



# White Water Green

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE 2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

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## EDITORIAL

Gee Fellers, this is a tough one. With the Easter holidays just a neck in front of Anzac Day things are pretty grim. Your Committee has decided to get the April issue of W.O.G. out before Anzac Day and to do that and because of the holidays, our copy has to be with the printers before the end of March. The copy will be there but here is the problem. Our General Meeting which is our main venue for the gathering of news, scandal and what have you, does not take place until the following Friday. Therefore, it's on the cards this issue may not be up to the usual standard, however, we will do our best. Anyway "Fellers" this is your W.O.G. and it's being read by your mates, so how about a letter or two, in fact any little bit of news or nonsense will be of interest to somebody somewhere so come on "Fellers" "You give, We take".

Thank you gentlemen, good luck, good hunting and a terrific Anzac Day.

EDITOR

## ANZAC DAY

It is hoped that this paper will be in the hands of all members before Anzac Day but whether it will or it won't is beyond our control owing to the holidays, etc. However, should we make the grade, and I hope we do, here are the main points in brief just in case some of you did not receive your last W.O.G., and have forgotten the arrangements, or just didn't inwardly digest same:

(1) Form up outside the Occidental Hotel, York Street, City, 8 a.m., in preparation for the Combined March and Wreath Laying Ceremony with 4th Bn. 1914-18 and thence to the form-up place in Macquarie Street, for the main march.

(2) At completion of the march all members will proceed to the embussing point and as soon as each bus is full it will depart immediately for the Manresa

Hall, Carlow Street, North Sydney. Cec Crystall will be acting "Bus Marshall" so if in doubt ask Cec.

(3) On arrival at the Manresa the function will get under way. There will be plenty of eats and plenty of other refreshments so there will be no need to stop off at any other water hole on the way. I might add in case you are thinking otherwise the buses are being provided by the Association and are "BUCK SHEE" to you, so all you have to pay for is your luncheon ticket.

(4) After the Massed Bands in Martin Place, our Pipe Band will travel direct to the Manresa to help entertain you as in previous years.

(5) After the luncheon members will have to make their own way home. We cannot be held responsible for this. Buses direct to the City can be picked up in Miller Street, 100 yards from the Manresa, and it is only a matter of a few minutes to North Sydney or St. Leonards Railway Station. Buses also to northern beaches, etc.

(6) Hotel right opposite for those who have not had sufficient.

(7) Drivers of cars can park in the area early in the morning and collect their vehicle for the drive home at the conclusion of the do.

This is a new venture that has been forced upon us so please support the hard work put into it by your organising committee. Let's all roll up in force and show them that their hard work has not been in vain.

## PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

It is unfortunate but it is now definite that the Tuesday before Anzac Day will not be a public holiday as anticipated earlier. This may upset the plans of some of our country members, though I sincerely hope not for their sakes as well as ours.

Nothing makes a lumpy mattress more comfortable than the ringing of an alarm clock.



### ANNUAL COUNTRY REUNION

Yes boys the "DO" is becoming more and more popular each year so it looks as if it will be an annual teature while ever we can get some country town to do the honours for us. The 1962 reunion will be held in Kempsey again and even now Esca Reordon and his band of willing workers are busy organising this years "DO". It will be bigger and better even than the show they put on for us last year. So start thinking about it boys.

### LATE SUBS.

Fred Searl rang to report fairly regular meetings with Kevin Spurway lately and it suddenly dawned on Fred that Kevin has been overlooking his subs over the past year or so, so in goes Fred for the kill and comes up with the scalp, £1. Watch your step Kevin, with the Treasurer on your back it's hard to say where it will finish. Good Luck Kevin and thanks for the scalp, Fred.

### WAR HISTORY

Reports from the War History Committee are good. We learn that the book is nearing its final stages of compiling and in a very short time will be placed in the hands of the publishers. After this it will be on sale for all members and friends. As the publishing of this book is going to cost money it has been suggested that any member may assist if he so desires by sending in money which will be noted and kept in a separate fund to be used specially for this purpose, the publishing of the book. We have no idea of the cost of the book, but whatever money you pay in now will later be credited to you when purchasing your volume. If too much money has been put in, the balance will be returned to you along with your book. How does that sound to you? We think it is quite a good idea that by paying for your book a little early you will be helping us no end.

### HUSH

If you tell Mum I've bought a catapult I'll tell her I paid for it with the money I got on your empties.

### DECORATIONS

It has always been embarrassing to me when asked how many decorations were won by the Bn. and not being able to answer with any degree of certainty. However, from memory I would say the number is twenty-four made up of the following:

1 V.C., 1 D.S.O., 20 B.E., 1 B.E.M., 5 D.C.M., 7 M.C. and 7 M.M.

Perhaps someone in the unit could write an article on the above with names and decorations awarded along with M.I.D.'s

### FRED APTHORPE GRIFFITH

All this information is at hand, Fred, as it has been compiled for our war history which will be published in the near future, I suggest we leave the answer to your question until then so as not to steal any of the meat from this important project.

EDITOR

### SOLDIER'S REST

Thy rest is here, my soldier son:  
The field is still, the battle done.  
The green earth shall at last receive  
What, with God's help, she did conceive.

Neath setting sun your soul shall rest  
Within the earth's cool, soothing breast:  
The soft, sweet wind's shall croon to thee  
A dirge of wonderous melody.

Your glory shall live upon the earth,  
Your courage proved, your strength and worth  
Deeds etched within the hearts of men  
You defeated evil and erased sin.

Rest now warrior, in endless sleep,  
The stars shall guard thy slumber deep,  
Each being now filled with hope, not fear,  
Shall kneel in tribute beside thy bier.

This is an extract from an old issue of "SALT"

### COCKS COLUMN

1. Believe it or not Dick Pinson is on the water wagon, has been for a month, sarsaparilla is his order now. You are a stronger man than I am Gunga Dick. Harold "Budda" Bowman at the general meeting told me the reason why Len Waterworth did not attend—I'll keep "Mum" too Len, on condition you are at the next meeting. "Blue" Mooney said he had seen "Slim" Powers in his hack in the Repat. area. How about parking in the Royal Naval House area next meeting night "Siim", may get a fare home. At last George Stack made the meeting, also the committee, he sends regards to Fred Driscoll and Ted Swaddling at Griffith, hopes they are both O.K. and that he will see them both on the 25th. Harry Wright on a short trip to Wagga called at the library to see Bob Jackson but he was not there; called at his home to find he was not living there now, so missed seeing him. Cliff "Squizzy" Taylor reports that latest information is that Noel Howell is now Police Sergeant at Tamworth and that Tolga Jack is still stationed at Padd. as Skipper of the Trawler.

2. From Cec Crystal three snapshot size photos of the Strathnaver, with information, 16th January, 1962: (1) Strathnaver moored at wharf being loaded prior to her last trip home to be broken up. (2) Group of four standing on deck: Johnny Morrison, Sister Dorothy Kiley (nee Inglis), Capt. Eade, Malcolm Longstaff (Public Relations Officer). (3) Group of four: Cec Crystal, Johnny Morrison, Sister Inglis and Capt. Eade. Also later from Cec two larger photos, group of four: Sister Dorothy Inglis (2/1 A.G.H.), Capt. Eade, captain of the Strathnaver, Johnny and Cec on deck looking at a large book the captain is holding. Next is the same four looking at Strathnaver War Service Plaque, 1940-45. Many thanks Cec. And finally from John Copland a large and very excellent photo of the Strathnaver painted white and minus two funnels, the remaining funnel made higher with the Harbour Bridge in the background, presented by the P. & O. Line. Also from John a book with information on the Strathnaver, containing the printed passenger list of her voyage. Auto-graphed by Capt. Eade, 17th January, 1962.



3. From my home I was able to see the Strathnaver sailing down the harbour with her Paying Off Pennant flying and receiving the tribute in the form of ships' whistles, sirens and hooters to which he was so justly entitled. My mind went back to that occasion 22 years ago when she had taken the 2/4th Battalion to new lands, sights and experiences. As I stood and watched, memory raced back over the years and I saw the men of the Battalion as they were then and also remembered those who had not come back.

4. Local lad makes good. For the benefit of those who missed seeing him, and the boys in the bush, this is to tell you of a new TV personality, Johnny Mervyn Morrison. I saw him being televised on board the Strathnaver grinning as though he owned the ship. Why didn't you sing Johnny? Well, he has bought a new Biro pen and is anxious and happy to sign autographs. So bring your books along to the next meeting or to the North British and he will gladly mark his X in them for you. There is a whisper that he has installed an extra letter box to cope with the expected fan mail, also that many viewers have sold their sets. Writers cramp yet, Mervy?

5. Detailing the four photos from Padre Reid. Three snapshots and a larger photo. Group of five: Newton "Doc" Howard, George Martin, Padre Reid, Ross Ellerman and Jack Collins. The snaps are of Jack Carrol, Jack Connors, Jack Hawkins and Harry McIntosh. A lady is with them in this one. The other two snaps are of the same men in different positions taken at Craffers and Mount Lofty. Many thanks for these Padre, also for the large photo of the 2/4th Battalion officers. This is an excellent photo, very clear, forty-one men. Padre Reid is in the centre without a tie. I'll see Fred about space and give you the names next issue. Thanks again. It is with regret that I learn you have left us for your new Parish in South Australia Father, and I know I am voicing the sentiments of the entire Association. We will certainly miss you but will not forget you. Their gain is our loss and that's for sure, but I am still hoping to see you on Anzac Day and at our next reunion. Au revoir, but not goodbye.

COCK ROBIN

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Mt. Kiera Diggers' Rest Home

Mt. Kiera Diggers' Rest Home near Wollongong is again operating and invites applications for accommodation from aged veterans needing a home and security. Vacancy exists for approximately thirty persons and should be channelled through the City of Wollongong Sub-Branch, Box 87, Post Office, Wollongong.

### Fares, Meal Allowance, etc

Advice has been forwarded to all Sub-Branches of the R.S.L. from the Deputy Commissioner for Repatriation, that consequently on a request received, notices have been erected on the 10th, 11th and 12th floors of Grace Building, advising metropolitan residents of fares, meal allowance and loss of wages benefits together with the method of application for same.

## LAST POST

It is with deep regret we receive the news of the passing of Dick Pinson's father-in-law. The Committee and members of the 2/4th Association extend their deepest sympathy to Mrs. Pinson, Dick and relatives in their sad bereavement.

### 4th Bn. 1914-18

The following names appeared in the March issue of "Reveille" and again this Association extends deepest sympathy to the next of kin and close relatives:

2636 Pte. H. W. Harris.

2799 Pte. F. G. Smith.

## SUBS

Subs received from the following:

P. C. Betts, 1962.

A. J. Burgess, 1962.

Norm Johnstone, 1962.

## SECRETARY'S MAILBAG

Dear Ron,

Congratulations on harnessing up again for the job of secretary. Sorry to hear that Rex has not been enjoying the best of health and hope he is soon well again. I am afraid that my bad writing was responsible for the wrong address. It is not Nedmarsh but Hindmarsh. However, the Post Office people like the Canadian Mounties got their man and "W.O.G." arrived safely. After a month over here I am getting the hang of my territory. I am looking after a district called Flinders Park which is about a mile and a half from the Presbytery. There are really four parishes in one served by six priests. I have a lot of migrants in my district, the greater part being Italians from Northern Italy. They get a great kick out of my being able to talk their lingo. Most of them seem to have done pretty well for themselves and have their own homes and not a few their own cars. Pleased to see the line up of office-bearers for the year to carry on the good work of the Association. I regret that at this distance I can only watch from the sidelines. I will be looking forward to seeing the War History ready for Anzac Day. It will be a lonely Anzac Day for me this year missing the Reunion. However, I am sure to find a few odd bods from 19th Bde. for the march.

All the best to old comrades and best wishes for a bumper Reunion on Anzac Day.

Sincerely,

Padre "Paddy" Reid,  
Sacred Heart Presbytery,  
Hindmarsh, S.A.

Dear Ron,

This is just a note to say I received your letter re Btn's decision to hold the annual Country Reunion in Kempsey. We are most happy to have same here again but I would like to point out that the Hotel Kempsey has already been booked out for another function that weekend. We have obtained more Motel accommoda-



tion and would like these details published in "W.O.G.". We would appreciate any intending members coming to the reunion to contact us as soon as possible.

We propose to circularise the same as we did last year.

Yours sincerely,  
Esca Reordan  
For and on behalf of the organising  
committee

### FAR NORTH REUNION

The reunion "smoko" held at the Lismore R.S.L. Club on Saturday, 24th February, was attended by 36 ex-members of the unit.

They were: Merv McInnes, Doug Stebbing, Fred Varley, Sam Goodwin, Aub Priest, "Blue" Cregan, Alf Schweitzer, Mick Pezutti, Jack Hughes, Jim Keevers, Ken McInnes, Mel McInnes, Tom Clarke, Allan Kirk, Roy Andrews, Roy "Blue" Kennedy, John Hinett, Hugh Livingstone, Alan Nelson-Slee, Ron Ellem, Esca Riordan, Harry Dowling, "Tiny" Eglington, Vic Slade, Vin Slade, Bill Sheaffe, Dave Crossthwaite, Bob Gardner, Jack Lister, Doug Grove, Charley Grove, Wal Henry, Ian Wallwork, Tim Lamond, Jack Chaseling and Wal Graham.

Those who had every intention of attending but had to "bung" in eleventh hour apologies were: John Smith, Bub Graham, Tom Clough, Jack Maloney, Neil and Frank ("Pom") Wallace, Ray Want, Eric Reid, Mick

Antonelli, Royce McDonald, Pat Constable, Geoff Hawke, Ross Smith, and Jim Brown.

Though the night was more or less informal Allan Kirk, President of the newly formed Far North Branch of the Association, had a few words to say. In his brief address "Kirky" stressed the need to remain a unit by joining the battalion association.

As a result of Allan's appeal there should now be several new financial members of the association.

A decision was also reached at the function that as many ex-members of the unit as possible meet in Kyogle on Saturday, 5th May for a follow-up reunion. The Kyogle and district boys could be termed the main "stays" of the Far North effort to keep in contact, and any ex-member of the battalion who is in the area at the time is asked to "be in it". Reminder notices of the date, time and place will be sent personally to all members in the Far North area.

Incidentally, through the "grapevine" Doug Stebbing learned that "Rags" Butler is working on the P.M.G. staff at Bangalow (about 20 miles from Lismore). As a result "Rags", Stebbo and Fred Varley met in Lismore for a few grogs. "Rags" had to be dug out of a Lismore hotel where he was feeding "grass" and grog to a heifer (this is a dairying district) he had managed to round up, and a bit of persuasion was needed before he could be convinced that the price of "butter" was falling anyway. "Rags" asked to have his regards passed on to the "mob".

Before closing this report we of the Far North would like to bring before the notice of readers of "White over Green" our appreciation of the attendance of our "Smoko" of the Kempsey boys, who made such a long trip to "be in it".

### ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

Please find enclosed the sum of £1/-/- being in payment of subs for 1962.

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

If you save your "W.O.G." regularly it is not necessary to use this form. Just send the sub along.

### 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,