



White over Green

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE 2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

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MARCH, 1960

## THE SECRETARY'S MAILBAG

Looks like the bottom fell out of the mailbag this month. The entire correspondence to hand at the editorial office consists of the news below and a burst from Ron Barber telling me to smarten up and get W.O.G. to the printer on time.

A bit of West Kempsey news from Esca Riordan. He mentions a recent R.S.L. District Council Meeting at which three of the delegates were 2/4th men: Jimmy Brown, Tom Clough and his worthy self. Jim Brown has been President of the local R.S.L. for the past ten years but has given it away this year. Thanks for the news, Esca, also the subs.

Subs. were also received from W. Bennett, W. A. Wells, C. A. Reynolds, W. Barrett, H. M. Dunlop, J. W. Walker, G. Bohle, D. Bundy, L. Thomas, J. D. Robertson, B. Herwig, M. Rungie, J. Anthony and G. Coles.

We also had the following: Subs. and donation from Fred Aphorp. Subs. and cheque for tie and a donation from J. Holland, and two bottles of pennies as a donation to the Hospital Benefits. They totalled up to £1/2/0.

Thank you, gentlemen.

## DELAYED ACTION

At Headquarters, viz: "North British", Loftus St., City, over the Christmas period, we had the pleasure of welcoming Peter Denver from Adelaide (met his wife and family of four enjoying the sunshine in nearby Macquarie place park, patient girl) and Ted Swadling from Griffith. During their stay a visit was organised to Auburn R.S.L., of which Bunny Burrows is President. Those present included two brothers of Peter's, one ex Navy and the other ex Air Force, and a good time was had by all except Bunny, who was

probably excusing his dear (very dear at any price) Battalion comrades' behaviour as we fought the Battle of Ingleburn and onwards.

In spite of this, David Wren subsequently acted as host to the Denver Trio and your Reporter. Thanks, David, for a pleasant evening.

Peter reported all well in South Australia and Ted gave a similar report of Griffith. Ted is now an official of Griffith Rugby Leagues Club.

## FROM COCK ROBIN

### THE BATTALION'S PHOTOGRAPHIC COLLECTION

The Battalion's photographs are sufficiently extensive to warrant the raising of a sixth album. The photographs range in size from 12"x5" down to miniature shots of 1½"x1".

This is creating a reliable historical record of the people and events associated with the Battalion from the early days in Liverpool and then Ingleburn Camps, through the Middle Greece, Crete, Darwin, Wondecla and New Guinea.

One of the prizes is a large photograph of the original 5th Company in camp at Liverpool. If my memory serves me correctly this Company was the nucleus of the 2/4th Bn. Perhaps special mention should be made of the donor—me.

Others donated are: H.Q. Wing at Ingleburn given by Tim Cloke. Complete snap of "C" Company by Bill Andrews.

Another excellent group photograph has come to hand from Bob Lever. It is of the 9th Reinforcements when they were in training in Tamworth. Cec. Chrystal has supplied a photograph taken in Pales-

tine of thirty of the officers. This collection characterises everything from the tragedies of war to some of the lighter events. It is these extremes which seem to be impressed most strongly on the minds of all of us. There are the war graves, the pictorial memory of departed comrades, some of the boys in P.O.W. camps, picturesque scenes of convoys and of course the characters who at any time had difficulty in posing seriously before a camera.

Help to make our project even better. Please keep the photos rolling in. We now have 750 in the collection.

I am indeed grateful for the co-operation I have received so far. Thanks again.

At the December meeting per Fred Searle, from Mrs. Parkinson (the lady who kindly presented the 2/4th Banner): 15 photos, 1 large, 11 medium, 3 small; all are of Palestine bar two. The large one is of a group of 8 in a room: Jack Parkinson, her son (killed in action and our first casualty); there is only the one name, but I can pick out Reg Cole, Angel Gabriel, and Henry Wheeler, who is sitting at the piano, two other soldiers, one a corporal, and two civilians. (2): Nevis Farrell sitting on bunk in tent, reading paper; another chap in a thoughtful mood sitting on end of bed; only the one name. (3): Bob McCarthy in summer dress in front of building with barred windows. (4): The snapper snapped: Stumpy Wright taking photo of old Arab leading a camel loaded with hay near Quastina, 15/5/1940, while out on a route march. (5): Group of four on beach at Gaza; only two names: Nevis Farrell and Ted Jupp. (6): Another group of five in surf; only three names: Mallee Webster, Harry Whiteman, Sam McCready. (7): Bill Walker in summer uniform with webb belt and bayonet. The next four are without names or information. (8): Soldier standing on guard outside building. (9): Two soldiers, summer dress, sitting in cafe, two bottles of beer and mugs on table. (10): Big, bronzed Aussie holding paddles balancing on surf board, Tel-Aviv. (11): Bugler in front of stone building with barred windows. (12): Soldier with rifle on deck of the Strathnaver. Now the three small ones: (13): Sam McCready outside hut. (14): Soldier standing on steps in narrow street; on back of snap, NX 9883, Pte. P. Willan, 19th Inf. Brigade H.Q., A.I.F., Palestine. (15): Archie Quinnell standing alongside bomb crater in sand, oil tanks burning in background, Haifa.

—Cock Robin.

P.S. Many thanks Mrs. Parkinson for these photos which are greatly appreciated, especially the one of Jack as I did not have one of him.—Cock Robin.

## THE S.S.C.C.

Gather round kiddies and open your geography books at the map of Castlecrag (map 59 in Gregory's). We are about to reveal and emphasise a very disconcerting truth.

N.P. Observe, if you please, the names of the streets in the J5 section. Observe that they are of a warlike and military nature. The Postern, The Rampart, The Redoubt, The Bulwark, The Sortie Port and so on. Observe also that there is a street called The Battlements. Note its position. 'Tis not in front of all the others nor even in the middle. It's well to the rear; in fact, any further back and it would be in another suburb!!

Which brings us to the point. Is that the position any self-respecting ex-infanteer would pick to live? An officer to boot too!!

We intend to rectify this situation as soon as possible and to that end the S.S.C.C. (The Society for Shifting Cec. Chrystal) has been formed. (We are sorry to have to do this, Cec., but if other associations get to hear what's been going on we might as well shut up shop.)

Regarding the S.S.C.C., we only have one member so far but once the word gets around we expect that membership fees and cash donations (you beaut!!) will come bouncing in.

So if any of you chaps have a few mouldy old tenners lying around the place just bung them in.

By the way there's no point in burdening the Treasurer or the Secretary any more than necessary. Just send the doings along to the little old Editor.

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## SUBS., CHANGES OF ADDRESS, ETC.

Literary contributions should be sent to the Editors.

Changes of address and general correspondence should be sent to the Secretary.

Subs. and donations should be sent to Treasurer.

**President:** Cec. Chrystal, 24 The Battlements, Castlecrag.

**Vice-President:** John Copland, 23 Belmore Road, Ryde.

**Secretary:** Rex Gilliland, 157 Norton Street, Leichhardt.

**Treasurer:** Fred Searle, 31 Griffith Avenue, West Ryde.

**Editors:** Peter Cade, 19a La Boheme Avenue,

Caringbah; Fred Staggs, 18 Bundarra Avenue, Wahroonga.

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## ANZAC MEETING NIGHT

The next Monthly Meeting of the Association will be held at Royal Naval House, Grosvenor Street, Sydney.

The date is Friday, April 1st (no foolin'—we're fair dinkum) and the time, gentlemen, is 8 p.m.

The April Meeting will be the Anzac Night Meeting and we'd like to see the usual good roll up.

Dick Pinson with the musical trio, including brother Les, will be there this night to give us a bit of sweet harmony after the meeting is over.

ROLL UP CHAPS, IT SHOULD BE A GOOD NIGHT.

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## ANZAC DAY ARRANGEMENTS

The arrangements for the 1960 Anzac Day will be much the same as last year. We assemble in the first instance at the corner of York and Erskine Streets at 8 a.m. before marching to the Cenotaph with the '14-'18 Fourth for the laying of our respective wreaths.

After that we march up to the F.U.P. in Macquarie Street.

After the march the Battalion will hold its luncheon in the top floor of the Coronet Restaurant in George Street, just up from Wynyard Station.

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## COUNTRY MEMBERS

Members of the Association from the country have the facilities of Royal Naval House at their disposal this includes over-night accommodation, meals and all the other amenities of the House, including the bar. For particulars re bookings please write to the Secretary of the Association.

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## BATTALION WAR HISTORY

We have mentioned in previous issues that David Wren is making great progress with the compilation of the 2/4th Battalion War History and is at present working on the first half dealing with the early days in Australia and the Middle East campaigns.

We would like to mention that although David is doing all the bullocking, it is not a one man job. You can do your bit by submitting direct to him

anything you may think to be of value. It may be some small incident that happened to a couple of individuals or something a particular section did. It may be something funny that happened. Anything that you don't have the full story on may tie in with something else that we have.

What we don't want to hear after this work is completed is that we missed the bit out about this or that. Send it into us now and make sure the information is available for use.

You will shortly receive a ballot paper from the Association regarding the publication of the War History. We ask that you fill in this paper and return it promptly. It deals with voting for or against the publication of this history, and the result of the vote will decide whether we will be eligible for financial support in this project or not.

The covering letter accompanying the voting paper will explain fully.

Please remember a non returned ballot paper is a vote against.

For material submitted, David Wren's address is: 21 Cooper Street, Strathfield.

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## THE MARCH MEETING GUEST SPEAKER

We were fortunate at the March Monthly Meeting in having as Guest speaker, Mr. Dunn, who gave us a most interesting talk on the Snowy Mountains project. He also showed a film of it which showed the magnitude of this scheme.

We would like to thank Mr. Dunn through this paper for his most informative talk.

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## TRAVELLERS' TALES

Alf. Carpenter

(Continued)

As we tied up at the wharf, Naples presented itself to our gaze. The city is along the mile or so width between the mountains and the coast line. High up on the side of the mountains is the museum which stands out very prominently as the flood lights play on its beautiful architecture. There are very few Neon Signs but one advertising "Biera Peroni" met my eye, and having had a taste of the said brew during our sojourn in Libia in 1940 I decided to try a jug or two just for old times sake.

Soon we were ashore and the modernness and grandeur of the port buildings left us spellbound. All the floors are made of tiles laid down in various patterns depicting all stages of sea travel. Modern

ships, sailing ships, barges and lighters, etc. One could have spent hours examining these, but this is only one building and there is no doubt first impressions are the most lasting ones and how pleasing for the traveller to land in a new land and be greeted with such an impressive and modern building as this occupied by Customs Officials, Post Office, Official Money Exchange and a gift shop where periodicals and newspapers in every language may be purchased.

We posted our mail, changed some money and made our way down the marble steps to see the sights of Naples. Then through the spacious harbour enclosures out past the police guards at the entrance gates where we were met by a barrage of salesmen.

"You want a Parker 51? Only £1 Australian. "Gold watch? How much you want to pay?" "You want to make a purchase?" I will take you." "Noo Graci" from me seemed too polite as they did not take much notice. If anything else these salesmen sure are persistent and always the direct approach "You want it". However, I got fed up and decided to try myself out and sell the harbour bridge to the next persistent one and just as I thought I had made a sale for 20,000 lire, the individual said: "Me no understand English". I give up.

We left the street salesmen and went into a most modern food store which was built on American lines. All prices are listed and purchases are made from one central cash register where cash is paid in and you receive a receipt or chit for the article you require which is handed into the assistant at the counter where goods are handed over. I washed the salt down with a couple of Biera Peronis and then off again.

Our wanderings then took us into the old quarter

of the city. Streets are very narrow and stalls and shops block most of the way. Wares are stacked on boxes and crates or just on the cobble stones. These cobble stones are all volcanic and very hard for the ravages of time have left little sign of wear on them. Washing is hung on lines strung between the buildings which are pulled around as the clothes are hung out. We could see into the rooms which are used both as sleeping quarters and community living quarters often having 8 to 10 people crammed into the one room. So we found that Naples was a city of veneer, a beautiful surface with rot and filth for a base. Having looked under the surface we retraced our steps back to the new buildings, many of which are still in the course of construction and are up to 10 and 15 storeys high. Here we looked over the Arcade, a grand architectural feat of the old school built in the form of radiating arms from a central square. One could not attempt to describe in mere words the beauty of the sculpture work, the gold leaf decorating which has not changed colour with the centuries of time. The roof is a mass of sculptured scenes depicting all phases of life, whilst the mosaic floor has numerous designs. Most of the sculpture work has been done in marble. All the pillars are carved out of marble in every different design imaginable. We spent a good hour looking over this wonderful building and also quite a long time at an antique shop where the china and other articles were very fine collectors' pieces. Naples will see us again on our travels for we saw only a small percentage of the treasures of this wonderful city which has had the influence of many nations throughout the years. It has been occupied by Romans, French, Moors, English and now we have the influence of the Americans, and all of these races at different times have left their mark and influence and added to the culture of this city of many moods.

(to be continued)

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**This coupon is only a reminder. Do not destroy your W.O.G. if you save them regularly. Just scribble a note and send your subs. along.**

**THE SECRETARY 2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION.**

**Enclose herewith 10/6, being subscription to W.O.G. and Membership of Association to 31st December, 1960.**

NAME (block letters) .....

ADDRESS .....

Signed .....