



# White Water Green

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE 2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

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**Next Meeting: Friday, August 6, Royal Naval House, Grosvenor Street.**

## COWRA REUNION

We all know the score. **PLEASE**  
let the Cowra Committee know  
they have **YOUR** support

### **NOW**

#### Information required . . .

- 1 — Dinner only  
(no accommodation).
- 2 — Dinner (self) plus Wife.
- 3 — Dinner & Accommodation.  
(Number of persons and number  
of nights)

**INCLUDE £1 PER PERSON**

Send to

**TED HARRIS**

C/o SERVICEMEN'S CLUB  
COWRA

We reprint in full this article from the Cowra Guardian to show the effort being put into the organisation of this year's Reunion; what to look forward to if you attend, and **what the townspeople will be expecting of our Association.** After this tremendous build-up, we **MUST** have a show of strength, so please send in **YOUR** Booking Now.

### 2/4th BN. RE-UNION AT COWRA

"Good progress is reported by the local committee handling arrangements at this end for the country reunion of the 2/4th Battalion, to be held at Cowra over the October holiday weekend.

The 2/4th is one of the strongest ex-Service Battalion associations and one of the few to hold an annual country reunion as well as a city reunion.

The venue is decided by vote at the annual general meeting in Sydney and this year Cowra was selected.

It is expected that over 100 ex-members, plus some of their wives, will attend the Six-Hour weekend reunion at Cowra.

The local committee has been able to guarantee certain accommodation for the weekend, but more may be required. At the suggestion of Association Headquarters, the Parramatta Pipe Band — some 20 to 24 players — has been invited and it is hoped they may be able to give a public display.

The 2/4th Battalion is traditionally led by a pipe band and since the end of the war the Parramatta Pipe Band has led the battalion on Anzac Day and other occasions.

Major-General Ivan Dougherty, C.B.E., D.S.O. and Bar, E.D., former C.O. of the 2/4th Battalion and now the Battalion Association patron, has been invited to attend the Cowra reunion and be guest speaker. He is Director-General of Civil Defence in N.S.W. and civilian member of the Military Board. He has advised that he will probably be able to attend the Cowra gathering.

The programme includes a march to the war memorial and the playing of "Flowers of the Forest" by the Pipe Band and "Retreat" by local trumpeters.



It is believed that this ceremony has never been performed in Cowra.

The public will be invited to witness the ceremony, which will be held at sunset on Saturday, October 2.

Copies of the 2/4th Btn. history, entitled "White over Green" are available at the Municipal Library. The history was written and edited by ex-members of the Battalion. Gavin Long, Esq., War Historian, and Major J. McGrath, Director of the Australian War Memorial at Canberra, advised on production of the publication.

Jerry Coughlan, unit dentist and one-time dentist and bandmaster in Cowra, has expressed his intention of returning for the reunion.

If the Association can locate former Captain E. P. A. Smith, M.B.E., M.C., who enlisted from Cowra, where he was Vacuum Oil Co. superintendent, he will be asked to attend the reunion. (One pace forward, Phil! —Ed.).

The local committee would appreciate it if any ex-members of the 2/4th Battalion in the district would note that the reunion committee meets at the Services Club every Sunday at 6 p.m. and their attendance and ideas would be welcomed."

\* \* \*

As you can see by the above, "our" band's offer to attend and play at the Cowra "Do," has been accepted by Tim West and his merry men. Because the distances involved are far greater than usual this year, it may be a most unique occasion, having "our" band play at the wreath-laying at a country reunion.

\* \* \*

Further news on Cowra is that the Cowra Bowls Club has issued a general invitation to all W.O.G. visitors to make full use of their bowling and other amenities. All will be welcomed.

**Alan Bohle's Army work over the years has been recognised by the award of the M.B.E. Heartiest congratulations to you, Alan!**

#### LETTER FROM JACK HUSTON

Dear Cec,

Just a note to tell you of two untimely deaths. The wives of Bill Lancaster and Bruce Harding were buried today. What a horrible coincidence. I feel sure that you would want this mentioned in W.O.G. These men were two of our staunchest supporters when the big job of producing our history was on.

Passing through Cowra last Saturday night, I met Leo Carter and Ron Barber. They had been with the Cowraites who are organising the October reunion. It was good to see Ron looking better after his illness.

Regards,

JACK.

Bill and Bruce, of the Canberra War Memorial Staff, certainly were "Two of our staunchest supporters", being of wonderful assistance to Cec. and me when we were at the memorial, as well as over a long period in conjunction with Jack. Two fine men, well worthy of everyone's sympathies, which we do sincerely extend to them both.

Also from Canberra, via Cec. Chrystal: The May 13, 1965 issue of "ARMY," which ran a full page article by Lt.-Col. R. Vardanega, A.H.Q., Canberra, based on "The Final Campaigns," by Gavin Long and "White Over Green," the official History of the 2/4th Infantry Battalion.

"IT WAS AT THIS TIME . . . twenty years ago the Second Fourth Australian Infantry Battalion stormed the Japanese defences at Wewak and overran elements of the 18th Japanese army established in strong positions.

On May 10, 1945, in a classic action, this veteran Battalion completed a feat of arms worthy of the highest traditions of the Australian Army. The battle was the turning point in a Sixth Division's campaign to clear the enemy from the north coast of New Guinea."

The main heading read "Shells and tanks, flame-throwers, crack 'tough nut'."

The article covers the lead up to the attack, including the night patrols, and a very thorough coverage of the period, including a map, picture of D. Coy hoisting the flag on Wewak and the scene amongst the smashed planes on the drome.

It finishes on this note—"SPLENDID EXAMPLE."

"Seen from the distance of 20 years the action stands as a splendid example of the A.I.F. at its best. [Editor's Note: (Theirs — not ours.) Two officers who were with the 2/4th Battalion in New Guinea 20 years ago are still serving with the Regular Army. They are Lt. Col. J. B. Wells, A.H.Q., Canberra, and Maj. A. H. Bohle, 2nd Cadet Corp.]"

I had the pleasure of meeting Cliff ("Squizzy", Taylor's wife and lovely little daughter ("Mum" was lovely too). It was at a party celebrating the imminent wedding of his nephew.

Mrs. "Squizzy" recognised the old tie and made herself known. It turned out that the nephew, also named Cliff, had read "Squizzy's" copy of the History, so I was recognised as one of "our heroes". (Sic.).

#### "TRIP-LETS" ESCA AND VERA RIORDAN REPORT TO "COCK"

"On a recent trip around New South Wales we called on a number of the boys. Our first were Ross Smith, Alby Sargent and Geoff Hawke of Inverell. Geoff was up to his eyes in work, Ross getting as poor as a "crow" but still doing an excellent job as Manager of the Inverell R.S.L. Club. Alby Sargent seems to be O.C. of Bowling Green. We then moved to Moree, and I introduced myself to Mick Owers. He



was busy with his Newsagency when we arrived, but after the papers were delivered we slipped over to the club and had a couple for old time sake. He intends attending the Sydney Reunion.

We then moved on to Brewarrina (or I should say 30 miles from the town) to John and Billie Bennett. John was nearly finished shearing, so I was able to learn a bit more about sheep and lambs. We enjoyed their wonderful hospitality for a number of days and with reluctance we moved on.

Our next stop was Bourke, where we were entertained by Roy Moores for a few hours one night. He also showed us the places of interest around Bourke. I also met Don Ellicot for the first time and he is mixed up with the Wool game. He intends coming to Sydney for Anzac Day.

We called at Forbes on a Saturday afternoon and went straight to the Golf Club, where Bernie O'Mara is President. He was away on the far "Green" when we arrived, so did not see him. However, we saw Rita (his wife) and had a drink with her, but she also was playing golf and had to go.

Our next port of call was Griffith, and we were the guests of the Erskine family for nearly a week and thoroughly enjoyed their hospitality. Tom was doing work among his sheep and lambs, so I was assistant shepherd for a couple of days. Tom and his wife, Joan, also showed us places of interest around Griffith and district. I also attended a monthly meeting of Griffith Sub-Branch which was ably chaired by Arthur Webb, who is at present, President of Griffith Sub-Branch. I also met Ted Swadling, who recently won a Holden car in a raffle, and Fred Apthorp who looks and feels quite well after his sojourn at Concord. One evening Tom and I spent a few pleasant hours at The Ex-Serviceman's Club with Dennis Jackson talking of old times.

Our trip then took us to Finley, where we stayed with a P.O.W. mate. On leaving his place, we made a quick trip to Deniliquin, where we had lunch and a couple of drinks with Bob and Enid Jackson. Bob is kept busy in his job as regional librarian.

On our way through Orbost we saw Bill Irvine for a few minutes, but could not stay as our time was running out. Bill expects to get to Sydney for Anzac Day, but the weather has been holding him up with the harvest of a seed bean crop.

We would like to thank all those 2/4's whose hospitality we enjoyed, during our recent interesting holiday."

Esca.

Thanks for YOUR hospitality in the past—from all members. Also for this interesting info. (Ed.).

The unfortunate news is that Fred Searle, who was quickly out of hospital following his painful kidney operation, is back in. We wish you all the best, Fred — in fact, may you be fully recovered and out again by the time this is published.

## LAST POST

BERT CATTLE ("The Red Steer")  
Vale, Bert!

\* \* \*

## SICK PARADE

Concord R.G.H.: Jack Hearney, Ferdie Pegg, Sir Iven Mackay (4th A.I.F.).

\* \* \*

Rene, wife of our popular Dick Pinson, is matched for a return bout with the doctors at United Gardens Private Hospital, Summer Hill.

Chin up, Rene! We all wish you well.

\* \* \*

July meeting was most successful with a large roll-up of happy faces. Was yours amongst them? If not, why not extend to us the pleasure of your company?

Further Band news provided by Johnnie Jordan is that M. L. Graham, President of the N.S.W. Pipe Bands Association, presented to the Junior members of the Parramatta Pipe Band the trophy won by them at the Miniature Pipe Band Contest held on May 23.

\* \* \*

"Lizard" Leach reports son Bob, one of our one-time "champs of the willow" is now married and the proud father of two children. Congrats., Bob!

Grandpa looks "'orribly 'ealthy". Given away smoking, he tells me.

\* \* \*

Bill Barrett has retired from the Lands Department, so called in to have a yarn with Johnnie Morrison. Best wishes, Bill!

## COCK'S COLUMN

Stan Harris reports going with Tom Hopper to the Paddington R.S.L. Met Jim McAlistar, who works there, also Peter Cook, who is a member.

A pleasant surprise on Friday, 28th, at the N.B., when none other than the youth from Urunga, Rick Carter, down on a snap visit, turned up, and with the regulars had quite a happy session. Rick heard that Paddy Gleeson, Grafton, works on the railway at Kyaran.

Keven Molon, popular cellarman at the North British, informs me that his friend (and ours) Ken "Slim" McNeil (D. Coy.), Mascot, had called in.

Gee, it was another pleasant surprise when Jack "Bush" Bennett, from Brewarrina, strolled in and joined Frank Frizell and myself at the N.B. before the Friday night June meeting. His first visit ever to the N.B., Jack had recently met Ron Withers and Brian Waring. Also saw Frank Sadler in Dubbo.

Now the June meeting, "B" Coy. night. It was good to see some of the new-old faces present, and we were favoured with three country visitors, John



"Bush" Bennett, Charlie "Punchy" Hood, and Rick Carter, Urunga. "Punchy" was down on sick leave. Some time back Charlie was instrumental in saving the lives of two fishermen. Rick Carter paid his second visit in a week. On holidays, so came down for the meeting. Rick often sees Leo Lynch at the Grafton R.S.L.

I heard that Colin Campbell had called into the N.B. How about coming along to a meeting, Col?

It was good to see Teddy Gamble come along. Ted apologised for Massa Brooks, who had a prior engagement. Thanks for driving us home, Ted!

Alan Bohle, Wahroonga, said that the Wewak Point action was mentioned in the Army newspaper dated 13th May.

Wally "Blue" Benson, Cabramatta, had recently met Nap. Alavoine, and brought in Nap's subs. Eddie "Boof" Wilson, came in with "Blue", they were a little late, as they went looking for Tex Dalloway to bring him along too, but could find no sign of Tex.

Johnny Ringrose has recently seen Teddy Jackson, Les Fox and Ted Swanson.

Peter Armstrong met Jack and Joan Chasling. Jack had brought Joan down to see the doctor and I am pleased to report that Joan is now progressing favourably. We wish you the best of health and luck in the future, Joan. Jack expects to be down again soon, with his son, for the State Athletic Carnival.

It was nice to see Reg. Cole come along. Reg frequently sees Jack "Brig" McAtamney, Kogarah.

Les "Lizard" Leach, Westmead, met Jack Robinson, of Bourke, also Harry Hamburger, Wauchope.

Athol Heath and Bill Luck were pleased to meet "Lizard" again. We all were.

John Meehan is in close touch with Bruce Cork, who, although he has his wife's full permission, is too busy to attend the monthly meetings. John reckons this excuse is not good enough.

I heard that Johnny, Teddy McCaffery, Vic Francis, Charlie "Punchy" Hood, Ron Williams and Jerry Coughlan, had quite a pleasant session at the N.B.

I was very pleased to see Ron Barber stroll in. It was quite a pleasant surprise, as he has not been the best. Ron had recently met Bill "Sluggo" Wildman, over on the North Shore. Wishing you the best, Ron, hope to see you there more often.

Was with the regulars when Jim "Happy" Davis came in. Still on crutches, he had had to go back to hospital. Wishing you a speedy recovery, mate.

**In the Mail Box:** A letter from Monty Siems, Elsternwick, Vic., with two photos of their Anzac Day Reunion. In the photos., one clearly showing the banner, are Vic. Francis, Claude Raymond, Doug Miller and

Mick Gray. Mick is still serving on and stationed at Victoria Barracks. Monty said they had a great reunion, and hopes to have an Anzac Day over here — thanks, mate!

A letter from Bob Jackson, Deniliquin, with several photos of my place, taken when staying there, also six photos of the War Cemetery and graves of our chaps, which Alex Shepherd sent him from Greece in 1945. Also three photos of the Griffith Reunion, one in colour. Thank you!

Friday, June 18, at the N.B. was with our contact man Johnny, Ron Barber and Frank Frizell. Johnny goes early as usual, and Vic Forbes, Strathfield, strolls in. When Vic departs, big Jack Davis (the 6' 1½" one, B Coy) joins us. Gee, it's many years since I've seen him, but he knew me. Jack has recently seen Les. Scott. We had a great yarn on old times.

Vic. Forbes has recently met Wal. Henry (D Coy), North Coast. Wal. gave news of "Pom" Wallace, Alf. Schweitzer, Freddie Varley, Tim Lamond, and many other Northerners. He send regards to —. Shoveller, Clem Killeen and Jack Maloney. Vic also met Rex Everson on his way home from Repat. I also heard that Vic has won the Burwood R.S.L. Bowling Singles Championship and shepherded the winning Triples team. Congrats., mate!

Ronnie Barber had an enjoyable trip to Cowra with Johnny Morrison and "Jerry" Coughlan. Ted Harris and Leo Carter welcomed them at the club. Jerry was very quickly recognised and was soon reminiscing with the Cowra boys. They went for a drive with Leo to see the stockyards and other features around the town. Noticed at the Japanese War Cemetery, the wide disparity in the ages of those buried there. One was 10 months, one 3 years and others 72 or near ages. As a point of interest, was the Cowra camp for all Japanese? [Not entirely. Perhaps we can get an article from the Cowra Committee? — Ed.]

Later, with Leo Carter, went for a meal to a local cafe and was surprised and pleased to meet Jack and Joan Huston and party. Dave and Mrs. McGillivray and daughter were also in Cowra and came to the club in the evening.

Ron said the boys have the arrangements for the Reunion well in hand. Many thanks, Ronnie!

**From Cec. Chrystal:** Ken Moses, up from Melbourne on holidays with his family, rang Cec. Chrystal. Was to call and see him with a cheque for some War Histories, but must have got lost en route, or just plain forgot. Said they had a great Anzac Day in Melbourne. Was sorry to hear one of Arthur Rielley's sons is not well. Best of luck

**From Rex Everson:** Chaplain Doug. Crawford, from All Saints' Church, Parramatta, officiated at Jack Jocelyn's funeral. Made himself known to Rex, Doug Barrie, Sailor Harvey and Cec. Chrystal. Sends his regards to Mick Gray.

— "COCK" ROBIN.