



White over Green

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE 2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

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PRESIDENT: Cec. Chrystal, 288 Sailor's Bay Road, Northbridge. 95-5121
TREASURER: Fred Searle, 31 Griffith Avenue, West Ryde 80-4905
SECRETARY: George Stack, 40 O'Keefe Crescent, Eastwood 85-5312
EDITOR: Dick Morris, 49 Frederick Street, Ashfield 20-922, Ext. 296

Next Meeting: Friday, 2nd April, at Royal Naval House, Grosvenor Street, Sydney.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

IF A CROSS APPEARS IN
THIS SQUARE YOU ARE
UNFINANCIAL



£1 TO FRED SEARLE WILL SQUARE YOU
ANZAC DAY IS THE DEADLINE

ANZAC DAY

Arrangements for the big day of the Association's year will follow the same pattern as last year. The programme:

Fall In, 0800 Hours: Corner of Erskine and York Streets (outside the Ex Oriental Hotel).

Move off: March to Martin Place for Wreath Laying Ceremony. As in past years we will be joined by the 4th Bn. and as it is their 50th year we feel a bumper turn up is very desirable.

March on to the Main Assembly Area. This varies from year to year, but the R.S.L. has an information centre at the corner of Martin Place and Macquarie Streets.

After the March, 1130 Hours: Buses will be waiting outside the Conservatorium, just off Macquarie Street.

Lunch, 1230 hours: At Manresa Hall, Carlow Street (just off Miller Street, opposite St. Leonards Park, North Sydney).

Speeches: If the president has his way they will be brief.

Conclusion: Whenever you have to go home.

Cost: £1/5/0. The treasurer must have **BOOKINGS NOW**. This being an unusual year, the March being on a Sunday, your early co-operation would be appreciated. Please forward to Fred Searle.

Band: As usual we will have the Parramatta Pipe Band to lead us and also at the dinner.

"Old" Fourth have been invited to attend, both officially and unofficially, and are always welcome.

WAR HISTORY: WILL BE ON SALE £2/0/0.

ANZAC DAY BOOKINGS

Diggers, and in particular W.O.G. types, have always been renowned for giving the other bloke a fair go and being in it when the chips are down.

Give yourself, your mates and the Committee a fair go by making your bookings for the Luncheon **NOW**. Grab any of the boys you meet, seek them out if you know their haunts — twist their arms and get them to book too.

Only by members and non-members alike making their bookings can the Committee hope to cope with the catering arrangements with any certainty that all will be looked after.

Your Committee is capable, but the free travel this year poses the problem of just how many ex-2/4 men will in fact travel to Sydney and attend the Luncheon. There could be a hundred extra, there could be a thousand.

Some indication is desperately needed boys, so please play **your** part and contact all you can, particularly non-members as we are **not** in touch with them.

Carry Fred Searle's address with you to pass on:— 31 Griffith Avenue, West Ryde, and remind everyone to send £1/5/0. Will you help please? Thanks in advance.

ACCOMMODATION

We would like to stress, for the benefit of all, that with the free rail travel, ex-servicemen of all units of each arm of the service in all wars will be flocking to Sydney on that weekend.

Accommodation **must** be at a premium. We want to see our blokes well billeted, so we do ask all to make bookings for accommodation **NOW**.

THAT BLANK LOOK

Apologies to any member whose February W.O.G. had a blank centre spread.

Please return same to Fred Searle **immediately** to allow us to assess the extent of this unfortunate printing error. A complete copy will be sent to you —as long as the spares last, so get in early!

Please note that Cec Chrystal no longer maintains a city office. His address: 288 Sailors Bay Road, Northbridge.

Due to a sharp rise in cost, W.O.G. is being held strictly to a four-page format.

Because of this, essential and sometimes arbitrary pruning has had to be carried out.

We apologise to any who may have expected a mention, particularly in Cock's Column, but have seen not a word in print.

Some material can be carried over — I have had several items over three months — but often news becomes too dated and has to be discarded. Thank you.

The Editor.

TRAVELOGUE: "SEE COWRA IN THE SPRING!"

You and yours cannot afford to miss the wonders of Spring west of the Divide.

A mere 200 miles trip from Sydney heading into the setting sun — or with morn's warm disc behind you, one soon arrives at one of nature's true beauty spots, on the banks of the Lachlan River. Here the tourist is offered all amenities, and the mighty Lachlan Valley is worthy of extended sight seeing.

With Winter's icy blast ended and Mother Nature's eternal life-cycle re-awakening in the soil, amidst the trees and in the air; evidence of Spring abounds. The creeks are abank; spring lambs besprinkle lush paddocks; birds are on the wing, comparing love-notes in brilliant song. All life is astir!

Climb to yonder rocky look-out and from its vantage look out upon the plains. Here, "to your amazed gaze", will be seen an incredible sight—one never previously witnessed in this area. A country side aglow with moving colour!

Yes! Everywhere will be seen flashes of the white and green of the white-throated Venue-Vacilating Verdi Birdie (of which, more next issue).

Do not miss the thrilling sight of this unusual yet colourful, migratory bird.

In fact, join the flock!

Bung on the car stickers (if mobile) pin on the association badge, knot on the old W.O.G. tie, and head for COWRA this October.

But, as they say on TV—"But first, this announcement!"

It is vital to book accommodation NOW.

Fill out the form. Tim West and his boys will do the rest.

Be in it, mate. Give it a flutter!

FROM HENRY WHEELER, CALIFORNIA, U.S.A.

"To President, Officers and old comrades of 'White over Green', and in particular my old Coy.

"It was a great surprise today when I received in my mail, copies of White over Green, sent to me by an old member's wife, Jean Schwartz, Ron's wife, and it was wonderful just to read the names of many old mates, some that I have completely forgotten (shame on me) but it's so long since I have been in contact, and the reason these were sent to me were because there was an article in your June issue asking for my address through the Red Cross Missing Persons Service. I hope whoever is looking for me will get my address. Yes my number NX5229 is an original one, I was one of the first six to enlist from Parramatta in 1939. I have also been reading and am very excited about the War History book of the Bn. (please keep one for me) and the wonderful work Cec Chrystal is doing (fine work Cec, and my regards). I think I know Cec as well as anyone, I was an N.C.O. under him, also the work of Cock Robin, regards Cock, you and I used to have many a 'yak' together.

"Enough of the formalities and a little about myself. I left Aussie ten years ago for the U.S.A. I had a good offer with a construction firm and accepted. Am now a construction foreman, building 25 to 30 story buildings, it's a good life here, everything is plentiful and life is very fast. I have four daughters, 14 yrs. - 19 yrs., two in college — two in high school, my wife and I are in excellent health, as you know I married a girl from Rehavot, and things have worked out wonderfully.

"It's a pity I didn't know about the History Book sooner, I have some wonderful photos and quite a selection apart from the unit sets we used to get, I have some of the whole Bn. on parade in Adelaide which was the final parade for the then Col. I. N. Dougherty, I also have a full size photo of the Col. himself. I also have post card size photos of singles and groups, about 30 of old 'B' Coy. boys, if you want any of these I shall be glad to send them.

"I want to become a paid up member, so will be sending another letter after this one with remittance for a year's copy and for the History Book 'White over Green', this air letter is to let you know sooner.

"Give my best regards to all my old mates and if any happen to come to California my door is always open, we have lots of room and plenty of beds.

"Good luck until next time."

Henry A. Wheeler,
16732 McCormick Street, Encino. Cal., U.S.A.

Accommodation required for (number of nights)

Hotel, Motel or Caravan Park

Single or Double

Name: Self Wife

Address

Please find attached deposit of £1 per person.

Post to Ted Harris, c/- Ex-Services Club, Cowra.

The following letter was received by General Sir Iven Mackay from the late John Barnes, to whom he had presented a copy of our History. John Barnes was on Sir Iven's staff both in the first and second World Wars on the Intelligence side. We are informed he was a writer and critic of no mean standing. We publish it not only because of its lavish praise of the History and the Bn. men, but also because of the fresh insight it gives into the character of our C-in-C, Blamey. My Dear General,

The 2/4th Bn. book, "White over Green" must surely be the best unit history produced by any Australian unit of the two wars! It is a very splendid and worthy effort in every way. The "production" . . . the design, layout, printing and binding is first-class by any standard; the selection, positioning and reproduction of the illustrations is admirable; while the editorial matter with its accompanying maps and diagrams is interesting, fluent, and very clear. Altogether, it is a thoroughly professional job and reflects very great credit on the committee who took on the job, and especially on the few who **really** got down to the hard "yakker" (I speak as one with a knowledge of this sort of thing!).

Especially I admired the very generous and "civilised" attitude towards other units (both Aust. and British) in recording events in Libya, Greece and Crete, and the complete absence of "gripping", despite the pushing around 6 Div. had to endure after their return to Australia. I found the story of the Aitape-Wewak campaign quite entralling and constantly marvelled at the spirit, and the inspired leadership which kept those splendid fellows fighting right to the end . . . "Their's not to reason why!" . . . when every man must have known the fruit would have withered on the vine if it had been left alone. I was in Manila with the C-in-C on VE Day, just before 9 Div. landed in N. Borneo, and on the plane, during the return journey to Morotai, T.A.B. told me that General MacArthur had invited him to accompany him on the "wack ashore" at Brunei, but he had thanked him and refused—"I hadn't the heart to put on a publicity stunt while 6 Div. were enduring the last few months of the war and felt very keenly the relegation of his splendidly trained units to the thankless job of mopping up in the Pacific Islands.

I am very grateful to you for giving me this book, General, and it will be a valued part of the Barnes' family archives. . . . What a pity a comparable history wasn't compiled for the old 4th? Don Leach had a personal diary which would have made a useful foundation for the story from Pozieres to the Armistice, but I expect the people who might have done something about it were too absorbed by re-establishing themselves in civilian life. How very different conditions were for ex-Servicemen in the early 1920's and the late 1940's!

FEBRUARY MEETING

Quite a strong roll-up for our first meeting, under the "Baton" of Cec Chrystal, in his new term of office.

Business was brisk and mainly centred on Committee reports on Anzac Day arrangements and the Country Re-union.

Yours truly, was able to hand to the President, the Presentation Pages for the copies of War History for the Queen, Viscount De L'Isle, and Sir Robert Menzies.

After approval, these were handed back — with three Histories — to be tagged into position and General Dougherty collected them the following week.

He has been good enough to promise to personally get them to Canberra after he, as Patron, has signed the Presentation Pages.

In completing this job, I was running a little late and minus tea, so had a quick beer before "fronting up". This was a very warm one as the refrigeration was playing up at Royal Naval House. "Brick" Bradford, however, came to the rescue and solved the problem, so refreshments after the meeting were quite up to standard, needless to say all took advantage of this after the meeting.

It was good to see John Copland on deck once again, although still on "Light Duties".

Next meeting is Friday, 2nd April. Let us have the pleasure of seeing **your** smiling face.

Dick Morris.

COCK'S COLUMN

I learnt that Kevin Maylan, popular cellar-man at the N.B., is an old friend of Charlie Groves, and sends his regards to you Charles.

Another pleasant surprise to see Murray Naismith of Narrabri at the N.B. Murray reports, has recently seen "Snow" Lovelee, who is very well (abstaining), Ray "Rags" Butler is stationed at Tamworth (P.M.G.). Sees George Frater occasionally, is in good health, also Bill "Wimpy" Willmott, whose daughter has passed her final Nursing Examination with honours at Concord. Congratulations Bill Willmott.

Johnnie reports that George Sugden, Pat Smythe and and Jim Crowe were in, sorry I missed you boys, come again when in town.

Walked into the N.B., was pleased to see Jerry Coughlan with Johnnie, "Fang" looks well. We were discussing the Cowra Country Re-union, and Jerry is looking forward to going, as he was Bandmaster of Cowra Brass Band in 1935-36, and he hopes to renew old acquaintances.

Was with Jack Heaney and John when Keith "Sailor" Harvey drifts in, he met Tom Reeder (Sigs) who lives at Bankstown, "Sailor" also met Pat Smythe (H.Q.), Frank Considine and "Darky" Hibbard.

Fred Staggs did an excellent job of perpetuating the White over Green idea, with the colour scheme for the Chatswood R.S.L. Youth Club. Beating him to the punch however was another R.S.L. Youth Club fathered (and mothered) by several W.O.G. men and wives. Ashfield R.S.L. Club has similar colours (but I am not sure that 2/4 men had a say in that). However several of the boys, their wives and children are active in the Club. They wish Fred's Youth Club all success and hope they can maintain North Shore standards in the Western Suburbs.

I was one of the lucky ones to be invited by Johnnie to go the Cowra trip, and thoroughly enjoyed myself. As Dick will be "covering" the trip, I'll just report a couple of tid-bits. We met Ted Harris, Hylton Batcheldor, Tim West and Harold Dunlop, and were made very welcome by them, these four boys have promised to send news. I would like to sincerely thank Mr. and Mrs. Hubie Brien for their kindness and hospitality, also Mrs. Batcheldor for the large tray of lovely

savouries and scones she was kind enough to make for us. The following day we had the pleasure of meeting Tim and Mrs. West (Edna) and their two charming teenage children, Suzanne and Bill, both very nice (they take after their mother). During conversation learnt that Edna and Rita Staggs (Fred's Spouse) were in the same A.W.A.S. Unit. I noticed that Tim's new car colour scheme, white over green, and Hylton's car, green with a white trim.

During Johnnie Morrison's stay with Peter Denver on Hindmarsh Island, South Australia, he met Jack "Aspro" Smith (11 Supply A.S.C. Details), a barman at Goolwa Hotel. "Aspro" would like to hear from Doug Stebbing, "Curley" Day and Clem Roddy, and any other member of the 2/4th Bn. attached to the A.S.C. in Darwin. (Write Jack Smith, c/- Goolwa Hotel, Goolwa, South Australia.

Jim Barrow (C. Coy.) flew in from Brisbane, but too late to see the boys at the N.B. Saw Reg Angel that morning, and spoke to Tom Provians on the phone. Expects to be back in about 4-5 weeks. Jim had a drink at the Regatta Hotel, Toowong. Tom Riboldi, Jack Shearer and George Catt will be interested. Sorry I missed you Jim, I was in the night before, thanks for leaving the note, try and let us know next time you're coming over.

At the 6th Div. Re-union, Gordon Chrisp, besides the locals was happy to meet some boys from the bush. Frank Sadler, Dubbo (and didn't even have a drink with him), also George Martin, Goulburn with whom he had several drinks. Gordon has also met Garry Hart.

At The Annual Meeting

I was very pleased to see Bill Wall, Bingara, his first annual meeting. Bill has recently seen Ross Smith, Selby Dean and George Crockett. Would like to hear from Harry "Soccer" or is it "Mal" Coomber? Bill after an absence of 12 years is staging a come-back in the Shooting World, he will definitely be down for Anzac Day.

"Brick" Bradford pointed out I was not wearing my Bn. tie (I had mislaid it) claims he has two ties and bought six badges. Lady McKay has one, Brick frequently sees Jack "Smoky" Carrol.

Les Adams, Auburn, reports he has recently met Des Finch (B. Coy.), also sees the local boys frequently. Jack Humphries took a trip, saw Jimmy Crowe at Coota, at Wagga missed Bruce Stewart, at Orbost met Jack Coughlan and Bill Irvine, also Dick Lattimer at Malacoota, who is mine host at the Malacoota Hotel, and sends an invitation to all 2/4thers to call in. Jack sends his personal thanks to Dick and Enid for a very enjoyable visit. Jack also met Charlie Waller at Sans Souci, Charles and wife hope to be at the Cowra Re-union.

I was pleased to see Les Killeen (Clem's brother) come in, tho' it was rather late. Les brought in a souvenir, to collect signatures of 2/4thers on it. It is part of a ground sheet, which is illustrated with names and drawings of 2/4 campaigns.

Eliot Schofield, as usual, turned up for the Annual Meeting (he has never missed one). Eliot will be in Brisbane in March and April and hopes to meet the Northern Boys. He will be staying at Anzac House.

Rusty McWilliam saw Bernie O'Mara watching the birds (seagulls) at Coojee during the week. Hopes Bernie enjoyed himself.

Received from John Copland, per Cec, six photos:—

1. A group taken at the 1st Cootamundra Re-union, Mrs. Chrystal, Mrs. Copland, Harold Conkey, Mrs. Conkey and John.
2. and 3. Two photos of Rus. Maddern in uniform.
4. Troops on beach at Al-Jura, Palestine '40.
5. The Orion at Alexandria, after evacuating troops from Greece.
6. Coloured photo of R.S.L. Club, Kempsey.

Many thanks John for the photos, they are appreciated. I was very sorry you could not make the meeting.

An interesting letter from Esca Riordan, Kempsey, with same local news, thanks Esca it is appreciated.

"Back in November, the Diggers held their annual sports day at Macksville, and again the 2/4 were well in attendance, Jack Maloney tried his hand at fishing but couldn't boast of any big ones. Bub Graham and John Smith were hitting a little white ball around the green. Tom Clough was playing that respectable game of Bowls and I think he was in the winning team. Jim Brown and self participated in the vigorous game of tennis, and Jim and partner acquitted themselves very well. A few weeks before Christmas, I met a chap, V. Brooks NX 6115. He told me he was only 16 when he enlisted, and was transferred from Bn. before it went into action in Libya. He was too young for combat duties. He had been working in Queensland, but got itchy feet, and was going to his sister in Newcastle. Only last week again, another fellow came through, but I did not see him, his name was E. H. Humphries NX 9799.

"Since Christmas Harry and Hilda Wright have paid us a visit so we arranged to get together at the Club — in attendance Harry and Noreen Dowling, Harry and Hilda Wright, Esca and Vera Riordan and James Brown. I might mention that a few weeks ago Harry Dowling spent a week in hospital, but is home again, and battling with very dry conditions on the land. Only last week we had a phone call from the Club, it was our local R.S.L. Secretary, saying that one "Soccer" Coomber and family were there. I invited them up, but they couldn't stay long as they were on their way back to Forster, where they were holidaying. I gave "Soccer" a few names of the boys along the coast, and he hoped to call on some of them.

"At a recent meeting of the R.S.L. North Coast District Council the Bn. was well in attendance. Bub Graham and Jack Maloney from Bowraville, Tom Clough from Macksville, Jim Brown and self from Kempsey. Jim Brown had the honour of being elected Vice-president of the Council."

* * * *

More North British news:— "Bookie" Rae called in, and bought a War History from Johnnie, I also heard that Harry Lucas and Rupe Carrington had been in. There I also met Frank Frizell. It has just come to my knowledge, the reason that Frank was not at the Lismore Re-union, though he had made all arrangements to be there, was due to the sudden death of his brother. I am sorry to know of this Frank, and on behalf of the Association offer you our sincere sympathy. Frank wanted to meet Sammy Goodwin. It was Frank's birthday, so we drink his health.

"Cock" Robin.