



White Water Green

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE 2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

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MONTHLY MEETING

The July meeting was quite a good one — the best for many months — with twenty-four members in attendance and with quite a few new faces and some who have not attended for some time.

Among these was our old stalwart of the Sig. Platoon, Fred Apthorpe from Griffith. Fred, being a follower of the "leather pill" is down for the current matches and to see the chums do their stuff. This was Fred's first visit to a Bn. meeting since 1954. He has recently had an operation for hernia, but is slowly picking up and will be going back home in a week or so. When I left him "Cock" Robin had him pinned down naming various "bods" in many photos.

With all the talk about the war history the following came to light from Jack Anthony. The Italian flag which was flying in Tobruk when the 2/4th entered and was subsequently pulled down and a "Diggers" hoisted in its place, was presented by Corporal Porter to the Hurstville R.S.L. where it was recently seen with a suitably inscribed plate giving full particulars. Following this up your scribe found out that Jack was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation by the Clovelly Sub-branch at the July meeting. During the conversation Jack mentioned that Doug Karanges is also a member of Clovelly and extends a hearty welcome to all 2/4th men in the area.

Another man who has not visited us for some time was Alf Carpenter and I had quite a long yarn with him. Alf lives at Newcastle these days where he has seen George King and Major "Montie" Montgomery who steers the local branch of the Rural Bank on a straight course.

Alf's travels have taken him to South Australia where he saw Max Rungie and heard that Bill Loy was sick but is now picking up.

Greece came into the conversation somehow and as his travels have taken him through this country he states that Lamia is a fine big city now, different to our days there. Larissa has not changed much at all and in general the whole country has not

changed much at all. We saw it with plenty of greenery and snow. Alf saw it in the summer months and it is largely a land of barren volcanic leftovers with very few mineral resources. Up in the area of the Aliakman River he visited some villages the Bn. passed through and received a grand welcome when it was found he was an ex A.I.F. man who was in Greece. A very excellent toll road has been built along the coast which shortens the inland trip up and over Brallos Pass by many hours. The Bn. and Brigade areas at Brazlos have not changed much.

David Wren is back in Sydney on leave from New Guinea and again taking an active interest in the doings of the war history. Remember David was the first to get the ball rolling properly and spent most of his last leave studying and getting extractions from the war diary. Nice to see you again. Two of our old stalwarts that we have not seen for some time were Trevor Richardson and Slim Pollock. Trevor is now living at Narrabeen.

"Massa" Brooks donated a bottle of Scotch Whisky to be raffled for the Benevolent Fund and the result was that this worthy fund is now £3/8/- richer for this kind donation. The Scotch was won by ticket No. C14, held by Alf Carpenter.

On behalf of our President, John Copland, I wish to thank all those who heard the appeal for bigger attendances at our monthly meetings and we do hope to see as many as possible come along again next month and bring some other laggard member with you.

LAST POST

NX5892 Pte. Alan Herbert Clark

Nobby Clark of "A" Coy. died on 27th June and was laid to rest on Friday, 29th June.

Nobby was a good soldier. He served his country with the Battalion from the inception, through the First Libyan Campaign and the Grecian Campaign up till that tragic Good Friday in 1941 when we lost "D" Coy and part of "A" Coy.

On the following morning Nobby was wounded in the heel. Towards sundown the same day when

there was room for only one more in the last German ambulance, he stayed behind to do what he could for me — also laid out on the field of play.

Eventually after three days we were taken away and he returned home after the liberation of all P.W.

This family gave two boys in the cause of the free. Nobby's brother Harry was with 9th Div. in Tobruk but was later captured by the Germans at El Alamein.

So they were both P.W. Both had a tragic homecoming, not knowing their mother had died while they were on the way home.

Harry died some six years ago and now they are both with their Maker.

The deepest sympathy of the whole association goes out to his father and his sisters as well as to many close personal friends from Manly who paid tribute to his loveable memory. The Reverend Mr. Richardson of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Manly, and a member of the Manly R.S.L. Sub-branch and Club spoke eloquently and touchingly at the service in Manly and a very strong contingent from Manly R.S.L. was led by our old friend Gerry Gerrard (4th Bn.) and George Catt.

At the Crematorium I was asked to say a few words and to recite the Ode. There again I made a plea for men like Nobby whom life and the war had hurt inwardly.

They who can "strip their sleeves and show their scars", those with obvious physical war damage, certainly receive well deserved sympathy from their fellow men.

Those, however, who are hurt inwardly, call it mentally, nervously, psychiatrically — call it what you will — they tend to receive less general sympathy, indeed often none at all. Yet "Nobby's" troubles, like so many more, were entirely war caused.

VALE "NOBBY"

* * *

Information also has been received of the death of Doug Wallace.

Doug enlisted in Inverell in 1939 and was a member of the Signal Platoon of H.Q. Coy.

Doug was also a good soldier and would be remembered by all members of the Bn. who served in the Middle East.

We have no definite information on Doug except that he passed away some weeks ago in Narrabri and was buried in that town.

Doug was an old town mate of mine before the war, although a few years older, and I always found him a man among men. This news comes as a blow to me as Doug always appeared to be one of those chaps who would go on for ever and ever.

This man taught me many things in 1939 when he was a man and I a boy. To you Doug "I doffs me lid".

VALE DOUG

* * *

In the July issue of Reveille the following names were listed of men who passed away who had served with the 4th Bn. 1914-18.

6706 Pte. J. E. Buckingham.

7572 Pte. G. G. Cameron.

273 L/Sgt. S. Dennis.

383 Sgt. W. J. McCann.

2895 L/Cpl. H. F. Wood.

To the next of kin, relatives and close friends this Association extends its deepest sympathy.

LEST WE FORGET

APPRECIATION

Our appreciation is extended to the prompt help given by George Catt to the Clark family and to the Association. We would also like to convey our thanks to Stan Harris who was helpful too, in many ways.

RETURN THANKS

A card of return thanks has been received from Mrs. Aimee Pope in return for the help and sympathy she received on the passing of her late husband and our comrade in arms, Ernest Norman Pope.

OUR PIPE BAND

Following on the report in W.O.G. last month of the good time to be had by young and old with the Parramatta and District Caledonian Society, we enlist hereunder their functions for the remainder of 1962. All functions are held at the Parramatta City Hall.

The highlights of course are the Clan's night and certainly the one on New Years Eve. Your Association Tie and Badge will ensure a hearty welcome, although there is normally a very small admission fee.

July 27, Annual Ball.

August 4, Dance.

August 18, Dance.

September 1, Clan's Night.

September 2, Dance.

October 6, Dance.

October 20, Dance.

November 17, Dance.

December 1, Dance.

December 15, Dance.

December 31, Dance.

THE NEXT MONTHLY MEETING WILL
BE HELD ON FRIDAY, 3rd AUGUST, 1962
PLACE: ROYAL NAVAL HOUSE,
GROSVENOR STREET, CITY
TIME: 8 P.M. SHARP
IT IS REQUESTED THAT ALL MEMBERS
ATTEND

WAR HISTORY

We are making progress at last after a delay of some months. I am very pleased to report that David Wren has arrived down from New Guinea on leave and is going to be a wonderful help in this stage of the M.S., which is fast coming into sight.

Very shortly a mammoth circulation of W.O.G. is to take place — a copy to every known address we have, and can locate from the formation of the Association. The reason? I have to be able to give an indication to the publishers of the number of copies required, could be 500, or could be 5,000, but when you get the W.O.G. referred to, please let anyone know who did not get a copy so we can get the returns in. This will, of course, then help to establish the most important thing — the price. Reprinting

further editions later is very costly so we do want to get a fairly accurate estimate at this stage.

By next month I hope to be able to report more, which should be when the whole of the M.S. is completed and vetted.

C. Chrystal,
Chairman War History Committee.

* * *

Information is urgently required on a Platoon and section level from those ex-members of H.Q. Coy. Mortars, signals, machine gunners, etc. There is no information regarding the activities of this group in the Bn. history.

Also further information is required of both "B" and "C" Coys. Peter Cade suggests that anyone who can supply information of names and incidents in the above categories please do so at once and forward to Peter, 19 La Boheme Avenue, Caringbah. As a committee member fully conversant with the work Peter is doing and having helped vet some of his draft work, Aitape to the Danmap River, I second the appeal — it is hard for "C" or "D" Coy. men, to supply material about shots, etc., that were not being fired at him.

ARE YOU GOING TO KEMPSEY? IF SO BOOK NOW — YOU MAY MISS OUT.

PRESIDENT'S APPEAL

The problem of poor attendances at emergency functions, such as funerals, etc., is causing great concern.

Take the instance of "Nobby" Clark who was laid to rest on Friday, June 29th. Notices were inserted in the morning Press on Thursday and Friday and mentioned the 2/4th Bn.

Those of us, who could, tried to phone as many as possible but it is impossible to contact all.

What is the solution to this problem?

George Catt and Bob Lane put forward a good suggestion that we try to have a KEY man in each area, Sub-branch or club, who could be asked to contact any 2/4th men in their area.

George and Bob could cover the Manly and Homebush area so that is under control. Vic Forbes will take care of Burwood and Ryde is under control. We have Bunny Burrows at Auburn, Fred Staggs, Chatswood.

What about this idea? Have we any more volunteers.

In the instance of a funeral the objectives are threefold:—

1. To honour our departed comrade.
2. To offer comfort and consoling to the bereaved.
3. To uphold the prestige of the Battalion.

COCK'S COLUMN

Danny Karanges met Ken Ruby ("B" Coy.) who is now an estate agent at Nambucca Heads. Ken wanted information on joining the Association and wishes to be remembered to all. Regards Ken, best of luck, mate.

I have known a schoolboy at Haberfield for some time but not his name. Asking him one day he replied "Gerrard Bush". I said there were two men of that name in my Bn. Bill Bush from Sans Souci

and Geoff Bush from Kingswood. The lad replied, "He is my Uncle". (He's a nice looking lad too). Geoff is now living in the Lane Cove area. How about dropping a line Geoff (and I don't mean fishing). Congrats on having such a fine young nephew.

At the N.B. Friday after Anzac Day, Ted Swadling, J. Morrison, Rupe Carrington and myself were discussing the excellent Anzac Day Reunion at Manresa Hall, and all agreed it was the best yet. Rupe has published a new book "The Truth About the Crete Campaign". I have a copy. It is factual and very interesting. Cost, 2/- per copy and well worth it. It is indeed a word picture of the Crete Campaign. A good effort, Rupe.

Slim Powers reported that a customer got into his cab wearing a Bn. tie. When conversation started Slim found out it was Ned Reskine of Griffith. Drop into the North British, Loftus Street, next time Ned. Sure to bump one of the boys around mid-day or after 5 p.m. How about writing of the boys in your area or sending some spares from your photos.

Dick Pinson while playing at an engagement party in Burwood, met Benny Connors (Trspt.). Benny is going to make an effort to attend the meeting. Regards, Benny. Bring a photo.

Recently saw a painter at work painting the panels of a door, White over Green. I remarked, "They are my Bn. colours, mate?" He replied, "The 2/4th eh? I trained with the 2/4th reinforcements at Dubbo in 1942."

He is Jim Tuckwell, of Parramatta. Any of the Dubbo boys remember him?

A friend of mine, Albert Kelly (R.A.A.F.), playing bowls at Leichhardt, against a team from Guildford, got around to talking about units. One chap said the 2/4th and Kel, knowing I was a 2/4ther asked his name. It was David Neil ("B" Coy.). We would like to hear from you Dave.

Met Slim Desmond ("A" Coy.). I reported last issue that Slim had undergone an important operation on his right eye. Well I regret to write Slim said that the operation was unsuccessful so far, and he will be off work another four or five weeks. Well Slim we are very sorry to hear this bad news and I am sure that we all sincerely hope that things turn out for the best in the future for you.

Slim also told me that he had a visit from Col Ogilvie ("A" Coy.). He is down on holidays from Darwin. Colin is in the office at the Lepertorium. Is married and has two children. He went out to see Topy Crispin at Clovelly. Asked after the boys and sends regards to all. Some time back Sid Buckley said that Lustre McLaughlin was down from Darwin and had returned. Did you ever meet him there Col.

Here is some news from the May meeting. Johnny Jordan met Henry Westward ("B" Coy). Harry is a working patient at Ward seven, Lidcombe State Hospital and wishes to be remembered, especially "B" Coy. Boys, and will try to make a meeting. Best of luck Harry. Hope to see you.

Rex Everson reported that Jim Donnelly who is now at Blacktown has been very sick. He has given up painting and is now working in a bank. We all wish you the best Jim, and hope to see or hear from you soon. Rex also reported that Teddy Dobbin ("A"

Coy.) is now in action again after a stay in Concord. Regards Ted. How are you blowing the bugle mate?

I was told that Johnny Reynolds of Merriwa missed Anzac Day but called at the N.B. en route to Narromine. At Narromine he met John Hough and at Dubbo met Frank Saddler. Johnny recommends Tony Parkinson's hotel to all country members of the Association, in other words Royal Naval House, our meeting place. The cheapest accommodation in Sydney.

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

A breath of mountain air when Bob Lever ("B" Coy.) walked into the May meeting. Bob now lives at Glenbrook, and travelled all the way down to attend. (A good effort Bob). He marched with the Blaxland-Glenbrook Sub-branch R.S.L. at Springwood on Anzac Day. The march was led by the St. Mary's High School Cadets and their colours are Green over White, oblong. Bob met a chap from the 2/2nd Bn. who offered him a drink. Bob refused saying he did not drink. The chap said, "What Bn. were you in mate?" Bob replied, "the 2/4th". The chap then looked at him in amazement and said, "Mate you're a liar if you say you don't drink". Such is fame. It was good to see you Bob and we all wish you luck in your new home.

Was pleased to see Harry (Soccer) Coomber at the May meeting. His first meeting for 12 months, but due to no fault of his. He works on the Friday night. Harry sends his regards to the boys around Inverell. Some time back Bill Wall (Carrier Pl.) enlisted Inverell, now of Bingara, sent me a printed photo postcard titled "the A.I.F. in Egypt — nearing camp — The picture is of Troops 2/4 boys marching in single file, through the sand. Some Arabs in their robes and camels in the foreground. Bill named seven of the men and as Harry (Soccer) was one of them, I got him the help of George Stack and the magnifying glass to name the others. But I am in a quandary here. There are 15 soldiers and 16 names, so they must have included one of the Arabs. The last man on the sand dunes is an Arab. I am wondering whom he resembled. The last name on the list was Fred Staggs. "Saida Fred". What was the name of your camel? Now the names:— Norm McIntyre, Eric Holder,

Jimmy Jackson, Bill Nesbitt, Micky Miles, Bill Wall, Harry (Soccer) Coomber, Peter Balfe, Wally Henry, Norm Ribbons, Bill Leonard, Charlie Jewel, George Hazel, Gordon (Nifty) Kent, Ross Smith and Abdul Staggs. Other names added later: Gus Kyle, Bill Brooks, Alex (Crow) Webb, and Vic Hall. Many thanks to Bill, Harry and George.

There were two birthdays in the merry month of May. Cec Chrystal and Ron Barber. We wish them many happy returns.

Detailing the 13 snapshots and one photo from Bill Stewart, 18 Pl. "D" Coy, now at Kogarah Bay. The postcard group of four, all in F.S. and slouch hats, Clem Killeen, Bill Dunshea, Bill Stewart and Don Thompson.

The snaps are of "D" Coy. boys, two shots of them having a snowball fight. Group of eleven standing in snow with dixies and mugs, Nissen huts in background, only four names, Clem Killeen, Joe Crawford, Ernie Pope and Slim Venn. Group of 14 around a large snowman, with a slouch hat on, no names. Seven men standing in the snow, in front of camouflaged Nissen hut only two names, Slim Venn and Joe Crawford. One of the men has his right arm in a sling.

The next four snaps are a series of similar events. It looks like clean out day at the camp. A soldier putting articles in a 44 gallon rubbish bin, and four Syrian Arab bints dressed in heavy winter clothes, thick stockings, etc, scrounging and pulling them out. Soldier handing out a parcel to one of them. Others running towards them. One bint creeping forward to get a cardboard box. Soldier holding something up, two Arab girls running to get it from him.

The next three are of Trans-Jordan Mounted Troops. The Assembly. They move off. The start of the parade, and finally a bleak scene of leafless shrubs and trees, and snow covered mountains. Many thanks Bill.

Cock Robin.

HOSPITAL LIST

Jim Crowe from Cootamundra has had a short stay in the Royal North Shore Hospital for a cartledge operation but I am pleased to report that he has been discharged and is now back home.

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