



White War Green

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE 2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

I hope that this will be in your hands in good time to remind you about our Annual Ladies' night, to be held on Friday the 7th of December next.

Excellent band, good supper, lucky door prizes and, best of all, jolly good company.

The combined night with the 4th Bn. and the pipe band was well attended and went off well indeed. Thanks are due to all who helped to make the night a success. The jobs were shared by many and made light work. "MASSA" BROOKS brought along gifts to be raffled but we decided to hold them over until the Ladies' Night.

The Guessing Competition came good in the last couple of weeks and it is heartening to see the orders for the War History increasing in volume.

The book is now in the hands of the publisher and will be out before next Anzac Day, and will retail we expect at 40/-.

Somewhat dearer than we first thought, but there will be well over 300 pages of the same format as the Official War Histories. There will be 32 pages of photographs, numerous maps, nominal roll, complete casualty list in full, index, citations, formation lists, etc., etc.

The publisher points out that even an ordinary novel of comparable size is in the vicinity of 30/-.

No research or photos or any of the vast storehouse of information that this book will have.

JOHN COPLAND.

COMBINED SMOKO

As our president has already stated the night was a complete success but it is with regret that we notice the fall off of attendance from the 4th Bn. This we all know is naturally the result of the rapid passing of years and these boys are not as keen on late nights as they used to be.

I can, however, recall the many times in the early history of this annual fixture where the 4th Bn. out-

numbered the 2/4th Bn. in large numbers. The six who did come along were:— COLONEL OVENDENE, R. MUNRO, P. O'KEEFE, B. KEARY, B. CONATY, C. BURROWS.

A roll call of the 2/4th produced 28 names:— J. ROBIN, R. MORRIS, F. SEARLE, J. JORDAN, R. GILLILLAND, J. MORRISON, G. STEWART, J. GAFFNEY, I. POLLACK, R. BARBER, F. STAGGS, C. CHRYSTAL, H. DAVIS, A. MADDEN, J. COPLAND, R. EVERSON, G. COUGHLAN, H. GJEDSTEAD, H. WRIGHT, T. GAMBLE, M. BROOKS, L. LEECH, H. BOWMAN, R. McWILLIAM, B. BURROWS, W. HONEY, C. TAYLOR, J. ANALZARK, J. Morrison brought along one visitor, G. GARDINER from the 2/7th Field Ambulance and he is also a Western District Councillor of the R.S.L.

Eight members of the Pipe Band were in attendance led by my old sparring partner, Mr. Evans, the secretary.

The President opened the evening by proposing the Loyal Toast, this was immediately followed by a short ceremony in memory of Fallen Comrades. This was led by a piper playing the Lament followed by two minutes' silence and the Ode.

Mr. Copland then welcomed our guests both from the 4th Bn. and the Band, and proposed the toast. He spoke of the Comradship between the two units and the solid friendship we have formed with the band and thanked them for their services over the years.

COLONEL OVENDENE responded on behalf of the guest touching briefly on the exploits of the two units during both wars.

CEC. CHRYSTAL was called upon to talk of the War History and the result of this information passed on to us will appear later in this issue.

Supper was then served and everyone settled down to an informal evening.

Later in the evening it leaked out that it was Mr. EVANS' 79th birthday so everyone joined in in wishing him a very happy anniversary. He responded and

spoke of the readiness of his band to assist us when ever they possibly could and that they are only too happy to do this. During his response he handed out the information that two of his bandsmen were recently married: TED ARMITAGE 20/10/62 and STAN STEWART on 3/11/62. The response to this news was many and varied. However we extend to both of you and your wives our very best wishes for many years of happiness.

All too soon we found ourselves wending our weary way home.

The financial position of the night is as follows:— Receipts from the door were £25/10/- and expenditure stood at £32/13/6; a loss of £7/3/6 which I consider is a small amount to lose on giving our friends a night out.

GUESSING COMPETITION

This was drawn on the night of the smoko and the lucky prize winners were:—

- 1st Transistor Radio, W. H. WHITE, Box 617, G.P.O., Newcastle.
- 2nd Pr. Double Blankets, Mrs. E. HOBEY, 27 Charlotte Street, Leichhardt.
- 3rd Pr. Double Sheets, F. G. FRIZELLE, 3rd Avenue, Willoughby.

LADIES' NIGHT

This is the night where you ladies can get a little of your own back by forcing that husband of yours to take you out for the evening. This is only a quiet night but most enjoyable and has been highly praised by most ladies who have attended in previous years.

Dress is informal and you will have the honour and privilege of dancing to the dance music supplied by our own orchestra, Dick Pinson and his Trio.

I appeal to you all to set aside the first Friday in December, the 7th, and don't forget, book your babysitter early and avoid disappointment.

WAR HISTORY

Mr. COPLAND in his article has already given you the latest on this important project.

The main thing that is lacking now is orders.

We want definite orders for this book which is something you will all be proud to own.

The more orders we have the cheaper the volume will become and it will also give an indication as to how many copies we publish and this is most important.

GUESSING COMPETITION PART II

Racing against time I omitted to pass to the members the financial result of same, so for the benefit of those interested here it is:— Sale of tickets £255. Cost to run same £70/16/10, showing a profit of £184/3/2. Not a bad effort, but I am sure we can do better next year.

HAVE WE RECEIVED YOUR ORDER FOR THE WAR HISTORY?

SEND IT NOW BEFORE YOU FORGET

HOSPITAL LIST

In Uralla: JACK WATSON, Ward 3; CURLEY DAY, Ward 210; PAT SALMON, Ward 210; J. MCGREGOR, Ward 11.

HAPPY DAVIS is out for a short period but has to go back.

CARL BALTHAZAR, Royal North Shore.

These men have all been visited by our Hospital Committee but they would be happy to see any other 2/4th men, so what about it. Have you been out yet?

SECRETARY'S MAILBAG

From Pat Lahey: A cheque for Bn. History. "W.O.G. has shocked me a bit lately, some of the boys passing on were in the Unit early and as I didn't arrive until early '44, I didn't meet or know them. But first Doug Wallace, and then "Tiny" Ken Kable really brought it home, that old age is creeping on for all of us." Jack Robertson and I are still playing "Bobbies & Bushes" with a bunch of Scouts (sometimes I think they are playing with us). Just completed a bottle drive to ensure that 3 of our members fly from Melbourne to Hobart, each of them finding their own pocket money plus expenses from here to Melbourne for the Corroboree, to be held in December-January. All the best Pat.

From Bill English: A couple of quid for the Bn. History. Bill visits the R.G.H. at Concord quite a lot and next time hopes to see some "Two-Bar-Four" boys. Bill's address, 9 Castlereagh St., Concord West.

From V. McDonnell: Cheque for tickets, Sub. & War History. Has been away on sick leave for six weeks but is now back at work. (Hope you keep well from now on. —Sec.)

From F. Davies of Keirarille Pte. Bag. R.M.B. Young, N.S.W. My late son was a member of the 2/4 and I also have two very good friends, who were his mates too, and served in A. Coy. My late son, who was killed as result of accident, at the mine where we were employed, he as electrician, I as engine driver, now retired. My late son was Cpl. W. M. Davies, A. Coy., and two mates, Sgt. Tom Provians, and Arthur Kleem. No doubt my daughter-in-law (Matt's widow) will get a copy and if you can't supply I'll get her copy as I always get "White over Green" from her.

From A. S. Welling, 15 West Crescent, Hurstville Grove: An aboriginal member of 2/4 and has an order for the History. Also a request to have the W.O.G. each month. "Owing to illness over the latter years I have been out of contact with the good old Battalion and its doings, etc., but hope to make some contact in the near future. Mick Wellings.

From Bub Graham: Return of butts and money for self and Jack Maloney. "I think that the weekend at

Kempsey was one of the best that I have enjoyed for a long time. Hope to see you all on Anzac Day. We are making our plans to take holidays then, so we can be in Sydney for the day.

From Bede Keary: Note new address 50/56 Cooriengah Heights Rd., Engadine. I am now living on my country estate which is a stately seat, some spot. Bede is treasurer of 4th Bn. Assn.

From Perce Dalla: "I have had my good wife in bad health these last 6 months and is now in hospital, that leaves yours truly looking after house and home. Hope all and sundry in jolly good health and best regards to all.

From Max Nerney: Money for Sub. War History and Guessing Competition. Also names and addresses of ex-members of Bn. Col O'Brien (builder) Stanthorpe Qld. J. R. Brabon, Jnr., 39 Harold Street, West End, Townsville Qld. W. Missingham, Woodenbong, N.S.W. Mick Pethers, Woodenbong, N.S.W. Thanks for the info. Max. (Would members do same and help us to build up and increase our up-to-date list of ex 2/4ers.) —Sec.

From Bill Irvine: Cheque for History and Guessing Competition. Pleasantly surprised when Vince Sparks and wife called in on their way to Sydney after a caravan trip to South Australia. Very sorry he could not make the Kempsey Reunion where Esca had a bed waiting for Bill. Esca, Sam Rhodes and Bill were taken prisoner at the same time. Has seen Dick Latimer and George Arthur in Bairnsdale during the past two months. Tim Cloke is at 26 Anderson Street, Liverpool, Bill.

From Doug Stebbing: Cheque for subs and butts. Regrets he could not make the Kempsey Reunion.

From Duncan Russell: Order for History and return of butts. Duncan's eldest daughter with a couple of other Australian girls is at present in Greece and is going on to Crete. "I have told her where to look for a couple of bottles of whisky (surplus) which I buried, but I doubt if I will ever find the case of Fosters. Some 2/4 Bn. cove swiped when we docked at Pireus, while I was ashore arranging for petrol for the vehicles. Harry Sunstrom should have known but he never split. Still, I'd like to know its ultimate destination. It is certainly obvious it disappeared down somebody's throat but I'd like to know how they snaffled it.

From Miss R. Jocelyn: My father has been ill and is at present in Concord Repat. Hospital for an indefinite period and he asked me to tell you there are also two men from the 2/4 Bn. in R.G.H.—Mr. W. A. Aitchison, 62 Hawden Street, Ainslie, Canberra, A.C.T. and Mr. E. Slade, Close Street, Kyogle. Thanks Miss Jocelyn, we hope your father will be home and well again very soon.

From Ray Want: Pom Wallace and his brother Neil and Sid Bailey are all doing fine. "Pom" is still known as the biggest cane farmer on the Clarence (all 19 stone of him). Couldn't make Kempsey this year. Have had a week in bed with the flu but now O.K. At an exam next month I am going for a Masters' Ticket for a boat. Am studying at the moment, but the going is not very easy. Send two car stickers—10/- enclosed.

From Peter R. Hunter: I would like to obtain a copy of the "History of 2/4 Bn". I am particularly anxious to read this book because my father the late Mr. Raymond Robert Hunter was in this unit during the war. I think he was because his colour patch was white over green so you will understand why I want to read this particular book.

From Sgt. J. Cederberg: Saw your add in "Telegraph" re 2/4 Bn. As you see I'm still in the army, 25 years, very busy at present. Good to know "W.O.G." still alive.

From Victor Frank Roberts: I wish to place an order for the History. I felt that this is something that should have been written for us years ago. If I can contribute towards this book in any way I would gladly do so.

From Cec Chrystal: Would you please convey to the president and members of the Association my thanks on behalf of our family for the message of sympathy forwarded on the death of my youngest sister Dorothy.

From Jim Brown: Thank you for your information concerning Neville Hunt. I tracked him down from Maryvale to his present address at Gisborne Street, Wellington. I have spoken with him by phone today and he is employed as a Field Officer by the P.P. Board. He was Cpl. Hunt of A Coy. and was wounded out in the same action as that in which Capt. Williams the M.O. was killed. However, he apparently has recovered well for he now has six children ranging from 11 months to 15 years.

Requests for History from the following: F. J. Wanham, 235 Annandale Street, Annandale; Mrs. G. P. Hollis, 122 Arthur Street, Grafton; A. K. McCaffrey, 20 Plover Street, Taree; G. Willchams, 72 Woniora Road, Hurstville; L. Stronach, Commonwealth Bank, Portland; W. A. Capper, Losuia, via Port Moresby; Bill Eslick, Mt. Colah; Tom Gorman, 4 Burns Road, Eastwood; Dick Pinson, 12 Myrtle Street, Marrickville; Harry Dowling, Willawarrin; E. Hester, R.M.B. 260, Griffith; H. G. Coomber, 349 Waterloo Road, Greenacre; B. F. Turley, 34 Old Bathurst Road, Blaxland; Ken Casey, Bentley, via Lismore; N. Rogers, 82 Larmer Street, Narrandera; Ted Gamble, 5 Manning Road, Killara; Mrs. E. Herbert, 20 Whitehaven Road, Northmead; H. T. Smith, 10 Peter Street, Blacktown; Peter Gallagher, 5 Stuart Street, Kempsey; P. J. Rayment, Box 21 Ardlethan; W. A. Wells, Temora Road, Junee.

Subs and Butts from R. Kenningale, Griffith; Rex Gilliland, Don Bundy and Jack Hardstaff, Narrandera; (Snow) Morgan, Lithgow; Molly Irvine, Crows Nest; Mrs. Irvine has been holidaying for the last six months in Canada and America; Ken Hunter, 36 Addison Road, Brighton, South Australia; T. Hopper, 36 Hoptoun Street, Paddington. Tom sees a lot of Ken Webb and Bluey Moss at the Paddo R.S.L. and had a visit from Stan Harris and Les Fox recently. Harry Gjedsted, Wahroonga; J. Reynolds, Merriwa.

From Dick Morris: Met Stan Wilkinson and Stan or Herb Hoather at the Ashfield R.S.L., and had a discussion with them about the History and "Cock's" photos.

LAST POST

In November issue of "Reveille" the name of NX 6118, Sgt. A. M. DUNCAN.

From the 4th Bn. J. CRICLOW, R. H. DARTER, F. A. DAVIES, W. E. MOULD, S. PITTMAN and G. H. WHITE.

To the relatives and close friends of these men we extend our deepest sympathy.

HERE AND THERE

We have received the news of one of our members who was recently burnt out. The unfortunate man was TEX DALLAWAY of Smithfield. Out of all his belongings Tex was only able to save a washing machine. Our president contacted Tex who said the local R.S.L. and friends were looking after his present needs.

MR. and MRS. JACK JORDAN, MR. AND MRS. HARRY WRIGHT and MR. and MRS. FRED SEARLE attended a ball held by the Motoring Club of Australia, at the Ryde Town Hall. They were celebrating the 22nd wedding anniversary of Dot and Jack.

COCKS COLUMN

Coincident! Here is one for Ripley. JOHNNY MORRISON told me recently that during the Battalion stay in Darwin, he struck up a conversation with a chap at Noonimah L. of C. This chap happened to say he came from Summer Hill, Sydney. Asked what street, he said, "Regent Street." "What number?" He replied, "No. 9." JOHNNY said, "That's the house I was born in." Why? Now all sing "You must have been a beautiful baby".

Sorry I missed mentioning FRED APTHORP in helping to name the "Soldiers in the sand photo". I'll use the apology also as an excuse to remind you to write me any news of the boys in your area. Thanks FRED.

ARCHIE JOHNSON (Corp. Sigs.), a friend of 2/4ers at the N.B., told me that PETER GALLAGHER from Kempsey had been in but was unlucky enough to miss the boys. PETER wished to be remembered to them and hoped you see all the locals at the Kempsey Reunion. Thanks ARCHIE.

Called into Paul's Hardware, Q.V. Markets, City, to see VINCE SPARKES. He looks well, and is contemplating a holiday with his wife by caravan to Adelaide via the Murray Valley in the latter part of September and will be pleased to run across any old members en route—literally speaking I mean. VINCE had news of COCKY GORHAM at Barmedman, now a family man. He works with the P.M.G. Department.

Also called in to see KEITH TURNBULL. He is back at work again after a sojourn in hospital and I am pleased to report he is O.K. now. KEITH had been for a holiday on the North Coast, but had met only 2/2nd chaps and had no news to report.

I heard that WALLY HENRY from Kyogle had called in to the N.B. Sorry I missed seeing you WALLY. I may have got some news for the column. How about writing any news of the boys in that area.

Some time back SLIM POWER reported that a chap got into his cab wearing a battalion tie. It was NED ERSKINE of Griffith. I suggested that next time NED was in town to call at the N.B. midday or after 5 p.m. Well, NED has been down to the Big Smoke again and took my advice and called in, but I am sorry to say I missed him. Better luck next time NED.

From PHIL SMITH (BLAH) 25 photos. Eight of the series supplied by the Military War History Section; one postcard and 16 snapshots. The postcard is a group of six sergeants and a civilian holding a little girl on the porch of the San Remo Cafe, Tel-a-Viv. Written on the back "Six Sergeants on the loose". They are SCOTTY IRVINE, PHIL SMITH (PHIL has his hair cut very short and the words Nazi Spy is written above his head), BILL IRWIN, JOHN COLLINS, NOEL EDWARDS and MONTY SEIMS. Each of the boys are holding a glass of beer. March, 1940.

Snapshots: A photo of the almost deserted deck of the "Strathnaver", ship's officers standing under the lifeboats. PHIL SMITH and KEITH BEATTIE standing in front of tent, location not shown.

A challenge game of bridge in Sergeants' Mess, Kilo 89, BERNIE O'MARA, TOM WARDMAN, WILL JACKSON, PHIL SMITH and R. DAVIES. One glass of beer on the table. Was that the first prize?

PHIL SMITH reading notes in an olive grove, on back X Reg., Haifa.

RON RAYMONT (Mortars) in shirt and shorts background of the endless plains of Palestine.

PHIL SMITH and A. MAY leaning against rail. 1. Derna, Libya, on way to Narsa Brega 140 south of Benghazi. 2. A. MAY standing under sign on road near Benghazi. The names on the signs are: Left—Agedabia, Serete, Tripoli, on the right is Sabri, Barce, Derna, an arrow underneath pointing each way.

The next snap seems to be taken at dusk. Much Italian transport near Ghemines, in the foreground a large explosion of about 50 pound of Italian cordite. This photo was taken by LASCAR ROACH.

Now PHIL I know there is a story concerning these last three numbered photos re that special mission job, so will you please write it for me. The next four snaps are taken in Crete, May, '41. LT.-COL. DOUGHERTY standing on a porch. CAPT. P. A. TOMILSON standing in front of a monument. This one looks like the ruins of a cemetery with soldier standing on wall. The last is a scene of gardens and undulating country.

The other four were taken at Crafers. Group of four: WALLY CAPPER, PHIL SMITH, HAROLD CONKEY, BERNIE O'MARA. Five in the next one: NEWTON HOWARD, GEORGE MARTIN, PADDY REID, ROSS ELLERMAN and JOHN COLLINS. Four in this group: NEW HOWARD, JIM GRAHAM, TOM MORT, JIM BROWN and a black and white dog.

Five in the final: PHIL SMITH, CEC CHRYSTAL, BRIAN ROLFE, TOM MORT, BERNIE O'MARA and FIDO the dog again. Many thanks, PHIL.