



White War Green

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE 2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

Registered at the G.P.O., Sydney, for transmission by Post as a Periodical
Patron: Major-General I. N. DOUGHERTY, C.B.E., D.S.O., E.D.

President: JOHN COPLAND

Vice-President: FRED STAGGS

Editors: PETER CADE, FRED STAGGS

Vol. 17 No. 9

PRICE 5½d.

SEPTEMBER, 1962

PRESIDENT:	John Copland, E.D., 23 Belmore Street, Ryde	WY 3771
SECRETARY:	Ron Barber, c/o P.O., Mosman	
TREASURER:	Fred Searle, 31 Griffith Avenue, West Ryde	WY 4905
EDITORS:	Peter Cade, 19 La Boheme Avenue, Caringbah	524-3529
	Fred Staggs, 18 Bundarra Avenue, Wahroonga	48-3411

THE HISTORY OF THE SECOND FOURTH BATTALION

This book has been written by members of the Battalion. Each phase, when committed to paper was submitted to a very representative panel of critics for comment and amendment if necessary. It has been edited and sub-edited by a panel of members of the Battalion, the key men being professional writers. It has had constant, detailed and enthusiastic supervision and comment by the Official War Historian (Mr. Gavin Long) and the Director of the War Memorial (Mr. Jim McGrath). These gentlemen and their staffs will be owed a great debt of gratitude by all who read the book.

The book will be of the same format as the Official War History so that official maps can be used without extra cost. Official photographs can then be drawn upon to supplement those in the association's extensive collection. It devotes a full chapter to the exploits of our illustrious forerunner, the 4th Battalion (1914-18).

Angus & Robertson Ltd. have undertaken the publishing for us, which together with all the devoted planning and groundwork, assures us of a very fine volume indeed.

NOW the more copies that can be ordered for the first edition, the lower will be the cost. Future smaller editions will naturally be much more expensive. The object of this reminder, therefore, is to ensure that all who want copies are to be catered for in one operation.

Therefore you must do **YOUR** part in your **OWN** interest and in the interest of the association.

Please fill in the order form and send it to Fred Searle **NOW**.

There is something in this book for everyone who passed through the Battalion. There will be a complete list of all casualties including prisoners of war, index, and copious footnotes.

Bear in mind that you who were in the last battles will probably have greener memories than the originals. This book is your right and heritage also. You must also consider the duty to your relatives, and descendants who will be sure to be proud of the Battalion's record.

I commend the Book to you.

Should inertia win the day and you do NOT send in, YOU and YOUR families will be the losers.

So do it NOW! with or without the money.

Kindest regards,

John Copland,

President.

P.S. — At the time of writing, only 250 copies have been ordered. This is a very poor response when you consider that TWO THOUSAND special copies of W.O.G. were sent out.

CUT HERE

THE HISTORY OF THE 2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION

Please reserve me
and forward same to me—

copy/copies of the Unit History when published,

NAME

BLOCK LETTERS

ADDRESS

1. I enclose remittance for £ being the suggested price of 30/- per
copy — the balance to be applied as a donation to the War History Fund.

OR

2. I will forward the money at a future date.

THE ODE

The Forty-fourth anniversary of the end of World War I will be with us on 11th November, 1962.

Remembrance Sunday also commemorates the dead of World War II and Korea.

It might be a good thing at this time to read again the full text of Laurence Binyon's famous "Ode to the Fallen".

We hear so often the few lines laid down by the R.S.L. to be said on solemn occasions that we tend to forget the beauty of the whole poem. Particularly striking and sonorous is the second stanza.

The "Ode" was written during the Boer War and was inspired by the tragic loss of so many lives on both sides at the Battle of SPOEN DOP.

— **LAURENCE BINYON —**
FOR THE FALLEN

With proud thanksgiving, a mother for her children,
England mourns for her dead across the sea,
Flesh of her flesh they were, spirit of her spirit,
Fallen in the cause of the free.

Solemn the drums thrill: Death august and royal,
Sings sorrow up into immortal spheres,
There is music in the midst of desolation
And a glory that shines upon our tears.

They went with songs to the battle, they were young,
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow,
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted,
They fell with their faces to the foe.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

They mingle not with their laughing comrades again;
They sit no more at familiar tables of home;
They have no lot in our labour of the day-time:
They sleep beyond England's foam.

But where our desires are and our hopes profound,
Felt as a well-spring that is hidden from sight,
To the innermost heart of their own land they are known.
As the stars are known to the Night.

As the stars that shall be bright when we are dust
Moving in marches upon the heavenly plain,
As the stars that are starry in the time of our darkness,
To the end, to the end, they remain.

SECRETARY'S MAILBAG

George Bindley: Order for copy of War History and sends his regards to D. Delahenty.

Mr. Alan Clark: Father of "Nobby" return thanks card.

Stan Blaksley: Returns Guessing Competition Butts, subs, and an order for two copies of War History.

Tom Clough: Returns Butts for Guessing Competition and subs. Has just been over to Kempsey and reports everything under control for the Reunion.

Tom Provians: Order for War History and subs. Saw Norm McIntyre last week also Bill Sumpter and Ted Werne, all going strong and well. My ribs are now O.K. and will be in fine form for Kempsey.

Wal Lambourne: Order for War History and subs.
G. Kerkley: War History, subs, Guessing Competition and donation to both War History and Welfare Fund.

A Murphy: Money for Guessing Competition.

Geoff Hawke: Subs and Guessing Competition.

Charlie McBride: Order for War History.

Frank Wright: Change of address from Kingscliff to South Belmont. An order for War History and money for Guessing Competition.

Les Adams: Change of address.

Bub Graham: Subs and orders for War History for self and Jack Maloney.

Abe Collins: Money for Guessing Competition and War History.

Speed Taylor: Order for War History.

Roy Moores: I have been about to write this letter several times but each time something has made me put it off, until at last I have got around to it and here it is. It is about Anzac Day this year.

For what was perhaps the first time, the 2/4 was represented at Bourke Anzac Day by five members and again I think it might be another first, we were the most represented Unit in Bourke. Knowing me you can understand that I let it be known at the Dinner and for once, our light was not under a bushel.

Those present were Don Ellicott, Clem Killsen, Stan Lorth, Fred Simons and self. Clem was there for the first time; Stan Lorth, although an original of our Unit joined the 2/1 long distance snipers at Haifa. It was amusing to meet Fred Simons as I did. He was draping the bar after the Dawn Service, complete with six service medals and (not recognising him at the time) no Divvy clasps, etc., so I said to him, "You must be Sixth Divvy, what was your crowd?" "2/4 Battalion", came the reply, so there followed much celebrating. Fred Simons is home and working on a property near Bourke. We all enjoyed ourselves and voted it a very successful day. I have enclosed photos of the March with some of our boys in view, may be "Cock" will use them.

A true story for W.O.G. when my daughter, Judith, was with me, doing the rounds of the Bourke District, on returning from a trip to Hungerford, we saw in the beam of the headlights "a kangaroo pick up a newspaper and appear to read it," something that I have never seen before.

R. Erskine: It's about time I paid over a few pounds to keep White over Green coming along. With the time approaching for our annual reunion I was interested to inquire if you would submit the attraction of Griffith for the reunion in 1963. If you could give me an idea of the number that turn up at these functions and Griffith was agreed to be the place I will do the necessary organising at this end. I have talked to a few of the locals and feel sure that we can make the weekend attractive for all those who come along, plenty of the necessary fluid plus a look at our very prosperous irrigation district.

Down here we were distressed to hear of the death of Ernie Pope. Ernie was a good soldier, old by the standard of infantry but he could show many of the young ones the most important of all qualities, fortitude. Do you remember Ernie, Harold Ellway and

myself had a competition to see who could grow the best moustache.

David Wren was away at the time but ordered those things on my top lip to be shaved off as soon as he arrived back at the Platoon. It cost me a lot of beer that night at the canteen.

In thinking back over the old days what became of Bill Whithead of my section in 16 Platoon. Old Biss was a tiger on tobacco, 7 ozs. a week and always carried a little firewood in the desert to make a brew of tea at any long stop. He collected one through the chest in Greece but managed to get back to Australia.

Give my regards to David when you see him. If he wants to get away from the city crowd for a while we can always put him up.

Fred Apthorpe: Those of us who partook of Jerusalem leave will remember the "Seven Sisters" that series of "negotiable" bends in the road a few miles outside the city. Just as vivid in our memories would be that unforgettable character, the Arab bus driver, and his ability to manoeuvre his clumsy charge around the said bends.

Came one leave period Major Winning was senior on this particular bus, the driver apparently in a bit of a hurry; inclined to step on the gas as it was, kept throwing a furtive glance over his shoulder now and again to decide how the major was taking it. After about six performances of this practice Major "Bob" quickly put the erstwhile speedster at ease with the following rebuke: "Look! I don't care how fast you drive; 20, 40 or 60 m.p.h., but please don't look at me, look to your driving." Taking the advice as gospel, and with a broad grin reaching from ear to ear, the driver, needing no second bidding quickly gave a wonderful exhibition of acceleration. It was rumoured that he nearly missed a couple of the "Sisters", straddling them in his efforts to make up the time wasted watching for the inevitable rebuke which eventually came from R.E.W.

Is it generally known among members of the association that the Bn. motto is "For Home and Country"?

We are all very sorry to hear of our latest loss in the association, that of "Doug" Wallace, and as a previous contributor put it, Doug appeared to be one of those persons capable of going on forever.

To Reg Cole; sorry I missed seeing you this time, but a couple of your colleagues at Museum informed me of your illness, saying that you would be back on duty again ere long; and to Frank Sadler (Dubbo) pleased to hear of you again; George Kendall, an acquaintance of mine passed on your regards; many thanks.

Mrs. Beryl Kirkland: I wish to acknowledge receipt of your circular W.O.G. re the publishing of the Unit History, and would be very pleased to receive two copies of same.

I would just like to add how interested I was to receive your communication as it is the first one I have seen. For your records I would like to add that my husband (Sandy) A. J. Kirkland, passed away in June, 1962, leaving two sons and a daughter and it is for this reason that I would particularly like to have copies of the above publication, to give them.

LAST POST

It is with deep regret we hear of the passing of Duncan Clark. Duncan was amongst the first to enlist from Leeton in 1939 and sailed with the first contingent of the 2/4th Bn. He was wounded at Bardia and was out of the Battalion for a long period owing to this but later rejoined us and served in New Guinea. He was held in high esteem in the Leeton area and this was proved by the large representation at the funeral. At the service the Leeton President of Returned Soldiers expressed a tribute to the late Duncan Clark.

—Vale Doug.

Owing to the posting out of our special issue of W.O.G. we have received the news of the passing of the following men who passed away some time ago and we did not receive information.

A. J. "Sandy" Kirkland passed away in June, 1962.

W. E. Jones, about nine years ago, and K. Kables some time ago.

To the next of kin and close relatives we extend our deepest sympathy.

From 4th Bn. 1914-18 the passing of the following men was listed in Reveille: P. Barrett, W. Ham, J. Maxwell, W. Moore, G. Murphy, F. Radcliffe, B. Rowan and L. Walker.

CAR STICKERS

The Association car transfers are in the hands of Jack Jordan and Dick Morris. It is hoped they will be available before Kempsey and should retail through our treasurer at the cost of three shillings each.

KEMPSEY RE-UNION

Everything is well under control and those attending can be assured of an extra special weekend. It is not too late to book if you have not already done so.

It is hoped to have the Remembrance March a little earlier this year to avoid finishing in the dark. Wives of members will be given a dinner at the Hotel Kempsey. They will then be able to view the "Festival of Spring" activities until we can join them after the "do".

For those interested the following entertainment is available: Bowls at Kempsey Heights' Bowling Club; Golf at the Crescent Head Country Club. The general facilities of this club is available generally as last year.

Alan Nelson-Slee is anxious to show people around South West Rocks if they care to make the trip.

GUESSING COMPETITION

PLEASE DO NOT PLACE YOUR BOOKS IN THE BOTTOM DRAW AND FORGET ALL ABOUT THEM. DIG THEM OUT NOW AND GET CRACKING. AS SOON AS YOU HAVE SOLD THE BOOKS PLEASE RETURN THE BUTTS AND MONEY TO FRED SEARLE. IF YOU CANNOT SELL THEM PLEASE RETURN THE BOOK.

THIS IS OUR ONLY MEANS OF GAINING REVENUE FOR THE ASSOCIATION SO WE APPEAL TO ALL MEMBERS TO DO THEIR BIT.

COCK'S COLUMN

At the July meeting saw Slim Pollock (The Tall Texan) and Peter Cade (The Scribe) having a yarn, so I joined them. Slim was telling of an incident at work, and Peter was good enough to write it for me, and here it is in his own inimitable style.

Slim in the course of his duties at the Meadowbank Technical College, comes into contact with a fine bevy of femininity, in particular one Patty and her friend Maria. Seems that Patt's dad was in the infantry—well, so was Slim, and being an old stager asked what mob was her pop in? Quoth Patty "The 2/4 Bn." Says Slim "What's his name?" Patty replied, "Ted Wilson". After a while the bell rings in Slim's clear-thinking mind and he say, "Not Boof Wilson?" "Yes," said Patty, "That's my daddy". Thanks Slim and Peter.

Walked into the N.B. and was pleased to see Frank Crutchett of Temora there. Frank said he was just passing through, also that he had met Lofty Taylor (Mortars) at Nyngan, frequently sees Nevis Farrell, also Brick Bradford of Griffith. Good seeing you again Frank. Please don't forget that copy.

Heard that Jerry Coughlan (Fang) and Jim Graham (Gentleman Jim) were seen bending elbows at the North British. Later in the week I met Jim. He promised some copy for the column. Thanks Jim. How about you Jerry.

Looking out the bus window at Railway Square saw Frank Mills (Mortars) in the crowd. Called him to the bus, and got his address. Frank now lives at Marayong. Drop a line Frank and tell us all the doings.

Ron and myself at the Quay Railway met a friend of mine, Jim Sullivan. Jim, although of the 2/6 Bn. is also a friend of Slim Desmond, and Blah Smith. (He claims you owe him a beer Phil) and knows several 2/4 boys including Snow Lovelee, Don Ellicott, and Rags Butler. Don is out Coonamble way and Rags is working on some project of the P.M.G. Thanks Jim. Good to meet you again.

Johnny Morrison and myself on the way to the July meeting met Dick Morris talking to none other than Trevor Richardson. Trevor was for home and the fireside but being outnumbered 3 to 1 we convinced him that he would enjoy the meeting more. I think I heard Trevor say he had spent Anzac Day in Brisbane. He came to the meeting, I was going for more copy, but he disappeared.

From Johnny Ringrose at the July meeting a newspaper cutting on the late Alan Clarke, formerly of the 2/4 Bn. and a prisoner of War. His brother, Harry, who predeceased him also served with the A.I.F. in World War II. They were the sons of Harry Clarke (76), of Charles Street, Manly, who lived for 72 years in the house in which he was born, in Manly. Our sincerest sympathy to Mr. Clark on his double bereavement, in giving two sons.

Johnny was unable to come along on Anzac Day this year but attended service at Dee Why Beach wearing Association tie. A chap walked past, flicked out his tie and said "Why aren't you over at the Reunion?" The inquisitive person turned out to be Ted Jackson of (D. Coy.). They had a yarn and Johnny learned that Ted is Vice-President of Dee Why R.S.L. and a very busy man on Anzac Day.

Johnny also told me he chaperoned his 14 year old daughter to Luna Park on a Saturday night in May and met Des Finch doing likewise. After a yarn they parted vowing they would meet again at the 1963 Anzac Day Reunion. Why not the Kempsey Reunion? Thanks Johnny.

Met Mrs. Desmond (Dot) watching her son playing in a school league team. (He's not bad either). Dot said that Slim was much better and was back at work. We are all pleased to hear that Slim. I noticed that Mrs. D. was wearing a green jumper with a white scarf. I remarked, "Being loyal to the Battalion eh?" She replied, "Yes, and also my father's Bn. the 4th." He was Arnold Whitefield Chew Pte. 1740 D. Coy. 4th Bn. Enlisted 11th January, 1915, sailed 17th March, 1915. Wounded, 6th August, 1915, at Lone Pine. Invalided home on the Hospital ship Kanimbla, December, 1915. Died in Lismore, 1936.

Later in the afternoon I met the second child, Miss Desmond. They are both very nice looking children. They take after their mother. Thanks Mrs. Desmond. Chin up Slim.

A Cooe from Jack Gaffney to Bobby Wardrop A. Coy., of Mosman. Jack is sorry he missed the meeting you attended so please come again.

A pleasant surprise at work. Phil Smith walked in and gave me a parcel of 25 excellent photos of various sizes for the collection. Many thanks Phil. Will be named and detailed later.

CORRECTION: In the par in the July issue where Slim Powers reported the fare wearing the Bn. tie it was printed as Reskine. It should have been Erskine. Sorry Ned.

Again met Wal Honey in the same place as before. Wal's name was printed as Henry. Sorry Wal. Try and make a meeting mate.

At the N.B. on Friday evening before the August meeting the welcoming group to guest Jimmy Crowe comprised Jim Graham, John Morrison, Ted McCaffery, Ron Williams, Sailor Harvey, and myself. Jim's friend Vic Scrivener, and our regular artillery support Bill Sandstrom were also there.

Jim Crowe came along to the meeting later and was warmly welcomed by those present. It was not one of our best attended meetings but we hope that Jim thoroughly enjoyed being with us.

I heard a new old face turned up at the N.B. recently, viz. Dick (Colonel) Butters, ex B. Coy., now an established Cow Cocky in Tasmania. Dick was on a holiday to Sydney, the first since the War Years.

The welcoming committee comprised of Ted Gamble, Slim Pollock, Massa Brooks, Barry Herwig, Ted McCaffery, and Johnny Morrison. Unfortunately, Dick booked the night plane for Melbourne, on the Friday night of our August meeting, to see an Australian Rules match (horrible thought, should have stayed to see the Rugby League stoush). Some high pressure salesman had apparently been at work on him as he was wearing a battalion tie.

Barry Herwig has unfortunately not been enjoying very good health over the last couple of years. Hope your health will improve in the near future Barry.

Sorry I missed seeing you Dick and you too Barry.

—Cock Robin.