



White Water Green

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE 2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

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Next Meeting: Ladies' Night, Friday, 3rd December, 8 p.m.

LADIES' NIGHT

FRIDAY, 3rd DECEMBER, 8 p.m.

Royal Naval House, Grosvenor Street, Sydney

Have you booked that babysitter yet?

Bring Mumma along for a night with the girls.

DANCE TO DICK PINSON'S BAND

See Slides of Cowra Reunion.

Bring along YOUR slides and photos of reunions!

COWRA SECRETARY/MANAGER DIES

The accidental death occurred on 24th October, of Brian McGrath, our recent host at Cowra Services Club. He served in the 2/33 Bn.

W.O.G. visitors to Cowra will long remember Brian and his staff for their happy dispositions and marvellous service. They, on the other hand, were most impressed by our orderliness (and fuel consumption).

Brian's last words to us were, "Can't you come again next year? We'd be happy to have you."

Cec Chrystal, Johnnie Morrison and Dick Morris attended the funeral.

TO THE PRESIDENT

Dear Ces,

Your letter of 9th inst. to hand yesterday. Thanks very much for your kind remarks regards the weekend. It was, we thought, a really good show, and everything went smoothly, but a point to be remembered is that it was due mainly to the full co-operation of each and everyone who attended that the result was achieved. Personally, I have been almost embarrassed, by the compliments and congratulations received from the various houses of accommodation, regarding the people for whom I made bookings. "What delightful people." "What a nice lot of fellows;" all said the same. Our club stewards said, "Never before did we have such a good crowd to deal with. Not one word of complaint about the service during the weekend." In fact, Cowra says, "2/4 come back," but all must

have their turn, and it appears to be DUBBO for next year. So, hoping to see you all again there, with kindest regards to yourself and Mrs. Chrystal.

I remain,

Yours sincerely,
Ted Harris

COWRA CONFESSIONS

Jack Ormiston did a good job of shepherding quite a large group of W.O.G.'s out to Edgell's farm and canning factory, where we were able to see asparagus growing and being cut, as well as follow the complete process of cleaning, cutting, canning, cooking, cooling, labelling, packing and stacking.

From the factory we proceeded to the War Cemetery and Japanese Cemetery—that is except for one well-known Association official, who finished up as tar boy or somesuch on a sheep property! Someone pulled the wool over his eyes and he followed the wrong car!

Thanks for an interesting afternoon, Jack.

* * * *

I'm sure everyone was happy with their accommodation arrangements, but none more than Allan and Carma Kirk and those who stayed at the Lachlan Valley Motel.

They met a real, live, war-time hero, "Jock" McDiarmid, M.M., M.I.D., Croix de Guerre, Silver Star; ex-2/13 Bn., ex-paratrooper and member of the famous S.A.S.

"Jock" and Helen manage the Motel, and what a fine job they do, too!

Noon on the holiday Monday, Allan decided to re-book in and stay another night in Cowra. At the same time he arranged for lunch for those couples still entrenched in the R.S.L.

What a fine meal "Jock" turned on, his chef being Peter Juliano who did the catering for both the Re-union and the Ladies' Dinners.

"Jock" personally tended the group to see their every need was met—and to keep an eye on his silverware! The shacking (?) that went on! Joking about having to keep an eye on his silver, "Jock" tied the sugar bowl to a ball and twine and paid out just enough line for those at the table to be able to use the sugar bowl.

This wasn't a bad idea until Allan Kirk quietly cut the line and hid the bowl!

Next act was the quiet, but obvious passing of all the unused silver to Fred Searle, who stashed it in his pocket.

Later, when paying their checks, several demanded rebates, for various phony reasons. "Jock" said to get the change from his hip pocket—which proved empty. Fred said, "You'd better see if you can't do better from my hip pocket," turning to allow "Jock" to recover his silverware. "Jock" outsmarted Fred however, for he went for the wrong hip pocket and snaffled Fred's reasonably bulging wallet (including Jackpot wins, as usual!).

That left Fred speechless for the first time ever!

Those who enjoyed both the meal and the fun and games were: Dick and Enid Latimer; Allan and Carma Kirk; Fred and Dot Searle; Rex and Norma Everson; Esca and Vera Riordan; with your reporter, Dick Morris standing by watching the fun.

* * * *

"Jock" promised us all a fine evening meal (so I booked in, too) and promised to join us at the R.S.L. afterwards.

"Rusty" and Barbara McWilliams joined us and we did enjoy this meal.

"Jock" joined us at the R.S.L. and all had a very jolly evening—particularly "Jock" who told me this was only his third visit to the R.S.L. in two years owing to the long hours at the Motel.

We tried to have him as our guest, but he was not to be outdone and put on two bottles of Johnnie Walker. On opening each of these he said, "We'll do what the 'Jocks' do—throw away the cork—we won't be wanting that again!" And over his shoulder went the cork.

This being the late, late session of the long, long weekend, everyone was drinking pretty "quiet"—all except "Jock", who was thoroughly enjoying himself.

I wonder whether any of the ladies understood the words of his "Greek" song. It was grand having him with us, for he is such jolly company, but he was a rather chastened lad next morning! Reckoned he must have been hit by a flying Scotch Cork!

Ever the fine host, he put on buckshees morning coffee at 10 a.m. on the Tuesday, and having re-checked his silverware, etc. etc., bid us farewell as each carload departed their various ways. Being honest blokes we took nary a spoon!

But I wonder if "Jock" has woke up yet that all we took was his fine Motel, section by section. (At least that's what the silly cartoon shows, which I did for "Jock".)

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If passing through Cowra, don't forget to visit "Jock" and ask to see the 2/4 Bn. Association cartoon—which he has framed and hung in his office! (It's pretty roughly done I'm afraid.)

Fred Searle has sent, on behalf of those who appreciated "Jock's" hospitality and genial character, a copy of our Unit History.

You can read of "Jock's" exploits in the S.A.S.'s book, "These Men are Dangerous", by Dereck Harrison, M.C.

* * * *

The group mentioned above visited the Wyangla Dam, which was well worth the trip—ask Dick Latimer, he'll tell you all about it!

This tour helped settle the fine lunch mentioned and what appetites for the evening meal at "Jock's".

* * * *

Did you hear about one keen member of "our" Pipe Band? He hitch-hiked all the way up to Cowra from Sydney, arriving in time to do his bit in the fine playing and marching carried out during the Saturday evening function.

THE WIVES' POINT OF VIEW

Since the first Kempsey Reunion we, the women in question, would like to say that we can improve your Reunions by our attendance at the different country towns. As figures go, more and more men and women are attending each Reunion. So we would like to say to the wives of other members who read W.O.G.—Let's go to these country Reunions, meet new and old friends and have fun!

Hilda W., Norma E., Dorothy S.

SICK PARADE

Bede "Tubby" McKenna, D.I., Ward 3.
W. A. Ashcroft, Ward 210.

Home from Hospital

Neil Wallace, J. Tracey, E. Downie, B. Herwig, Ron Belford.

Best Wishes, Boys!

A cheerio call to Emmaline, wife of Harry Russell, who is also just out of hospital.

How's the fishing at Myleston, Harry?

LAST POST

SX16918 Dudley Schlank (Adelaide).

COCK'S COLUMN

Cowra Reunion Continued

Wal and Mrs. Taylor, Cootamundra, no news of the others from Coota.

Joe "Snow" Wells, June, apologised for Mat Bristol and Stan Doggett from Bethungra. Joe sends regards to Frank Frizell and local boys, also from "Snow" one snapshot, a group of the boys in Syria, taken in Beirut, 1942, they are "Nigger" Rees, Joe Wells, Harry Brown, Sid Mathers, "Bunny" Burrows and Jimmy Evans, thanks "Snow" see you next year.

Ces "Snow" Whitehouse (Don) 5 Lockville Street, Wahroonga, has recently seen Fred Staggs, Albert Milner and Jack "Push" Shoveller.

Jimmy Creese (President of Hornsby R.S.L.), Corp Troops, attached to the 2/4th in the first push up the Desert, Jim has Noel "Mick" Weir, working for him.

Stan Blacksley mentioned that Charlie Healey (Father of Don) recently attended his 48th consecutive Annual Meeting of the Wagga R.S.L. Charlie told Stan that Don's wife died several years ago, only months after remarrying.

Jim "Stumpy" Agnew Tumut, met Bert Kingswell, who told Jim he would be coming to the Reunion.

Harry Dunlop was pleased to see many C. Coy. boys there.

Colin "Buck" Buchanan (C. Coy.) Young, his first reunion, but hopes to be at the next one.

Len "Spud" Stanford (C. Coy.), Stan and "Buck" were staying with Harry.

Bill Colley, Bathurst, met Horrie Howard (M.G.) who wishes to be remembered to his mates.

Bob and Ada Griffith, Mildura, report seeing Guy Vance (I. Sec.) and Wim Keast, who apologised for not being able to attend.

Jack and Joan Huston, Canberra, sees Dave Taylor frequently.

Jim "Sailor" Worthington, Young. I was surprised to hear that Jim was a veteran of World War I, is now 67 and looks 50.

Arthur Kleem, Young, brought "Sailor" to Reunion.

Leo Carter, Boorowa, brought an apology from Tobin, whose wife, unfortunately is in hospital. We are sorry to hear of this, and wish the good lady a speedy recovery. Leo is expecting to be a grandfather soon. Congrats. Pappy and send along that news.

Ken Trudgen (Don), Canowindra, sends regards to Frank Frizell. Ken is growing a beard, they are having a Wild Colonial Carnival down his way, and want several men with beards—Ken is one of the volunteers.

Colin "Bunny" Burrows has recently seen Brian "Boy" Murphy and Joe Lowe.

Jim Sadler, Auburn, said there are about 12 2/4ers in the Auburn R.S.L. Club.

Harry and Yvonne Pearce, Stockton-Newcastle. Harry has close contact with Jack Treherne, who is treasurer of the local R.S.L. and Citizens' Club. Often sees "Stumpy" Wright.

Griffith Contingent: "Beau" Hester, Arthur Webb, Fred Driscoll, Tom "Nedda" Erskine and Ted Swadling.

Arthur Webb brought Dennis Jackson's best wishes to all. David and Rita McClure also send best wishes, especially to "Bush" Bennett and wife "Billi". We are sorry to hear that David is not enjoying the best of health, and we wish him a speedy recovery.

"Slim" Venn, came with "Bunny" Burrows, Les Adams and Jim Sadler, "Slim's" first reunion, but he claims not his last by any means. "Slim" was sporting a white over green hanky.

Dasher and Molly Deacon, Campbelltown: Dasher has recently seen Bill "Sluggo" Wildman.

Colin Campbell who had grown a bushy moustache, received that many comments, that when he reported for the motor trip, he had the right side of his face clean shaven, and the left side sporting half a bushy mo. Cameras started to click.

It was comical to see Tim West carrying a chair whenever he moved around. It appears that each time Tim stood up, some "Clifty Wallah" would pinch his seat (no, I mean the four-legged one). So Tim procured his own chair, and carried it with him, of course not on the march.

On the way back, I had the pleasure of travelling with Wally and Molly Lambourne, Athol and Pat Heath—a very pleasant and enjoyable trip. Many thanks, Wally.

North British news: Walked in and was very pleased to see Dick Latimer, having a yarn to Jack Keating (Cheeky). Dick will post me a list of his travels, when he returns to Mallacoota. He also met Bob "Lasca" Roach, "Lasca" lives at Wiley Park. It was good to see you Dick, and hope to do so more often. Looking forward for your letter.

Met a team on Friday, October 22: Jack Gaffney, Fred Searle, Rex Gilliland, John Morrison, Jack Heaney and Don Ellicott from Bourke. Don has been in hospital, but I am pleased to report is O.K. now. He recently met Clem Killeen, who is on his way down. It was good to see you again, Don.

Jack Gaffney met Rus McWilliam at Woy Woy.

Rex Gilliland gave me two large photos, given to Him by Peter Denver of Hindmarsh, South Australia, for the collection. Thanks Rex, and many thanks to you Peter for these excellent photos. Our best regards to you mate. The photos are the same, a group of five. They are Charlie Granquid, "Speed" Lauchlan, Gary Hart, "Bull" Wilkinson, Brian Waring. Taken March, 1940, Tel Aviv—thanks again, Peter.

At the Cowra Reunion, overheard a remark from one of the ladies: "Aren't we lucky we married 2/4ers."

Rex Gilliland met Bruce Cork. Rex also reports that "Butch" Warren, who was a butcher, is now a baker and "Bub" Graham, who was a baker, is now a butcher. Queer world, or is it us?

I am sorry to hear that "Butch" met with a bad road accident, a while back, but at Cowra Reunion "Butch" looked his old self, and I am pleased to say is O.K. now.

Walked in and was very pleased to see Jim Barrow from south of the Border. He looked well and is his old laughing self. He is the only visitor who has out-talked Johnnie in years. Jim is going north (Brisbane) and hopes to meet the banana benders. Look out Reg Angel and Tom Provians, you have our sympathy. Jim also gave me for the Collection an excellent large photo of a group taken in '48 at Port Melbourne Town Hall. It comprises Russ Maddern, Ian Menzies, Jim Barrow, Ken Moses, Dick Moodie, Bill Irvine, Vic Hill, John Falla and Bill Anderson—the last two in uniform. Many thanks, Jim, see you on the way back.

I was pleased to see Ces Chrystal come in and have a "quicky" with the regulars.

Nine photos from Allan Kirk, per Dick Morris. Two large post card size and seven snapshots.

1. Post card of Wally Sheppard and Jack Lister sitting in front of Quins in Greece, a small Greek boy in his National Costume of the Evzones standing between them.

2. Post card of Allan Kirk and Bill Loy in Tel Aviv.

Now the snapshots: 1. Snow Bonham, "Stiffy" Way and another in a street scene, could be Jerusalem or Tel Aviv.

2. First camp from Palestine to Syria men, kit bags, equipment and huts. Curley Nell in foreground.

3. Taken in the snow in Syria, a group of 10: "Snow" Bonham, "Splinter" Graham, Allan Kirk, Bill Loy, Paul Brooke, "Spike" Galvin, Lindsay Hope, Ron Raymont, Jim Keever and Clarrie Ryan.

4. Some of the Motor Platoon among the stones at Darwin.

5. Johnny Hawkins and Allan Kirk at Darwin.

6. Jim Staples, Fred Stanwell and Allan Herberton.

7. Tim Ellis and Allan, Wondecla. The last three snaps background of tents and tall trees. Many thanks, Allan.

"COCK" ROBIN.

COMBINED SMOKO

Well supported by 12 old W.O.G.'s, 31 young W.O.G.'s and 6 members of "our" band, also 1 2/13 Bn. visitor.

The atmosphere was most congenial, with happy faces everywhere.

Speakers were our President, who welcomed the 4th Bn. "boys" and other guests; 4th Bn. President Pat O'Keefe and Mr. Evans, guardian angel to Band members.

Claude Raymond, first ever Smoko, also spoke. "Snifter" really enjoyed being among the boys again. He reckons we smell sweeter than the onions he deals in with the Victorian Onion Board.

Tim Cloke was another smiling face we were all pleased to see once again. Regards to Dot, Tim.

A visitor who had a grand evening, was John Forsythe, 2/13 Bn.

An excellent evening!

OCTOBER MEETING

A good roll-up, particularly as many were still on safari after the Cowra Reunion.

Dick Latimer and Esca Riordan were present, taking the long way home from Cowra!

Both were made very welcome. This was Dick's first meeting in 16 years, his last one being the one attended by the late Harry Watts' father. Mr. Watts, you will remember, came out to meet Harry's old mates. Dick recalled what a fine gentleman he was and the fact that he died within a few months of returning to England.

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Esca reported having had a grand time at Cowra (as did Dick) and mentioned how proud he was of how the 2/4 men up north who were R.S.L. delegates, always attended meetings in strength.

It certainly was nice to see these two amongst the happy faces at the meeting, an all too infrequent occurrence, owing to distance.

Dear Dick,

Not having heard from me for sometime the would-be boss of this household states that it is high time that I made a few remarks. Of course, it's only a manner in which the Female of the species can get a word in, in any case. Here is her report.

This event happened on Friday, 10th September, of this year.

Official guests at the opening of the C.W.A. rooms at Urunga included Mr. J. H. Brown, M.L.A., and his wife. In his speech Jimmy recalled that on his first visit to Urunga, after being elected to Parliament, it was advertised in the local press:—"Mr. Brown would be in Urunga to Deceive the Debutantes". Being a gentleman (of honour) and a scholar, he did not take advantage of this. Says me, "What a Chicken!"

As usual on all these occasions a raffle was conducted and of course Mrs. Ruth Carter was one of the ticket sellers, and of course being a true supporter of the 2/4 Bn. sold a ticket to the honourable member for Raleigh, to wit J. H. Brown. The result was obtained by the honourable member for Raleigh's wife drawing the number from whatever they had to hold the **only** ticket sold, and of course the result was a foregone conclusion. Who held the only ticket? J. H. Brown. The prize, just to keep everything white over greenish, was a pair of WHITE OVER GREEN towels.

That's all to report from The COOK.

Now my report. It appears that the recognised profession for the daughters of members of the 2/4 Bn. Association is to become nurses. Well, to add to the list, my only daughter Alison will be commencing her studies at the Bellingen District Hospital in the New Year. I'm hoping that she makes a better job of being a nurse than I am of being a Station Master.

I have been pulled into gear by Leo Lynch regarding Paddy Gleeson. He does not work for the Railway Department at all, but for the Copmanhurst Shire and, according to that body, he may as well be working for the railways, because he does not work at the Shire.

Regards to all,
Rick Carter.

* * * *

Thanks for the news, Rick, thank the cook too, and congratulations to another future Nursie—daughter Alison.

What a contented future W.O.G. types have to look forward to—Association Welfare to look after the family and lovely W.C.G. daughters—nurses to look after the "old Crocks"!