



# White Cedar 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, July 2, 1965

### MELBOURNE ANZAC DAY

A letter received by the Editor from Bob Griffiths, Mildura, contained doings of the 2/4th in Melbourne on Anzac Day, extracts appearing below:—

"I had no idea where the 2/4th was marshalled, however, it was no effort to find them as Moses and Co. had a very large W.O.G. Banner for the boys to assemble at. Before the march commenced the following members answered the roll call: Vic Francis, Doug Miller, Allan Burges, Monty Siems, Mick Gray, Claude Raymond, Jeff Craig, Leo Dunn, Blue Polhmann, Dick Parry, Charlie McKenna, Stan Pretty, I. McLaughlin, W. Burns, I. Ewart, Ken Moses and "Steamboat" Walters and yours truly Bob Griffiths. In addition to our chaps our old friends of the 11th Bn. and two ex-R.A.N. friends joined with us in the march.

After the march we were invited to the home of Vic Francis at South Oakleigh where his charming wife Iline ably supported behind the scenes by Mrs. Moses had prepared a delightful Buffet Tea where the boys finished the night off in true 2/4th style.

Cliff Smith, A.S.C., from Mildura, was enquiring after Joe Rognini who he knew very well in P.O.W. camp, also Nobby Clark.

Guy Vance, (1 Section) who I located at Mildura, has been appointed chairman of the Football League. Guy is manager of the C.B.A. Bank, Mildura.

Lou Loughran, our first adjutant at Ingleburn, is reported to have retired from the Army, married an American girl and settled somewhere in America."

Letter to Treasurer from Bob, enclosed subs from Melbournites Mick Gray, Syndal; J. McLaughlin, Middle Park; Claude Raymond, West Coburg; also Bob's sub. Good work, Bob! Pass best wishes to Guy Vance, please.

### ANZAC PILGRIMAGE

At the July Meeting, Bede Keary, 4th Bn. (1914-18) "boy" and well known to most of us, will give a short talk on his trip.

The President felt sure all would be interested and requests a good roll-up to encourage Bede.

### NURSES' WAR MEMORIAL CHAPEL

WILL YOU HELP the Prince Henry Hospital Trained Nurses' Association build a MEMORIAL CHAPEL to commemorate ALL nurses who served Australia in both WORLD Wars, and died as a result of that service?

This Interdenominational Chapel in the grounds of Prince Henry Hospital, LITTLE BAY, N.S.W., will be situated at the end of the Norfolk Pine Drive overlooking the Pacific Ocean, and will be an everlasting tribute to the girls of BANKA BEACH, those who went down with the "CENTAUR", those who lie today in GREECE, FRANCE, MALAYA, the MIDDLE EAST, and many other places far from home. THEY DESERVE TO BE REMEMBERED!

Please send your DONATIONS, made out to the CHAPEL FUND, to—

The NURSES' WAR MEMORIAL CHAPEL  
FUND APPEAL  
c/o The Treasurer,  
Prince Henry Hospital Trained Nurses'  
Association,  
PRINCE HENRY HOSPITAL, LITTLE BAY,  
N.S.W.

A price list of furnishings may be obtained if a special memorial to some particular nurse is contemplated.

### COWRA REUNION

If not already "teed up" for the October trip, now is your big opportunity!

Due to a cancellation by another organisation, Cowra Committee have been able to "grab" additional accommodation.

Help them to help you by getting in smartly with your bookings, for they cannot hold this "windfall" for too long.

Remember to include £1 per person and send to—

TED HARRIS  
c/o Ex-Servicemen's Club,  
COWRA.

## JUNE W.O.G.

Dick Morris received letter from Jim Brown, M.L.A., quoted as follows:—

"Whilst at Taree on Anzac Day, I met an ex-member of the Battalion, NX 68841 Bill Osborn. He enlisted at Ballina and for a period of time was in B Company. However, he later went to Headquarter Company and remained there. He is employed on the Railways and works at Taree.

He is keen to join the Association and I have told him that he would be sent a copy of "WHITE OVER GREEN" and a memo of how much he owed. Unfortunately I did not have an opportunity to speak to him about the Battalion history and possibly he would be interested in this.

It may be of interest to members to know that Doug Smedley who was in 15 Platoon in C Company and who left the Battalion at Darwin to join the Air Force, is a member of the crew that flew the Lancaster Bomber to England recently. Doug became a pilot in the R.A.A.F. and has continued commercial flying since the war. I often see him as he flies with Airlines of N.S.W. and is often on the service to Kempsey.

I saw "Bub" Graham on election day at Bowraville. Kind regards to all the boys."

Jim Brown.

## LAST POST

NX 5152 John Joseph Jocelyn (R.G.H., Concord), 26 Brabyn Street, Parramatta.

Also reported: "Sporty" Lowe (Balmain); Bob Williams (R.G.H., Concord) and G. K. Munce.

Our deepest sympathies to the families of these men.

## SICK PARADE

R.G.H., Concord, Ward 110: Fred Searle. Rex Everson.

Woollahra Jewish Hospital: C. J. ("Happy") Davis.

"Pop Williams quotes the following from Graham Woodward, KUWAIT:—

"I find the W.O.G. very interesting, but I'm afraid I've forgotten many names mentioned, you see it is 24 years since I was split up from the Battalion. In 1961 my wife and I visited Austria and I called at the Gast Haus in LIEBENAU near GRAZ where about 20 of us P.O.W.'s were kept. The old Frau was still there and she remembered us all. Athol Heath was at LIEBENAU—my regards to him. I then visited the farm near LIEBENAU where I used to work and had a couple of schooners of cider. From there I drove down to GOSDORF (about three hours driving) and had a look over the building that about 200 of us were kept in while digging a canal there. The building is now used for storing grain and I noticed even a trace or two still of barbed wire on what is left of the fence. It was an experience to go back and visit these places again, but I would not like to again live through a similar enforced stay.

One of our oil wells caught on fire recently while being drilled and blew for 42 days at the rate of 10,000 tons per day. A major oil well fire has to be seen and heard to be believed, flames reaching

600 feet and the noise of ten express trains roaring through a tunnel. Red Adair, the world's foremost oil well fire fighter came out from the States to advise and help us kill it.

I would certainly like to be in Sydney for the 25th, but I may make it one year."

## "TRIP-LETS"

From "Sailor" Harvey—addressed to "Cock" Robin's Corner, "North British", Sydney.

... At Inverell, sitting behind a huge plate of oysters was Jack Humphries and Mavis (Jack only behind the oysters) in the restaurant of the Inverell Motel. We had a natter and they both had a nice time at the "Do". They joined the mob later at R.S.L. Inverell along with Geoff and Mary Hawk and the old trooper Ross Smith.

At Moree I called at the newsagency at East Moree to see his nibs. Mick Owers. His good wife, also Mary, passed the news that he was in hospital. I managed, to get into see him at non-visiting hours and he appeared "not too bad".

At Grafton R.S.L. we attended a bit of a "Do" and Leo Lynch treated us very regally. I am afraid the "Gin slings" came a bit fast for my "Dutch", but we all had a good time. Leo and his wife enjoyed themselves at Lismore. There was some other big interest for L.L.'s at Woodlawn College, too.

My next contact with anyone that would interest the 2/4ers was a chap at the R.S.L. at Coffs Harbour. He was (can't recall the name) a friend of Joe Rognini's and also mentioned Murray Naismith. It is a very nice club at Coffs and Joe and Murray's friend made us very welcome as did the president. My wife was most impressed with the various clubs we visited. At each we were always asked what we would like to drink and along it came "first on the house". South Grafton has a very nice club in as much as its position on the Clarence River and the beautiful view across the water and the illumination and reflector in the water of the "Floodlit" church. However, Grafton has a nice club too, and both my wife Thora and I had a good night thanks to Leo.

We visited many other towns but rain drove us to the coast sooner than had been planned.

Yours to a Pier,  
"Sailor".

For this my God I humbly thank—  
My assets I need never bank.  
They're in my heart, my mind, my deed  
For these I'll surely get my meed:  
A humble heart, a patient ear  
Politeness, mateship, comforting cheer.  
These things I try to not neglect,  
My goodness! Am I so—so perfect?  
"Poetaster Laurate".

"Politeness costs nothing — but what a wonderful asset!"  
W.G.P.

If the missus insists on wearing the pants in your family — give her cuffs on the bottom!

## MAIL BAG

Jim Whitaker, Millaa Millaa, North Queensland, writes wishing the Association well for Anzac Day, enclosed subs and sends regards to all the boys, especially Slim Pollock.

\* \* \*

Vic Crowhurst, Tathra, sends subs and news of Bert Hooper, NX3951 R.A.P., taken prisoner in Greece. Bert's address: c/o Country Club, Eden.

\* \* \*

Bernie O'Mara, Forbes, thought the square on the front of W.O.G. an excellent idea, so sent his subs. "Also noticed in Cock's Column where Rusty McWilliam claims he saw me at Coogee. Well, the last time I was in Sydney, was Anniversary weekend and then I was out at East Lakes Golf Club. So I either have a double or the years are catching up with Rusty and his eyes are failing. There is another alternative, of course, but I would hate to suggest he was drunk.

Regret I will be unable to make the March, but hope to do so one of these years.

Please pass on to Ces Chrystal my congratulations and best wishes for the job he has undertaken. Regards to all and I hope to see them at Cowra in October."

\* \* \*

Letter from Jack Ormiston, Cowra, sending subs and regards to the President and all fellow members: "Sorry to have missed the Rec. patrol at Cowra, but on holidays at Collaroy. We are very honoured to have our district selected for the October Reunion, and can assure you that Cowra will do its very best to give all who can make it a wonderful time.

Had a long talk with Leo Carter and the general topic was on the subject of the October 'do'."

\* \* \*

H. C. (Pop) Williams, Birrong, writes that he has received another interesting letter from Graham Woodward of Kuwait, who particularly mentions Athol Heath and sends his regards. He tells me the tie and badge never arrived, but he hopes it does. His further comment was: "There are still lots of thieves in this part of the world."

\* \* \*

Subs received from Bill Irvine, Orbost. Was a bit doubtful about making it for Anzac Day, but eventually made the grade.

Though on numerous things I'm ne'er quite sure,  
I prattle and argue on many a score.  
Sometimes my ignorance must surely show  
For oft' I support "Yes", when the truth—is "No!"  
"Poetaster Laurate".

"Most men who die nowadays with their boots on—  
have had their foot on the accelerator!" W.G.P.

Beware of the man who slaps you on the back —  
he's probably trying to make you cough up some  
feloose!

## MONTHLY MEETINGS

These continue to be very well attended and enjoyed by all present.

Alfie Schweitzer was still in the "Big Smoke" for the April Meeting and we had both the pleasure of his company and hearing his melodious voice raised in praise of those who keep the Association business functioning, including W.O.G., which he declared (and we agree) is such a strong link between our widely scattered members.

Good to see you again, Alf. Sorry you missed seeing the photos of the Lismore show.

B Company Night saw the usual strong support from this Company and plenty from other Companies.

I think "Cock" has the Parade State for his next column; but the Company Night did bring in a few faces we haven't seen for a long time including the man who needed a bottle of Rhinegold on his dinner table to remind him that that night was his wedding anniversary.

First things first with such a good soldier—he was on parade from whoa to go! Our congratulations and best wishes to you both, Ted!

John "Bush" Bennett, Brewarrina, was attending his first meeting ever, although we have had the pleasure of the company of brother John and Billie at the Lismore Reunion.

Frank "Punchy" Hood also fronted up. Now keeping an eye out for mermaids on the rocks at Port Stephens' Lighthouse.

Good to see all these men again.

## COCK'S COLUMN

Received an excellent letter from Esca Riordan with interesting news. Many thanks, Esca, your efforts are appreciated and your letter will be included next month.

Also received a nice letter from Hylton Batcheldor and the boys at Cowra. Many thanks, chaps, for your well wishing and kind remarks.

Now more news from the boys I met on Anzac Day. Joe Bohle, Newcastle, frequently sees Cliff Curran and Alfie Carpenter.

I heard that "Chuck" Sleeman, Johnny Meehan, Bruce Cork and Pat Lahey were looking for the Trangie "Tadpole" Vince Quinn.

Ken Franklin (A Coy.), Revesby, occasionally sees Bill Butcher and Nap Alavoine.

Les Jones, Brookvale (Sigs), would like to hear news of May Coy.

Teddy Hopkins met "Massa" Brooks and Bede McKenna.

Reg Smith (C Coy.) would like to hear from "Sea-weed".

Max Nerney, Urbenville, on the way down met Bill Smith at Tamworth. Bill wished to be remembered to all his old mates, and hopes to meet them at the Cowra Reunion. Max also met Nick Aladue, who hopes to go with Bill.

Ross Smith, Inverell, reports best wishes from Geoff Hawke, Selby Dean and Jim Tome, Selby is President of Inverell Legacy.

Roy Edwards (C Coy.), 4 Albert Street, Casino, his second reunion, but not his last. Roy said that any letters from 2/4ers are welcome.

Ron Stennett, Hurstville, has a beer with Glen Ackerman frequently, also sees the "Red Steer" Keith Beaty at Kogarah R.S.L.

Hilton "Snow" Harvison (C Coy.), Lithgow, had met Vine, Hilton is the sole 2/4th survivor there.

Ted Swanson will be shortly taking a business trip to the Riverina and will look up 2/4ers.

Charlie Scully was pleased to meet "Bluey" Pinder.

George Catt, Manly, apologised for Eric Holder who intended to come, but sudden illness prevented it. Sorry to hear of that mate.

Peter Hill, North Sydney, would like to hear from Ted Burbidge and Pat McCarrol.

Keith Bailey, Canberra, just out of Concord, often sees Dave Taylor and Bob Warrilow? (Mts.).

Geoff Quinn, with Vince Sparks, paid a visit to Ken Rubie in Hospital, hope you are the best by now Ken.

Bill Shearwin, Mudgee, bought two tickets, one for self and Jack Delph. Jack could not come, as he has the job of Chief Engineer at the hospital and could not get away.

Tex Dallaway (B Coy.), Smithfield, often meets Geoff Ings, who was sorry he could not make the Reunion.

Dudley Meacham, Warialda reckons he is just spelling from the dust bowl. Vince Bowman is there, is now progressing favourably after his illness. Jim Quinell is at North Star.

Frank Gattenhof, Brisbane enjoyed the Reunion said Tom Provians could not make it. Saw Craig Clark on the way down at Scone, who was sorry he could not attend. Met Bill Sumpter in Brisbane. Frank was very pleased to see some of his old mates after 20 years.

Jack Robertson, 201 Chloride Street, Broken Hill would like any 2/4er passing through to call on him, but let him know.

Ernie Swain reported that Ron Burley is progressing favourably. Ernie also sees Ray "Scotch" McCartney frequently.

Stan Bowen met Bill Reilly in the Grand Hotel. Bill told his friends that Stan was in the same Bn. as him, another chap joins them and said, "So was I," he was Peel "Boong" Duncombe.

Tom "Bluey" Saunders poured Bill Shearwin on the train to Mudgee on Anzac Day night.

Rex Everson and Bill Ervine went looking for Harry "Killer" Nichols, and met Frank Toomey at the Guildford Leagues Club.

Another list of names of 2/4ers who visited the North British in the Anzac Day period, Johnny Meehan, Charlie Groves, Tom Clough, Allan Kirk and brother, Gordon Chrisp, Bub Graham and Jack Maloney (Bowraville), and Stan Blacksley.

While disembarking (military term) from a bus at Wynyard, a seated chap stared hard at me and said, "Weren't you in the 2/4th Bn. mate," It was Vic Smith (cook). I am sorry we did not have time for a yarn. I told him "Meeting on Friday".

I also met Peter Armstrong on a bus. Peter is job hunting, but not worried, said there's plenty of work for young fellows like us.

A nice roll up at the North British, Wednesday, 5th May. Jerry "Fang" Coughlan, Alf Schweitzer, David Wren, Teddy McCaffery, John Morrison and me. Quite a pleasant session.

Alf Schweitzer paid a visit to "Slim" Desmond.

I also heard that "Curley" Day and Rupe Carrington had called into the North British.

Michelle Jordan (what, again!). This time in Lewisham Hospital for appendicitis. Again, pal, wishing you the best and a speedy recovery.

I was sorry to hear that Hilda Wright is on the sick list, but pleased to report had a successful operation in Ryde Hospital and we all wish you the best and a speedy recovery, too. Incidentally, a nurse in the ward was Roy Moore's daughter, Judy.

Jack Chaseling contacted Harry Wright to inform him that Joan, his wife, would be entering hospital (Gloucester House) on 12th May, for operation on the 13th. We are sorry to hear that you had to go in too, Joan, and also wish you a speedy recovery.

A Coo-ee to Henry Wheeler, how are you mate? Was pleased to hear of you again. Yes, Harry, we had many a yarn together. Wishing you and yours all the best.

Jim "Happy" Davis, unfortunately still on crutches, reports that he met Laurie Morris (Don Coy.) Forbes, at the "Banks" Hotel, Newtown, and took him down to the North British where they met John Morrison, Teddy McCaffery, Colin Campbell and "Sailor" Harvey. Laurie paid his subs and bought a War History from Johnnie.

Received from Fred Searle for the Association Collection that excellent large photo which appeared in "The Daily Telegraph" of the 2/4th Bn. marching along Martin Place on Anzac Day.

Now back to the North British, Friday, 14th May: Teddy McCaffery and friend John, Ron Williams, Alf Schweitzer and I. This was Alf's goodbye visit, he was homeward bound on Monday. He had been out to Canterbury R.S.L. with Bob Morrell, had a great time and met Jack Dubber. Alf also went to the football and met Urbie Hoather (A Coy. and Tank A/T) and George (one of our boys) and also at the North Ryde R.S.L. Club met Jack McLaughton who said there are five 2/4ers there, one of them being "Hutch" Newell. Well, it was good to have met you again, Alf, glad you enjoyed your stay, come again. These boys had just departed when Dick Morris strolled in.

I heard that Geoff Ings (B Coy.), Fairfield had paid a visit to the N.B., also paid his subs to Johnnie. Sorry I missed you Geoff, long time no see, but hope to see you on the B Coy. Night, with Tex Dalloway.