



White Water Green

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE 2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

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Combined Smoko, Friday, 5th November, 7-30 p.m.

"Things are Pretty Dangerous"

Cowra Guardian--Reg West

Addressing the members of the 2/4 Battalion Association present for that organisation's dinner in the Services Club on Saturday evening, Major-General Ivan Dougherty, Director of Civil Defence in N.S.W., said members should use their influence to bring home to fellow-citizens the fact that world conditions today were "pretty dangerous".

COMBINED SMOKO

FRIDAY, 5th NOVEMBER, 7.30 P.M.

Come Along and Join the Young
and Old W.O.G.'s in a Night
of Happy Comradeship

ROYAL NAVAL HOUSE
GROSVENOR STREET, SYDNEY

TO THE "BOW AND ARROW" BOYS

(To the tune: "Mother Macree")

There's a spot in our hearts that's the Fighting Fourth's
own,

And it's peopled with Diggers—old coppers we've
known,

There's a place in our memories, ever kept bright
To shine each November on Combined Smoko night.

When we meet here each year, once again to renew

All the friendships so valued and ever found true.

Oh! God bless you, we'll see you, again here this year.

CLAN NIGHT

SATURDAY NIGHT, 30th OCTOBER

PARRAMATTA TOWN HALL

Members of "OUR" Band are looking forward
to a strong contingent of W.O.G. couples.

Contact: Fred Searle,

31 Griffiths Ave., West Ryde. Phone 80 4905

Maj.-General Dougherty underlined his warning by referring to present happenings in Vietnam, India-Pakistan and now Indonesia.

Alluding to earlier remarks by the Mayor (Ald. A. J. Oliver) on the calibre of present-day youth and those of them who were undergoing training, Maj.-General Dougherty said that during the past few days he had inspected cadet units at Cowra High School, Forbes High School and Forbes Marist Brothers College, and he had faith in Australia's future defenders.

The speaker urged the Association members to exert their influence and play their part in community affairs generally.

When proposing a toast to the 2/4 Battalion (coupling with it the original 4 Bn.), the Mayor referred to the 2/4 Bn.'s exploits in the Western Desert, Greece, Crete and the Pacific.

"Have to Look Ahead"

Remarking that Servicemen now looked back on their war-time experiences with a calmer attitude, Ald. Oliver said they had to look ahead and think of their role in present times. Ex-Servicemen had an obligation to continue to serve, so that they might be worthy of their mates who did not come back.

In a defence of modern youth, the Mayor said they were only the young people of 1939-40 living in a different era. The National Service trainees were settling down splendidly and their officers said that, if called on, they were going to acquit themselves as well as did the young men of 1914-18 and 1939-45.

Ald. Oliver said a sympathetic and helpful attitude should be adopted towards the trainees and cadets.

Responding to the toast, the Association president (Mr. Chrystal) mentioned that this was the eighth of the

country re-unions, which, he said, had been inaugurated by Mr. John Morrison of Cootamundra.

The Chairman, Mr. Tim West (president of Cowra branch of the Association) proposed the loyal toast; Maj.-General Dougherty proposed "Fallen Comrades" and Mr. J. Ormiston "Our Guests"—the Mayor, the Shire President (Cr. C. P. Treasure), Messrs. H. Bryant, J. N. Davidson, C. Stinson, R. West, T. McLeish and K. Clarke (drum-major of the visiting Parramatta pipe band).

Tribute to Organisers

During his response to the "Guests" toast, Cr. Treasure congratulated the local organisers of the gathering. He said they had done a great job in arranging for this year's re-union to be held at Cowra and in bringing so many of their old mates together.

A pennant from the Services Club as a memento of the occasion, was presented to Mr. Chrystal by Mr. Tim West.

He said that the unit flag, "by courtesy of Mr. Hylton Batcheldor", which was flying from the Club flagpole, was also being presented to the Association.

Mr. West paid a tribute to the organisation work done by Mr. Ted Harris and Mr. Batcheldor.

A toast to the chairman was proposed by Mr. Bill Collie.

While the men were dining at the Services Club, the womenfolk were attending a similar function in the R.S.L. rooms downstairs.

Mr. Peter Juliano did the catering.

Immediately prior to the dinners there was a march from the Primary School to the memorial outside the Services Club. Mr. Cec. Hogan was marshal for the march, which was headed by the Parramatta Pipe Band.

At the memorial wreaths were laid by Messrs. Chrystal (for the 2/4 Bn. Association), H. Bryant (Cowra R.S.L.), J. N. Davidson (Services Club), and C. Stinson (Legacy).

Mr. Chrystal recited the Ode; bugler T. McLeish sounded the Last Post and Reveille and the pipe band played a bar of the Scottish Lament, "Flowers of the Forest".

During the proceedings the Mayor extended a welcome to the visitors.

At the conclusion of the dinner functions, Association members, some accompanied by their wives, attended the fortnightly social at the Services Club. They were welcome by the President (Mr. J. N. Davidson) during the evening.

The Parramatta Pipe Band played twice at the social and also gave a marching display, for which they were loudly applauded.

Car Tour

Sunday's programme included a motorcade, under the direction of Mr. J. J. Ormiston, to points of interest in the town and district.

Approximately 120 men and 45 women attended the re-union.

COWRA RE-UNION

The importance of what our Patron has to say needs no stressing to you blokes.

Knowing how seriously he views the present world situation, I believe his message to those attending Cowra is of equal importance to all members; that

he would like you to know his views; and that you all place faith in his judgment.

For these reasons I have used verbatim the Cowra "Guardian's" front page report of his address at the Re-union Dinner. As the rest of the article covers so well the other speakers and the week-end in general, the whole is included.

However, there is much more to tell from our point of view, but most will have to wait until next issue.

We must thank Tim West, Ted Harris and Hylton Batcheldor, their wives and other helpers for their wonderfully organised effort.

One feels inclined to write "bigger, brighter, better!" but each country re-union has been a marvellous experience for those attending. Each has had its own particular flavour and character. So let us simply say Cowra was right up to scratch, with those few little touches which gave it individual flavour and sets it in our minds as "The Cowra Re-union".

One of the most important "new touches" was the "Country Re-union Flag" which flew all week-end beneath the Australian flag on the Services Club flagpole. Donated by Hylton Batcheldor, it has been presented to the Association by the Cowra Re-union Committee for use at all future shows.

Fred Searle has undertaken to add a small white pennant to the flag with "Cowra 1965" in green on it. We trust the Committee agrees with this idea, with a new pennant added each year, bearing the name of the venue.

Probably the most colourful touch was the presence of "OUR" band! Leading us for the short march, playing the Lament and putting on a grand display during the evening, Ken and his boys added immensely to the general picture and many a local was heard to say they had no idea the show was to be such a well planned spectacular.

Should we return to Cowra in the future, we are assured of a huge audience—not that we look for this, of course, but it speaks well of the town's reaction to Cowra Committee's planning, "OUR" band and the general conduct of all attending.

More next issue!

How about a few reports on individual happenings—such as the "McWilliams' Night Club" with its star performer "Blah" Smith?

Although taken from Ted Harris's lists, there are a few names missing from both the men's and ladies' lists.

Did anyone fail to pay their 35/- for their dinner?

There were actually 95 members, 46 ladies, 5 v.i.p.'s, 19 Pipe Bandsmen, and 1 Bugler.

COWRA APOLOGIES

Mick Green, Grafton, wrote to the Editor apologising for being unable to attend the Re-union, and asking to be remembered to all, especially "Scotchey" McCartney and "Snow" Wells.

Other apologies received by the Cowra Committee were from:

Harry and Noreen Dowling, Willawarrin
Tom Malcombe, Willawarrin
Tom Clough, Macksville
Wem Keast, Junece

Bernie O'Mara, Dubbo
 Arthur Wright, Forbes
 Joe Rognini, Sydney
 Fred Staggs, Sydney
 John Copland, Sydney
 Bill Agland (4th Bn. A.I.F.), Orange
 "Bushy" Bennett, Brewarrina.

One grim word explained the absence of people like the Bennetts and Dowlings—DROUGHT!

It has been a grim period for many of our boys on the land. May they soon gain blessed relief.

D. D. H. Godfrey, President of the R.S.L. Cowra, in his letter apologising for his inability to attend, and deputising his Vice-president Harry Bryant, made the following statement:

"... I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate your Association on its re-union and the enthusiasm always displayed by members. I also thank your Country Re-union Committee for choosing Cowra for the re-union this year and I trust they will do so again. At their last meeting the members of the Cowra Branch of the R.S.S. & A.I.L.A. were unanimous in their pleasure at your activities generally and the venue of this year's re-union in particular."

LAST POST

NX46322 Claude Ellem (road accident).
 We also have a report that—
 NX5592 Laurie Morris, originally from Forbes, died at Parkes.

NEW MEMBERS

R. J. ("Scotchy") McCartney, Guildford.
 C. Buchanan, Young.
 K. C. Trudgen, Canowindra.
 J. E. Worthington, Young.
 T. J. Crowley, Dubbo.
 Cec. Hogan, Cowra.

LAURIE ("POP") JAMES—where are you?? Last known address Kirribilli. Any member knowing his address, please contact Fred Searle. "Pop" is at present missing out on his W.O.G.'s.

APOLOGIES

Apologies to "Nedda" Kenna, V.C., for the misspelling of his name **McKenna** in September issue. Someone must have been on the Scotch!

Many readers may have noted that a raffle was apparently to be run at Cowra: "Medals and Ties to be won." 'Twas often said of decoration, I know—but the ties still cost 12/6 from Fred Searle!

Also the heading "Nominal Roll" was not quite as "normal" as it appeared!

LADIES NIGHT

FRIDAY, 3rd DECEMBER, 8 p.m.

Royal Naval House, Grosvenor Street, Sydney

Start arranging for a baby sitter now and bring the missus along to a happy evening.

DICK PINSON'S BAND

Actually the typing of the copy for last month's issue was a major problem as George and Margaret Stack were on holidays. As a lot of it was in rough hand writing our printers did well to keep the errors to a minimum.

My thanks to Pat Lahey, Johnnie Morrison and Ted McCaffery for their help in arranging for the typing of quite a percentage of the copy.

Your Editor was asked if information on "Sailor's" movements was placed under the heading "Shipping Information" because he was an ex matelot.

Not at all. It's just that he's a bit of a "tanker"! (No offence meant Sailor—so no offensive—please!)

COCK'S COLUMN

Lt.-Col. John ("Joe") Wells, Army H.Q., Canberra, in a letter to Dick sent best wishes to me and a request to pass on his regards to you all.

On parade at North British Friday prior to September meeting Johnnie Morrison, Jack Heaney, Rex Gilliland, Geoff Hale, Reg Cole, Rus McWilliam and me.

It was indeed a pleasant surprise to see Geoff "Tadpole" Hall (B Coy) there, Geoff now lives at Tamworth, was down on holidays, he had met Teddy Gamble, who had put him on the track for the North British, his first visit there, it was 23 years since he had seen us boys. Geoff travels the country a fair bit, so got a list of names and places, will look them up and write info to me. Unfortunately he could not make the meeting, had a prior appointment, and was driving back early Sat. morning. Well Geoff it was good to see you, and hope to see and hear from you again soon.

Address: Geoff Hall, Commonwealth Dept. Works, Tamworth.

It was good also to see Reg "Pommy" Cole, his first visit ever to the North British. Reg has recently seen "Brig" McAtamney, Ron Bootey, Sandy Lane, "Porky" Williams and "Snowy" Butcher (cook). Reg tells me that Graham, his son, had his 21st birthday, Sat. Aug. 27th. (Congrats. Graham). They had an 18 gal., 2 a.m. and the beer was still flowing, all had a great time.

At the September Meeting

Les "Lizard" Leech, Westmead (looks like we may have another regular). Les's daughter Elizabeth was selling badges for Legacy in Parramatta and did very well. Les has recently seen Lex Fox, so the Lizard and the Fox have made a fishing date.

Bill "Sluggo" Wildman, was to meet "Dasher" Deacon and drive him back to the farm. Bill is now back at Campbelltown. Dasher was late, but eventually turned up.

Athol Heath met Jack Page (Trans.) who is still quite portly, and his usual laughing self. I am sorry to report that Pat (Mrs. Heath) has to go into the Mater Hospital on Friday 10th for a serious operation. We all wish you well Pat, and every best wish for a speedy recovery to good health again.

Jack "Brick" Bradford met Freddie Bourke (Trans.) at The Entrance. Freddie sends regards to all.

We were all pleased to meet Dan Crook (The Band) again of 7 Carrington St., St. Marys. His first meeting,

and the first time he had met any of the boys for 17 years. He had called to the North British earlier and Johnnie had given him the drum about the meeting. We are pleased to have met you again Dan, and hope to see you more often.

Rex Everson has recently seen Norm. Ormiston, Bill "Punchy" Walker and Bill Bickley, the latter could not come along, as the meeting fell on his afternoon shift at work.

It was good to see Roy "Sandy" Lane come along again, looks as though we may have another regular, we hope so.

The Cowra Re-union

Dick Morris was kind enough to give me a seat in his car to the Cowra Re-union. Thanks Dick. We started off at 1 p.m. Friday from Ashfield and arrived late afternoon at Cowra. The first one we met was Ted Harris and believe me he was a very busy man. Then Hylton Batcheldor was the next on the scene, also fully occupied.

Then the boys started to arrive. I will write as I met them. Jack Maloney came over with "Bub" and Margaret Graham from Bowraville. All looking well.

Teddy Swadling from Griffith said Fred Apthorpe could not make the trip, but has improved 100 per cent in health. Met "Jock" Cumming in Wagga, also could not make it. "Jock" has a bad leg, has been off work, sorry "Jock". Ted also met Joe Crawford, looks well, still drinking schooners.

Dick "Pullthrough" Latimer from Mallacoota, Vic., (Mine-host of the local). Dick often sees Bill Irvine of Orbost, also Claude Raymond, who is getting more rotund every year. Claude is an inspector with the Onion Board. Dick has had several 6 Div. boys patronise the hotel and they have all voted White Over Green the best War History they have ever read.

Esca Riordan, Esca's news: The Dowlings have been having a rough spin with the drought, and that is the main reason they were unable to attend this year's re-union. Since State Parliament opened in August, Jim Brown has been kept busy as he is the Country Party's Whip. He was unable to attend the re-union this year, as he has to attend a number of official functions in Kempsey during the "Festival of Spring". Had a short note from Tom Clough and he is sorry he could not join the boys at the "Do" owing to the time limit. A few months ago Esca had a surprise phone call from Peter and Margaret Cade, they were on their way to the Gold Coast for a short holiday. Esca was able to join them at the Macleay R.S.L. Club for a few noggins. The boys will be sorry to learn that Leo Simpson (from the Tattersalls Hotel, Kempsey) passed away several weeks ago. Esca provided a wreath on behalf of the 2/4th boys, thanks Esca.

Harry Whitman, Wakool, had a seat in his car for Jack Hamilton, but work came first, unfortunately Jack could not. Sam McCready is O.K. I was pleased to hear that Dawn Whitman (Harry's daughter) is a nurse at Wagga Base Hospital, congratulations, Dawn. But I am sorry to hear that Harry's son had a serious hole-in-the-heart operation, but am happy to report is progressing favourably.

Page Four

I met John Barker whose Uncle, Clive White, a West Australian was in the 2/4 Bn. John is a Westerner too.

Roy Moores, Bourke, has bought a new Peugeot 404 after having done 84,000 trouble-free miles in his 403 Peugeot, the reason he stuck to his Peugeot. Roy frequently has a yarn to Don Ellicott, Don just nods.

Ewen Wood (B & D Coy) Rydalmere, has first country re-union, often sees Ern Twist and Elliott Schofield at Auburn.

Frank Sadler, Dubbo met Max Nerney at an Odd Fellows Lodge Convention in Dubbo, Max would not be able to make the Cowra re-union. Frank also had a visit from Bill "Snow" MacLennan (Motors), Bill was on his way home from holidays at Alice Springs. On Sunday I spoke to Frank and suggested DUBBO as the next venue for our re-union, it appears others had done the same. Frank is greatly interested.

Jack Crowley (C Coy) Dubbo came along with Frank. Jack is joining the association, it was his first re-union.

Cec. Hogan (15 pltn. C. Coy) late of Kempsey, now Cowra. Cec. met Joe Taylor, Forster, who had just returned from a business trip overseas.

When visiting a Cadet camp at Singleton recently Maj.-Gen. Dougherty happened to see Jack Guest, who was a member of the civilian staff at the camp.

Dick Morris met an old 4th Bn. A.I.F. man in the Railway Hotel, Dick Jeffs, he wishes to be remembered to Pat O'Keefe and Co.

Ern Twist, Merrylands brought his family, he met Jack Peed (Carriers) at Jack's daughter's wedding.

Ray "Scotch" McCartney (Don) Guildford, his first re-union ever, but he said not the last.

Fred Driscoll, Griffith, brought an apology from Dennis Jackson and Fred Apthorpe.

Charlie "Butch" Warren, Yass. I notice in my notes I have two reports on this. 1st—Charlie met Barker, an original 2/4er at Yass, 2nd — Barker is managing a store at Rye Park, let us hear from you Charlie, send any other news.

Norrie McGregor, Smithfield met Lionel Clarke (C Coy) and Gordon Clark (also C Coy) no relation, also met Lou Drubber, often sees Jack Shearer (D Coy).

Tom "Nedda" Erskine, Griffith, apologised for David McClure who was too busy to attend. David won Doubles Golf Champ., Riverina.

Allan Kirk, Lismore, met Tom Provians and his friends, often sees Doug Stebbing, apologised for Kyogle boys, Jack Chaselin, Bobby Gardner, Jack Lister, Doug and Charlie Groves, Eddie Miller and Fred Varley, they could not make it. Merv McGuinness, originally R.S.L. Club, Lismore, now has mixed business at Ballina.

(To be continued)

"Cock" Robin.