



White over Green

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE 2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

For the second year in succession it is my pleasure and duty to thank the people of Kempsey on your behalf for a perfect weekend.

Frankly, words are hard to find to describe the hospitality which was extended to us; but, believe me, those who were there will bear witness to the debt of gratitude we owe to everyone who had a part in the organization and conduct of our visit.

The Annual Country Reunion is a very healthy supplement to our Anzac gathering in Sydney and is becoming a tradition in our association life.

The "Feast Of Anzac" is necessarily a crowded and somewhat rushed affair. We meet, we march, we lunch. In a few short hours we are on our way home again, still in the mad city rush not having had time to say one word to many of our old mates.

The long weekend in the country, however, is vastly different. Members and their wives start to assemble on the Friday. By Saturday every one is there and old friendships are being renewed all over the town.

Towards evening we have one short march, lay a wreath and remember those who have gone before. We then dine together as an association body generally with Shire, civic and local R.S.L. leaders as the guests of the local organising committee.

In the meantime the ladies dine together at one of their hotels as our guests and enjoy thoroughly their own re-union.

We generally adjourn then to the local R.S.L. where members have the option of joining their ladies for supper. At the same time the spirit of a grand re-union and a renewing of old friendships has to be experienced rather than put into words.

Sunday is another full day of leisurely fellowship. We have been lucky in being accommodated at a country club for a barbecue lunch and afternoon tea.

By Monday we are starting to make our way to our home towns ready for work on the Tuesday. Some couples are making it a habit now to take a week's leave, the better to enjoy the town and surrounding country.

On the whole a truly wonderful enterprise.

In this instance we have very special thanks to offer to the following whom we know by name. There are many others of course who took in the month of detailed planning, the work and worry which are unceasing in a project of this kind, we remember them all with deep affection and appreciation.

Jim Brown; Esca Riordan; Isabel Nelson-Slee; Cliff Barnett, President Macleay R.S.L. Sub-branch; Alan Bolton, Vice-President Macleay R.S.L. Sub-branch; Hugh Pittendrigh, President Macleay R.S.L. Club; Ron Tighe, Manager Macleay R.S.L. Club; Harry Thompson, Chief Steward Macleay R.S.L. Club; Jack Purvis, Leader of the Kempsey town band; Bill Harvey President Crescent Head Country Club; Ken Brenton Vice-President Crescent Head Country Club; and last but not least, the ladies of the Macleay R.S.L. Women's Auxiliary ladies, Mrs. Scott, Mrs. Callaghan and a wonderful band of workers. What a feast they prepared for us.

Here, too, a word of praise for Mrs. Graham who hopped in and gave a hand at the barbecue at Crescent Head.

Truly a memorable weekend.

On Friday, 2nd November, we have our annual re-union with 4th B.N. (1914) and the Parramatta Caledonian Pipe Band. Supper will be served and the **Guessing Competition** will be drawn.

Then on Friday, 7th December, we wind up the year with our annual Ladies' Night, of which, more later.

KEMPSEY RE-UNION

Well the annual country re-union is now well behind us and most of us by now are settled back in the salt mines and looking forward to next year.

Thanks to our hard working members in Kempsey, we had another successful and enjoyable weekend and I think everyone attending will join in with me in thanking the people listed in the message from our President, JOHN COPLAND. It is only through the efforts of this small band of people that we had the pleasure of experiencing a most enjoyable weekend.

At this stage I would like to make a special mention of the very kind and generous donation of twenty-five pounds by the Macleay R.S.L. Club towards the cost of the function.

This I think was a most unexpected gesture considering that they threw the club open for us and all go out of their way to make us welcome. From all members of the 2/4th we thank you.

Unfortunately only 59 members took part in the march which was 34 less than last year. Eight members had to cancel out at the last moment through unforeseen circumstances.

Apologies were received from Maj.-Gen. DOUGHERTY, COL. ABBOTT, ARTHUR PERRY (4th Bn. Kempsey), TOM CLARK, CEC. CHRYSTAL, BILL WALL, BILL SMITH, CRAIG CLARK, GEO. SUDDEN and MR. FLANIGAN, President of the Macleay County Council, and last but not least "DAGWOOD" JACKSON.

Our guest speaker was Group Captain John Waddy, who gave quite an interesting talk on the activities of the R.A.A.F. in the Middle East and Pacific and spoke of the close liaison with the army.

Maj. Leddy from Kempsey also gave a long talk on the activities of the 1st A.I.F.

Another celebrated guest was Eric Baume who was in Kempsey for the Festival and he spoke of his relationship with the 4th Military Bn. before the War.

This is a list of members who did attend:—

S. BLANCH, J. BROWN, A. CARPENTER, J. CHASELING, G. CROCKETT, H. DOWLING, T. ELLIS, R. EVERSON, E. GRAHAM, R. GREEN, D. GROVES, H. HAMBURGER, J. HUGHES, J. JORDAN, A. KIRK, M. McINNES, H. PEARSE, E. RIORDAN, F. SEARLE, W. SHEAFFE, J. WALLWORK, H. WRIGHT, A. NELSON-SLEE. All these men were accompanied by their wives, so you can see that even the women are becoming interested in the Association functions which in my opinion is the sign of many more successful years to come.

The remainder were grass widows for the weekend. B. ANDREWS, R. ANDREWS, R. BARBER, T. BARBER, P. CADE, R. CARTER, J. COPELAND, J. COUGHLAN, B. GARDINER, R. GILLILLAND, C. GROVES, A. HARDIE, C. HANSEN, W. KEY, P. LANE, J. LISTER, J. MALONEY, A. MILLER, R. MILLER, R. MOORES, D. MORRIS, J. MORRISON, D. PINSON, M. PEZZUTTI, I. POLLOCK, T. PROVANS, J. ROBIN, F. STAGGS, E. TWIST, T. WERNE, W. CAVANAGH and R. THOMPSON.

I think Roy Moores deserves a special mention having again this year travelled all the way from Bourke to be present.

If we have missed out on anyone who was present I can assure you it would be purely accidental as Esca went to a lot of trouble in compiling this list.

Esca and his very good wife also deserve a big hand for the faultless organising of this weekend and I feel sure that they must have spent many sleepless nights tying up all the small details which really put the final polish on a glorious weekend. Thank you Mr. and Mrs. RIORDAN. We are in your debt.

A very nice letter was received from Lieut.-Gen., SIR IVEN MACKAY, Adj. 4th Bn. 1914, G.O.C.

6th Div. 1939 and I think his message should be printed:—

"I am flattered that you should invite me to send a fraternal message to the 2/4th Bn. on the occasion of your annual dinner in Kempsey next Friday evening. This I do gladly, because I am very proud of my association with the two Battalions—1/4th Bn. 1914-18 and 2/4th Bn. 1940-44. I am very interested to learn that your annual dinner is to take place in Kempsey and I think the country centre idea a good one, I originated in Grafton myself.

"My association with the 2/4th Bn. today is reading proofs of your forthcoming history which I am sure you will all enjoy.

"Good luck to you all and enjoy your dinner.

Yours sincerely,
Iven Mackay."

We also received the following letter from our Patron Maj.-Gen. Dougherty:—

**TO ALL PRESENT AT THE KEMPSEY REUNION
SEPTEMBER, 1962**

I regret very much that I cannot be with you this weekend, but I do wish you all a very happy reunion and a safe journey home again.

I know you will be expressing your thanks to Jim Brown, and to our Association President and his Committee, for their work in organising the function, and I would like to add my thanks to yours.

There is one matter I would like to mention specially, and that is our Battalion history. Some of our members, with Cec. Chrystal at the helm, have been tireless in their efforts to make the history one worthy of the old Battalion. They have made splendid progress, but I know they still have some big problems ahead of them and that any help we can give them will be appreciated very much.

Concerning the business side of the history, there is one way in which we can help. Indeed, if action is not taken in regard to this aspect the publication of our history may well be prejudiced—and that would be tragic in view of all the effort that has been put into it.

I refer to the placing of firm orders for copies of the history. Before our Committee can make final arrangements for its publication the Committee must guarantee the sale of sufficient copies. So far orders have been received for only approximately 250 copies and you will all appreciate the seriousness of this. I do hope that we can all help our Committee by placing firm orders if we have not already done so, or by encouraging others to order copies.

Finally, I know you all realise the wonderful work that is being done by our President and members of the Committee of our Association, and by the Chairman and members of our Unit History Editorial Committee, in the interests of us all, and that you will express to them our thanks in an appropriate way.

Once again, my very best wishes to you all.

Ivan N. Dougherty, 27/9/62.

A last final request resulting from the weekend is an appeal to all who took photos. We would like a copy of any snaps of interest to the Bn. These would be added to our official collection.

HEADLINES KEMPSEY TIMES

Cosonova Copland cuddles and confuses country cousins at Crescent Head. Passionate President pleads pardon, claims public petting party only platonic past time.

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN
FRIDAY, 2ND OF NOVEMBER, THE
COMBINED SMOKO WITH 4TH BN. 1914-
1918. WE WANT ALL MEMBERS
TO ATTEND.

HOSPITAL LIST

CURLEY DAY from Leeton. Bed 8, Ward 210; HAPPY DAVIS. Bed 25, Ward 11; CARL BAL-THAZZAR. Royal North Shore; J. SMITH and COLIN CAMPBELL could not be located so we assume these two boys have been discharged.

Although the hospital visitation committee visit these boys regularly they would appreciate any of their old Bn. mates dropping in, so what about it?

LAST POST

Since sending out the special War History edition of W.O.G. to all known addresses we have received the names of several old comrades who have passed on, which we did not know anything about. To the previous list already published we have to add unfortunately the following:—

F. CHAFFER, Nth. Unley, Sth. Aus.; S. C. SHAKESPEARE, Petersham.

It was stated these men passed away some years ago. In the October issue of Revielle the name of NX 56712 Pte. K. R. CHISHOLM was listed.

Also in the same issue from the 4th Bn. 1914-18 7262 Pte. P. G. KEIGHRAN.

Although a little late in some cases through no fault of ours, to the next of kin and relatives of these men the members of this Association extend their deepest sympathy.

GUESSING COMPETITION

DON'T FORGET THE CLOSING DATE IS NOW.

WE REQUIRE ALL BUTTS, UNSOLD TICKETS AND MONIES BEFORE FRIDAY, 2ND NOVEMBER. RESULTS DRAWN ON THIS NIGHT.

MEETINGS

Please remember that there will be no more monthly meetings this year.

Instead of the meetings we have the following fixtures held in lieu of the meeting on the first Friday at the Royal Naval House and we would like to see as many as possible come along.

November is the Combined Smoko night and December the Ladies' night. Please keep these dates vacant. We want your attendance.

BATTALION PHOTOS

Jim Robin the official custodian and collector who devotes all his spare time to this collection reports that several photos have been taken from the albums. This in my opinion is a low and despicable act and you, the guilty man on reading this let your manhood come to the fore and return same.

Another complaint is the spilling of beer. We ask no beer to be taken near the table where they are displayed.

ATTENTION ALL COMMITTEEMEN

A special committee meeting will be held on the 9th of November, at 7.30 p.m., at the usual abode. All members are requested to attend.

HERE AND THERE

Remember just after last Anzac Day an article was printed about "COCK" ROBIN and the unknown admirer, well at Kempsey the lady made a complete confession. It was Mrs. "BUB" GRAHAM.

The case is now considered closed.

CEC. CRYSTAL, who recently returned from Canberra reports that Mrs. JOAN HOUSTON (wife of the Horse Doctor) is only too pleased to throw the cell open to any 2/4th men passing through or staying awhile. Hope you have plenty of beds Joan.

Word has been received of the passing of GEOFF GALVIN'S father in Goulburn. GEOFF is now at Adaminaby. To you Geoff we extend our deepest sympathy.

LISMORE NEWS

Members in this area are holding a 2/4th Bn. social night at the local R.S.L. Club on the 17th November, and the organisers invite all members within kicking distance to attend.

SECRETARY'S MAILBAG

Two letters from Padre Reid from Hindmarsh, S.A. He informs us that at present he is working hard to raise money to build a Youth Centre. He has also been elected to the 19th Bde. Ass. committee. Plays golf every Monday with TOM MORT and family.

Money for Guessing Competition, War History and subs. have been received from the following:—

FRED WIBDEN, R. PERRAM, VIC. HILL, THOMAS BRENNAN, ALEX COLLINS, KEITH BAILEY, JOE LOWE, SID YOUNG, MRS. COOK, W. BARRETT, BILL ANDREWS, R. FINDLAY, CHAS. BYRNES, FLAM McINTOSH.

GREG LIGGINS. I can't recall you personally but I was in D Coy. for a long time under DAVID WREN and many others. I would like to say hello to GEORGE STACK, VIC. FORBES, DICK MORRIS, JACK JORDAN. I remember CEC. CRYSTAL, he was on the inquiry board when we jacked up at the Divisional Parade in Darwin. There are not too many men in the Newcastle area to my knowledge, BILL HAYES,

SNOWY WALKER, PAT BRUTY and BILL KENSELL are some. Saw DAVID WREN on a newsreel some years ago taking census in the villages in New Guinea.

BONNY BUSH. Has anyone ever had any idea of having a get-together at some picnic ground around Sydney. I think it would be a wonderful idea as most people like to take their lunch out doors. Even if only a couple of cars turned up, in time the idea may grow.

PLEASE DO NOT FORGET YOUR ORDER FOR
THE WAR HISTORY.

COCKS COLUMN

Through unforeseen circumstances this is the page that went astray. Should have been in months ago so please excuse.

DICK PINSON playing at a wedding at the Hotel Cecil Cronulla was approached by HARRY RUSSELL, who wishes to be remembered to the boys and hopes to make a meeting.

VIC. FORBES who has been on the water wagon for a few months has now joined the ranks again.

JACK HEANEY was down for a medical examination at the Repat. and as it was not necessary to remain returned to Cowra.

DOUG. BARRY paid a visit to the N.B. and weighed in with his subs.

This par was handed to me. "BISCUITS" ARNOLD sighted at the N.B. He looks prosperous and obese. It must be a healthy water hole he visits.

Last Anzac Day a post card size photo was handed to me but by whom I can't remember. I generally put them in an envelope with the name. It may have been taken out for inspection and not replaced. It is an excellent group of five sitting on the outside of the Aus. Club in Tel-Aviv. They are ABDUL FREEMAN, DASHER DEAKIN, SKINNY WILLIAMS, BUNNY BURROWS and BLUE BENSON. Abdul is holding a small Arab girl the rest a glass of beer of course.

End of apology.

Was out one Saturday when a 27ft. motor cruiser called looking for me. I found out after it was COLIN CAMPBELL and friend going on a fishing trip outside the heads. Inside the heads yes, but outside the heads no. I believe in Terra Firma. The more firmer the less terror. His friend Morton Bean is well known to most as he used to cart our beer for the Anzac Days in '48-'50.

COLIN has changed from a Northshorer to a Southsider and has been a wandering gipsy from pillar to pub, I mean post and has not been getting his W.O.G. I have passed on your address.

It was very pleasant to meet CLEM RODDY of Tumut at the August meeting. Clem has had a bout in St. Luke's Hospital with a coronary. He often sees SNOW AGNEW and wishes to be remembered to DAVE ENDEAN and LAURIE WATERHOUSE. Am looking forward to the photo of PADDY YOULL that you promised.

Was also pleased to see JOE ROGNINI at the August meeting. He has been on a trip to Brisbane

and called at a dozen R.S.L.'s but did not meet any 2/4ers, but met 18 from his old mob 1914-18 the 53rd. Some time back Joe sent me a parcel of negatives which were printed but I did not know any of them. Joe gave me the names and they will be printed later.

FRANK MOONEY (Blue) met KEITH BEATTIE (Sunshine) at Tempe and was looking well.

HAROLD BOWMAN gave me some news but have got to get more data for that par.

BILL REID was at the July meeting and for accuracy for the records concerning the number of empty beer bottles removed from outside 10 Plt. tent at Burg-el-Arab. The number quoted have reached such proportions that claims have been made that the transport had to work overtime to shift the dead marines. Actually there was only one utility truck of empties removed. Still not a bad effort for 10 men.

Recently saw a truck with several men aboard going through Haberfield when I heard my name called in a loud 2/4th voice.

It was MAURICE BROOME (B Coy.). Pleased to see you again Maurice even though it was only brief. Your photos will be detailed when I get all the names.

At a special war history committee meeting JACK HOUSTON walked in and worked until we knocked off. Jack gave me a nice coloured photo of the Bn. March on Anzac Day. Almost got them all in too.

TED McCAFFERY met BILL BARRETT (A Coy.) Bill has been in Concord for 10 weeks. He has now put on a lot of weight and looks 100%. Sorry to hear you have been ill Bill.

Met ALBERT GRATTAN (A Coy.). Al at present lives at 45 Allen Street, Leichhardt, but may be on the move soon. He wishes to be remembered to all the boys and regards to DICK MENNIE. Al recently met BILL REILLY and SLIM DESMOND. He intends to join the Ass. and will come along to see the photo collection.

At the Kempsey Club ESCA RIORDAN saw HARRY DOWLING and TOM MALCOLM having a drink with MRS. NELSON-SLEE. Esca also met BOB LANE, Manager of the Homebush Club. He was busy with the Annual Congress Smoko. He gave them a wonderful night.

A cooee to BLUE MOONEY from DICK PINSON, please ring LL 2067 re books from CHARLIE HANSEN.

I learnt later that JOHNNY RINGROSE was also a visitor to JIM CROWE when in hospital. Sorry your name was omitted. When I rang him to tell him about Jimmy, his teenage daughter answered the phone and said Daddy was at work, so I told her to say JIM CROWE was in hospital. Earlier she had been introduced to DES FINCH so she said "Finch, Crowe and Robin, they must have been all birds in that Bn." Well there was also DAVID WREN, GEOFF HAWKE, KEN SWAN and JIM PARTRIDGE. We also had several galahs and at times when required cockatoos.

—Jim Robin.