



# White Water Green

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE 2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

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Patron: Major-General I. N. DOUGHERTY, C.B.E., D.S.O., E.D.

President: JOHN COPLAND

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Vice-President: JOHN MORRISON

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AUGUST, 1961

## THE KEMPSEY COUNTRY REUNION

DATE: 30th SEPTEMBER, 1961

PLACE: KEMPSEY

Intending visitors from Sydney and South West areas are dragging the chain with their bookings.

This is not intended to be a North Coast Reunion, but a REUNION ON THE NORTH COAST.

The functions will be held on the Saturday and the Sunday of the Eight-Hour Week-end.

USE THIS FORM IF YOU LIKE, BUT LET THE KEMPSEY COMMITTEE KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

### 2/4th INF. BATTALION ASSOCIATION

63 Cameron Street,  
WEST KEMPSEY, N.S.W.

I will be attending the 1961 Battalion Reunion.

Please reserve accommodation as follows:

Period: .....

Accommodation  
required for: .....

At: ..... (Hotel or Motel)

Deposit of £1 per person is enclosed .....

### AIR FARES TO KEMPSEY

#### AIRLINES OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Daily service to and from Kempsey, except Sundays.

Depart Sydney: 9.40 a.m.

Arrive Kempsey: 11.40 a.m.

Depart Kempsey: 11.55 a.m.

Arrive Sydney: 1.00 p.m.

THE FARE: £6/3/0 single

£9/5/0 return

DON'T MISS OUT! BOOK EARLY!

Train timetable published in last month's W.O.G.

The bookings from Tamworth and Inverell and various other parts of the North Coast so far have been good.

Definite starters from Sydney include Staggs, Robin, Morris, Morrison, Gorman, Chrystal, Barber, Copland, Cade, Gen. Dougherty, Searle, Harvey and there's more of them, that lot is from memory.

Even at this stage, arrangements for the function are just about finalised. SO HOW ABOUT FINALISING EVERYTHING AND GET YOUR BOOKING IN TO THE KEMPSEY BOYS AND RESERVE YOUR TRAIN/PLANE SEAT OR HOWEVER YOU ARE GOING.

THAT WEEK-END IN KEMPSEY WILL BE A BIG ONE AND WE WON'T BE THE ONLY VISITORS THERE, SO EARLY BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL.

### LITTLE BITS FROM HERE AND THERE

We are pleased to note that several of the boys who were dragging the chain with their subs have done the right thing. Most heartening and we hope that others will follow suit. Just send the form at the end of this W.O.G. to the bank that has your cheque account and they'll do the rest.

The Guessing Competition books are coming along nicely. If you want any more just write to Uncle Fred Searle and he'll also do the rest. And thanks to A. A. Powell for the Fiver sent in with the books.

We've a couple of butchers in Brisbane, proper ones we mean, Ted Werne and Tom Provians, family men, too, three boys and two girls and two boys and one girl respectively.

George Stack is another of us in the grog business, wine and spirits, this one. You'd better get to one of the meetings soon, George, and enrol in the beer dispensing class. There will be cut-rate fees for you, being in the trade, like.

Passing through Blayney, Ken Moses called in to see Jimmy Jackson, also in the meat business in a way. Anyway, Ken got plenty of meat from him and good stuff, too. Incidentally, Kenneth Andrew Campbell Moses (how come Moses got into that lot?) was one year old 20th August. That is, naturally enough, not the old Ken but his son.

'Bye now.



**THE SECRETARY'S MAILBAG**

Dave MacGillivray sends money and Guessing Competition butts, thanks Dave. Also he has been in touch with Bill Ford of the Parramatta Caledonian Pipe Band and reckons a few books of tickets will be sold by them if sent. Consider it done, Dave, and thanks.

Subs and Guessing Competition butts from Bill Key. Sorry to hear you have been laid up Bill, hope to see you at a meeting in the near future.

Mrs. R. A. Perram sends cheque to cover subs for the boss and raffle tickets. Thanks Mrs. Perram.

A thank you card from Larry Dooley. Hope to see you at the next meeting, Larry.

Clem Roddy sends a couple of quid for subs in advance, plus ticket butts and money to cover same. Thanks Clem.

K. W. Hunter does the same. New address: 56 Watson Avenue, Rose Park, South Australia.

Ticket butts and cash also from E. R. Wilson, of Goolgowi. Thanks mate.

From the "Bow and Arrow" Fourth, an invitation to the President, Secretary, Treasurer and Committee to attend their Annual General Meeting on 17th August. This meeting is coincident with the Forty-seventh Anniversary of the formation of the Fourth Battalion (17th August, 1914). We'll see you there, Bede.

Best wishes to the Association from George Kirkby also ticket butts and cheque to cover same. Thanks George.

Gerald Bohle also sends cheque and ticket butts. Thanks Gerald.

"Mr. Copland,

Dear Sir,

On behalf of my mother and the rest of the family, I would like to thank you and others of the 2/4th Bn. Association for the kind thoughts and expressions of sympathy during our recent sad bereavement.

"You have previously said that the official collector would like a photo of my father. Well, enclosed you will find a photo of him in uniform that was taken in Tel-Aviv and the family agreed that this was the best of him and would be one that many of his mates would recognise.

"So once again our sincerest and deepest thanks.

"I remain,

Yours sincerely,  
L. Herbert."

A letter from Esca Riordan. See elsewhere for the context.

From Joan Andrews (Ken's superior officer) who, on Ken's behalf, sold the Guessing Comp. tickets. She flogged them around the poker machine patrons and now needs some more. (They're on the way up, Joan.)

It seems that there will be a pretty good crowd going to the Kempsey Reunion from Wingham way. Rus Green, Pat Cusack will be amongst them and, of course, both the Andrews. Ken! You'd better get that story on New Guinea down to us. You won't get any peace until you do!

Joan has a few words to say on those who could show up to Association meetings but don't: "I'm sure you could find a few more fellows (twist their arms) to roll up to meetings, working bees, etc. I'm tired of seeing the stalwarts' names there each issue. I know!

I know! It's the same everywhere. But come along, fellas — we gals are ashamed of you."

SF64837 Joan Andrews

(alias Biddy the Boss)

(Must get her on the committee or something.)

Subs have also been received from Fred Hubbard, L. H. White and H. Whitman. Thank you, chaps.

**NEWS FROM FAR-AWAY PLACES**

**BROKEN HILL:** (This'll kill ya! We'll put it all in.)

"Dear Fred, enclosed are the raffle tickets, together with (shame on me) subs for the year.

"I've noticed from W.O.G. that things are on the up and up, what with the War History, Ladies' 'Do', Naval House, etc. I'm sorry I'm not a little closer, so I might be able to add a little weight.

"Jack Robertson and I are just about ready to take over a Scout Group after a few months learning the traps. One word from us and the whole 24 do what they like; but give us a few years and we should wear them down or get buried in the attempt.

"I hope you are sitting down for the next bit as she's a rocker. I'll be getting married during the Country Reunion week-end, in fact on the Monday. It is possible I might see some of the boys on the way through on Tuesday. (He's joking, of course. Ed.)

"Wishing you, your's and all the boys and their's all the best, especially for the Reunion.

Regards, Pat Lahey."

**AND FROM GRIFFITH:****REPORT FROM THE GRIFFITH BRANCH**

Two men on the sick list, Carl Balthazar, now discharged from the Griffith Hospital. Gordon Murray recently journeyed to Sydney for a check up and expected to be admitted to Concord. So far nothing official heard about him.

The recent Reunion of the Thirty-niners at Coota was noticeable for the number of 2/4th men attending, viz. Joe Lowe, Clem Roddy, Flan MacIntosh, Joe Wells, Butch Warren, Gus Kyle, Mat Bristol, Wal Taylor, Joe Cummings, Arthur Harridine, Bede Machan, Stan Doggett, Bruce Millard, Fred Apthorp and Jim Crowe. Hope I haven't missed any.

In all the reminiscing which has been done in W.O.G. I can't remember seeing the name of our old R.S.M. "Robbie" mentioned. Remember his insistence on everybody being regimental at all times and a credit to the Battalion? No doubt he came in for his share of criticism and a fair amount of cursing for the trouble to which he subjected members of the unit. For all that I feel certain that there wasn't a man in the Battalion who did not respect his judgment, his knowledge of matters military and his well-meant interest in the unit as a whole. This fact was quite in evidence one day when a bedraggled looking individual sauntered through the Battalion lines. (Definitely NOT a 2/4th type.) So disreputable did he look that even some of the die-hards afforded him a second look.

Of course, it wasn't long before he was spotted by Robbie. Even that worthy couldn't believe his eyes for the moment, for it was full ten seconds before he found his voice.



"Where do you come from?" was Robbie's first query.

"Oh, I belong to salvage," was the answer.

Robbie's reply, though by no means flattering, was in his typical manner. "Yes! And you b—— well look like it."

Query. Was he ever stuck for the right answer?

Whilst browsing through a copy of "The Land" newspaper I espied a picture of Alex Webb receiving congratulations from the President of one of the show societies following his successful exhibits with some of his farm stock, mostly cattle. Congratulations, Alex, keep up the good work and keep them queueing up.

Had a chance meeting with Arthur Power at Coota on the Queen's Birthday. Arthur is still farming at Gobarralong near Colac in the Gundagai district.

Sincerely,

Fred Apthorp,

Hon. Sec., Griffith Branch.

P.S. Just thought of it. Have we a Poets' Corner in the Bn. History? If so, it will be remembered that the two Joe's, Rognini and McGrath, have both contributed amusing verses in the past.

The next Monthly Meeting will be held on Friday, 1st September, at Royal Naval House, Grosvenor St., Sydney, at 8 p.m.

#### SUBS., CHANGES OF ADDRESS, ETC.

Literary contributions should be sent to the Editors.

LITERARY CONTRIBUTIONS SHOULD BE SENT TO ANY OF THE WAR HISTORY COMMITTEE OR ANY COMMITTEEMAN (names and addresses hereunder).

Sub. and donations should be sent to the Treasurer.

Changes of address, etc., should be sent to the Secretary.

PRESIDENT: John Copland, 23 Belmore St., Ryde. WY3771.

VICE-PRESIDENT: John Morrison, 38 Castlereagh St., Concord.

SECRETARY: Rex Gilliland, 157 Norton St., Leichhardt.

TREASURER: Fred Searle, 31 Griffith Ave., West Ryde. WY4905.

PRESIDENT OF WAR HISTORY COMMITTEE: Cec Chrystal, 24 The Battlement, Castlecrag. XL1993.

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

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

#### Committee:

Ron Barber, c/- Mosman Post Office, Mosman.

Sailor Harvey, 2/98a Blair St., North Bondi.

Ted Gamble, 5 Manning Road, Killara.

Tom Gorman, Sobtoan Ave., Eastwood.

Padre Reid, St. Brigid's, Brook St., Coogee. 38-8586.

Massa Brooks, 13 Turton Ave., South Belmore. UW8261.

Jim Robin, 20 Adderstone Ave., North Sydney.

Cec Chrystal (see above).

Fred Staggs (see above).

Peter Cade (see above).

#### LAST POST

The 4th Bn. Association and the 2/4th Bn. Association regret to announce the passing of the following Battalion members:

FOURTH BATTALION: 1572 Pte. A. G. Jago

2/4th BATTALION: NX5198 Pte. A. G. Viles

The Fourth and Second Fourth Battalion Associations extend their sincere sympathy to the relatives of these men.

#### LEST WE FORGET

#### SOME NEWS OF THE BOYS AND PHOTOS

Met Keith Turnbull (salesman at Knock and Kirby's paint counter). Keith enlisted at Cootamundra and is now at 2 Mountbatten Street, Oatley. He was in the Sig. Platoon. He said that Bruce Cork often comes in.

I also had a visit from Fred Apthorp. He has promised photos and also wishes to be remembered to the boys. He also sends his regards to Russell MacWilliams, who used to work there.

George Stack wishes to be remembered and promises when circumstances permit he will make it to a meeting and bring some photos.

Met Laurie James. He had, that morning, been discharged from hospital (Concord) and had been in there five week (AND DIDN'T NOTIFY US — ED.), the old knee injury is playing up again. It's good to see you around again Laurie, hope it's O.K. this time. Laurie also gave me his £1 deposit for the Kempsey Reunion. (The postcard photo sent by Laurie and reported last issue as Alan Simmer should, of course, have been Rimmer.)

A note from Dudley Meecham, Warrialdia. I quote: "Sorry, Cock, I sent some photos to see if they were O.K. and kept what I reckoned were the good ones to send later. But since I have had a fire where I lost my house and possessions and am now unable to oblige." I am very sorry to hear this bad news, Dudley. On behalf of the Association I wish to offer our sincere regrets and hope your luck turns for the best in future.

(To be continued.)

#### NOMINE QUARTUS

As a result of our working parties over the past couple of weeks the exterior work is finished on the cottage and there now remains the inside, which can probably be taken room by room. Les Leech is to be thanked for his technical advice and loan of equipment, as are, indeed, all those who took part. While we are mentioning old "Lizzard" we have it in mind that he might guide us with any interior work that we may be doing in the future, also.

While we're on it, the 2/4th Bn. Association will be represented at the '14-'18 Fourth Bn. Association's Annual General Meeting on Thursday, 17th August, a full report of which will be in next month's W.O.G., and we might add that we deem it an honour to be associated with the men of such a fine battalion.

#### 2/4th WAR HISTORY

Latest contributions to the War History include a noble effort from Col Campbell and another good effort from George Catt. Ken Kesteven and Bla Smith will have probably got their efforts in by the time this



reaches members. Further, the section dealing with Crete is at the final editing stage.

In addition, Ken Moses has been in Sydney on War History business and by the time this reaches you he will have, on his way back to Melbourne, called in to see Dagwood Jackson in Wagga, Jack Huston (who is doing all the work in Canberra), Gavin Long, who is the Official War Historian, also in Canberra, and Mr. Jim McGrath, who is Chairman of Trustees of the Unit War History Trust Fund. That's not a bad effort, especially as he has taken the trouble to charge up here in his own time and at his own expense. There are a lot of us who could, and haven't contributed anything towards the War History, who could well take this as a model and follow it to a lesser degree.

What did you do in the War, Daddy? Tell us too, Mate. We're still short on New Guinea material.

**NEW GUINEA! ANYBODY IN THE BATTALION EVER BEEN THERE?**

(Pardon the soap-boxing, but we need some action.)

Also, what about the A/A guard that was on the Costa Rica, recruited for same from the I.T.B.? We have the names, Johnstone, Rose, Leonard, Moses, Lovely and Galvin. Any more? And any verification and who can give us any details?

### STRATHNAVER

Since last issue many people have contacted John Copland regarding the proposed visit to the Strathnaver prior to her last voyage.

Since then, however, we find that there is no great rush at the moment as the ship will be doing a cruise or two in the Pacific and islands before her final voyage to the shipbreakers and it will be something like a year before this eventuates. However, we won't miss out and all those interested will be given due and timely notice through W.O.G. of the proposed visit.

### HOSPITAL VISITATION

At the August meeting it was proposed that as we had bods scattered in various hospitals throughout the metropolitan area, we would need several people to visit them all and accordingly it was arranged that for hospitals on the North Shore Fred Staggs (Phone 48-3411), Jim Robbin and Hal Bowman (XB5355) would make themselves responsible. Those in hospital in the Ryde district and Concord hospital would be looked after by John Copland (XY3771), Fred Searle (WY4095) and Tom Gorman. And for Royal Prince Alfred and hospitals thereabouts, Rex Gilliland and Jack Humphries (FW1790) would do the honours.

These arrangements are for the month of August and those of us whom we know of, who are still in hospital, will be visited.

**If you are in hospital and we don't visit you, we just haven't heard that you are there! Ask your wife or your mother or your brother or the bloke in the bed next to you to give us a ring and we'll come out and see you.**

**This magazine is full of phone numbers that you can ring.**

**If you are in hospital, ring one of them!  
WE'LL DO THE REST!**

### THOSE IN HOSPITAL

Lady Davidson's Home, Turramurra

Roy Hobman, Ray Mather

R.G.H. Concord

G. W. Barnett, Ward 34

V. A. T. Maidens, Ward 120

Royal Prince Alfred, Camperdown

John Wells

There they are for this month as far as we know. If you want to see them, ring up and check if they are still in and charge on out there.

### THE MEETING

Must have been about thirty at the August meeting. Notable amongst those present was Ken Moses, up from Melbourne on War History business. More about that elsewhere in this issue.

Also fresh in from a jaunt up to Brisbane was Johnny Morrison. He called in to see Fred Catley in Brisbane Repat. Hospital whilst there. Fred has been pretty sick and we all wish him the best and a speedy recovery. He also managed to see Reg Angel and Tom Provians. Sorry you have been missing your W.O.G.'s Tom. That will be rectified.

The main business of the meeting and the committee meeting that preceded it was the Kempsey Reunion, Hospital Visitation and the War History, all dealt with separately elsewhere in this issue.

The firm of Staggs and Searle took charge of the bar after the business was over. Not present at the meeting or at the earbashing afterwards were Paddy Reid and Jack Mooney, both of whom sent apologies. The other Mooney was there, though (young Blue, we mean), quaffing lolly water and putting in a word or two here and there.

Col Campbell had the misfortune to have a birthday that day (forty-two again and doesn't look a day over eighty), so Cock Robin hopped up on the piano and played "Happy Birthday to You" and everybody sang. 'Twould have been better if they'd all shut up. It was 'orrible. However, Col couldn't have cared less so there's no real worry.

Ticket number 45 won the raffle. Ted Gamble won it but what good is a bottle of scotch to a bloke who doesn't drink? Massa Brooks was the donor of the prize. Thanks Massa.

### TEAR OFF HERE

### AUTHORITY FOR PERIODICAL PAYMENTS

The Manager,

Dear Sir,

Commencing on 1st January, 1962, please debit my account on the first day of each January in each succeeding year, until further notice, with the sum of One Pound (£1/-/-) plus current bank charges for this service, in force from time to time, and place the amount less such charges to the credit of 2/4th Aust. Inf. Bn. Association with the Commonwealth Bank of Aust., West Ryde.

Yours faithfully,