



*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. 5.

Price, 5½d.

MAY, 1960

## ‘ ‘ B ’ ’ COMPANY NIGHT

THE JUNE MONTHLY MEETING NIGHT  
WILL BE B COMPANY NIGHT

“B”

“B”

C  
O  
M  
P  
A  
N  
Y

**All B COMPANY To Attend**

BY ORDER OF  
UNCLE JIM HARDY

C  
O  
M  
P  
A  
N  
Y

If you are on the Chain for that night, tell the good woman  
that Uncle Jim said.

The Place: ROYAL NAVAL HOUSE  
GROSVENOR STREET, CITY

N  
I  
G  
H  
T

The Time: 8 p.m.

The Night: FRIDAY, 3rd JUNE

N  
I  
G  
H  
T

OTHER COMPANIES TO ATTEND ALSO

DICK PINSON AND THE BAND WILL ALSO BE THERE

‘ ‘ B ’ ’ COMPANY NIGHT



## THE SECRETARY'S MAILBAG

A considerable amount of correspondence this month for which we thank you one and all — lemme see, who's on the top.

A shortie from Bill Leonard enclosing cash for subs and Battalion tie. Thank you, Sir.

Subs. also from Tim West (Cowra), Jim Hardie and Charlie McKenna (Hawthorne, Vic.).

ATTENTION NX5850 J. A. Sadler! Tim West's address is "Yarrabunda," R.M.B. 945 Cowra, N.S.W. (We thought you would like to know.)

Wal Taylor (Coota) is the man responsible for getting Tim West's subs. Hopes everyone had a good day on Anzac Day.

Subs also from Bill Fogden and Stan Vidler.

Ric Carter (Gloucester) sends us news of the Anzac Day activities up there. "At 10.30 a.m. the 2/4th was represented by Ron Miller, standard-bearer, Alec Miller and, of course, being awake by this, little me. The service commenced at 11 a.m. and the usual addresses were made. The Last Post and Reveille were sounded on a cavalry trumpet presented by me to the R.S.L. Sub-branch. After this, the R.S.L. Club was stormed and many the cry 'and he's headed 'em' was heard midst the chatter of mine's a Tooths, Tooheys, Grafton or what have you.

"The dinner, which was an excellent repast, followed the stormy bar meeting and the 2/4th made a block at a table, and many were the glasses of amber fluid which were consumed and filled ad infinitum." As we see it, Ric had the distinction of being the first to wear the Association tie in Gloucester. His two were sold to him by one of our smartest salesmen in Hunter St.

Subs from Arthur Kleem, J. C. Clark and Ted Fox. Thanks, boys.

Joe McGrath, we copped it. Thanks and also for the regards.

From West Tamworth, Bill Smith sent best wishes to the boys for Anzac Day, also two years' subs and a quid as a self-imposed fine for not selling his last guessing competition tickets. Bill sees a fair bit of Nick Allerdice and Spider Foster and they are planning to be at the next country reunion at Wagga. Peter Denver called in on him at Christmas time but he was away on holidays.

Subs from Jack Lister (Kyogle). Thanks Jack, and do us a favour, will you? Contact the bods in your vicinity (the Groves, Gardiner, etc., etc.) and ask them to get their Battalion History ballot papers into us. Thanks.

Subs for two years from Bill Andrews and J. P. Gleeson of Grafton. Sorry, I didn't get around to see you on Anzac Day, Bill.

C. Herbert, a man who gets around the country a bit, writes from Port Macquarie to thank us for W.O.G. supplies and encloses a P/N for £2/2/6. Thanks mate.

Here's some more of the boys who have kicked the tin. K. Hale, G. Kirby, G. Bush and Charlie McKenna. We thank you chaps. Charlie, who has been residing on

King Island for the last twelve months, gives us news of other 2/4thers on the island, Bill Hamilton, Ray Ford and Jack Kong. "To celebrate our meeting we had a small reunion at Jack Kong's place, where many old memories were revived. Bill Hamilton brought in several copies of W.O.G. and, on reading these, thought I would like to renew my subscription for same" (good on you, Charlie) "and membership of the Association.

"The boys I mentioned asked me to pass on their kind regards when I was writing to any of the boys who might remember them. I myself was a member of 14 Platoon, C Coy, during the New Guinea campaign, and was wounded at Wewak."

Charlie sends regards to all and is in for a tie and an Association badge.

Reg Cole congratulated the President and Committee on the Anzac Day function and mentions that many people remarked on the way the tie made all the difference in the march. As food for thought he mentions a Bermuda jacket with the unit colour patch on the top pocket. Coat made to measure and gives a price. What's the reaction, chaps?

Ted Harris and Norm MacIntyre both send subs. Puts you a couple of years in front, Norm.

Two guineas also from K. H. Montgomery for subs and donation. Ditto C. Taylor with a guinea. Thank you, chaps.

One from Dagwood Jackson re the Wagga Country Reunion. See elsewhere in this issue for the full story.

Bill Reid has been transferred to Douglas Park. Hope to see you at the meetings now, Bill.

Bill Sumpter sent his Anzac Day telegram wishing us the best, as he has done in the past.

Mick Green sends in J. P. Gleeson's address for the Records, also his ballot paper. Much obliged, Mick.

A couple of years' worth of subs from Fred Dibden and congratulations to David Wren on his work for the Battalion History.

Missed a bit from Ric Carter earlier. He submits an idea for consideration and that is stickers for car wind-screens or back windows depicting the Association badge, being about the size of the registration sticker (N.S.W. sticker, that is) allessame N.R.M.A. and R.S.L. stickers. Suggests they could also be stuck next to the number plate of the house for bods who have a lot of 2/4th visitors. Wot do you reckon, chaps? We like opinions on these suggestions.

Cheque for a spin from A. A. Powell of Wagga. We thank you, Sir.

Subs from George Martin, Goulburn. Thank you, George, and also for the fiver towards the Battalion History.

### GENTLEMEN!

**Have you returned your ballot slip yet?  
We need your vote to get financial help from the  
Unit War History Trust Fund.**

**If you don't return your ballot slip it counts as a  
vote for not wanting a Battalion History written.**

**It's up to you!**



## ANZAC DAY IN MELBOURNE

We've had the following from Dick Parry (Gundagai): "I happened to be in Melbourne for Anzac weekend and rolled up to the start to see if the 2/4th had any followers in that fair city. They took some finding but we finally got started and during the march I thought it might be an idea to collect their names and send them on to you so that you would know who's who down south. I had to do this during the march because I couldn't stay on after — 320 miles is too far to drive after a binge — so no binge.

"You will remember most of these young fellows and they all send their regards and hope to get over to Sydney for a march some time:

1. Padre Keyte — who lost the toss and had to lead us.
2. Charlie McKenna
3. Stan Pretty (who brought the banner)
4. E. Walters
5. Diarrhoea Dan (the bugler). Dan insists this was his only name. He turned up in original S.D. uniform complete with colour patches and bugle and doesn't look a day older (than 90).
6. Vic Francis (who seems to organise things).
7. E. Waterstrom
8. W. Stevens
9. Joe McDonald
10. Les Dunn
11. Whizza Street (one time drummer in the band).
12. Frank Burns
13. Jim Ewart
14. Darky Abaazaid
15. Russell Reeves
16. Me

That was the complete roll up. I had to write some of their names on an envelope during the march so some may be incorrectly spelt.

"Incidentally, they don't have a meeting hall or cafe after the march, being so small in number, but usually go to someone's place to have a beer and an ear-bashing. This year I think it was to be Vic Francis' home.

"Please give my regards to any of the blokes I might know in Sydney and will see you next Anzac Day — might fly down, I've now got eight hours solo in tiger moths."

## ANZAC DAY

It is gratifying to see the increasing numbers who are coming to the wreath laying ceremony as the years go by. This year we had the biggest roll up for many years, both at the wreath laying ceremony with the first Fourth and the general march.

Fred and Mrs. Searle donated the wreath as of in past years and another of our regulars was Mrs. Parkinson, who brought along the rosemary for us.

At the F.U.P. for the march faces kept on showing up. Just to mention a few, there was Joe Roginni, quite unique inasmuch as he had two ties on, one of the 2/4th and the other of the 53rd Bn. '14-'18, of which

Association he is a prominent member. Another regular shower-upper was Paddy Reid. The Padre preached the Occasional Sermon at the Requiem Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral. Quipped the Padre to one of the boys: "You'd better come along and hear my sermon. It will probably be the last time I'll be invited." John Copland, by the way, is still trying to sell him a tie. Plenty of perseverance on John's part and powerful sales resistance on the Padre's. Another was Bill Parry who usually donates the Vincents A.P.C.'s to the luncheon. He did so again this year, for which we say thanks, Bill. He has also offered to donate to the Association a collection (complete) of the 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th Division and Divisional and Corps troops colour patches.

As mentioned before, the March was well attended in the 2/4th ranks. We were unfortunate, however, in having two conflicting bands with us, as those who marched know full well. Our own band, the Parramatta Caledonian, giving us a nice easy one hundred and ten to the minute and a very powerful drum and bugle band chasing us up at something approaching Light Infantry pace. So far as we tail-enders were concerned the step was a little ragged, to put it mildly. The Committee are seeing what can be done about this, however.

At the luncheon numerous odd bods not of the Committee pitched in and gave a hand with the general chores. Porky Williams was well to the fore wielding kegs and jugs as though he was no stranger to the suds. Sailor Harvey was seen to strike a mild blow also. Vic Forbes attached himself to the gang, hefting the kegs up the back steps.

General Dougherty made a short speech on his arrival and was given a rousing reception. Cec Chrystal, the President, according to his policy of getting up, speaking, and shutting up, kept the speeches to a minimum of number and length also.

We had a flying visit from some of the small fry in the persons of two of Bluey Mooney's children and two of Cec C.'s. Bluey, by the way, looks very fit.

During the course of the luncheon we had our usual visit from the old Fourth representatives in the persons of Pat Galvin, Bede Keary and Gerry Gerrard. They were given a good reception and had a few entertaining words to say in response to the President's welcome.

We also sent an official party to their reunion at the "Quo Vadis". We also were royally welcomed and flattered by their President's speech. Cec Chrystal and John Copland responded on our behalf and amongst other things spoke of the ever increasing bonds which tie the two associations. An invitation was given to all the "Bow and Arrow Boys" to attend any of our monthly meetings and we hope that some of them will take us up on it.

Later, Fred Staggs made an official presentation to the 4th Bn. of one of our Battalion ties to be worn by their President. At their reunion last year Gerry had committed actual bodily harm on Fred Staggs and had taken his tie from him. But Gerry's conscience must have smitten him because he was not wearing said tie



this year. Now that you have our official blessing, Gerry, see that you turn out properly dressed in future.

Just as our tail-enders were leaving the Fourth show, Sir Iven Mackay arrived. Not only was he a member of the Fourth, but he commanded their brigade in 1918 and our division in 1940. Naturally those of us that were there stopped for a few words.

Apart from Jack Noakes, Frank Synnot and Barney Gonnaughty and other mainstays of the old blokes, there was one youth there who was making his first appearance at a Fourth "do". A callow youth of eighty summers named Bernard Spencer. Good on you, Bernie!

By all accounts, everybody voted our luncheon pretty good, except that some seem to prefer a hot meal rather than a salad. The Committee are going into this matter, but if there are any of us who would like something different and didn't express their views to any of the Committee, what about showing up, specially at the June meeting, and giving us your views. Because, chaps, that's about the only way we'll know what you think of our efforts.

May we wind up up expressing the hope that you all enjoyed yourselves on Anzac Day. By the increasing attendance year by year we think that we, as a Committee, are doing a fair job at least. We are your Committee and if you think we can improve in some direction please show up and tell us, or at least write. We take an interest in our job. You take an interest in your Association and this will become the biggest and best Association in Australia.

### BATTALION HISTORY

The History regarding what we might call the first phase of the war is under control. We lack general material about the New Guinea Campaign. Some of you must have diaries of that period. It is these and a little recollecting on your part that we want. Some of you have already contributed to W.O.G. in the past articles about this period that will be of great value, but we need more. See what you can do, chaps. Make an effort on it.

### SICK PARADE

The following members are in R.G.H., Concord:

Ernie Tarr	Ward 12
Jack Watson	" 1
Wally Brooks	" 23
Tom Beasley	" ?
Bill Barrett has been discharged.	

### SUBS, CHANGES OF ADDRESS, ETC.

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

Subs and donations should be sent to the Treasurer. PRESIDENT: Cec Chrystal, 24 The Battlement, Castlecrag. XL 1993.

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.

EDITORS: Peter Cade, 19a La Boheme Ave., Caringbah. 524-3529.

Fred Staggs, 18 Bundarra Ave., Wahroonga. JW 3411.

The next monthly meeting of the Association will be held at Royal Naval House, Grosvenor St., City, on Friday, 3rd June, at 8 p.m.

**This will be "B" Company night and Uncle Jim Hardie will be O.C. Special Troops. Other Company Troops to attend in force to give them the razz.**

---

**HAVE YOU RETURNED YOUR BALLOT PAPER YET? WE NEED THOSE VOTES, CHAPS.**

---

### LITTLE BITS FROM HERE AND THERE

Secretary Rex took a bit of time off recently to visit some of the boys in Melbourne. Managed to contact Arthur Reilly and relieved him of two years' subs. He also saw Ken Moses who promised to send us something for W.O.G.

Max Rungie and his wife Betty dashed across from Adelaide recently to attend a family wedding. They only stayed a few days and both looked very well indeed. They send kind regards to all.

Lofty Gibson of 5 Alma St., Rydalmere, has been laid up for 20 months with a bad spine. Bill Newth, could you find time to look him up?

Col Ferguson telephoned John Copland on Anzac Day, sent regards, etc.

Fred Staggs found a Returned from Active Service Badge on Anzac Day but as nobody claimed it at the luncheon he has sent it on to Army H.Q. via the R.S.L., who will look up who owns it and notify him.

Also in the lost and found is a Bantam Bluestone Royal Stetson hat. The owner of this tifter may claim same at Cec Chrystal's office (34 Hunter Street), left at the luncheon on Anzac Day, I think.

For the June monthly meeting, which is B Coy. Night, an invasion has been threatened. Our spy reports that the 2/11th Bn. plan to do us over that night. Gordon Moray will be O.C. attacking force, leading what troops he can muster with courage enough to walk into the lions' den. Tell them all to eat their spinach before they show up, Gordon. We'll supply any Dutch courage that you may feel the need of.

LATE NEWS (blast it!!). The anticipated raid by the 2/11th is off, we think. O.C. attacking troops has been deflected to points east on business, Japan, Hong Kong, Thailand, etc., and will be away for about four weeks, and by the time he gets back his force will have gone home to lunch and need some regrouping. Pleasant trip, anyway, Gordon.

### BATTALION PHOTOGRAPHIC COLLECTION

From Jim Robin:

1. At December meeting per Fred Searle from Mrs. Parkinson (the lady who kindly presented the 2/4th banner) fifteen photos, all are of Palestine except two. They include a group of 8 in a room, including her son, Jack (the first man killed in action in the battalion).



There is only one name but I can pick Reg Cole, Ang. Gabriel and Henry Wheeler, who is standing at the piano.

2. Nevis Farrell sitting on a bunk in a tent reading a newspaper and another chap in a thoughtful mood sitting on another.

3. Bob McCarthy in summer dress, standing in front of a building with barred windows.

4. The snapper snapped, Stumpy Wright taking a photo of an old Arab leading a hay laden camel. Taken near Qastina 15/5/40 while on a route march.

5. A group of four on the beach at Gaza. Only two names, Nevis Farrell and Ted Jupp.

6. Another group of five in the surf. Only three names, Mallie Webster, Harry Whiteman and Sammy McCready.

7. Bill Walker in a summer uniform with web belt and bayonet.

8. Two soldiers, summer dress, sitting in a cafe with two bottles and beer mugs on the table.

9. Archie Quinnell standing alongside a bomb crater in the sand at Haifa. Oil tanks burning in the background.

10. A big bronzed Aussie holding paddles and balancing on a surf board at Tel Aviv.

11. Bugler standing in front of stone building.

12. Soldier standing to attention with rifle on the deck of the Strathnaver.

13. Sammy McCready outside a hut.

14. Soldier standing in narrow street of steps. Written on the back, "NX9883, Pte. P. Willan, 19th Brigade."

There are also five others without names or information. Many thanks to Mrs. Parkinson for these photos, which are greatly appreciated, especially the one of Jack. I did not have one of him though I have been trying to get one for some time.

Also at the December meeting per Ron Barber from Phillip Betts, Mudgee: 1. View of Gaza. 2. More of Gaza. 3. Gaza mosque. 4. Soldiers and Arabs standing in front of Gaza shops. 5. King Solomon Hotel at Tel Aviv with some soldiers sitting on the balcony. 6. Entrance to the Soldiers Club, Tel Aviv. 7. Two soldiers sitting at a table in a club with a waiter in attendance. A menu is chalked on a blackboard on the wall. 8. View of Tel Aviv beach with wrecks of ships "Parita" and "Tiger Hill" in the background. 9. A group of four standing outside a tent. They are Phillip Betts, George King (K.I.A. Tobruk), Harry Hamburger and Joe Crawford with Bill Reynolds in the background. Taken at Julis 1940. Many thanks, Phil.

Acknowledgement of photos received Anzac Day and before from the following: Ron Williams, five photos. Jack Huston, one postcard size. Bluey Peake, twelve snaps. Len Waterworth, one postcard. C. Whitehouse, seven of various sizes. Harold "Budda" Bowman, three, including two p.c., and one from Glen Ackerman.

My sincere thanks to all you chaps; they will be detailed in due course.

— COCK ROBIN.

## BATTALION WAR HISTORY

The response to the War History ballot paper has so far been good, although we are still short of our 66 2/3% vote to enable us to be subsidised pound for pound by the Unit War History Trust Fund as stated in the notice in last month's W.O.G.

Some of us, we know, are rather casual in these matters, so we would like to stress the importance of getting those votes returned so that we may have the benefit of the subsidy.

## SEND YOUR VOTING SLIP TO JOHN COPLAND AS DIRECTED ON THE BALLOT PAPER

We had a letter from Don Bundy (Narrandera) the other day and we print it in full (well, almost): "I remember once upon a time, June, 1941, in fact, some of us were in a convalescent camp back at Daphne near Pireaus on Greece, after having copped packets of various sizes on Crete. The late Jack Cumming, Bill Fogden and myself were together, our first experience at being behind barbed wire. Wasn't a bad camp, a bit hungry and boring, though. Little things would happen to relieve the monotony. I remember a bloke named Kesteven picking a row with a German guard. This guy Kesteven had his arm in a sling and the mob who were lined up for dinner soup called him off because it would have caused trouble for all of us if he had done over an armed German guard one-handed. This bloke Kesteven was very lucky he did not get caressed down the forehead with a rifle butt or spitted like a Shish Kebab.

"Another little thing was the night some galah dropped a lighted fag end down the hole in the john. The resulting gas explosion partially demolished the many seater john, causing us to think that the Turks had declared at last or the Vendetta had found one more shell and had snuck back to deliver it. The effluvium dated the structure with the Acropolis for antiquity.

"Another little thing was the time, after being away, walking around the compound, I rejoined Jack and Bill to be told that a bloke named Pluto had sent us some Drachmai. We had been short of just about everything, including Drachmai, so the money was very welcome.

"Well I don't or didn't know anyone named Pluto except Mickey's dog and a very ancient Greek bloke, God of the Underworld, long, long deceased about the time the john was built. I hardly think the explosion disinterred him. But the drachmai smelt O.K. and Jack and Bill seemed to know the donor, so they were spent on dried figs, fresh apricots and razor blades. (Sarj.-Maj. Cec Burwell's dictum of being fresh shaven held to the last.)

"I have searched the addresses published in W.O.G. for Pluto's but can't find it, so enclose a twenty drachma note. Would you please locate this Pluto bloke for us and give him his drachma back? A bloke as irresponsible as he at throwing his dough around must have gone through his deferred pay long ago and be in need."

Yours,

Donald Bundy.



KEN KESTEVEN: Your twenty drachs will arrive through the mail in a day or so.

### THE 1960 COUNTRY REUNION

Wagga Wagga is the venue for the Country Reunion this year, chaps. Peter Balfe, Bruce Stewart, Perc Dalla and Dagwood Jackson will have charge of the local arrangements, plus a few other local lads who no doubt will throw their weight into the show.

We understand that it is to take the form of a "Coming of Age" reunion, being the 21st year of the formation of the Battalion.

The Reunion will be on eight-hour week-end again, so further details in next month's issue.

### TRAVELLERS' TALES

Feeling tired, we had coffee at a cafe and reluctantly made our way back to the ship, where the enchantment of our night's sights passed away in sleep.

An early rising and we were on shore, determined to explore an ancient castle that we had seen near the waterfront. We crossed nice street gardens and fountains and made our way to the castle. The moat around it had been turned into a flower market and to stand above and look at the most beautiful blooms that were being sold for retail in the many flower shops in the city fully repaid us for the early morning rising. We stood fascinated by such a display of flowers but, pulling ourselves away, we crossed the moat bridge and went up to the main entrance to the castle courtyard. The coat of arms on the entrance has been sculptured out of marble and has stood up to the wear and tear of wind and erosion for many centuries. The main gates are of sculptured brass and shows chariots and fighting scenes of the ancient Romans. The castle itself has been built of volcanic stones, each one hewn out to the same size. These hard stones would wear out anything I know of. No wonder this castle and many others are still standing and still will be when many modern buildings will be demolished and in disrepair. I stood and meditated for a little time on the wonderment of this castle and thoughts came to my mind when I could picture the ancient Romans on their magnificent chargers with lance and sword coming out of the courtyard, the drawbridge clanging down as they went forth to do battle for their lord or baron. There is no doubt these ancient cities have great tradition, and in ancient times must have produced craftsmen of the highest order who, by skill and perseverance, were able to produce work that even today is admired and treasured. Modern craftsmanship that is rushed by time limits has no chance of imitating this great work of the masters.

We moved through the city again, made a few purchases and rushed back on board by 11 a.m.

Local stevedors held up the unloading of passengers, goods and luggage, and we were not on our way again until 2 p.m. I could have had another couple of Biera Peronis before I left this fascinating city of culture, of art, architecture, tradition and filth and squalor.

So on our way to Rotterdam. The ship is very quiet with half the passengers and three-quarters of the noisy kids loaded off at Naples. The Mediterranean is again of the deepest blue, and perfectly calm. The storm of a few days ago forgotten, we settle down to a wonderful, restful trip. Some of the passengers are counting the days when they will be disembarking but for myself I could stand up to this for a long time yet.

We pass through the Island of Sardinia, again with that volcanic outline. It is no wonder that strangers coming to Australia say that it looks very flat after passing coastlines like we have had so far in Europe. Our next land will be the Rock of Gibraltar, so do hope we pass this in daylight.

### Spanish Coast and Gibraltar

Early morning and more land in sight. A conference with some of the passengers informed us that it was the Spanish coast.

A long, rambling town could be seen — Malaga, wine producing centre in the south of Spain. This was the home town of one of our recent passengers, Tony Galicolo, a boxer who had just made a tour of Australia. We passed fairly close to many vineyards and wine distilleries. Hope to sample the products of Malaga whilst in Spain, being world famous (I'm sure they have been sampled wherever good wine has been drunk). Shipping in this area is very heavy and in the distance we could see the Rock of Gibraltar, actually a part of the Spanish mainland but a British concession. Several aircraft carriers and other units of the British Fleet were in the harbour.

Through the Straits of Gibraltar we plunged northwards up the Spanish coast.

Morning finds us in the Bay of Biscay and it is living up to its reputation. Overcast skies, rough seas, and decks that take some standing up on.

Thank goodness we have passed the Bay and are now heading into the more sheltered waters of the English Channel, which, I hope, are more kind to us.

The Channel has been really wonderful. A great amount of shipping has been passing us all day — tugs, lighters, tankers, ferries, fishing boats and passenger boats pass us in an endless stream. A clear day and the Cliffs of Dover are a very welcome sight to all the English passengers aboard. We are due at Rotterdam at 12 midnight.

### Rotterdam

The third largest port in the world, handling over 20,000 ships annually. The channel or canal leading into the port is about 35 miles long. As we pass along the canal, refineries with the familiar "Shell", "Caltex" etc. pass us by. Everywhere is shipping and the smaller canals leading from the main waterway are full with every kind of ship. Very large buildings and it seems like miles and miles of them, some fairly modern and others of an older vintage. The modern ones I should imagine replaced those damaged during the war.

The water engineering feats of Holland are really marvellous considering that most of the country (two-thirds at least) is below sea level.



10 a.m. saw us on our way. A dull foggy day, and as we moved out to sea on our last leg of the sea voyage to Bremerhaven we resolved to see Holland properly in the very near future.

As we moved out further into the sea, the biting north wind cleared away the fog and we charged northward at full speed.

The last night aboard was spent fairly quietly with a few farewell parties and the usual dance.

Packing completed and baggage on deck before 6 a.m., then a hurried breakfast. It is freezing cold as we take aboard the pilot and the tugs take over to push us into the wharf at Bremerhaven.

#### Clearing Customs — First Day in Germany

7 a.m. found us tied up. A clear frosty morning. The boards of the wharf are white with frost and there is a great welcome from the small band of people.

A quick passport check, a formal welcome to Germany from the official and then to the Customs shed to have our luggage examined. All the luggage was arranged in alphabetical order and all we had to do was to pick out our own, put it on the counter where the Customs asked about cigarettes, tea, coffee or gold or any other dutiable goods. He then opened two or three cases, put his hand into the contents and all was O.K. A porter put all the luggage onto a barrow and then booked it through to Bremen by train, which was at the station right alongside the Customs.

Money was exchanged to marks, railway tickets purchased and, as we went onto the station, Customs men checked that all hand baggage had the necessary customs check tag on it. We then took our seats on a most modern train. Overcoats off, the carriages were air conditioned, and we just sank back into the luxury of the seats. Reading matter is provided in the German trains, and this seemed a great idea to make the journey more enjoyable.

Another Australian, George Viney, from Wodonga, and two Europeans were our fellow travellers in the carriage. Someone suggested some beverage and, knowing that the German brewers are the best in the world we did not need a second hint to find us on the way to the dining car. "Haake-Beck" from the Bremen brewery was on and we had almost finished the second bottle when the train pulled in to Bremen. A mad scramble along the corridors of the carriages so we could get our luggage off the train. We checked the heavy baggage, came through the turnstiles and there we were at Bremen. Assistance was necessary from our German speaking friends to find out about luggage delivery, etc. but after they departed their different ways we were left to our own devices. "Damen" and "Herren" suggested the right places and, feeling strange in a strange country, one has to be completely at ease for clear thinking, so the respective sexes took turns for necessary visits. Feeling much relieved, we felt at home.

(To be continued)

#### BATTALION HISTORY

I should like to thank those who, on Anzac Day, made various offers to help me compiling the history. Also, on behalf of the committee, I should like to thank Messrs. G. Martin, W. Reaney, I. G. Wallwork,

J. Reynolds, G. F. Whitehouse, W. G. Shaw, H. Smith, A. F. Lindsay, T. Watson, A. A. Powell, K. H. Montgomery, N. S. McIntyre, C. Taylor and C. Herbert, who, during and before Anzac Day, gave donations towards the War History to the amount of £25/15/6.

These donations will be used to include in the history certain features which, in the normal course, could not be included on the score of costs.

The ballot so far has resulted in approximately 200 votes being recorded. It is desirable when we approach the War Memorial at the close of this year that we do so with approximately 1,000 votes in hand. This figure is not an impossible one, but will require the co-operation of everybody to achieve.

Therefore, since the months are passing, would all members take front line action in this matter, please.

Members of the Association could suggest to any non-member they meet that he might like to become a Life Member of the Association. It would be a convenient way to be kept on the books for anyone, for example, who lives, say, interstate or overseas, as well as keeping up the number of financial members.

As soon as I return to New Guinea next month I will make a start on the chapter dealing with the formation of the Battalion. To help those who wish to contribute notes on this facet of the Unit History I am having printed below the War Diary for that period. As can be seen, considerable filling out of what is a very bald statement of fact will be required. Such notes could be sent, please, to John Copland, who will forward them to me.

— DAVID WREN

#### CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS TO LIST OF NAMES

BENNETT, W., 45 Victoria Ave., Concord West.  
 BURROWS, C. J., 50 Mons St., Lidcombe.  
 BUTLER, L., 25 Amey St., Erskineville.  
 CRISPIN, E. L., 18 Clovelly Rd., Randwick.  
 DESMOND, J., 40 Henry St., Ashfield.  
 DRISCOLL, F., Box 713 Griffith.  
 EBZERY, R., 3 Victoria St., Unanderra via Wollongong.  
 FORD, R., King Island.  
 HALMARICK, C., Capt., Army H.Q., Canberra, A.C.T.  
 KERR, F. J., Bonnie Doon Golf Club.  
 LINDSAY, A. F., 104 Holt Rd., Taren Point.  
 KEYTE, J., 120 William St., Earlwood.  
 MILLER, A., Bowman St., Gloucester.  
 MEEHAN, J., c/- B. Cork, 21 Canoon Rd., Turramurra.  
 MOORES, A. C., c/- Colonial Mutual Ltd., Box 406, Bourke.  
 MOSES, K., Gen. Man., Rodney H. Evans, 253 Lonsdale St., Melbourne.  
 McNAMARA, T., 6 Linton Ave., West Ryde.  
 McNAMARA, L. F., 77 Camelia Rd., Toongabbie.  
 MCGILLRAY, D., 21 Clyde St., Guildford.  
 NEWELL, C., 6 Marilyn St., North Ryde.  
 PATTERSON, J., 289 Allison Rd., Coogee.  
 POWERS, C. F., 1 Parkes St., Manly Vale.  
 REID, W., c/- P.O., Douglas Park.  
 REILLY, A. R., 33 Camperdown St., East Brighton, Vic.  
 SCULLY, C., 3 Dorall St., Balmain.  
 SPARKES, E. V., 48 Etela St., Belmore.  
 SLEEMAN, O. C., 11 Second St., Warragamba Dam.  
 TABER, T., 92 Lagoon St., Narrabeen.  
 VENN, K. G., 10 Louisa St., Auburn.  
 WILKINSON, S., 50 Joseph St., Ashfield.  
 WEST, T. H., Yarramunda, R.M.B. 945, Cowra.  
 WILLIAMS, 67 Wardell Rd., Petersham.



## WAR DIARY

Unit 2/4th Battalion 2nd A.I.F.

Date and Time: From

To

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information
Ingleburn	3 Nov., '39		<p>Two drafts arrived in camp — the first at 1215 hours, the second at 1600 hours. All troops from militia units for 2/4 Bn. were enlisted from 4 Bn., 20/19 Bn. and 56 Bn.</p> <p>The Advanced Party troops were from militia units and the Recruit Depot at Liverpool.</p> <p>The C.O., Lt.-Col. P. A. Parsons, V.D., reported as under on the condition of the camp:—</p> <p>"The roads are unformed, electrical appliances not completed, interior fittings not completed in some huts, some keys not available. The mess tables were condemned by the Engineers, horselines not fixed, insufficient flues in the kitchens for Soyer Stoves. The feed, harness and stable buildings are not yet built. Padlocks and hasps are required for all store rooms and messes. The Meat House door is not flyproof. There are no gully traps or draining in the officers' latrines. Carpenters are still working on the floors of some huts."</p>
	4th Nov, 39		<p>Recruits who had received a small amount of training, varying from a few days to a fortnight, at the Recruit Reception Depot at Liverpool, marched into the quarters of 2/4th Bn. at Ingleburn, thereby bringing that unit into existence.</p> <p>The total number in strength was 9 officers and 252 O.R.'s.</p>
	5th Nov, 39		<p>Today was the first official visiting day and large numbers of visitors came to inspect the camp. More recruits marched in from the R.R.D. and a busy day was spent sorting people out, issuing stores and allotting quarters.</p> <p>The strength today was 13 officers and 437 O.R.'s.</p>
	6th Nov., 39		<p>Brigadier V. P. H. Stantke, Officer I/C Administration Eastern Command, visited the camp. By this time, various shortcomings in the layout and provision of stores had made themselves painfully obvious and these were brought to the Inspecting Officer's notice.</p> <p>More men marched in, bringing the strength to 19 officers and 469 O.R.'s.</p> <p>At night, the first camp guard was mounted.</p>

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 .....