



White War Green

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE 2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

It was good to be on deck again for the June meeting and my thanks to Fred Staggs who carried on in my absence.

The June meeting left a lot to be desired as only a small number turned up. This was no doubt due to the lateness of W.O.G. going out to members as well as it being a holiday weekend, many members possibly taking the opportunity to get out of the city for a few days.

The meeting although small was big in business and quite a good one. All the business was not handled so it was decided to hold a special committee meeting on Friday, 29th June, at 8 p.m., to tidy up the loose ends.

We have some very important fixtures coming up in the near future.

1. The Country Re-Union at Kempsey and I believe the bookings are rolling in.

2. The Combined Smoko Night with the 4th Bn., 1914-18 and the Parramatta Caledonian Pipe Band.

3. Ladies' Night will be held on the first Friday in December and you will be hearing more about this important function later.

4. An important and necessary function, the Annual Guessing Competition which will be drawn on Ladies' Night.

On Saturday, 2nd June, I had the honour of leading a delegation to the Clan's Night of the Parramatta Caledonian Society. I was accompanied by Mrs. Copland, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Searle, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Jordan and Mr. Ron Barber with his pipe.

We were made very welcome indeed and had a tremendous, enjoyable and interesting evening. The Unit Ties and Badges were the subject of favourable comment.

Also present was Dave McGillivray and his good lady in his capacity as chief of the Granville Clan. Had he known we were to be present he would have worn his tie and badge too.

Our good friend and piper Bill Ford is chief of the Society and his very charming wife is hon. secretary.

Ken Clark was in good form and led the band in some excellent playing and marching during the evening.

The dancing was excellent and these functions can be thoroughly recommended to all. A real family night with youngsters of all ages taking part in the proceedings.

REMEMBER

**MONTHLY MEETINGS ARE HELD ON
FIRST FRIDAY EVERY MONTH.**

**ROYAL NAVAL HOUSE GROSVENOR ST.,
CITY — MAKE THIS NIGHT A MUST
EACH MONTH.**

ANZAC DAY

Due to an oversight on my part and for which I apologise and hope I will be forgiven, I forgot to mention in the last issue that Mrs. Parkinson as in previous years was at the form up place in York Street handing out Rosemary to the Bn. and renewing old acquaintances. Thank you Mrs. Parkinson and it was indeed a pleasure to see you again.

John Copland saw some good photos of the battalion and band taken during the Anzac March. They are at the Leica place in the Strand Arcade and are in the group P183, and numbers M13, M14, and M15. If you are in town and interested drop in and quote the above numbers and the proofs will be shown to you.

After all expenses were paid our treasurer reports that the Association showed a small profit. Normally Anzac Day runs at a loss as we have only tried to clear ourselves in order to try and give everyone as cheap a day as possible. This has been the com-

mittee's policy over the years. The reason for the profit is apparently due to the move to a suburban hall where we obtained the catering and refreshments at a much cheaper rate than we did in the city. Taking an all round view of the move, it appears that we did do the right thing in making the change.

The raffle for the Transistor Radio, donated by Mr. and Mrs. Bill Reaney realised twenty-two pounds and as requested this has been placed in the Benevolent Fund. This money was not added in with the Anzac Day money.

SECRETARY'S MAILBAG

GEN. IVEN MACKAY

It was a great pleasure to me to receive your telegram from the 2/4th Bn. Association conveying their congratulations and best wishes for my birthday. I also remember with pleasure the kindness of members of your Association in presenting to me a 2/4th tie at one of the meetings of your Association. This tie is a great pleasure to me. My very best wishes to you and all your members.

ESCA RIORDAN, KEMPSEY

We have had a reply from General Dougherty and unfortunately he is unable to attend our Re-Union this year, but sends best wishes.

However a couple of months ago while on a quick trip to Newcastle I met the Reverend Hannah, who told me that he was Bn's. first P.T. Instructor and an original enlistment. He went as far as Perth with the first contingent of the unit, but was pulled out and sent back to Ingleburn as an instructor.

He eventually became a Chaplain of the R.A.N.

What do you think of the idea of having him for Guest Speaker? You could find out at your next committee meeting if any of the boys remember him, and if they approve of the idea, or have any alternative suggestions.

Ron, you might persuade the editors of W.O.G. to give the Re-Union a burst now and then.

We have had quite a good response already since sending out the circulars.

I enclose a cheque for £3 towards the cost of the War History when it is published.

BILL WALL, BINGARA

Enclosed is my cheque for my membership and John Millers.

Sorry to be longwinded in sending it, but am getting lazier and more forgetful each day. I hope to be able to make the Re-Union where ever it is. Cock Robin asked me some time ago to name some of our chaps on a post card I gave him. I would have to see it to be able to name them in their right order and if he brings it along to the next Re-Union I will straighten it out then.

SAILOR HARVEY

Perhaps you may glean something of interest in the following which may make some news for W.O.G.

Recently I have been up to Brisbane and returned via Murwillumbah and Tweed Heads, etc.

I contacted Tom Provians who sends his regards to all concerned and hopes to see a few of the

"odds and sods" at Kempsey next October, this year, Ahem—Monday, 1st October—three more meetings before the Blitz on Kempsey by the Sydney 2/4th-ers—see what I mean—time flies.

It was unfortunate that I did not know "Rags" Butler was up Bangalow way. I would like to have seen him after all these years. I was in Bangalow of all places three times in two days. I hate to admit, also I passed "Tiny" Eglington's farm on the Tweed, twice and could not call in. Hope you got my message from the local pub "Tiny".

I came through Kempsey about 11.30 p.m., Anzac Eve, and caught all the picture crowd. I looked around but did not see Esca or Brownie. I saw the latter at the Anzac March, but I don't think he caught on that I had looked for him only a few hours ago in Kempsey. I went straight to the march on arrival in Sydney and although I say so myself travelled hard to attend that day. All the way from Surfers Paradise.

Finishing up with a bit of a blast, what about my April and May issues of W.O.G.

(Will put your complaints to the proper channel. —Ed.)

Subs were received from the following: Keith Beattie, 6A Grosvenor St., Croydon; W. L. Fogden, 10 Riverside Rd., Croydon Park; H. S. Conkey, 5 Poole St., Cootamundra; D. Barry, 46 Vivienne St., Kingsgrove.

THE ANNUAL COUNTRY RE-UNION

Date:— 29th Sept. - 1st Oct., 1962

Place:— Kempsey

Intending visitors from Sydney and Country centres please make your bookings as early as possible.

This is not intended to be a North Coast Re-Union, but RE-UNION ON THE NORTH COAST.

Functions will be held on the Saturday and Sunday and all ladies attending will be amply catered for.

USE THE FORM AT END OF MAGAZINE IF YOU WISH OR JUST SIMPLY WRITE.

WE WANT DEFINITE BOOKINGS.

Hurry you may miss out.

LAST POST

It is with deep regret we received notification of the following deaths:—

NX 84324 Pte. W. H. Dobell.

NX 33329 Cpl. R. R. Hunter.

4th Bn. 1914-18

7213 Pte. J. K. Colliver.

7057 Pte. A. Y. Sambrook, M.M.

7053 Cpl. A. T. Searle.

To the next of kin, relatives and friends of these men we extend our deepest sympathy.

MONTHLY MEETING FRIDAY, 6th JULY,
ROYAL NAVAL HOUSE, GROSVENOR ST., CITY

PARRAMATTA CALEDONIAN SOCIETY

I have just received the pleasant news that a Leopard Skin has been presented to the Parramatta Caledonian Pipe Band by the Pakistan Government. This naturally will go to the base drummer.

Congratulations from your friends of the 2/4th Bn. Association and we feel that you will all be very pleased and proud of this presentation.

I know we of the 2/4th are proud of the efforts of **OUR BAND** and we are indeed grateful for the help you have willingly given us in the past.

Congratulations to you all.

MY NATIVE LAND

'Neath the Pyramids of Egypt
On the great Sahara sand—
I sit and write these lines tonight
Back to my native land.
The land beneath the starry cross,
Where scented breezes blow,
Where waratah and wattle
And the stately gum trees grow.
My star of fate has led me on
Across the wide, wide sea,
The wanderlust is in my blood
I bow to fate's decree.
But my thoughts will often wander
To where the curlew wails—
Tonight my heart is far away
Back in sunny New South Wales,
And though I roam the wide world o'er,
By desert and by sea
By mountain and by verdant glen
Where brooks sing merrily,
My heart is in the sunny land,
The place that gave me birth.
Australia — God's own country
The brightest spot on earth.

—J. H. Bryant.

**YOU HAVE AN URGENT DATE, FRIDAY,
6th JULY, AT 8 P.M.**

COCK'S COLUMN

I noticed in the Leichhardt area where our past secretary lives, that the street signs have been repainted, white lettering on a green background. I just wondered if Rex had anything to do in suggesting the colour scheme. Sorry you could not make the Reunion, Rex, we missed you. We all wish you the best, and hope to see you at the next one.

A friend of mine on holidays went to Barmedman where he met Bob Jessop. He said Bob is out Tumbarumba way. Regards, Bob. How about a photo of yourself, any spare, or duplicate you may have for the photographic record, or any news of the boys in that area.

Met a chap down from Coffs Harbour. He knew several of the 2/4th boys in that area. I mentioned we had our last country reunion at Kempsey, and had a great time there, also that Wingham had been suggested for our next one (it was at the time). He said we would be made very welcome there.

Teddy McCaffery told me that Bert Agnew (D Coy.) of Tumut, called at the North British. Bert is an officer

of the Local Pastures' Protection Board. Sorry I missed seeing you Bert, also that you could not stay for the meeting.

It was suggested (but not by me) that Bert in his professional capacity as Stock Inspector should give the once over on Johnny Morrison and Colin Campbell before he returned.

Was pleased to see Peter Cook at the March meeting. It was some time since I had seen him. Peter said he frequently meets Glen Ackerman, also Bing Riley. Try and bring them along to a meeting, Peter.

Friends of mine visiting their weekender at Toukley, met their neighbour's son over from South Australia. Whilst talking he mentioned that their Unit was writing their War History. My friend replied, "They must all be doing it; my neighbour at North Sydney has a chap at his place writing theirs". Asking the name, was told they call him Cock Robin and he replied, "That's ours." It was Roy McAdam. Regards Roy. Please call in next time.

J. Morrison said that Rupe Carrington was down from Coonabarabran and called at the N.B. Sorry I missed you Rupe. I may have got a par for the column. Blue Benson also called in. Would have liked to have seen you again Blue. Drop me a line with any news you may have.

A friend of mine at the N.B. said Peter Gallagher had called in. They had a drink before he departed for Kempsey. Sorry we all missed you Peter. Better luck next time.

Met Bill Key who looks well after his operation, and is in fact putting on weight. But he has copped pernicious anaemia, and now will have to put up with permanent injections, not Dr. Tooheys unfortunately. I was pleased to see you Bill, we all wish you the best in the future.

A gathering of the clan at the N.B. included Johnny Morrison, Teddy McCaffery, Colin Campbell, Dick Morris, Ron Barber and myself, also our regular artillery support Bill Sandstrom. When it got around to my turn to say something, I heard the unpopular cry of "Time, Gents".

LOST? GREY TRILBY HAT, size 6 $\frac{3}{4}$, at the Manresa Hall, Anzac Day Reunion. It belongs to Joe (Bluey) Moss, and was bought in London. It disappeared or was taken by mistake. Joe would appreciate its return. It could be left at Royal Naval House. Incidentally, Joe Moss, or Bluey as he was better known in A Coy., was the first man to cross the Derna Waddi, 1941, and was taken prisoner by the Italians with Victor McNally. They were slammed on to a truck and rushed to Tripoli, and from there to Italy. After two years in Italy they were taken to Germany for eight months. Joe would like to contact Geoff Hawke and Victor McNally. This was his first Reunion (and it won't be his last) since 1941. He enjoyed himself thoroughly, and will be with us next year for sure. Well, Joe, I sincerely hope you get your hat back. I will broadcast it verbally before this goes to press.

At the N.B. met Jack (King) Cong, Mortars H.Q. Coy., who enlisted at Narrabri, and is now at Lake Cargellico. Jack is down on holidays and I was pleased he was able to make the meeting. Formerly he was stationed at King Island for several years with the P.M.G. Dept. On the Island also was Bill Hamilton,

A Coy. and Ray Ford and Charlie McKenna though he is not there now. Four 2/4th men on this very small island. Jack sends his regards to Bill and Ray on King Island, also to Charlie now in Melbourne, and to the many members of the 2/4th at Narrabri. We are pleased to meet you again after all these years. Jack and I are looking forward to these photos and any news of 2/4th chaps in your district.

Now our regards to you Bill Hamilton, Ray Ford and Charlie McKenna. How about some news or photos. Tell us about the island, or anything that may be of interest to the boys, any message for anyone? My address is at the end of the column. Best of luck.

Met Keith (Killer) Turnbull (Sigs.), at Nock & Kirby's paint counter. He wishes to be remembered to the boys. Keith was sorry he missed seeing Frank Mallett when his ship was in, would like you to call in next time Frank. By the way Frank, I am still waiting for your letter. Fred covered your visit so it was no use me repeating. Wishing you the best Frank, and I hope to see you walking into the N.B. again soon.

Keith Turnbull told me that some time back he had been up to Carcoar and had called in on Brian Hill, H.Q. (Sigs.) Regards Brian.

Jack (Dusty) Gaffney apparently thinks Carcoar is the coldest place in the world. In the late thirties he was playing football in that area and in the middle of the night the car broke down. He and other team members spent a freezing night in a stumpy paddock. His further remarks were hardly eulogistic. Well Brian are you going to let him get away with those remarks about your town, village, or whistle, stop, whatever it is? So write and send us some news. Do you ever meet any of the boys at the Local (if you have one), or see any of them passing through. I could appreciate

a spare photo if you have one. Hoping to hear from you.

I met Mr. Desmond and was told the bad news that John (Slim) had been off work six weeks, two of them in the Memorial Hospital, Waverley, where he had a serious operation on his right eye, and the specialist said it was a 50-50 chance. Phil Smith (Blah) had been a constant visitor. Well Slim, we are all very sorry to hear this bad news and sincerely hope that the operation was a success. Had we known, Slim, you would have had many more visitors. So hoping that all will be well and to see you getting around again soon.

Mrs. Desmond also told me they had sent Slim's address to the chap who was enquiring through W.O.G. but so far had received no reply.

To Bill Stewart, (D Coy.). Was pleased to see you at the April meeting, Bill. I have detailed your photos, and will be printed when space is available. Thanks again.

My address for those who promised news:—
20 Adderstone Avenue,
North Sydney. Cock Robin.

For those who intend coming to the Country Reunion in Kempsey the following places are available for your accommodation:—

Tattersall's Hotel; Roy Hotel; Fairway Motel; Stardust Motel (air conditioned and swimming pool); Kempsey Motel.

To assist the organising committee would you please book as early as possible, i.e., now. Accommodation may be limited owing to a convention being held in Kempsey the same weekend.

The committee also want definite bookings so the catering can be arranged.

To:

2/4th Bn. Association,
63 Cameron Street,
Kempsey, N.S.W.

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

Period

Accommodation required for

At (hotel or motel)

My deposit of £1 is enclosed.

Name

Address