



White War Green

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE 2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

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WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU

on

FRIDAY, 1st DECEMBER, 1967

for our

ANNUAL LADIES' NIGHT

at

ROYAL NAVAL HOUSE, GROSVENOR STREET, SYDNEY

Please make a special effort to attend and make the 1967 LADIES' NIGHT a happy pre-Xmas Party for Wives, Daughters, and Friends of the Fourth.

THE \$100 RAFFLE WILL BE DRAWN DURING THE EVENING

REMEMBER — LADIES' NIGHT, FRIDAY, 1st DECEMBER

8 P.M. AT ROYAL NAVAL HOUSE, GROSVENOR STREET, SYDNEY

TAMWORTH REUNION, 1967

by Harry Gjedsted

Another well-attended and most successful reunion is over and **Bill Smith, George Sugden, Dave ("Mornie") Peters, "Nicky" Allardice** and their wonderful supporters are to be congratulated and sincerely thanked for giving us such a marvellous weekend.

We are all aware of the problems, worry and hard work associated with the organising of our Country Reunion and will always be deeply grateful to our country boys who give so much of their time to ensure that no stone is left unturned to make our visit happy, pleasant and enjoyable as it could possibly be. Our country organisers can always depend on maximum support from the Association Committee and members, and there is no doubt whatsoever that the preliminary "Reece Patrol", headed by **John Morrison**, contributes greatly to the eventual success of these important functions.

The reunion ceremony commenced on Saturday afternoon with the march to the Anzac Memorial Gates where our Patron, **Maj. Gen. I. N. Dougherty, C.B.E., D.S.O., E.D.**, placed our wreath, during which the "Last Post" and "Reveille" was sounded by a diminutive young member of the Tamworth Police Boys'

Band on a Bugle used in the Crimean War. In all the years that I have been associated with the Army, I don't think I have heard sweeter playing of "Last Post" and "Reveille" than by that young lad. I'm sure its clarity and beauty will be remembered by us all for many years to come.

The Parade, headed by the Tamworth Police Boys' Band then marched through the city to the R.S.L. Club where a welcome was extended to the Unit by **Alderman R. A. Walsh**, representing the Mayor, and **Mr. E. George**, President of Tamworth R.S.L. Club.

The Reunion Dinner which commenced at 6.30 p.m. was held in the main dining room, the Ladies' Dinner being held in the adjoining dining room. The floral decorations were White and Green — beautifully arranged with obvious care and affection. A very thoughtful touch was the place cards worded "Thank you for the pleasure of your company" — wasn't that nice? For all this our sincere thanks to **Mrs. Peggy Hall** and the Ladies Auxiliary.

Grace was handled very capably by **"Rusty" McWilliam** following which **Chairman Bill Smith** welcomed the Association, Official Guest, and Visitors. Bill handled this job very efficiently indeed and merited the applause of all present.

The Loyal Toast was proposed by "Nicky" Allardice and a Civic Welcome was then extended to the Association by **Alderman R. A. Walsh**, deputising for the Mayor. Guest Speaker for the occasion was **Major Tom Chambers**, 4 Bn. Royal New South Wales Regiment, who recently returned from Vietnam, where he was an observer of modern military methods and guerilla jungle warfare.

Major Chambers' address was tremendously interesting and informative, and I'm sure his experience of the effects of blast waves from heavy artillery on "Thunderboxes" will prove of some use to raw recruits!!!

The Toast to "2/4th Infantry Battalion" was proposed by your President and in response **Maj. Gen. Dougherty** spoke with great feeling of his regard for the Battalion, and of those who have kept the Association so active over the years since its inception in 1943. As usual **Maj. Gen. Dougherty's** time was severely limited and the fact that he arrived at 2 p.m. and left the Reunion at 10.30 p.m. to return to Sydney by train indicates the high esteem and regard he holds for his "boys".

The Toast "Our Guests" was ably handled by **George Sugden** and **Mr. E. George**, President of Tamworth R.S.L. Club suitably responded.

After the National Anthem, members and their ladies mingled in the main dining room for refreshments. During this period a beautiful colour film of the Anzac War Memorial, Canberra, was screened and what a wonderful film it was. (Would hope to get it for a social gathering in the future.) The short film of the 4 Bn. Memorial Dedication Parade at 4 Bn. R.N.S.W.R. was also shown. After the films, upstairs to the main lounge for dancing, talking, poker machines, and sipping "salubrious suds" in quantity in a delightful atmosphere dominated by what must be one of the biggest murals in Australia. What a wonderful day and what a wonderful evening!!! There should be more of it!

A very sad note to the weekend was the sudden death of "**Mornie**" **Peters'** mother on Friday night. Mrs. Peters and "Mornie" had arranged for us all to visit their farm for a barbecue on the Sunday night and all our hearts went out to "Mornie" and his family on this sudden and tragic loss. Alternate plans were made by **Bill Smith** and his band of enthusiastic helpers and the barbecue was held in the Showground in perfect conditions — good food, and plenty of it!! Good beer, and plenty of it!!! Good company — and plenty of it!!! A wonderful night under a starry Tamworth sky.

As always all good things must come to an end and so on Monday the trek back to our respective villages commenced for over 100 members and more than 50 wives, friends or relatives of members who attended yet another Grand Country Reunion of 2/4th Australian Infantry Battalion.

It was so good to be all together again and what a grand delegation **Tom Provians** (Q'ld. V.P.) brought from Queensland!!

So, until our next merry meeting in 1968, thank you all for joining us at Tamworth — and to **Bill Smith** and his team we say: "Thanks for a job well done".

NOTES FROM THE TREASURY

Subs and/or Raffle Money received from **Bruce Makin** \$2; **Ken Rubie** \$2; **Bill Reaney** \$2; **Alan Kirk** \$4; **Bill Sheaffe** \$6; "**Tiny**" **Eglington** \$10 (including a donation of \$8); **Leo Lynch** \$25 (Life Member and Donation) **Wal Henry**, **Dave McClure**, **Jack Antony** and **Bill Turley**.

Remember the \$100 Raffle will be drawn on Ladies' Night, Friday, 1st December, 1967. Hurry with the outstanding ticket butts — OR BETTER still, turn up at the function and claim the \$100 1st Prize. TICKET BUTTS TO:—

Fred Searle, 31 Griffith Avenue, West Ryde.

HOSPITAL NEWS

In R.G.H. Concord: **Harold Brown** Ward 210, **John Guest** Ward 17, **Bill Humphries**, 19.

Home from hospital: **Bill Reid**, **Wal Honey**, **Jeff King**.

Ill at home: **Johnny Morrison**.

THE LAST POST

4th Bn. A.I.F.: Major General Lionel H. Lemaire; 3534 H. H. L. Govan; 3117 W. L. Hickey; 7006 C. J. Ivin; 5748 H. W. Merchant; 4109 C. Napier; 7044 J. Reid.

2/4th Bn. A.I.F.: NX5524 A. M. Welsh.

4 Bn. ('39-'45): NX120949 J. A. Halling.

"We Will Remember Them."

IN THE MAIL BAG

From Mrs. E. Herbert: "Enclosed butts and money for tickets. Wishing the guessing competition every success, also thanking you ever so much for sending me the "White Over Green" journal. I always enjoy reading the news of the 2/4 Battalion, although the names may be strange to me now it brings back many happy memories of a few short years ago, when my husband was with us. Thanking you once again for the journal — good luck to the Association and may it continue for many years to come. We are all very proud of the 2/4th Batt."

From Carma Kirk: "Dear Fred, am enclosing a cheque for \$4 in payment for Allan's subscription to the Association and the tickets we received some time ago. We were very sorry not to be able to attend the Tamworth Reunion, but this year circumstances were against it. Have heard that it was a great success and am very glad of that. We will be getting first hand information about it all on 18th November, when the Christmas Dinner for Northern 2/4th members is being held at the R.S.L. Club here in Lismore. Both Allan and I are looking forward to seeing them all and having our usual enjoyable evening. We both hope you are feeling very much better and Dorothy is well also, and will take this opportunity of wishing you both and your family the very best of Season's Greetings."

From Bill Sheaffe, Goonengerry, Lismore: "Dear Fred, My apologies for not having attended to this before but I guess better late than never; am enclosing the butts of the raffle tickets — plus a cheque for \$6, made up of \$2 raffle, \$2 this year's subs, \$2 next year's subs (1968) — how's that? for once it puts me in the lead.

"I really wait for that there W.O.G. to come along each month and to read the news of all the boys — man do I take my hat off to **"Cock" Robin**; his must be a full-time job to keep his column running smoothly. The Association Executive also have my deepest admiration. They must find many of us, like myself, very disheartening, who are content to sit back and read what others have written, without contributing to the pool ourselves.

"Both myself and Una were very disappointed in being unable to attend the the Tamworth Reunion, but I'm looking forward in the near future to again being one of the fortunate ones to join in a country reunion.

"I meet up with some of the local lads fairly frequently and others occasionally — they include **Eddie Miller, Fred Varley, Merv McInnes, Alan Kirk, Doug Stebbings, Doug Grove, Ian Wallwork, Dave Crossthwaite, Mick Antonelli and Alan Hughes.**

"My regards to yourself Fred and through you to all Association members."

1967 COMBINED "SMOKO"

By Harry Gjedsted

A strong delegation of 4 Bn. A.I.F. 1914-18 Association, and representative groups from 4 Bn. Royal Australian Regt., 4 Bn. R.N.S.W.R., 4 Bn. 1939-45, and Parramatta Pipe Band were the highlights of a well attended and enjoyable Combined Smoko Night.

After opening the evening, one minute's silence in Remembrance of Fallen and Departed Comrades was observed. Apologies were received from **Maj. Gen. Dougherty, Major Boyce, "Slim" Pollock, Bede Keary and "Rusty" McWilliam**, and a telegram — "Best wishes for a successful evening — have one for me", was received from **Queensland Vice-President Tom Provians**. Thanks to the co-operation and organisation of Transport by Cec Chrystal and members of our Association, 11 members of **4 Bn. A.I.F. 1914-18 Assn.** attended the function, headed by newly appointed President **Jack Noakes** and Secretary **Harry Stafford**, who, he told me, has also been "promoted" to Treasurer, and now carries the dual role of Secretary/Treasurer. (That's worth another stripe, Harry).

This would be one of the largest delegations from our old friends for some years, and it is obvious that if we can overcome the transport problems for future occasions we will see more of them at our functions. Organisation of groups in localities for pick up could be worked out by Harry, and, if he lets our Secretary George Stack know transport requirements, we will then make the necessary arrangements.

4 Bn. Royal Australian Regiment was represented by **Capt. Brennan** (originally the R.S.M. of 4 Bn. R.A.R.) and **Corporal Curnow**.

4 Bn. R.N.S.W.R. was represented by the Bn. C.O. **Lieut. Col. Maitland, E.D., Lieut. Wall, R.S.M. Aspinall, S/Sgt. Zalanarder, Sgt. Raynor, B. Wall and S. McLaughlin.**

4 Bn. 1939-45 was represented by **Geoff Tuckwell** (President), **Ken Menser** (Vice-President) and **Tom Dolan**.

Parramatta Pipe Band representatives were **Bill Ford** and **John Erby**.

Bill extended an invitation to all 2/4th-ers to attend the Clan night being held at Parramatta Town Hall

on Saturday, 2nd December. This invitation was also extended to all visitors present at the Smoko and Bill assured us that adequate supplies of "Duggan's Dew" would be on hand. The "Password" to gain admittance is "2/4 Bn."

Amongst our visitors was **Major Tom Hall**, ex 4 Bn. R.N.S.W.R., who is now holding a training appointment at Eastern Command. Tom brought a film to the Smoko of specific interest to the 1914-18 boys because it showed 4 Bn. 1914-18 on active service but it was of tremendous interest to all of us because it showed the original A.I.F. from its recruiting days in 1914, through Gallipoli, Palestine and France to the end of the war. A wonderful film that should be shown again if possible. Amongst members present was **Victorian Vice-President Vic Francis**, who was in Sydney for a short stay. It was wonderful to see you Vic and it was obvious that you were enjoying yourself.

How wonderful it was to see **Mick Gray** again. Mick is an old friend of mine of many years standing, and has had a long and distinguished record of service in the Army. We both served together in 9 Field Brigade R.A.A. back in 1934 when Field Artillery was horse-drawn and to be a mounted man you had to "win your spurs" in the true sense of the word.

In 1936 Mick went to England and joined the Horse Guards (The "Blues") and later transferred to the Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders. In 1937 his Bn. was in action on the north-west frontier, India, and Mick gained his first campaign medal — the North West Frontier Medal. When World War II appeared imminent, Mick returned to Australia with the object of joining the A.I.F. when war broke out. He joined the Australian Instructional Corps, and when war did break out, we both enlisted and joined 2/4 Bn. together. Mick saw action in Libya, Greece and Crete, and was wounded in a grenade exchange with German paratroopers on Crete.

On our return to Palestine, Mick was one of those selected from the A.I.F. to join a British Commando Group to study commando tactics, use of explosives, etc., and later this group demonstrated these tactics and activities to the Bn.

When the Bn. returned to Australia, and went to Darwin, Mick and a number of N.C.O.'s were seconded to a Militia Bn. located in Darwin, with the purpose of training it up to A.I.F. standard.

In 1945 both he and I were amongst those selected to join the British Army in India in preparation for the re-invasion of Malaya and after Japan's surrender, Mick was one of those officers who were selected for the War Crimes Commission in Tokyo.

On his return to Australia in 1947, Mick continued his service in the Regular Army and after assisting in the reforming of the C.M.F. and serving with 30 Bn. N.S.W. Scottish Regt. he was promoted and appointed to Provost Marshall, Eastern Command, with the object of developing and establishing this particular unit.

Mick's subsequent appointments and promotions have taken him to Korea, Malaya and Vietnam, and he has now retired, after a long and loyal period of service in the Army, with his last campaign medal — the Vietnamese Star — gained in 1967, 30 years exactly from his first campaign medal in 1937.

Welcome home, Mick, we'll be looking forward to seeing you at our monthly meetings.

Also at our Smoko were the "Bundeena Boys" — Ernie Swain and Dick Chamberlain. Ernie brought his father — Dick Swain — who is President of Bundeena R.S.L. Club. The Bundeena boys have arranged everything for a visit from us for Anniversary weekend — so set aside Sunday, 28th January, 1968, for a family day out at Bundeena. There will be speed boat rides for young and old and plenty of refreshments to cover all ages and tastes. Barbecue facilities will be available, all that the boys ask us to do is bring our own steaks and sausages. Support these Bundeena boys, they have gone to a lot of trouble — want us to be there — and it will be a wonderful day out. Please advise George Stack if you are coming — let him know how many, etc. — so that we can let Bundeena know the position. Remember it's a family day.

Thanks for the invitation Dick, Ernie and Dick!! Look forward to being with you.

So another wonderful and pleasant evening came to a close, and again our thanks to all responsible for making it so.

COCK'S COLUMN

At the October Meeting as I met the boys: **Dick Morris, Cecil "Slim" Powers, Harry Wright, Athol Heath, Bill Luck, Johnny Meehan, Fred Staggs, Cecil Chrystal, Peter Cook, John Jordan, Mick Steele, Rex Everson, Russ McWilliam, Peter Cade, George Stack, Ernie Swain, Harry Gjedsted, Dick Chamberlain, Bill "Bing" Riley, Mike Richardson, Gaydon Colless and Len Waterworth.**

Our country visitors were **Jack Maloney** and **"Bub" Graham**, both from Bowraville, with "Bub's" brother-in-law, **Claude Woodhouse.**

Was pleased to see **Cecil "Slim" Powers** at the meeting — I am very sorry to hear that "Slim" was involved in a smash at Manly, and was 5½ weeks in Manly Hospital missing his first Anzac Day reunion in 21 years. We are all very sorry to hear of this "Slim" and would have visited you had we known. "Slim" has now moved from Manly to Kogarah. **"Bing" Riley's** first visit for some time. Bill attended the Ceremonial Parade at Arncliffe. Glad to see you, mate.

Peter Cook, Arncliffe, arrived home safely from the reunion; he brought "Bing" to the meeting. Also met **Eric Taynton**, A Coy — Eric lives at Beverley Hills.

Len Waterworth was playing bowls at Asquith and met **Len Bloomfield** (A Coy) of 144 Galston Road, Hornsby. Also members of the Asquith Bowling Club are **Pat Holland, Bill Eslick** and **Albert Milner**, all 2/4ers. Len played bowls at Seaforth and was drawn to play with Ted Jackson.

Athol Heath reports that Pat arrived safely home and that daughter Julie had looked after Athol excellently. She handled the housekeeping like a veteran.

Ernie Swain and **Dick Chamberlain**, the "Bundeena Bushwackers" turned up at a meeting recently with Ernie's father **Dick** (4th Bn. A.I.F.) and two of his 4th Bn. mates, **Fred Spain** and **Bill Woods**. **Dick Swain** is President of the Bundeena R.S.L. Club.

Johnny Ringrose had recently seen **Ted Jackson, Bob Ferguson** and **Les Fox** — all are well.

Sid Young, Leichhardt, regrets was unable to make the Tamworth Reunion. Sorry to relate Sid recently

lost his brother. Our sympathy is extended to you and your family Sid. Sid also has seen **George Smith** (D Coy) of Blacktown; night shift prevents George from coming to a meeting.

Gordon Chrisp nearly ran into me hurrying to catch the ferry home. Let's see your cheery countenance at a meeting Gordon.

Johnny Jordan reports that the Parramatta Pipe Band won the Waratah Pipe Band Contest for the third successive year recently. Congratulations to **"Our Band"**.

Received a lovely post card by airmail from **Pat Heath** in England. Pat writes: "Dear Jim, Just to let you know I haven't forgotten the 2/4th. Having a wonderful time, beautiful weather. Regards, Pat." Many thanks Pat for your very kind thought, it is certainly appreciated. The post card is in colour; The Band of the Irish Guards leaving Buckingham Palace, London.

At the Combined Reunion: — One of the first I met was **Vic Francis** from Melbourne. Vic received his W.O.G. and promptly answered in person by catching the Aurora and came to the reunion bringing greetings from **Doug Miller** and several of the other boys in Melbourne. Eileen Francis (Vic's wife) was very thrilled to receive a letter from **George Stack** on behalf of the Association regarding her health. We all sincerely hope you are now enjoying the best of health, Eileen. An excellent effort to come Vic.

Harry Coomber has recently seen **Wal Honey** — regret to hear that Wal is not enjoying the best of health (has had two operations). We are all very sorry to hear of this Wal, and wish you a speedy recovery. Harry also gave me four excellent photos taken at the Annual Anzac Day Commemoration Service at Chullora Railway Workshops at which **General Dougherty** was guest of honour. Pictured were: **Gen. Dougherty, Mick Steele, John Jordan** and **Harry Coomber.**

Charlie Adams, Woy Woy (good effort Charlie) went around to see if **Doug Barry** wanted to come down by car, but Doug, just out of hospital, was not feeling up to it. He sends regards to all.

Mick Gray, Mona Vale (C Coy) — it was good to see him, it's many years since. Mick would like to get in touch with **Bill "Shuffy" Goodall** (C Coy) or any one who knows his whereabouts. Mick, retired after 32 years' service, is now the administrative secretary of the N.S.W. Amateur Pistol Association.

Dick Pinson met **Matty Bristol** of Junee at Central Railway. Matt was on his way to the Repat. for a Tribunal and wished to be remembered. We all wish you the best Matt.

Rex Everson heard from **Bill Bickley**, that **Bill "Punchy" Walker**, is not enjoying the best health; we are sorry to hear of this Bill and wish you a speedy recovery.

North British News: Was on my own and was pleased to see **Jack Heaney** stroll in, then **"Sailor" Harvey** joined us. Pat Heaney (Jack's son) arrived back home after eight months in Vietnam and does not recommend the place for a holiday trip. Pleased to have you back with us Pat. All the best.

"COCK" ROBIN,
20 Adderston Avenue,
North Sydney.