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MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE 2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

What with the increasing attendance and visits from country members, our regular monthly meetings have become more and more interesting and enjoyable.

We have only one more meeting before the Kempsey Reunion, and thanks to the Press, R.S.L. and kindred magazines, Kempsey is receiving excellent publicity.

It bids fair for another successful function and we are pleased to hear that Group-Captain John Waddy, O.B.E., D.F.C., M.I.D., U.S. Air Medal, has accepted the invitation to be the guest speaker at the dinner.

Your committee has worked hard on a special issue of "W.O.G." which deals entirely with the War History. There are only a few pages to be put into form.

A nominal roll of everyone who passed through the battalion is being done under contract and should be finished soon. The index and appendices are in sight and then Cecil Chrystal will be off to Canberra to look at official photographs to augment our collection. Excitement is in the air and those who have worried and sweated over the creation of this book can now visualize, in a matter of weeks, the realisation of their dreams. The Association is indeed fortunate.

Next there will be the Guessing Competition, which I trust will receive your support, too. This is our only source of income, so please give it full support.

See you at the Royal Naval House on Friday, 7th September, and at Kempsey during the Six-Hour-Day weekend.

John Copland

KEMPSEY'S GUEST SPEAKER

John Copland has already mentioned our guest speaker in a message to members but I feel we should elaborate on it to put everyone in the picture.

Group-Captain John Waddy, O.B.E., D.F.C., M.I.D., U.S. Air Medal, enlisted in the R.A.A.F., in 1940, under the Empire Air Training Scheme as an A.C.II. He sailed for Rhodesia in 1940 and completed his flying training in June, 1941, and was then posted to the Western Desert as a fighter-pilot with No. 250 Squadron R.A.F. He also served with No. 4 Squadron South African Air Force and 92 East India Squadron

until the end of the battle of Alamein. During this period he was one of the few pilots to destroy four aircraft in one engagement. He returned to Sydney in March, 1943, in the same convoy as the 9th Division and was posted to Operation Training Unit at Mildura, where he commanded the Spitfire Squadron. He was subsequently posted to the Islands and commanded No. 80 Squadron in 78 Wing in September, 1944, and served at Noemfoor, Morotai, Tarakan and was demobilised in September, 1945. He destroyed 15½ enemy aircraft, confirmed, plus six probables.

In 1950 he was the first Citizen Air Force Officer to be appointed to the Air Board, which appointment he held for four years. In 1945 he was appointed an Honorary A.D.C. to Her Majesty the Queen and held this appointment for three years; was also president of the Air Force Association of New South Wales for eleven years.

He had three brothers in the forces, two of whom were pilots and one a commando. His elder brother was killed flying Hurricanes in the United Kingdom.

SECRETARY'S MAILBAG

Don Bundy Narrandera: Enclosed £1 for 1962 subs. Don't tell anyone I was behind! (We would not do that to you, Don.) I shall need two copies of the War History. I want to send one to a bloke who was in the 2/8th Field Coy., who lives on the South Australian border and does not get much to read. In fact he can quote the wording on a Conkey's corned beef tin. Norm Rogers was here last Sunday with us, eating rabbit, but I forgot to ask him if he wanted a copy; I am sure he will. Also Pedler dropped in to borrow the wire strainers. He will also want a copy. Haven't seen Hardstaff or Jim James for two weeks but they will want theirs. I never see Tod Hall or Charlie Reynolds but you can be sure they will want a copy.

[We have made a note of these prospective customers, Don, and their orders have been listed waiting for confirmation. Ed.]

I think copies would be just the thing for schools, public libraries and R.S.L. Clubs. Some of the boys

may sell copies outside the Association—Deniliquin Library for instance. I work in a bad spot at Culcairn, it is no-man's-land. Most men south of the "Bidgee" went to Victorian units so there is no 2/4th around, and our R.S.L. isn't interested in the antics of the better type of Inf. Bn.

George Ormiston: I am afraid I am rather late with my subs, and also the increase for last year. I regret this very much, and enclose herewith my cheque for £2/11/6, which I think covers my subs. and a donation of £1 to the Benevolent Fund. I visit Sydney reasonably often but unfortunately my visits do not seem to coincide with an Association meeting. I am still hoping. Kindest regards.

W. Reaney: A letter from Bill with pension problems, which the committee have now taken in hand.

D. Grove: Subs. for 1962.

I do not know if you have been informed of the recent bereavements. In case you haven't we list the following:

Pat Constable died in March and there were twelve 2/4th boys there, who acted as Pall Bearers. Alf Schwiezer's mother passed on; also Bob Gardiner's father and Jack Partridge's mother.

Yesterday Bob Gardiner and a mate won the Queensland Casket £7,500. Great excitement in town, free taxi rides and we should be right for a shout at Kempsey.

Marcia Crowe: A few short lines to thank the boys very, very much for their valuable attention while Jim was in hospital.

His knee is progressing slowly and it will be at least two months before he is back at work. The children were rather amused when I said I was going to write to Jimmie Robin for visiting Jimmie Crowe in hospital. Jim has to go back to see the specialist in a week or two, about early August, and is hoping to see some of the boys then.

THIRTY-NINERS' ASSOCIATION

In reciprocation for a write-up in their paper, re the "Kempsey Reunion", I promised to give their two main shows a boost. This was included in the copy last month but had too much copy and the printers had to give it a miss. However, Joe, it is a must for this month and thank you and your Association for the very good write-up you gave us.

This is the message:

We are grateful to the Committee of the 2/4th Bn. Ass. for allowing us to announce in their paper the dates of two important functions.

On 1st September, our Association will hold its Annual Remembrance March. Point of Assembly is corner Martin Place and Macquarie Street, southern side, at 7.15 p.m. We will move off at 7.30 p.m., led by the band of the East Aust. Area R.A.N. After the march and ceremony at the Cenotaph a Remembrance Dinner will be held at 8 p.m. in the main hall of Royal Naval House, Grosvenor Street, City.

On 22nd September, the 7th Country Convention of the Association will be held at Scone, N.S.W. This

will commence with a march to the District War Memorial where a wreath will be placed by the State president. Assembly point is Scone Post Office and the march will start at 3.30 p.m., sharp. This will be immediately followed with the Convention in the R.S.L. Hall, Guernsey Street. At 8 p.m. a dinner will be held at the R.S.L. Club. Anyone desirous of attending either of these functions kindly contact Joe Lowe (2/4th Bn.) State secretary, Box 4535, G.P.O., Sydney. You may be accompanied by either your wife or friend at either function.

I would like to take this opportunity of extending warmest greetings to all former members of the 2/4th Battalion.

R. I. Bridges, State President

THE WEARING OF MEDALS AND DECORATIONS

With the Kempsey Reunion rapidly approaching, it was thought the following information would be in order. Please read.

Will you permit a few words of advice on the correct way to wear medals and decorations. Once again the object is the well-being and reputation of the battalion as a whole.

The first essential is to have your medals mounted properly on the regulation bar. This can be done very well and reasonably, by:

Christies Ltd.
275 Pitt Street,
SYDNEY

Note, by the way, that miniatures are for wearing with evening dress or dinner dress **only: never by day.**

To pin medals on the coat: The pin should be inserted at the inside edge of the fold which forms the lapel and proceed in a line parallel to the top of the breast pocket at such a height that the bottom edges of the medals form a straight line about half an inch above the pocket.

You will let the long pin emerge for the greater part of the journey and then dig in again being fastened by the catch on the end of the brooch or bar. The purpose of this is that the clip in the middle of the bar can be slipped over the centre of the pin for greater security. The easiest way to ensure proper alignment is to lay the coat on a flat surface such as a bed or a table.

Please take this advice in the right spirit.

Many, no doubt, already know the procedure and will forgive the advice.

Many, however, obviously do not and you have no idea the great impression this kind of uniformity makes to the onlooker.

MONTHLY MEETING

ALL MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE!

THE NEXT MONTHLY MEETING OF THE 2/4th BN. ASSOCIATION WILL BE HELD AT 8 p.m., FRIDAY, 7th SEPTEMBER, AT ROYAL NAVAL HOUSE, GROSVENOR STREET, CITY.

IT IS REQUESTED THAT ALL MEMBERS AVAILABLE WILL ATTEND.

LAST POST

It is with regret that we announce the passing of Pat Constable at Kyogle, in March.

To his next-of-kin, relatives and close friends we extend our deepest sympathy.

It is also with regret we receive the news of the passing of Alf Schwietzer's mother, Bob Gardiner's father and Jack Partridge's mother. To these three boys we also extend our deepest sympathy.

At this stage I think it would be very fitting to mention that the current issue of The Thirty-niners' Association magazine devoted its editorial and a special obituary to our late comrade Doug (Silver) Wallace.

4th BN. 1914-18

The latest issue of "Reveille" listed the passing of the following men:

5030 Pte. A. R. Brown, 3087 Pte. R. J. Ewbank and 6551 Pte. W. A. Sharp. To the relatives of these men we extend our deepest sympathy.

WARNING

To all members in the Rylestone, Mudgee and Gulgong areas. Joe Rognini will be up that way early September and would like to meet any of the boys residing in that area.

WAR HISTORY

We urgently require information on H.Q. Coy. and its activities in Greece. So far this Coy. has had practically no mention. The main ones not referred to are Mortars and Signals.

What about delving into your memories and send us some information. It may not appear important to you but it may fit in and finish off other copy we have. However, we will soon decide, so send it along.

HERE AND THERE

Ken Moses has spent a period of time in hospital but we are pleased to report that he is out now. He was involved in a car accident and so with a few broken bones and stitches was confined to bed for a few weeks and during this period he found plenty of time to catch up on a lot of War History work.

Dick "Colonel" Burrows, who after the war took up a soldier settlement in Tasmania, at Hamilton on the Derwent River, to be exact. Dick's family is now grown up sufficiently to enable him to leave his property and take a vacation. This is Dick's first trip to Sydney since the war. Good to see you "Colonel".

Tom Mort was also in town last weekend. He is now living out of Adelaide. He has a property in S.A. and runs this as well as the property at Bourke.

KEMPSEY REUNION

Everyone should by now have all the info. on what, where, when and how. If you have not here it is again. What: Annual Country Reunion.

Where: Why ask? At Kempsey, of course.

When: The Six Hour weekend, 29th September to 1st October, 1962.

How: Arrange your own transport. Be sure of your accommodation by booking with Esca Riordan, 63 Cameron Street, West Kempsey.

COCK'S COLUMN

Met a friend of mine, Len (Lasher) Finch, (no relation to our Finch's) of the 2/2 Bn. Len is also a friend of Jim Graham and sends his regards to Jim. I invited him to a meeting and he promised to come along one night, but be sure you are there too, Jim. So name the date mate.

Three of the photos sent by Leo Carter of Boorowa that were not detailed: Leo with three Arab shepherds and their sheep, in undulating country near Gaza; Leo standing in an old stone gateway in an orange grove in Palestine, (this one should bring back some memories to the boys); Leo again alongside Julis picture theatre, under construction. Thanks Leo. Write us any news of that area mate. If you see any of the boys passing through or meet anyone, we will be pleased to have the news. Expecting to hear from you.

To W. A. Sheaffe (B and D Coys.), Goonengerry, via Lismore. Hope you are now receiving your "W.O.G.", Bill. Write and let us know if not. Would also appreciate any news of the boys in that area, ones you may meet or hear of. Hoping to see you at the Kempsey Reunion again this year, and please bring a photo.

Some of the boys who called in recently to the N.B. besides the regulars; Dick Morris, Jack Gaffney, Ron Barber, Ron Williams, Jack Anlezark, Ken Webb, Jerry Coughlan and Colin Campbell. Sorry to hear you had an accident with a car, Colin. Glad you were not hurt. Lucky for you you landed on your head.

On a Wednesday afternoon at the N.B., met Maurice Broome (The Champ), B Coy., now living at 123 Boyce Road, Maroubra Junction. I had not seen Maurie for many years. Naturally, I twisted his arm for some photos. And, true to his word, on the following Friday afternoon Maurie was there with seven interesting photos, four post card size and three snapshots—group photos of the boys. He often sees Jack Keating (Cheeky Charlie) and occasionally Frank Kerr (Andy). Wishes to be remembered to the boys and sends regards to Bunny Burrows. Be prepared to duck Bunny when he meets you. He is going to join the Association, but unfortunately at present, will not be able to attend the meetings, as he is a racing pigeon enthusiast and is busy on Friday nights. Maurie is married and has two children (a pigeon pair, mate?). Pleased to have you back in the fold, Maurie. Thanks for the photos, they will be detailed later. Just a thought but I was wondering if we could use Maurie's carrier pigeons for pigeon post to some of our out back members.

Was pleased to see Norrie McGregor (D Coy.) of Fairfield, at the meeting. Norrie met Horrie Cameron (note the Irish names) also D Coy., of Grafton, at the Country Bowling Championship Tour. He had not seen Horrie for 19 years. Went to the Rugby League match, over 57,000 there, and bumped into him. On Anzac Day, Norrie (I hope I haven't got my Norries and Horries mixed) went to South Sydney League Club and met Joe Wells of Junee and Jack Shearer of Kensington, both D Coy. Norrie frequently sees Tex Dallo-way and Geoff Ings both (B Coy.). Norrie, Tex and Jack (Curley) Simeon attended Ernie Pope's funeral at Rookwood. Thanks for the info, Norrie.

Received a letter from Mrs. Crowe (Marcia), Cootamundra, with the news that Jimmy was in the Royal

North Shore Hospital. He had to have a cartilage removed from deep behind his knee. As I am one of the "Visitors" on the North Shore side I went along and saw him, also informed several others. Jim, as usual, was his old smiling self, had been operated on 2nd July and went back home on 13th July. They breed them tough down that way. He will be back in Sydney in two weeks' time. Through us knowing, Jim had several visitors, including Johnny Morrison, Jerry Coughlan, (Fang) Ron Barber, Fred Staggs, Teddy Gamble and myself. There may have been others that I do not know of. There were also phone calls from other 2/4 boys. So a request to relatives of those in hospital, please let us know. See you in Sydney, Jim.

Also a letter from Esca Riordan, West Kempsey. Esca has been nominated to attend the R.S.L. Congress in Sydney in August and will arrive in Sydney on 12th August. See you at the N.B., Esca. Esca writes that the nominations for the Country "Do" are coming in fairly well and there are about 48 so far, including the wives. Esca had a short note from Bill Irvine of Orbost who is in Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital where he has been for several weeks. Bill said the doctor's report and X-ray are good and he hoped to return home that week. Sorry to hear of you being laid up, Bill, and we all wish you a speedy recovery.

Met a friend of Peter Gallagher, Bill Finlayson (Navy). Bill said Peter was down, stayed at his place, had been to Melbourne to see the graduation of his friend's son to a lieutenant. The boy was the one survivor of four in a car accident, the other three being killed last November. Peter went back to Kempsey. Hope to see you at the Reunion, Peter.

Bill Cleaver was seen in town, is looking well and has put on weight. Bill was in B Coy. but later transferred to Salvage. We are pleased to hear of you again, Bill.

Was waiting at Wynyard when I met Wal Honey. He is now living at 3 High Street, Concord. Wal called on Johnny Morrison. Stayed to tea with him and his sister. He also told me the sad news that his mother had recently passed away. Glad to have met you again, Wal, but very sad to hear of your recent sad bereavement and this also is the sentiment of the Association. Hope to see you at a meeting.

Was told Rex Everson (The goat herder), en route to the Repat., had called into the N.B. to say "Hullo" to any of the boys who may have been there. I heard one of the boys remark, in typical Australian vernacular, "Cripes he's getting fat!" Must be the goat's milk. Best of wishes, Rex.

Called in to see Vince Sparkes. He looks well and he passed the same compliment to me. Vince had been on a trip, had called into Nambucca Heads, met Ken Ruby, B Coy. Ken is in the estate agent business and any of the folk passing through are welcome. Can easily find his office in the main street. Ken sends his regards to all and wishes to join the Association. The following called in to see Vince; Bill Reid now of Douglas Park (we have him at the meetings now); Geoff Quinn, who comes to town once a year and sends regards to all, and Bill Irvine of Orbost, Victoria. Bill said for any of the boys passing through Orbost to call in, they are

welcome. Regards Bill, I mentioned the photo in another par. Did you give it to me? As I requested Anzac Day please post any info of the boys along to me. Thanks for the news, Vince.

Also called in to see Keith Turnbull (Killer) at Nock & Kirby's paint counter—he was not there. I was told he was in St. George District Hospital and had been under an operation, but would be home that weekend. Sorry to hear of your bad luck, Keith. On behalf of the Association I wish you a speedy recovery.

Which is one of the earliest towns on the North Coast to have electric light; terminus of the third unit of the northern rail extension; produced one of the world's greatest fighters? KEMPSEY, of course, where the 2/4 Inf. Bn. Reunion will be held, 29th September, 1962.

Received from Alf Carpenter at the July meeting, 16 snapshots and one large group photo, which is excellent. They will be detailed later, Alf, through lack of space. Many thanks.

Esca Riordan received a letter from Ric Carter, who has about 80 feet of film which he took of the boys at our last "do" in Kempsey. He is anxious to show same on a Saturday afternoon. This should be interesting.

Jim Brown moved into his new home last week after waiting many months for its completion.

Alan Nelson-Slee is again enjoying good health after a long period in hospital.

Cock Robin

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