



White War Green

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE 2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

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UNIT WAR HISTORY SITREP

Following our circular (over 500 copies sent out) and our earnest appeal for copy of incidents, names or ANYTHING for the History, to date I have to report that I am in receipt of articles from the following, and on behalf of the History Committee, I thank you. But we need lots more, so into it chaps.

Bill Andrews	Ferdie Pegg
Fred Apthorp	Noel Ford
H. G. Coomber	John Morrison
Dasher Deacon	Esca Riordan
Joe Lowe	Norm MacIntyre
Gil Hewitt	

The War Diary extracts are in the hands of the various Section Leaders who will be only too pleased to give you any detail of dates, etc.

We are holding some particularly good appendices from the Diary as well as several good letters as under:—

Gen. Dougherty on Greece, Crete, Desert, etc.
Norm Johnstone, Peter Cade — Crete.
John Copland, Jo Rognini, Vic Hill, Peter Cade,
Col Campbell, C. Chrystal — Greece.
Tom Clarke — full details of New Guinea.

"Padding" is urgently required — there must be thousands of incidents — please scribble them out and send in right away.

C. CHRYSTAL, President,
Unit History Committee.

THE MEETING

There wasn't a sensational roll up at the March meeting, chaps! Suppose about thirty all told which isn't very good. At this meeting and the Committee meeting that preceded it the main business discussed was Anzac Day arrangements and the Battalion War History.

Anzac Day is all organised (for details see elsewhere in this issue), but the War History is still very much "business in hand". (You might, if you scan this issue thoroughly, notice a reference here and there to our project, THE HISTORY.)

Two of our visitors were Charlie Hanson, who needs no introduction, and — Binstead. Both were introduced by Dick Pinson.

In the absence of the President, Vice-President Johnny Morrison took the chair. John Ct had an-

other wedding on. (The family's breaking out, John:) The meeting was over reasonably early, and the barman being amongst the missing, Massa Brooks took over and nary a drop did he have. A glass prominently displayed didn't click at all until Ted Gamble dropped a penny in it. Expressions of appreciation of the service given slowly mounted in the glass and Massa went home, his pockets a-jingling with three pennies, two ha'pennies, a button and an I.O.U. for 2½d.

Jim Robin did the right thing on the piano assisted by several vocalists and would-be vocalists. George Friend was one of the more tuneful bunch. We don't say that they broke up the meeting but the gathering broke up pretty soon after the Barber/Cade duet. Bye now.

THE SECRETARY'S MAILBAG

Jack Antony sends along his quid for his subs. He hasn't been the best lately. Hope to see you at a meeting soon, Jack.

Wally Frost, the Secretary, is checking about the "Nomine Quartus" booking for you and will advise.

A letter from Bede Keary (bow and arrow boys) apologising for non-attendance at our Annual Meeting and a bit of news about Anzac Day.

From Miss Edwina Lilley we have had a letter thanking us for the small cheque we sent her in appreciation of the work she has done for the Association. Edwina is Cec Chrystal's secretary, and has done quite a heap of typing chores for us. Don't thank us, Edwina; it is we who thank you.

Fred Catley sends change of address. He now lives in Mooroka, Brisbane.

A letter from Mrs. Kathe Watts which has been answered. From John Copland: Saw Joe Rognini last week, who had recently been discharged from R.G.H., Concord. Had a growth — a benign one — cut out of his tummy, and is on the way to recovery again. He says he was down to within 2 lbs. of his minimum weight while in German hands — about 8 stone 2 lbs. A mere shadow of his former self but has put on weight since the operation.

Was talking to Mrs. Tom Brockhoff who has done tremendous work for Blinded soldiers. Sends her warmest regards to Bill Luck and Ken Swan. Regrets she has not seen either of them for a long time, and would like news of them.

ANZAC DAY ARRANGEMENTS

Much the same as last year Chaps. We form up on the corner of York and Erskine Streets and march off promptly at 0805 hrs. to join the Old Fourth for the wreath laying ceremony at the Cenotaph. We would like as many as possible to attend this ceremony. From there we march to the forming up place for the march proper.

The Annual Re-union Luncheon will be held in the Coronet (same place as last year), 319 George Street, just up from Wynyard. Ample refreshments and a very good meal has been arranged.

The Parramatta Caledonian Pipe Band as well as leading us in the march will be at the luncheon also.

You meet your old mates and get all this too for only £1/1/-.

BE IN IT !!

HAVE YOU SENT YOUR CONTRIBUTION (LITERARY) TO US YET? PLEASE DO SO NOW. THERE'S VERY LITTLE TIME LEFT !

GLEANINGS FROM VARIOUS SPIES

Spy No. 1 reports that Dot, Johnny Jordan's wife, has been pretty sick in Liverpool Hospital. She has been through a serious operation. Hope you are well on mend now, Dot.

Our fat spy (vital statistics: 41-51-50), Spy No. 2 reports having been in contact with Bluey Hales. Bluey now lives in France (Paris) and is married with two kids, a boy and a girl. The same spy is going to up anchor and cruise around the Orange, Dubbo, Gilgandra, Coonabarabran, Tamworth and Scone districts and possibly Kempsey and Newcastle also. So if any of you boys see a Mr. Five-by-five in the district, just say "Good-day Sailor" and he'll buy a beer or something. Esca Riordan in Kempsey and Frank Sadler in Dubbo look to be monties for a visit. This should all happen at Easter.

Verbatim report from the same spy: "Saw an old timer dreaming on the corner of a city street the other day; I don't think he was lost because he is a postman in the 'Steak and Kidney'. I am writing of the rotund body of Tubby MacKinnon. He still looks the same as when I saw him last, maybe five or six or more years ago. He told me he would be along at one of our meetings."

Further sleuthing by No. 2 brought indirect news of Jack Humphries (Bondi) and he is ordered by No. 2 to show up at the next meeting and to bring Harold Frewin with him.

Efforts to get Jed Burns from Bondi to town to attend a meeting have so far been unsuccessful. He also suggests a means of getting Jack, Jocelyn and Elliot Schofield to every meeting. Jack, you pick Schoey on your way and that's all there is to it.

From Spy No. 2½: Firstly the missing magnifying glass has been found, so stop looking fellers. And here's the report: Jock Cummins wishes to be remembered to all the boys and promises to send in

some photos. Des Finch (B Coy) is a daddy again, a daughter, Helen. Don't forget that copy you promised me.

I regret to say that Bill Key is not the best; he has to go into hospital for operation; a Thyroid Goitre in the heart region; sorry to hear of this Bill. We all wish you the best and a speedy recovery.

Geoff Green (B Coy) wishes to be remembered, also promised photos.

Bob Lane is not at the Manly R.S.L. now. He is Secretary - Manager of the Homebush - Strathfield R.S.L.; also now lives in that area. Will be pleased to see any of the boys; they will be made welcome.

Geoff (Spike) Galvin (H.Q. Coy Mortors, Tank attack) down from Goulburn (enlisted Cootamundra); a visit to the Repat.; wishes to be remembered to all and promised photo.

Frank Mallett: his ship was in; just missed the meeting again; Frank is Purser on the Paparua; he will be on the coast for a month; Melbourne first, will try to see Ken Moses; Adelaide, Max Rungie, Peter Denver and others; Fremantle, with a hope of seeing Bill Lloyd (ex Sigs); Tasmania, U.K., then back here. — Globetrotter.

A cooee to Dudley Meacham, Warialda; sorry Dudley, but the write-up of your seventh photo was omitted from last issue; it was in Libya; two soldiers alongside Brigade wireless truck, with tall aerial up, and covered with camouflage net. Dudley Meacham was the driver, the one with cap on is Snowy Downes, the one in steel helmet was another member of the Signal Section named Tom, can't recall surname; the photo was taken outside Tobruk. Many thanks Dudley for these photos, especially the one of Robin Glazier (our first casualty at Ingleburn); I did not think I would ever get one of him.

From a high ranking spy (no number) doing a check up on the bods up north. "Arrived at Esca's (Riordan) and found him and Jim Brown down to work on plans for the Country Reunion there (Kempsey) next Eight-Hour Week-end. There is keenness for you! This bids fair for a most successful week-end. They have contact men in every centre whom they hope will become organisers for those centres. Jim Brown hopes to be with us in Sydney on Anzac Day this year for the first time. Esca and wife are off to Tasmania late this month and also hope to be in Sydney for Anzac Day. Jim Brown, incidentally, was foundation Hon. Sec. of the Macleay River Sub-Branch (R.S.L.) and then President for eight years. The first thing one sees on approaching the new building is the foundation stone bearing his name. Top marks to Jim for the amount of welfare work he is doing for all returned men in general and 2/4th Inf. Bn. in particular whenever he is able. Went to see Alan Nelson-Slee at South-West Rocks. He has had six weeks at Kempsey Hospital — the old ticker playing up. Alan is a keen member of the Kempsey R.S.L. and looking forward to the Country Reunion and will be able to help in publicity and organisation. So far have not dug up any 2/4th Bn. in Port Macquarie.

THE BATTALION WAR HISTORY IS NOW BEING WRITTEN!!!

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!!

WRITE OF THAT INCIDENT NOW AND SEND IT IN. IT'S **NOW** WE WANT IT, NOT AFTER THE HISTORY HAS BEEN WRITTEN.

SUBS RECEIVED

Frank Mallett, one English pound; Jack Antony, £1; N. I. Howard, 10/6; Gordon Chrisp, £1; Rupe Carrington, £1 (per Jim Robin); Jack Humphries, £1; and Dick Pinson, £1. Thanks Chaps.

We would point out respectfully that subs are now £1. It is hoped that we give no cause for offence by asking that those of us who have paid up at the old rate, weigh in with another 9/6. Thank you, Chaps.

LAST POST

We regret to announce the passing of the following First Fourth men:—

51086 Pte. A. H. Cogan
2629 Cpl. L. H. Dennis
2629 L/Cpl. G. A. Landers
5743 Pte. T. J. McIvor
6324 Pte. J. Rochford

LEST WE FORGET

The next Monthly meeting will be held at Royal Naval House on Friday, 7th April, at 8 p.m.

Committee meeting will be held before the meeting, commencing at 7 p.m.

Don Bundy: You will be pleased to know that your suggestion was adopted by Padre Reid. Last meeting night he showed up, wearing the tie in the manner prescribed by you, that is, neatly folded with the broad end out in a jaunty fashion. The effect was really something. It has become obvious that anyone who could suggest such a courageous departure from the orthodox, must, himself, be a sartorial wonder. Nay! May we say, Hero?

Of course during all this I've goofed again. I wrote in last month that the Padre didn't have a tie. HE'S HAD ONE FOR MONTHS! That effort of last month also got under Fred Staggs' skin. HE'S THE BLOKE THAT SOLD THE TIE! He intimated that such a world shattering event should have even made the New York papers. Staggsie reckoned that the sale was so prolonged that it was a toss-up as to what would happen first, Staggsie selling a tie or the Padre gaining a convert. (You'd get a bad bargain there, Padre.) —P.C.

DON BUNDY: HOPE TO BE READING YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE WAR HISTORY IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THANK YOU.

THE BATTALION WAR HISTORY

Extract from "White Over Green", 15th May, 1946.

"Some members are keen to get a Bn. History going. Brig. Dougherty has much data down to companies but would like to get the "inside story

from platoons, sections and individuals. All interested are invited to send stories, sketches, etc., of any incident or phase of any campaign to Harry Watts. He is pioneering this work in the early stages."

That, Gentlemen, was fifteen years ago. Harry Watts had collected quite a lot of material for this project which we have together with much more, more recently contributed. All members know that we now have a time limit on our hands due to the winding up of subsidies to unit histories from the War Memorial Trust.

We have been urging members to send in anything that will be of use to those compiling and editing the History. **WE WANT THOSE STORIES, DIARIES, ETC., AND WE WANT THEM QUICKLY PLEASE.**

Make sure that all events of importance are included in the History. **POST THEM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, OR AT THE LATEST BRING YOUR MATERIAL WITH YOU ON ANZAC DAY.**

As you know, a War History Committee has been formed, each member having a particular phase of the Battalion's history in his care, all names and addresses, elsewhere, in this issue.

The Committee has circularised many country newspapers and dozens of country radio stations in an effort to reach those who are out of touch with the Association. In fact the Committee has done everything to get all available material in.

WE ARE DOING OUR BEST TO GET OUR HISTORY WRITTEN.

ARE YOU??

The Foreword for our History has been written, most appropriately, by Lt-Gen Sir Ivan Mackay (C.O. 4th Bn., '14-'18, and G.O.C. 6th Aust. Division, '39-'44). In it he mentions that although much data was collected for the History of the '14-'18 Fourth, no suitable writer could be found. We mean to see that doesn't happen to us.

Maj-Gen. I. N. Dougherty is at present writing the Preface.

ANNUAL REPORT ON PHOTOGRAPHIC COLLECTION

The photographic records of the Battalion's history are not only growing in size but also in value. Apart from helping members of the Association to recall faces and places they will be of great assistance in the illustration of events which will soon be embodied in the printed history.

The success of this project has been due principally to the enthusiasm of members who have surrendered what must have been in many instances, treasured photos. We have now over one thousand photos. There are six albums and still growing.

This is a pictorial record of people and events associated with the Battalion from the early days in Liverpool with the 5th Coy 2/A.I.F., 1939—the Ingleburn and country camps—the march through Sydney—the departure—convoys through the Middle

East, Palestine, Egypt, Libya, Greece, Crete, Darwin, Tablelands and New Guinea. Also from Prisoner-of-War camps and the War Graves.

Once again I would like to express appreciation for the manner in which members gave these photographs in order to assist the Association build up a pictorial history of the Battalion.

We do not wish to take your private collections or any that may be of sentimental value; it is the spare photo or duplicates which often provide such interesting and valuable additions to our record.

I am indeed grateful for the co-operation I have received.
—Cock Robin.

MEDALS — TIES — ANZAC DAY

A few of our chaps still don't wear medals on Anzac Day. So that we can be completely uniform,

your Committee would like ALL RANKS to wear Medals and Unit Tie on that day. If you haven't received your Medals (which you are entitled to), a note applying for same, stating Army No., Rank, and Name, to Army Records Section, Victoria Barracks, Melbourne, will bring results.

For more uniformity, Medals should be worn so that the pin goes through the edge of the lapel (nearest the tie) and then catch it on the coat itself near the sleeve so that the medals then fall level with the top of the pocket.

In all cases (where possible) Unit Ties and medals should be worn to pay last respects to a fallen comrade if we attend a funeral service as a Unit Association.

2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION BENEVOLENT FUND STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1960

RECEIPTS			PAYMENTS		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Transferred from General Account	50	0 0	Balance at Commonwealth Bank, W. Ryde, at 31/12/60	58	2 6
Donations Transferred	8	2 6			
	<u>£58</u>	<u>2 6</u>		<u>£58</u>	<u>2 6</u>

We have audited the cheque book, receipts and vouchers of the 2/4 Infantry Battalion Association Benevolent Fund, as supplied to us. They are a true and correct record of the Fund's financial position.
Auditors.

2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1960

RECEIPTS			PAYMENTS		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Balance, 31/12/59, with Commonwealth Bank, W. Ryde		898 9 9	Printing	222	16 0
Subscriptions:			Postage	24	6 1
Membership	110	3 3	Functions:		
W.O.G.	110	3 3	Anzac Day Luncheon	220	0 2
		220 6 6	Reimbursement to R. Jackson (Wagga Show)	35	2 0
Donations:			4th and 2/4 Smoko	32	3 6
War History	40	10 6	Ladies' Night	26	6 3
Benevolent Fund	8	2 6	Wagga Deposits to R. Jackson	20	0 0
Functions:			Monthly Meetings	25	10 0
Anzac Day	187	4 0	Wreaths	3	10 6
Visitors to Wagga	21	0 0	"Reveille"	12	0
4th and 2/4 Smoko	22	5 0	General Expenses:		
Ladies' Night and Raffle	33	0 0	War History	206	0 0
		263 9 0	Flowers for Mrs. Jackson	2	10 0
Ties and Badges	43	0 0	Herald Advertising	4	10 8
Bank Interest	24	6 9	Battalion Ties	46	15 0
		1498 5 0	Australian Hotels Association	2	6
			Lithograph (War History)	5	17 0
	£	s. d.	Transferred from General Account to Benevolent Fund ..	58	2 6
Less Amount of	10	19 11			
From Balance of	898	9 9		934	4 2
			Balance at Commonwealth Bank, W. Ryde, at 31/12/60	546	0 11
Balance at Bank	£887	9 10			
Less Amount Paid by Cash to Waiters	7	0 0			
		17 19 11			
		<u>17 19 11</u>			
		<u>£1480 5 1</u>			<u>£1480 5 1</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.