



White Over Green

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE 2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

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Next Meeting, Friday, 5th March, Royal Naval House, Sydney.

OFFICIAL: COWRA THIS YEAR!

The committee has confirmed Cowra as the venue for the 1965 Country Re-union.

This follows a visit to that fair town by a committee group, where preliminary discussions and a meeting with local lads got things under way.

Chairing the Cowra Committee is Tim West, as good a man as one could wish to get things rolling and organised for a Re-union up to the high standards set by past groups.

Secretary is Hylton Batchelor, who submitted the offer last year to hold Re-union in Cowra. Accommodation arrangements will be in the hands of Ted Harris.

Harold Dunlop (C. Coy) was present, willing and able. Jack Ormiston has indicated his enthusiasm and there are others in the area who will be rallying to roll up their sleeves to ensure a good time for all visitors. Hubert Brien, 4th Bn. (A.I.F.) is right up in the firing line, having willingly been co-opted onto the committee. The Mayor of Cowra, Albert Oliver (2/17 Bn.), is right behind the movement and has charged Tim with the task of seeing that Cowra does proud by visiting White Over Greeners, their wives and families.

The R.S.L. Club building is completed and the Manager is completely on side. So, we have the ingredients for another wonderful show, needing now only the full support of members.

Be in it! Bring the wife and/or girl friend; bring the family! But — **BOOK EARLY** as accommodation is limited. You can send your bookings NOW to Ted Harris, c/- R.S.L. Club, Cowra, but do enclose £1 per person deposit.

A form will be included in next issue of W.O.G. Be ready to send it away.

MR. PRESIDENT

I am proud and pleased to again serve the Association — and with such a strong Committee. Congratulations to them. Our thanks and congratulations for an outstanding effort go to Johnnie and the old Committee.

With members' support we will strive to do as well! May I put the view that men who have served so ably over the years should stand for Presidency rather than re-elect anyone already so honoured.

They deserve, and should accept, this honourable post.
CEC. CHRYSTAL.

ANZAC DAY

Have you rallied all the gang in your area yet? Make up a party for the trip to the Big Smoke for the greatest Anzac Day ever. Be in it boys! Remember that free rail warrants will be available, so collect £1/5/0 each from all your mates, add your own and send in your bookings for the Luncheon. Watch for application forms for rail warrants at your local R.S.L. Sub-branch.

These *must* be presented at your railway station by *April 10*, so don't be lax — get in for your cut.

Journey to Sydney can be made from 20th April onward and the return trip up to two months after that.

2nd Class travel is free, but warrant-holders may travel 1st Class by paying the difference.

Remember to send in those bookings to Fred. Searle, for we would hate to turn anyone away or see them miss out on a feed. *Booking is essential.*

And arrange for your rail warrant! We'd also hate to see you walk!

City Accommodation. Limited accommodation available at Royal Naval House. Must be booked NOW.

We suggest that city members write to any country mates they may be prepared to accommodate over the Anzac Day weekend. (A 'phone call to Fred. Searle may give you any address of which you may be unsure.)

YOUR 1965 "BOARD OF MANAGEMENT"

PATRON: Maj.-General Ivan Dougherty.

PRESIDENT: Cec. Chrystal.

VICE-PRESIDENT: Johnnie Morrison.

HON. SECRETARY: George Stack.

HON. TREASURER: Fred. Searle.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY: Harry Wright.

COMMITTEE: I. Pollock; R. Everson; J. Jordan; H. Ghedsted; W. Luck; J. Meehan.

(Johnnie did not stand for President. Your editor acts Ex-Officio on Committee.)

Congratulations to Cec., the Executive and new Committee, and to those who saw fit to vote them in. This is a solid group under able leadership and all can rest assured that the Association is in safe hands.

COMMITTEEMEN AT COWRA

By Valiant and Triumph Herald, mid January, we travelled to Cowra, intent on reaching finality on the venue for this year's Re-union.

On parade were: Johnnie Morrison, George and Marj. Stack, Fred. and Dot Searle, Harry and Hilda Wright, "Cock" Robin and your editor. The Q.M.'s did an excellent job with the "cut lunches" of overflowing picnic hampers. (In one case overflowing with melted butter!) These were enjoyed in the picturesque and invitingly cool confines of Lithgow Park, which somehow or other eventually appeared to look more like the road-side mid the State Pine Forest past Lithgow — or the Bathurst Park (dependent upon which car one was in).

A little misunderstanding led to a game of tag through Lithgow's Saturday morning — busy streets and eventual re-allocation of messing arrangement by individual vehicles.

We found Cowra R.S.L. Club building completed in all its smart modern design, the management expecting us and the hospitality right on hand. Ted Harris joined us and soon Hylton Batchelder arrived.

Introduced to "Bow and Arrow" 4th Bn. man Hubie Brien, we were eventually established in his delightful home enjoying the charming hospitality whilst discussing the forthcoming Re-union. Hubie was smartly co-opped to help the "young lads" and one senses the asset he will be to the Cowra Committee.

In the evening the meeting was held in the R.S.L. which resolved many of the queries as to procedures, etc., to adopt and in the process dissolved any doubts the local lads may have had as to support they could expect.

Of course all the local boys will be getting together and sorting out their jobs, but the meeting established the office holders, reported elsewhere in this issue.

The ladies were treated to a fine meal by Hylton whilst further discussions went on (and the man who could not get into his hotel room arrived). Afterwards Hylton treated the "second sitting" to a delightful chinese meal.

Pre-dawn Sunday, saw the man who seemed so anxious to get into his room the previous evening, out of it sight-seeing midst the magpies at the lookout.

More sedate sight-seeing was partaken later, followed by a further gathering and brew in the shade of the local park's trees.

Here we thanked, on behalf of all members, the men who are intent on seeing that you and I have a grand time at the NEXT RE-UNION — AT COWRA.

We again thank these men for their hospitality and ask them to convey our thanks and best wishes to their wives, the Mayor, R.S.L. Club Manager and Staff and Hubie Brien, his wife and daughter.

P.S. "Tinny" Searle did it again. Two jackpots!

John Copland has been good enough to send along much intelligence, some of it important, which will be dealt with by the Committee.

General news however will interest all, John met John ("Mary") Wells, now Lieut./Col. at Army H.Q. G.S.O.I., Land and Air Warfare, sends regards to all. Also met Andy Andrews of the Royal Berkshires in W.W.I., sailed with us in Strathnaver and was P.T.

instructor to the reinforcements on the voyage. Transferred to 2/1 Field Ambulance and finished up R.S.M. of that unit.

Met Dick Bawden, he had just returned from a trip to Lismore. Everyone there still talking of the excellent impression made by our chaps at the Country Re-union. No other gathering has ever so impressed Lismore.

Our Patron, General Dougherty, has been (officially) on leave BUT most days he was in his offices. A truly dedicated man to his jobs. At the present time he is 1. State Director of Civil Defence; 2. Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sydney; 3. Honorary Colonel-in-Chief of the Corps of Cadets.

Daughters of two of our hardest workers became engaged late last year: "Jackie", daughter of Fred. and Dot Searle; "Julie", daughter of Fred. and Rita Staggs. Our congratulations to both lassies and best wishes for a happy future.

Mr. Evans has been re-elected as President of the Parramatta Caledonian Pipe Band for his 20th successive year. A letter of congratulations has been forwarded to him.

WIDOWS' PENSIONS

The war has been over now for nearly twenty years and as time marches on, our Association generally, and you and I as individuals will be faced more and more with the casualty rate and deaths of our numbers through a variety of causes. Their dependents will in many cases require our practical help and support.

Many will have been in receipt of pensions and entitlements to assist those left behind, and many will not. How is a widow then to endeavour to obtain a pension if she feels that her husband (who was not in receipt of a pension) suffered from a war disability and/or that his death could have been in some way attributed to war service or even as a later casualty.

We feel the following points may be of some assistance in seeking an entitlement to Repatriation Pension and medical treatment benefits:—

1. An interview with the Welfare Officer of your local R.S.L. will be of invaluable assistance and guidance in any approach to the correct authorities.
2. Legacy can be of great assistance in this regard also.
3. Make contact with any of the late member's friends, especially ones who were in close contact with him in the Battalion, on active service or in P.O.W. camps, and in the Association, etc.
4. Obtain from them, Statutory Declarations giving full information re any knowledge of the smallest ailment, sickness, wound or illness or of visits to the R.A.P. at any time.
5. Approach Legal Aid and/or Local Member of Parliament.

Our own magazine W.O.G. can be of great help in following up to get information of this nature and your Committee will help in every way possible as far as it is able. We cannot, of course, make direct approach to the authorities, but with detail supplied along the above lines, we feel the case can be supported and materially assisted from a widow's point of view.

LAST POST

NX 72240. W. T. Leonard (Bill).
NX 5283. G. H. Bindley (George).
NX 50176. E. McDougal.

LEST WE FORGET

HON. PENSIONS OFFICER

Frank Frizelle has been appointed to this position. His services will be available ONLY through the Secretary. Congratulations Frank.

Frank has been of great help in the past and recognition by the Repatriation Department of his position as Pensions Officer is a great step forward for the Association.

ANNUAL MEETING

A reasonable number of members were "on parade" to see to the business of confirming minutes of previous annual meeting, receiving reports and balance sheets and electing office bearers for 1965.

Office Bearers are listed on the front page.

Fred. Searle was congratulated on the excellence of his bookkeeping and Johnnie Morrison for his leadership.

Johnnie's health did not permit him to stand for re-election, but we retain his valuable services as Vice-president. Illness prevented John Copland's presence, but we know his behind-the-scene help will continue. Otherwise the old committee is retained either as committeemen, executive — or as ex-officio on committee (your editor). The excellent additions to fill the gaps are Harry Gjedsted, Bill Luck and John Meehan.

With the War History account again past the century mark, Cec. Chrystal had the pleasure of moving the transfer of £100 to the Benevolent Fund.

John Copland sent in a fine Iti. flag captured at Benghazi by NX 11611 Tony Jones and signed by many Bn. men (including many nicknames!).

Return thanks cards and/or letters were received from Mrs. George Bindley, Dick Pinson and George Ormiston.

Tim Wall was our country visitor. Looks fit too!

The old committee wound up its affairs earlier in the evening, discussions centring on membership renewal, Cowra Re-union and Anzac Day.

The ground work has been completed for Anzac Day, but the new committee is posed a pretty little problem in assessing the actual eating requirements.

An appeal is made to each member to contact every 2/4th man he can, for it is the vast number of non members, who, taking advantage of the free rail travel, could turn up unannounced, uncounted and "uncatered". We want to make them welcome, so talk them into booking NOW so the Committee can make accurate catering commitments.

Please do help in this matter.

"In War: Resolution. In Defeat: Defiance. In Victory: Magnanimity. In Peace: Goodwill."

Vale

SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL

Isabel Nelson-Slee sends best wishes to "all 2/4ers, their wives and families for a very happy peaceful and prosperous 1965". She is also deeply concerned for Bob McCarty. Johnnie has passed your message to Bob's family, Isobel, and is again throwing his weight about.

Pat Lahey obtained an excellent pass in his P.S. higher grades exams. "Slim" Pollock's only complaint is that this will probably mean a shift for Pat into the more rarefied air of higher position, breaking up the "partnership" at Meadowbank Tech.!

Congrats. Pat and jolly good luck to you, sir!

1965 SUBS ARE DUE!

SICK PARADE

Bob McCarty 210 (special visitors).

Fred. Apthorp, Lady Davidson.

DISCHARGED

K. Ford, J. Lindsay, E. R. Erskine, C. McCosker. J. Morrison, Fred. and Dot Searle saw Molly Irvine in Royal North Shore, doing well after operation.

6 DIV. ASSN. FUNCTION

Quite a good roll up for the wreath-laying ceremony, which was a colourful, yet solemn occasion.

Maj.-General Dougherty, as President of the 6th Div. Assn. led the march, followed by the huge six-man banner especially flown down from Brisbane. Its "escort" was Tom Provians and many of the Brisbane boys who attended Lismore Re-union.

At the Cenotaph, Sir Iven Mackay laid the wreath, the march continued to Margaret Street and dismissed to proceed to Royal Randwick for the Dinner.

On the lush green lawn of the Paddock Enclosure Sir Iven mingled with the "troops", with many a pause for a word with remembered faces.

The function was thoroughly enjoyed by all and I'm sure the Association is well on its way to a sound footing.

The main point is that it does not wish to clash with Unit Association affairs and functions and only intends holding one or two shows each year.

This, I believe, is as it should be, for after all it is actually an Association of Unit Associations.

COCK'S COLUMN

Firstly a word re Kempsey R.S.L. Club. On the way to and from Lismore, quite a thrill to renew old friends there. A great tribute to the happy nature of the Club is that the old staff of two and three years is almost unchanged and made us very welcome. The new Manager, Graham Hanlon, was most hospitable, and a pleasure to meet—is Royal Navy and went through all the good and bad spots of the Middle East and later Pacific shows.

I was very pleased to again meet John and Mrs. Callaghan. Mrs. Callaghan, the very charming President of the Women's Auxiliary, is now with her husband John in charge of Club Catering. The food and cheerful service has to be experienced to be believed.

I had met them at the Kempsey Re-union and on looking through the photos, Mrs. Callaghan saw a photo of Trevor Richardson, and she said that Trevor

and Con were friends of hers, and she was Matron of Honour at their wedding, Con and Marge having been in the Air Force together.

Met Jim Brown. He promised he would be at the Re-union next year, irrespective of where it was. Jim told me that at the opening of the Gladesville Bridge by Princess Marina, he sat near General and Mrs. Dougherty. They were very sorry they could not be at the Lismore Re-union.

General Dougherty visited Kempsey during June on Civil Defence matters. He was also Guest-of-Honour at the Diggers' Ball, and received a number of Debutantes, daughters of ex-servicemen.

If passing through Taree — look for a man up a pole inspecting wires and call out "Hi Wall!" It will be Wally Potts.

December, Ladies' Night.

News from some of the boys:—

Dick Pinson met Bob Morrell, Bob is at Canterbury R.S.L., also met Jack Dubber and Sid George, all members of Canterbury Club.

Ernie Swain works with Ron Burley (carriers). I am pleased to report Ron is now picking up since his illness. I had the pleasure of being introduced to Mrs. Swain, it was a case of Robyn meet Robin. At the same table had the pleasure of meeting our Piper Stan Stewart and wife Helen.

Frank "Blue" Mooney met Norm Ribbons at Warwick Farm, also often sees Tom "Bluey" Saunders and Colin "Bunny" Burrows.

I am pleased to report, that Jacqueline, the charming daughter of Dorothy and Fred. Searle, of Ryde, has announced her engagement to Norman Guy, also of Ryde.

Norrie McGregor met Harry Russell in Bellingen, also Tom Brownlee (Trans). At Wingham he met Chris Geelan, Johnnie Graham (both Don) and Russ (Grassy) Green (H.Q.).

Our country visitor of the night whom we were all pleased to see was Charlie Reynolds (Don), Narrandera. Charlie's first visit ever to Ladies' Night and Royal Naval House, he has recently seen Tod Hall, Charlie Pedler, Jack Hardstaff and Don Bundy.

Ernie Twist, Merrylands, has recently seen Jack Peach (Carriers).

I was pleased to meet Bill and Mrs. Stewart (Don) Kogarah Bay, also their charming daughter Helen. Bill's son Allan was Parade Commander at the Marist Bros., Kogarah, Passing Out Parade. Allan received the trophy for the most efficient C.U.O. from Maj.-Gen. Dougherty. Congratulations from the Association, Allan.

Wally Lambourne met Peter Moss at Auburn, also Gordon Williams. I am sorry to hear that Gordon is not the best. We hope things go right for you in future, mate.

Len Waterworth has purchased a brand new Holden Station Wagon and is making plans for a trip to South Australia early in the New Year and will look up South Australian members.

Was pleased to see Joe and Mrs. Lowe there. Joe met Ernie Dawes at Bathurst on the occasion of the funeral of Lt./Col. Hennessy, 6 Div. Cav. Joe also met Arnold Petersen, of 220 Park Road, Auburn, who was

coming to the function but missed out. Les Adams also represented Auburn.

Was also pleased to see "Brick" and Mrs. Bradford in attendance. Brick met Freddie Bourke at The Entrance, Fred. apologises for not being able to attend Ladies' Night and sends regards to the boys. Jack "Smoky" Carrol sends apologies, had prior engagement.

All present congratulated Fred. and Rita Staggs on their 20th Wedding Anniversary.

Ernie and Robyn Swain and visiting members from the Pipe Band, Stan and Helen Stewart also celebrated their Wedding Anniversaries. And another coincidence worth repeating — Stan introduced me to his wife, saying meet Helen Stewart. Then I crossed the room met Bill Stewart, who introduced me to his daughter, meet Helen Stewart, and no relation, and both very nice.

Jack Hardstaff, Box 131, Narrandera, writes:— "While in town weekends, I usually run into Don Bundy, Charlie Pedler, Fred. Lawrence and at odd times Jim James. Jim lives in the top end of the town, so we in the middle section don't see much of him, as he spends most of his spare time out at his farm on Pine Hill.

"Norm Rodgers is another chap that I don't see much of as he is mostly out at the Forrest where he is the Boss.

"All these chaps are really well, but I am not too good on it myself, and the extreme hot weather 90°-97° for days, doesn't improve matters for me."

Curley Hunt is in hospital, but is improving. We are sorry to hear, "Curley", that you're not the best, and we all wish you well. You too Jack.

Well that is extracts from Jack's letter; he promised to write and did so. Thanks Jack, keep up the good work. Charlie Reynolds on Ladies' Night spoke of you.

"The Boys 2/4th Battalion", c/- Jim "Cock" Robin, and my address is what I received on an envelope, containing a nice Christmas Card for the boys, from Jim and Marcia Crowe and family, Cootamundra. Also a separate letter with a nice card for myself, many thanks Jim, Marcia and children.

At the North British, 17th December, was with Johnnie when Colin Campbell, Clem Killeen and his brother Les stroll in. Les joined the Bn. in New Guinea. He arrived as Clem departed, in fact he took over Clem's bed. Les wishes to be remembered to his mates in 16 Pltn. Would like to hear from Donald Buck.

I heard that Bub Graham had called in down on a snap visit to the Repat., sorry I missed you mate.

December 18, I was with Jack Gaffney, when Johnnie strolled in, followed by Jim "Happy" Davis. Then a pleasant surprise when a visitor from the far North entered, Freddie Varley, from Lismore, next to follow, Dick Morris, finally Clem Killeen, a very pleasant session was spent. Happy met "Hubbly Bubbly" Butler, would also like to hear from Frank Dargan (ex. sigs.).

Christmas cards received from Jim and Marcia Crowe, Monty Siems, Johnnie, Bob Griffith, Wal Taylor, Jack and Joan Huston, Johnnie Ringrose, Ray and Thelma Crowe, many thanks to all for remembering me.

—"Cock" Robin.