



White over Green

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE 2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Well my friends, another year draws to its close and with it my term as your president.

From what we are told it would appear that world tension is easing for the time being and that is something for which to be thankful.

By the time you read this, the Ladies' Night will be over so that since we do not meet in January, our next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting on the first Friday in February. You will receive reports and balance sheets in your January "W.O.G." and I do make an earnest appeal to you to roll up in force to the meeting in February.

Some of you who were leaders in war are now leaders in peacetime jobs. Many of you learned your trade of leadership during your service with the Battalion and the time surely must be ripe for some of you to come forward again to plough back into your Association some of the harvest you have reaped.

These are difficult words to write and delicate things to talk about so you must be assured of my deep sincerity and my desire to see the Battalion Association served as well as is humanly possible.

You must be aware of the illustrious small hard core of workers who have run the show for you all these years. I am a comparatively newcomer to the team. All of us are hard working men in our daily associations and some are getting very tired. Some of you have executive positions, have staff, have secretaries who could do in minutes what takes us hours to do in long hand during our evenings and weekends.

Reports have come in from various sources from time to time that "So and So" would not come to the meetings because the same old "So and So" clique is always there running things. I am a firm believer that officers should rotate, there should always be coming up through the chairs, our future leaders, serving and getting the hang of things to fit them for higher office and thus the opportunity for higher service to the Battalion, its members and dependents.

It has been stressed so often, too, that the Association and the Battalion traditions belong as much to the men who joined in 1945 as to those who joined in 1939. Then again these are younger men and should be coming forward too, to experience some of the burden—and the JOYS—of service to the Battalion and our old comrades in sickness and in health.

There lies the core of my Christmas message as far as your relations with your comrades are concerned. Please treat it seriously. For the broader aspect, may God bless you all and grant you and your loved ones a truly happy Christmas, remembering Who's Birthday it really is.

May 1963 hold every joy and peace for us all.

JOHN COPLAND.

NOTICE

The enclosed notice in this month's "W.O.G." is a copy of an advertisement which appeared in December issue of "REVEILLE". It will appear in other service journals in the near future.

Through the kindness of R.S.L. STATE EXECUTIVE, a copy of this notice has been sent to every Sub-branch in New South Wales.

Particular thanks are due to MR. HOGG (ASST. STATE SECRETARY) and the EDITOR of "REVEILLE", MR. CYRIL RYMAN for their advice and co-operation. It is a very fine notice and well worth a place on any notice board. Please see what you can do to help in this regard.

THERE WILL BE NO MONTHLY MEETING IN JANUARY. THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING IN FEBRUARY.

WAR HISTORY REPORT

November, 1962

You will be pleased to know that final draft of the manuscript of our History is now complete and in the hands of the printer. It is now being type-set and shortly we will receive the start of the galley proofs for final proof reading.

The Casualty List and Nominal Roll have been completed, and other matters for the Appendix, such as Battle Honours, Honours and Awards, some Army Lists which the Military Secretary has approved of our using, are also now in the printer's hands.

All that now remains is finalising the maps and photographs, two very important matters and Dick Morris, Bob Ferguson and Ted Jackson are getting on well with this job. The general Index which Bob Jackson has started can't be finalised of course, until such time as we have the proofs completed and pages numbered. This also will be a marked feature of the volume. Sir Ivan Mackay lent me his albums of the Middle East to get some photographs run off, and believe me they are wonderful albums and records to have. His generosity not only in this regard, but in his careful checking of detail in our draft volume is very much appreciated.

Jack Huston, still our No. 1 contact man at Canberra has advised that the Official War Historian, Mr. Gavin Long, has forwarded to the authorities at the War Memorial, the certificate which it is necessary to receive before the grant from that authority can be made. This is another most important stage we have reached in this great effort of our Unit's History.

In December you will see a half-page advertisement display in "Reveille" giving more detail of "White Over Green", and I know you are all going to rate it a first class History and something of which I trust you will be justly proud.

Our thanks are due to those members who assisted in carding the casualty lists, and also to our staunch pal, Gordon Robins in Melbourne, who spent many long hours at the Records Office compiling our Nominal Roll; also to Ken Moses and Arthur Reilly who have been assisting him at weekends. The cards when typed run into 77 pages of foolscap paper—a mighty effort indeed and we are most grateful.

Our early suggested price has been altered owing to the size of the volume. The price is 40/- per copy and I have been informed that if it were a private publication, the costing would be more like £4/10/- to £5 a copy.

Further information will be passed on as it comes to hand. If you haven't yet sent your order in or told your friends, **please do so without delay**. Numbers at the moment are just on 500 copies ordered.

C. CHRYSTAL, War History President.

THIS MONTH'S BEAUTIFUL THOUGHT

"To ensure that crime REALLY doesn't pay, give it to the government and let them run it."

"THE BUCKSHEE PHILOSOPHER"

NOTICE

Due to having to go to press early so as to be out for Christmas, the Ladies Night report will be in January's issue.—Ed.

APPRECIATION

During the past year and while the Battalion History was still being written the job of editing "W.O.G." fell entirely on the shoulders of FRED STAGGS. Though having his hands full with his business and other things anyway, without the extra work entailed in getting "W.O.G." out, Fred shouldered the load and pressed on.

For this, Fred, the PRESIDENT and the Association thank you and particularly, so do I.

PETER CADE.

LAST POST

We regret to announce the passing of CARR BALTHAZAR.

He was an original of the Battalion and died in hospital after a long illness on 27th November.

(The funeral service is to take place after "W.O.G." goes to print. Details in next issue.)

SITREPS FROM ALL OVER

TED KNOX sends in his subs, etc.; also best of luck and wishes to the boys. Thanks Ted.

An equally brief note from TED HARRIS also with subs and his advanced payment for the War History. Thank you, too, Ted.

Some weeks ago TEX DALLOWAY had the misfortune to have his house burnt down. In reply to our enquiries Tex assured us that the local R.S.L. (Smithfield) rose to the occasion nobly together with friends and that his immediate needs have been taken care of. Keep in touch with us Tex and let's know the developments.

LIONEL ORMISTON has been on Sick Parade for a few weeks. He was up in Sydney and keeled over with a coronary which resulted in a few weeks in hospital. He's on the mend now though and should be back at Boggabri by the time this is out.

A letter from ISABEL informs us that ALAN NELSON-SLEE is back in hospital again. No details as yet. Hope you are out again by the time this comes out Alan.

It's good to see the "MACLEAY ARGUS" taking an interest in "W.O.G." They request the copy covering the Kempsey Reunion. Let's face it chaps, we are becoming famouser and famouser.

Regarding further publicity for the Battalion History, DICK MORRIS has had correspondence from LITHGOW BROADCASTERS PTY. LTD. (2LT) stating that they regard it as a pleasure to publicise our history

and that they will do so on their programmes on Sunday nights at 7.30. This is a show for the local R.S.L. entitled "ONE MAN WAR". Don't forget! Sunday nights at 7.30!

G. DALE sends best regards to all the boys also subs, War History sub and guessing competition money.

HARRY STAFFORD, Honorary Secretary of the 1914-1918 Fourth has sent in a cheque to cover a list of 14 of their members who have paid up for the Battalion History. Thanks Harry, we can accommodate them and any others of the Old Boys who are interested in yours and our history.

An order for the History from G. HENSON, late of Don Coy.

JACK NOAKES, one of the Old Boys, sends in his order for the History independently. Thanks, Jack.

Another of our champion short letter writers, JOHNNY REYNOLDS sends a bit of cash but no news. Anyway, thanks Johnny.

JIM BROWN sends in a clipping from the "CANNBERRA TIMES" with a photograph of the ordaining of the REV. STANLEY ATKINSON, late of the 2/4th AUST. INF. BN. An extract from the paper reads: "Two of the 15 priests who placed their hands on MR. ATKINSON with the Bishop to raise him to priesthood were his sons-in-law, the REV. STANLEY WILLEY and the REV. RONALD MOON. MR. ATKINSON, who has served as honorary deacon for several years at ST. JOHN'S while he has been employed at the Department of External Affairs, will go to St. Philip's, O'Connor, as priest."

COCK'S COLUMN

Had the pleasure of meeting recently at N.B. E. McCaffery, J. Morrison, R. Barber, J. Graham, P. Cade, J. (King) Cong, R. Bawden, P. R. Jackson, K. Kesteven, J. Heaney, R. McWilliam, J. Gaffney, R. Morris, A. C. K. Harvey, C. Campbell and B. Stewart. Jack (King) Cong has left Lake Cargelligo and is now living at Woy Woy. Jack asked if I had heard from the boys on the Island or up Narrabri way? Answer: No. Pleased to see you Jack, and now that you are closer, hope to see you more often. Ken Kesteven stayed to say "Hullo" and "Goodbye" but is going to call again. Jack Heaney was up on a visit from the South Coast. He was surprised to see Rusty McWilliam there as two years ago he sent a sympathy card to Mrs. McWilliam because he had heard that Rusty had died. It was a pleasant shock to find that Rusty is still with us.

Jim Graham recently met Len Waterworth and they had a couple of beers and earlier had met Ron Stennett and had a beer with him. Ron looked extremely well.

Dick Bawden paid a one day visit to Sydney and passed on the news that Sgt. Noel Howell has been transferred to Gilgandra as I/C Police Station there. Noel was highly regarded in Mudgee. He put more into the Force than he took out. He was the recipient of a very liquid farewell, and was presented with a sporting

rifle by Dick Bawden on behalf of Mudgee citizens. Congrats from the boys, Noel. Thanks for the news, Dick. Hope to see you down again soon, and would appreciate any news you may post me.

Bob Jackson was up on a business trip and also to celebrate his mother's 80th birthday. To Mrs. Jackson we send our heartiest wishes. Hope you had a very happy birthday, and many more to follow.

Rusty McWilliam with his brother Dick Rusty, met Johnny Meehan and arranged to be at our next meeting and promised to bring along some photos. Thanks Rusty. Johnny Meehan intended to have lunch with Max Wilson and arrange to see Keith Turnbull. Johnny mentioned that Charlie Granquist is going well at Baulkham Hills. Come along to a meeting Charlie, as Jack Walsh and Bruce Cork want to see you.

Very pleased to see Johnny Reynolds at the October meeting. He was down from Merriwa on a snap visit for his niece's wedding. Johnny had a message for Carl Balthazar. Tom Alcott of Merriwa is asking after him.

It was good to see John Meehan (Sigs) of Waverton, at the meeting, and lucky for me too. He gave me a lift home. John had met Keith Turnbull, who has recovered from a recent operation and is beginning to look his old self again. John sees Max Wilson occasionally and reports he is working harder than ever. Also is in regular touch with Bruce Cork and Rusty McWilliam who have assured him they will be regular attendants at the meetings.

Getting seated in a bus recently, I found I was sitting next to Dic Mahoney (B Coy.). Hadn't seen him for years and he lives out Drummoyne way. Vic asked after the boys, and he will be coming to a meeting at the first opportunity. He mentioned he still has an autographed menu of the Strathnaver with many names of (B Coy.) boys.

Bruce Stewart on a visit from Wagga looks well and said he had met Jock Cummings (D Coy.), Joe Crawford, also (D Coy.) and Max Sydenham (H.O. Coy.). This time Bruce timed it well and came along to the Social Night and met many of his old mates.

A new old face at the October meeting, Alf Madden (Trans.) now at Newtown. This was his first meeting ever. Alf ran into Jim (Happy) Davis (Sigs.). Jim told him of the meeting, so he came along and joined up badge and all. Welcome mate! Alf frequently sees Tiny Wood (Pioneers), also Bill Riley (Trans.). Saw Geoff Galvin in South Australia and Owen Harrison. Alf and Jim Davis had a few drinks with Les (Hubly Bubby) Butler at Botany View Hotel, St. Peters. Well thanks to you Jim, we have a new member, keep up the good work. The hospital list you gave me will be printed elsewhere in this issue.

A misprint. The par reading "Biscuits Arnold" in October issue should have read "Biscuits Arnott, Sorry Sao". Hope you are well mate. How about some news?

Had a yarn to Don Anderson at the meeting. He looks well and said he occasionally sees Rex Everson. That wouldn't be hard to do. There's plenty of him.

Ross Ellerman has sent in news of his travels and mentioned that he very much enjoyed his visit to the N.B. and will try to make it more often. After enjoying the malted milks at the North British, Ross took Frank Crutchett to Central Railway and bumped into Jim Brown, on his way back to Kempsey. He had been to Sydney on one of those rare occasions of the sitting of the State Parliament!!! Ross didn't think Jimmy had become tongue-tied in any way! In Adelaide late last year Ross ran into Tom Mort. Tom has taken up another property in the Keith District in South Australia. Must be a good life as Tom looked absolutely in the pink. Again at Adelaide last month saw Dudley Schlank but unfortunately from a distance. Was not able to get into conversation with him. Must rectify that on some future occasion. Ross has also seen Ferdie Pegg a couple of times in recent months. He also looks like he gets three feeds a day, and not looking much older than in days of yore. Thanks Ross. Your news will be much appreciated and hope to see you at the N.B. in the not too distant future.

At the N.B., last Friday night in August, one of our members came all dressed up in his Sunday suit, a suit he bought in London and Battalion tie all set to go to the meeting that was not on until the following week. Well, not being a top-off, I won't mention his name but he should have known better as he is a foundation member and during the years of his valuable work he has been president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, committeeman and general rouseabout. As it is the first time he has made a mistake of this kind we will overlook it. So chin up Johnny.

P.S.: Ed! Is "Morrison" a Scots name?

COCK ROBIN.

TOUR OF WAR GRAVES SPONSORED BY WAR WIDOWS' GUILD

We have had communication from Mrs. Una Boyce, Honorary Secretary of the War Widows' Guild, with respect to the above heading and we give the full text.

"The War Widows' Guild of Australia, New South Wales, is now sponsoring tours of any War Graves in Australia or overseas for groups or individual members of the general public. Details will be expertly handled by a first class travel agency and any small profit accruing therefrom will go to the War Widows' Guild.

"The first tour proposed will be for Anzac Day, 1963, and will cover a seven day visit to Port Moresby, to include the special Anzac Day Service on Thursday, 25th April, at the War Cemetery there. The all-inclusive cost, including travel, hotel accommodation, transport and insurance will be in the vicinity of £122.

"Other tours in mind would be to Lae for about £145 and to Kranji Cemetery, Singapore, for about £260.

"If you are interested in such tours you are cordially invited to contact the War Widows' Guild of Australia, New South Wales, Suite 306, Anzac House, 26 College Street, Sydney. Tel. FA 3927 or FA 4023 (hours, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.) as soon as possible.

"During the Christmas recess when the Guild office will be closed from 20th December, 1962 to Wednesday, 2nd January, 1963, please ring Mr. J. Marks. 27-8311 or (after hours and on Saturday mornings, 27-3607."

(Signed) UNA P. BOYCE,
Honorary Secretary.