-crag.

Vice-President: J. Copland, 23 Belmore Rd., Ryde.

Secretary: R. Gilliland, 157 Norton St., Leichhardt.

Treasurer: F. Searle, 31 Griffith Ave., West Ryde.

2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1959

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
RECEIPTS:						
To Balance, 31/12/58, with Commonwealth Bank, West Ryde				621	16	0
Subscriptions:						
Membership	92	4	0			
W.O.G.	92	4	0			
				184	8	0
Donations				114	3	6
Functions:						
Combined Smoko	28	10	0			
Anzac Day	206	0	6			
Association Raffle	238	12	0			
Ties and Badges	91	10	6			
Benefit Fund		10	6			
Bank Interest	15	8	9			
				580	12	3
Plus 6d. paid into Bank by mistake						6
				<u>£1501</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>

PAYMENTS:	£	s.	d.
Printing	157	5	8
Postage	16	16	6
FUNCTIONS:			
Anzac Day Luncheon	221	16	0
4th Battalion and 2/4 Reunion	51	19	8
Monthly Meetings	22	10	0
Wreaths	1	12	0
Reveille		12	0
GENERAL EXPENSES:			
Prizes for Raffle	47	17	7
Battalion Ties and Badges	86	14	0
Rent Reimbursement	1	0	0
Wallet	3	15	0
Tassels for Banner	1	10	0
	<u>£613</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>5</u>
Balance, 31/12/59, with Commonwealth Bank, West Ryde	Cr.	898	9 9
		<u>£1511</u>	<u>18 2</u>
Less payment into Bank of which I have no knowledge		10	19 11
		<u>£1500</u>	<u>18 3</u>
Plus 1/6 and 6d. mistake by Bank			2 0
		<u>£1501</u>	<u>0 3</u>

We have audited the receipt books, cheque book and vouchers of the 2/4 Infantry Battalion Association as supplied to us and in our opinion they are a true and correct record of the Association's financial position.

AUDITORS: ANDREWS & POLLOCK.

FIFTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF 2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

This Report is submitted for the information of Members:—

COMMITTEE. Although the Constitution of the Association allows the election of Six Committeemen it has been proved more advantageous to accept all nominees. Several Sub-Committees may be required for special projects, and the duties on Anzac Day are more easily coped with. Committeemen, during the past year, have worked very hard and should be commended for their efforts.

REUNIONS AND SOCIAL FUNCTIONS.

The Anzac Day March was well attended and at the Luncheon there was a greater attendance than in previous years. A very enjoyable day in every way.

Country Reunion. This was suggested originally, as its name implies, a reunion at a country centre. For the second time the boys in Cootamundra volunteered to organize a function. As there is a considerable amount of organizing with these reunions, and a knowledge of the local facilities and quick and direct contact with places providing accommodation, etc., is necessary, these functions can only be satisfactorily handled by residents of the particular

locality. The well organised function in Cootamundra deserved greater support from members. Both the setting for the dinner and the menu was excellent. Those who attended were disappointed in only one thing: they missed seeing the many faces they had expected at this reunion.

Annual Combined Smoko. This function was well attended and very well enjoyed by all present. Members of the Caledonian Pipe Band enlivened the evening with their playing.

Films were shown of portions of the Anzac Day March. Our thanks are due to Vice-President, Fred Staggs, and members of the Chatswood R.S.L. for providing the projector and the feature film of Bali which concluded the evening's entertainment. Our thanks are due also to our President, Cec. Chrystal, who arranged with the TV people to piece all the relevant portions of film together. We are always proud and happy to be associated with the 4th Inf. Battalion.

MONTHLY MEETINGS. The attendances at Monthly Meetings have been greater this year than in previous years. Our Members found the introduction of Guest Speakers to our meetings interesting and informative.

WHITE OVER GREEN. Our main link with all Members and our most direct means of publicity has been ably edited by our Editor, Peter Cade. During

the last few months, since Peter decided to go into double harness, our old stalwart, Fred Staggs, has carried on. Our Editor is not wholly happy with the situation at the moment, chiefly because of shift work, which prevents him from attending meetings and functions and giving a full and satisfactory report on these events. Mention must be made of the most satisfactory service given by our printers, "The Daily" Pty. Ltd. Dependability and good workmanship have always been given, and it has been a pleasure to do business with them. Members, please make a mental note to keep sending us material for publication. Other Members are most interested in reading what you, their former comrades in arms, are doing than in some extract taken from another publication.

OTHER ASSOCIATION. We received a most cordial invitation to send representatives to attend the Anzac Day Luncheon of the 4th Battalion. These were made most welcome and all deemed it an honour to attend. At the Annual Meeting of the 4th Battalion Association our Association was represented by the Executive and several of the Committee. The big event of this night for us is the reading of the Annual Report of the 4th Bn. Assn. It reveals to us true comradeship, particularly in the care and consideration given to the sick and those in need.

Thirtyniners Association Dinner. Our Association was represented by Vice-President, Fred Staggs.

PERIODICALS. We acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following:

"Mud & Blood", Journal of 2/33 Inf. Bn. Assn.

"Nulli Secundus", Journal of 2/2 Inf. Bn. Assn.

"Newsletter", Journal of 2/3 Inf. Bn. Assn.

"Barbed Wire & Bamboo", Journal of Ex P.O.W. Assn.

"ThirtyNiner", Journal of ThirtyNiners Assn.

"Newsletter", Journal of 2/17 Inf. Bn. Assn.

The attendance of members of kindred Associations at our meetings was appreciated.

APPRECIATIONS. The appreciation of the Committee is extended to all members who have subscribed donations and services to the Association. Of special mention are Jim Crowe, Wal Taylor, Gordon Vesperman and Harold Conkey, in Cootamundra. Dick Morris for his sterling efforts re publicity. Our very generous donor, Ern (Mary) Pickford and Capt. D. Wren for his services re compilation of War History. Keith "Sailor" Harvey for his efforts in securing better accommodation for Monthly Meetings and more, too numerous to mention.

MEMBERSHIP. Membership has increased slightly over the past year. There has been more activity, life, interest and progress in the Association and it is hoped that this trend continues. To keep members up-to-date financially, a separate notice was inserted in W.O.G. this year and it seems that forgetfulness is the main cause of members becoming unfinancial. The response to notices was favourable.

Ties and badges have sold steadily throughout the year.

GUESSING COMPETITION. This task was undertaken and carried out by our stalwart Committeeman, Pat Lahey. The returns were far larger than in any previous year, due to the wholehearted efforts of Pat. Our financial membership is not yet large enough to enable us to do without the funds from this source. However, in addition to making up the lee-way in our funds, there is always a substantial amount left over, which increases our balance on hand in the bank, each year.

4th BATTALION COTTAGE.

This cottage is available to members of the 2/4 Inf. Bn. Assn. on application to the Secretary. A few of our members have availed themselves of its use during the year, but it is hoped that many more will avail themselves of this privilege. It is hoped that the cottage will be occupied during most of the year, which would be better for the cottage and provide more funds for its maintenance. It must be remembered that it is a privilege which the 4th Battalion has extended to us, and 4th Bn. members have first preference. Unfortunately, however, there is not such a large demand from the 4th Bn. members as in previous years. Our Association is ready and willing to share in the maintenance of the cottage, and members are asked to support all working parties.

WAR HISTORY.

Preliminary steps have been taken in the compilation of the War History. This is quite a large task and must be handled carefully and with skill. Members will be asked to forward material for this project, and from this material will probably come the humour, and human interest which will be so necessary a part of this history.

Finally, the President and Committee wish the incoming Executive and Committee a happy, trouble-free, and successful year of office, and thank all members for their support.

—RON BARBER, Honorary Secretary. For and on behalf of President and Committee.

MONTHLY MEETING

This meeting will be held at Royal Naval House, Grosvenor Street, City, at 8 p.m., Friday, the 4th March, 1960.

Guest Speaker, Mr. Dunn, an authority on the Snowy River Scheme showing pictures and slides.

EMPLOYMENT

Wanted: Personal Driver by General Manager of City Firm. For particulars contact Cec. Chrystal.