



White over Green

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE 2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

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ANZAC DAY

Once again we were blessed as Anzac morning broke fine and clear and the exceptionally good weather held throughout the day.

The unit as in previous years, met outside the Occidental Hotel in York Street, where we formed up for the combined march and the laying of the wreath with the 4th Bn. 1914-18.

At this stage I think it would be in order on behalf of all members to pass a vote of thanks to Mrs. Fred Searle who has kindly supplied the wreath for the past 17 years. A grand effort Mrs. Searle and each and every one of us appreciate the kind and noble thought and diligent work put into this gesture. (I think perhaps you would be our No. 1 pin-up girl.)

I am led to believe that approximately 200 attended the march and afterwards we proceeded to the Manresa Hall, North Sydney, for the luncheon.

We were a little unfortunate in as much that after the march the buses were not allowed to come up to the pick-up place and this did cause quite a delay and some confusion. After a short period of time and some hard work on the part of your committee the buses were located and all were embussed for the Manresa.

On arrival at the Manresa the refreshments were immediately available and shortly afterwards luncheon was served in true "Army" style, in the form of a mess parade. Do not at this stage get me wrong as quite a few were heard to remark, "This stew could never have been made by an army cook". But let me inform you gentlemen that Mr. Jones was a cook in the services but unfortunately not with the 2/4th Bn.

It was possible, however, on Anzac Day that he had a better ration to work with plus several pretty female helpers.

Judging by the attendance it would appear that our change to a suburban hall did not dampen the enthusiasm of our members as 167 were officially counted through the door, and plus a few visitors, made our grand total correspond with previous years.

Again this year we were pleased to welcome our mates from the 2/8th and 2/11th Bns. as it has always

been our standard practice each year to send a cordial invitation to any of these boys who would like to come along and enjoy themselves with the fighting Bn. of the 19th Bde.

It was also very gratifying to be able to entertain our old friends of the Parramatta Caledonian Pipe Band who so ably supplied the music for the march as they have done in previous years. We were all so pleased to see so many come along to the luncheon and I know we all realise these boys had an extra heavy day. They had all been on their feet from the Dawn Service plus a very late night before. Thanks very much and a big hand to our old friends. I myself personally was more than pleased to see my old friend Mr. Evans along. (The whole 5 feet of him.) Mr. Evans is the secretary and the one responsible for looking after us so well. We thank you and your boys for what you have done for us over the years.

Tod Hall brought along a nice batch of visitors all having been P.O.W.'s in Malaya, etc. They were: A. G. Robbin, J. Hall, F. Ford, K. Todd of the 2/19th Bn., E. Rea 8th Div. H.Q. and D. Cameron 2/48th Bn.

Last but far from least among our visitors were our old friends of the 4th Bn. 1914-18 show. I did not get much of a chance to get around them all, but did have a long talk with Harry Stafford and Bede Keary. Hope the remainder will accept my apologies for not mentioning their names. We were however, boys, more than pleased to see you and very proud to think that you came all the way from the city to North Sydney to see us.

Our president and a good representative from the committee as in previous years paid our respects by visiting the 4th on their own dung hill earlier in the afternoon (We will never forget the old bow and arrow men.)

Our patron General Dougherty true to his word, put in an appearance in the afternoon and was welcomed by all the boys in their usual manner. He was not available to lead us in the march this year as he had already promised to lead the 6th Division.

You may remember that the first prize in our Annual Guessing Competition was won by Bill Reaney and his wife very kindly donated the transistor radio back to be raffled on Anzac Day and the proceeds to go to our welfare fund.

During the afternoon her wishes were carried out and the lucky man was Tom Hopper. I am sorry Mrs. Reaney at present I cannot give you any statement on the financial side but will make sure the figures are available in next issue.

STILL WONDERING

We have a very worried man in our midst and he is still wondering who was the fair damsel who called out to him during the march between Park and College Streets. Jim, is so I am led to believe, a confirmed bachelor and is still at a loss to know of any female in Sydney knowing him well enough to call him by his nickname. I think there may be some unknown admirer along the line "Cock" or then again she may have designs on your shack in Adderstone Avenue. Come forward good lady and stop us all from going grey from wondering.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Owing to last month's W.O.G. going to press early we have two months to report on, but as nothing of real importance happened we will not dwell on the subject too long.

At the April meeting the main issue was to tie up the loose ends for Anzac Day and the election of a new committeeman to take the place of our old stalwart John Morrisson who resigned from this position. After an election J. Jordon was declared the new committeeman. This meeting was attended by 20 financial members. Jack Anthony gave a report on J. Reid who fell and hurt himself at work and is now back on deck. Jack proved this by bringing him along to the Anzac luncheon.

May meeting naturally was a little light on seeing it came so close after Anzac Day, but still 15 members managed to make the effort and come along.

SECRETARY'S MAIL BAG

From Bob Lever, notifying us of his new address as he has just moved into his new home and naturally at the time of writing everything was upside down. Bob's new address is Lot 2, Skarrat Avenue, Glenbrook.

Return thanks from Mrs. R. Pinson on her recent sad bereavement.

General Dougherty, I must apologise for the delay in my replying to your letter of the 21st March. Thank you very much for writing to me as follows:

I am sorry I won't be able to lead the 2/4th Bn. this year, as I agreed to lead the 6th Division in the

march. I will be along for the reunion at North Sydney, but I may be later this year than usual. I will explain this on the morning of the march. I do hope there will be a good roll up of the old battalion.

Telegram from Bill Sumpter, Ipswich, Queensland: "Anzac Day greetings to General Dougherty and all 2/4th Bn. men."

Paddy Reid, Padre: Many thanks for your letter and kind enquiry. I am much more settled now that I have got used to the noise on Port Road and the whistle of the trains, and can get a night's rest. For the first month I thought I would throw the towel in.

I had a pleasant surprise to get a letter re-addressed from Sydney from Tommy Mort with the postal address of Highbury, South Australia. I have been out to his place and we had a pleasant reminiscence.

Last night I had a visit from Owen Harrison and his wife who read in "W.O.G." about my coming over here. He told me they muster about 90 from the Bn. and Bde. for Anzac Day so I am looking forward to meeting some old acquaintances and it won't be so lonely on Anzac Day after all.

I was interested to hear that you are moving out of the city for the re-union this year. I think it is an excellent idea—much more private and North Sydney is quite handy. You were lucky to get a caterer to take care of the whole business and leave everyone free to enjoy the day without worries. I do hope you have a good roll up and all works out satisfactorily. I will be with you in spirit. By now you will have had your trip to the Snowy. Half your luck. After seeing the film last year, I would very much like to see it. I trust you both found it up to expectations.

There are lots of Italians in my district and I am becoming bi-lingual. They are mostly from the north and better types than the average Sicilian.

All the best to the boys.

Mrs. Helen Cameron: We have moved from Brighton-le-Sands and my son Douglas Gordon Cameron now lives with his brother at 51 Wamboine Street, Gilgandra, N.S.W.

Secretary 4th Bn. A.I.F. Association,

Dear Ron,

Although we discussed Anzac Day fully when you called to see me and I spoke to your president John on the phone, I thought I had better send you an official invitation for representatives to be with us for a short moment on Anzac Day and to inform you, even though it will be a little more difficult for both of us this Anzac Day.

At the last meeting of the committee a resolution was passed on our books to show our appreciation of the gift which one of your members completed and your president presented to us on the Combined Smoko night. I was instructed to inform you officially of this resolution and again offer to you our grateful thanks. Hoping we both have a successful day on the 25th.

Jim Brown, M.L.A. for Raleigh.

Dear Ron,

Thank you for your letter of the 21st March offering congratulations to me on my success in the recent State Elections.

I do appreciate this message coming from my old battalion mates and I can assure that I look forward to seeing them again at the reunion this year.

Duncan Russell, c/o United Services Club, Wickham Terrace, Brisbane.

Herewith cheque for 30/- which includes the quid I don't seem to have sent, plus interest on overdue account. Please convey my regards to the committee and congratulate John Copland on his presidency. I can't think of a harder work for "W.O.G." nor a nicer fellow. He, in my opinion like Cec Chrystal mixes well, though not his drinks. He even recognises me when he sees me.

Was interested to see Cec was bus Marshall for Anzac Day. He must have picked up some knowledge of transport somewhere. Perhaps he picked up something from a former transport officer Harry Sumstrum.

I see Peter Cohen fairly often, he is now so high up in the Commonwealth Bank they give him all the worn out notes to burn. (How about saving some for me.—Ed.)

Winston Walker, 59 St. John's Avenue, St. John's Wood, Ashgrove, Queensland.

It is time I advised you of my change of address. I am now a resident of that fair city of Brisbane. Must link up with the 2/4th representatives here. Also enclosed is my cheque for 1962 subs. It will be free of exchange but there will be threepence stamp duty to pay.

Vic Crowhurst, Tathra.

You can see by the above I have changed my address having moved down here a year ago. I spent last Anzac Day in Bega where I ran into Jeff Maples of D Coy. Learning he was not a member of the association I put the fangs in. I enclose cheque for £5 of which 30/- is for membership and tie for Jeff and £1 membership for myself and surplus to War History Publication Fund. Full name and address of new member is Jeffrey James Maples, Tanja via Bega.

SUBS AND CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Subs were received from the following:—

Guy Vance, 133 Main Street, Bairnsdale, Victoria; Chas. Hood, Seal Rocks Light House, via Bunguhall, N.S.W.; C. H. Kong c/o Post Office, Lake Cargellico; J. Whitelaw; B. Griffiths; F. Pohlman; R. A. V. Lane; G. Bohle; P. Moses; R. K. Robberds; Mick O'Regan; D. "Bluey" Moss; J. Hawkins; Noel Smith; Ken Webb.

WORK WANTED

One of our members who has been sick for a long period of time requires light work. Any member who

can assist or offer any clues which may assist "Bull" Wilkinson to find a light job would they please contact the secretary.

LAST POST

It is with deep regret we announce the passing of E. Pope late of "D" Coy., who passed away at Smithfield and was buried on Monday, 14th May, 1962. To his wife and family we extend our deepest sympathy.

4th Bn. 1914-18

The following names were listed in the April and May issues of "Reveille":—

5724, Pte. C. M. Jensen; 1744, Pte. H. Melville; 1169, L/Cpl. H. Paine; 3328, Pte. T. J. Parker; 5658, Pte. A. J. Blakeney; 4056, Pte. C. T. Hulm; 7566, Pte. G. Seawert and 1094, Pte. H. Surguy.

To the relatives and friends we extend our deepest sympathy.

UNIT WAR HISTORY

Progress over the last month or so has been a little slow but its action plus from now on. At the moment we anticipate having the whole of the M.S. completed early in June for final checking and on to the printer.

The whole of the Middle East section is complete, Jack Huston has completed the Darwin Section and Peter Cade is coming down the straight with New Guinea. Bob Jackson has left the library at Wagga and is starting as chief librarian at the Central Murray Regional Library Service at Deniliquin on 1st June. During May he is devoting his time in tying up the loose ends and filling in gaps, etc.

We had a good History Committee Meeting at Cock Robin's the night following Anzac Day (what a day to pick). Jack Huston our No. 1 public relations officer was up from Canberra and we had up to date reports from Bob Jackson and Ken Moses. The night was well spent and highly successful.

So much for now and I hope to have even brighter news for you next time.

CEC CHRYSTAL

President, War History Committee

COUNTRY REUNION

From the organisers,

We have done some organising and bookings for accommodation and have the caterers teed up. We propose to get circulars printed in the next week or so. Alan Nelson-Slee has made this suggestion that any intending visitors to the Kempsey Reunion who would like a short break or holiday at South West Rocks, to contact him as soon as they know they are coming and he will arrange accommodation. Alan's address is Gregory Street, South West Rocks. Phone 250.

I was at Beresfield Crematorium a little over a week ago and met a Methodist clergyman the Rev. Hannah. He told me he was an original 2/4th man. He was in

"A" Coy. and was the Bns. first P.T. Instructor, and went as far as Perth, when he was pulled out and given another job. Do you know him?

ESCA RIORDAN

THE ANNUAL COUNTRY REUNION—KEMPSEY

Most of you have probably heard through the grapevine, or smoke signals, that the reunion will be here again. Well, those signals are absolutely correct.

The reunion will be on Saturday, 29th September, 1962. Wreath laying at approximately 6 p.m., Reunion Dinner to follow.

Sunday and Monday will be days to recover and relax and the committee are arranging various outings and games of bowls and golf.

Members' wives are again cordially invited and will be welcome indeed.

We propose to circularise all those members between Newcastle and the Queensland border, whose names and addresses we know.

No accommodation will be available this year at the Hotel Kempsey as the Apex Zone Convention is also being held in Kempsey at the same time. Under these circumstances, it is essential that each of YOU indicate as EARLY as possible your accommodation requirements.

Hotels and Motels available:

Tattersall's Hotel.

Royal Hotel.

Fairway Motel.

Stardust Motel (Air-conditioned, swimming pool).

Kempsey Motel.

For the Organising Committee.

To 2/4th Battalion Association,

63 Cameron Street,

West Kempsey, N.S.W.

I will be attending the 1962 Reunion. Please reserve accommodation as follows:

Period

Accommodation required for

At

Deposit of £1 is enclosed.

Name

Address

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,