



White Water Green

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE 2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

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Next Meeting: Friday, 7th July, 1967, at Royal Naval House, Grosvenor St., Sydney

THE COUNTRY REUNION

Our Annual Country Reunion has developed into one of the Association's most pleasant and well-attended functions. Each year more and more members and their ladies enjoy the happy occasion, meeting old friends and making new.

This tremendous success of these Country Reunions is contributed to in no small way by the expert manner in which they have been organised by the local committees and by the high standard of conduct of participating members.

The 1967 Country Reunion will be held at Tamworth. Details are shown elsewhere in this issue. Enquiries have been made regarding a special train from Sydney for the Reunion and if sufficient members indicate interest it will be proceeded with. If you are interested please contact any member of the Executive—the sooner the better.

"A" COMPANY SHOOT

A few weeks ago the 4th Bn. R.N.S.W.R. hosted a couple of old (but not too old) "digs" at Long Bay Rifle Range. It was a very enjoyable day and the officers and men of Major Tom Hall's "A" Company treated us royally.

First up we had a refresher on the Owen Gun. Ray Hirst was in charge of this range assisted by "Buck" Buckingham and others. I scored a mere thirty-nine hits but Athol Heath scored fifty-three hits out of forty-eight shots; a feat which should remain a record in "A" Company for many years to come!

We each did a familiarisation practice on the S.L.R. (F.N.) and a full range practice (prone, standing, sitting, kneeling and standing from the hip) from three, two and one hundred yards with the M60, a belt fed jobbie that took the place of the Bren. There was a rumour that the Butts Party shot through when we were turned loose on this weapon. Terry Smith and Peter Keeting deny this but I bet it took a while to shake out the dirt that went down their necks.

A very good day it was and the work put in by W.O.II Norm Harries, Don Burgess and others whose names I can't recall made the day a success for "A" Company and particularly for us.

Peter Cade

RECOLLECTIONS OF MOUNT LOFTY

Cec Chrystal, who is ever active in the interests of the Association, noticed an old friend of the 2/4th Battalion, **Sir Mellis Napier**, Chief Justice of South Australia, had just retired. Cec, who had met Sir Mellis while in S.A. chasing material for the War History, sent off a personal congratulatory note and also one from the Association.

Sir Mellis, who had played host to **Brian Rolfe's** "C" Coy., billeted at his Mount Lofty home, replied to Cec as follows:

My Dear Chrystal,

Thank you for your kind thoughts and good wishes.

I cannot say that I contemplate the prospect of idleness with any great degree of satisfaction, but I felt that the time is close—if indeed it has not come—when I might seem an encumbrance.

We often think of the days when your battalion was with us and of the happy association with you all.

Again thank you and with kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Mellis Napier

EDWARD KENNA, V.C.

Ned Kenna, V.C., has advised 4 Bn. R.N.S.W. Regt. that he will be pleased to attend the Dedication of the Memorial to Fourth Australian Infantry Battalions scheduled to take place on 13th August. Full details will be available next month.

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE is hereby given that an Extraordinary General Meeting of the 2/4th Infantry Battalion Association will be held at Royal Naval House on Friday, 7th July, at 8 p.m., for the purpose of:

1. Confirming the alteration to the Constitution permitting the election of two Country Vice-Presidents and one Vice-President from each of the States of Queensland, Victoria and South Australia.

2. Giving authority to the Executive to appoint Vice-Presidents to the Casual Vacancies in accordance with (1) above.

ANNUAL COUNTRY REUNION

TAMWORTH

SIX HOUR WEEKEND

30th September-2nd October, 1967

For Accommodation

BOOK NOW WITH

BILL SMITH

23 DENNE STREET, WEST TAMWORTH

Deposit — \$4.00 per Person

PHOTOS OF INTEREST

Harry "Soccer" Coomber brought along some very good snapshots of our members at the Chullora Railway Workshops Anzac Reunion. A good group showed: "Doc" who was guest speaker, Mick "Mild" Steele, "Soccer" and Johnny Jordan.

John Copland, Ryde, also brought along the proofs photos taken at the Anzac Reunion. There are some excellent photos of individuals and groups. They will be on view again at the July meeting and orders may be placed for copies. Thanks, John, for your trouble in getting these proofs from the studios.

Our thanks are due also to Harry Gjedsted's sister, Mrs. Mary Solomon, for her efforts in seeking out some good photos of the Unit marching on Anzac Day. Your efforts are very much appreciated, Mary. These will also be on display at the next meeting.

THE LAST POST

4 Bn. A.I.F.: C. A. Beattie, W. A. L. Crimson, J. Gaffney, H. J. Hudson, C. H. Napier, D.C.M., P. F. Galvin.

2/4 Bn. A.I.F.: Keith "Sunshine" Beattie .

"We will remember them."

ARMY NURSE

From **Rupert Carrington**, Coonabarabran: "Some-time ago there was a request for the poem 'Army Nurse', the original of which was found by a friend mine in an Army kit store in 1944. Recently it appeared in the 'Coonabarabran Times' and I repeat it here:

In a dainty cloak of scarlet,
With a dress of matching grey,
A gentle hand, a patient heart,
Makes light our painful way.

A breath of home among us,
Symbolic of all that's dear,
Pervades us with her presence,
Bringing gladness, health and cheer.

So here's a toast to our darling,
And may it all come true:
May her days be full of gladness
And fresh as the morning dew.

May she never shed a tear,
Or never hear a curse,
We'll hold her up to all the world:
Our Australian Army Nurse.

(Author Unknown)."

Thanks Rupert for your thought. Our best wishes.

COCK'S COLUMN

In the Mail Bag:

"Merrendee,"

Ashford, N.S.W.

"Certainly long time no see. However, W.O.G. does keep me in touch. It certainly casts a wide net and long may it continue. My sole contribution has been a life membership and I'm very pleased I have this. I must track you all down when next in Sydney. I have a son at Riverview College this year so may be down more often. Previously it was only trips to R.G.H. which took me to Sydney when, incidentally, I never failed to be visited by **Johnny Morrison** and **Fred Searle** who certainly do a tremendous job for members in hospital—and for the Association.

I've had this property since 1949, running cattle and growing crops, but have folded up physically these past few years and depend on sharefarmers—at least until my boy Jim comes back from Vietnam. He is over there with 7 R.A.R. and has been pretty active. He's a machine gunner in 9 Platoon "C" Coy. and they've had a few sharp brushes—the platoon has claimed five Viet Cong. Naturally, I'm a bit edgy and will be pleased to see him home again. Actually, I tried to induce him to join 4 R.A.R., but he said I'd have to shift them to Vietnam first, so I quit trying.

Plenty of news from Jim. Here is an extract from a recent letter: "Les, my gunner mate, and I spotted one and both tried to nail him. We had to change a belt and next thing our Corporal was yelling his head off at us. I found why quickly enough—bullets make a nasty noise when they're close, and we'd got our heads up. He covered us while we moved. We then opened up on the V.C. and later found him pretty badly shot up. The platoon got three killed and two wounded with no loss to ourselves."

There are a few of the Bn. around here. **Ken 'Spanner' Graham**, **Selby Dean**, **Ross (R.H.) Smith**, and **Geoff Hawke** I see fairly often. Selby is not well—a piece of grenade in his back worrying him a bit. **'Grumpy' Shelton** had a hotel in Inverell for a time. **Jim Quinnell** has a property not far away (bush miles!) and is doing well. **Lt.-Col. Ken Gallard** is 2 i/c Training Centre at Singleton. **Colin Halmarick** is a half or maybe full Colonel in Northern Command. Saw him last year briefly.

Good luck to you and to all the old gang.

Ron Belford."

From **"Bub" Graham**, Bowraville, to **Fred Searle**: "**'Bush' Bennett** and **Billie** have just moved into this area and Margaret and I went over to their place the other Sunday. Had a good yarn and afternoon tea during a very enjoyable afternoon.

Will meet a few of 'the boys' on Saturday at Nambucca Heads at the R.S.L. District Council Meeting. **Esca Riordan** will be missing as he and Vera are touring New Guinea. **Dick Latimer** is at Coff's Harbour so will have to get up that way soon.

Had a look at the Anzac March on TV—you seemed to have a good roll-up. I'd like to get down myself each year but I've been Secretary of the local Sub-branch for nine years and it wouldn't seem right to organise the March and Dinner and walk out. I'm also Secretary of the Northern District Council so get plenty of R.S.L. work.

Cec Hogan, Cowra, has also moved this way and is living at Grafton—should be a good mate for **Leo Lynch**. I'm anxious to get the address of **Archie Rowbotham** and would be glad to hear from anyone who knows it.

Kind regards to Dot, you and all the folk from Margaret and myself."

From **Jim Whitaker**, Millaa Millaa, North Queensland: "A big cheerio from the Atherton Tableland and my cheque for two years' subs. Had a pleasant surprise visit from **Esca Riordon** and his good wife, a couple of weeks ago, and despite the bad weather, **Jack Reynolds** and I were able to make his short visit a pleasant one. Our R.S.L. Sub-branch had a dance on that night, which they attended, and on the Sunday morning I took them for a drive to a few of the local beauty spots, including Rawsons Pool, where the 19th Brigade had a rest camp.

Met **Noel Ford** in Townsville a few months ago and had a good chat on the old days. Hope to see you all at Tamworth."

From **Kevin Franklin**, Turragindi, Queensland: "I've resigned from the Commonwealth Bank and am now the Manager of the Brisbane office of Jamieson Fastener Co., 20 Eva Street, Coorparoo. I'd like to buy another copy of our War History and would be glad of your advice as to its availability.

On the way up here I stopped at the Midway Motel and met **Dick Latimer** for the first time. Would like to contact any 2/4ers in Brisbane and look forward to hearing of them."

From **Peter Armstrong**, Double Bay: "I wish to thank the Association for their concern for my welfare during my recent stay in Concord.

We all know that Fred and Johnny regularly give their Saturday afternoons to visiting the Hospital. Until I experienced it, I did not realise how much it meant to have their friendly old mugs turn up just when they were needed.

Fortunately, the services of Repat. were more than enough to restore my health and put me on the way to solving my problems and it is a great help in doing this to know that one has the privilege to belong to an organisation which will do whatever it can to help. Thank you all and God bless you."

From **Hugh Whittleton**, "Wirra Birra", Lynch's Creek: "My daughter Cathleen has left R.G.H., Concord, after a year of training there. She has taken up a Scholarship at the Teachers' College at Armidale. It was a very hard decision for her to make. We had 32 inches of rain last year and for the first three months of this year recorded 37 inches. All the best. Thanks Hugh, and the best of luck to you and yours."

Neil Wallace, Maclean, writes: "I enjoy reading of the doings of the chaps in W.O.G. Was in Kyogle recently and met **Charlie Grove**—also had a call from **Laurie Stephenson** who was a P.O.W. with me. Had a trip to Concord recently checking on an operation but everything was OK." Glad to hear you are fit and well—see you at Tamworth.

From **Frank Sadler**, Dubbo: "**Brian 'Kanga' Hill** (Sigs.) was in Dubbo recently representing Blayney at a Legacy Conference. He says all is OK with him. I delivered the Sympathy Card to the late '**Curly**

Harris' wife, who seemed genuinely affected by this thought from members of his old Unit."

Thank you, Frank, for your efforts.

Chas Reynolds, "Square Knob", Narrandera: "I enjoy reading the W.O.G. each month, especially 'Cock's Column' as it keeps one in touch with names sometimes forgotten. Wish I was closer so I could attend some of the functions."

To "Cock" Robin from **Pat Darrell**, Turners Avenue, Blackwood, S.A.: "Maybe this letter will puzzle you greatly. I know you, but you may not know me. So many years have passed since I last saw you in the Islands. Anyway to set things a little right—my name then was SX2302 **Pte. P. J. Kidd**, 13 Platoon, C Coy. 2/4 Bn. I was the Bren gunner for that particular section. '**Coffee**' **Royal**, **Dr. Dibden**, '**Mac**' **McAdam**, **Peter Denver**, **Ken Abbott** and **Roy Harrison** are only a few of us over here. I myself would like to get in touch with some of the others from over your way—**Stan Davies**, '**Bull**' **Crocker**, '**Buck**' **Buchanan** and **Bill Leary**. I was talking to '**Mac**' **McAdam** from Mannum, who gave me your address and said you would put me on the right track. I used to have a 'White Over Green', but it was mislaid and I lost contact, so now I am enquiring.

When talking to 'Coffee' Royal the conversation got around to holidays and 'Coffee' mentioned the holiday shack you have over there on the Hawkesbury. As we intended spending our holidays over your way I was very much interested. My family and I don't care much for city holidays. I thought maybe I would enquire if it would be at all possible to get it for next Xmas. Here's hoping. It would give me a chance to see some of the fellows again and renew old friendships. I probably would not recognise some of them so I hope to obtain their addresses also.

The last time I tried was 18 years ago when my first son was a baby. I have never had the chance again till now. Since then I've acquired six girls and four boys—quite a large family. So you see the shack would be very much appreciated.

I wanted to go to Melbourne this Anzac Day, but left it too late. I have to pick up some threads there also. Could you put me on the right track? If you could circulate my name and address some of the old fellows might drop me a line and we could renew some friendships. As you will notice I have changed my name—it is now P. J. Darrell, but the boys would know me as 'Paddy' Kidd."

Thank you for your letter, Pat. We are very pleased to hear from you after all this time and hope you will keep in contact. I have written to you re the Holiday Shack. Best wishes to you and your family—"Cock" Robin.

Frank Mallett, 31 Mill Crescent, Acle, Norwich, Norfolk, England, writes: "Still working in our London Office in the Royal Albert Docks but take a medical tomorrow and hope to get my deep-sea pass again. Seems ages since I was in Aussie, but hope to be on my way soon. My best respects to old friends."

Thanks, Frank. All our best to you and a special cheerio from fellow "Sigs" **Johnny Meehan**, **Bruce Cork** and "**Rusty**".

Leo Dunn, 8 Wilma Street, Bentleigh, Melbourne: "Saw **Vic Francis** at the P.M.G. Fancy Dress Ball in a Father Xmas suit. I was done up as Harold Holt in

a skin-diving suit. I'd like to hear from **Bruce 'Munga' Barnes** and **Chas Waller**."

Thanks for the subs, Leo. The car stickers have been forwarded. Best of luck, mate.

At the Meeting:—

As I saw the boys: **Fred Searle**, **Harry Wright**, **Harry Gjedsted**, **Jack Jordan**, **Bill Luck**, "**Rusty**" **McWilliam**, **Athol Heath**, **Johnny Morrison**, **Mick "Mild" Steele**, "**Slim**" **Pollock**, **Cec Chrystal**, **Dick Pinson**, **Frank Frizell**, **Peter Cade**, **John Copland**, **Teddy Hopkins**, **Ernie Swain**, **Gaydon Collis**, **Ted de Satge** and **Peter Armstrong**.

"**Dick**" **Pinson** and his band played at the Marrickville Bowling Club on Anzac Day for the Diggers' Show. He and **Charlie Hanson** breasted the bar and got to talking to the Head Steward who, when he spotted the W.O.G. badge, asked if they knew **Ken Moses**. He was Ken's cousin **Alan Cameron** and sent regards to Ken and all his mates. Sorry to hear that **Dick's** wife **Rene** has been ill. We wish you all the very best, **Rene**, for a speedy and complete recovery. Congratulations to **Dick** and **Rene** on their Silver Anniversary.

Cec Chrystal had a ring from **Duncan Russell's** wife, down from **Brisbane**. **Duncan** (ex 2/4th Tpt. Officer) has been seriously ill, but is now making good progress. He sends his regards to all. Sorry you've missed out on W.O.G., **Duncan**, but that has now been attended to. Our very best wishes to you and **Mrs. Russell**.

Ernie Swain reports that **Dick Chamberlain** (R.S.M.) is a member of **Bundeena R.S.L. Club** and he's going to bring him into a meeting. Also there are five 4th Bn. (14-18) men in their Sub-branch as well as four 2/4th'ers. "**Doc**" is their Patron as well as ours. The other 2/4th is **Tom Dawson**.

Was pleased to meet **Ted de Satge**. **Ted** is original 2/4th and travelled on the same bus as I from **Lancer Barracks**, **Parramatta** in October, 1939.

Congratulations to **Piper Graham Jewell** of "our" **Parramatta Caledonian Pipe Band** on his winning two **Bronze Medals** at a recent **Pipe Band Contest** at **Warwick Farm**.

Congratulations and thanks also to **Drum-Major Ken Clark** and all the **Parramatta boys** for the wonderful display on **Anzac Day**. We certainly appreciate it, **Ken**.

Committeeman **Bill Luck** journeyed to **Hobart** recently as **N.S.W. Delegate** to the **Australian Blinded Servicemen's Associations Federal Congress**, where he was elected **Vice-President** of the **Federal Body**. Congrats, mate.

Pat and Janet Lahey have gone off to **England** and **Europe** for eight months' holiday. **Pat** intends to buy a car in **England** to tour **Europe** at their leisure. Good luck **Pat** and **Jan**.

More News for Anzac Day:—

Had a yarn to **Ben Connor** whose daughter, **Margaret**, is making her debut at the **R.S.L. Victory Ball** at the **Trocadero**. **Margaret** had expressed a wish to wear the **Battalion's Colours** at her presentation. The last monthly meeting approved her request unanimously.

Ron Stennett had seen **Denny Burns** whose health would not permit his attendance at the **Reunion**. Best wishes for a quick recovery, **Denny**.

Johnny Hawkins met **Brian "Kanga" Hill**, **Blayney**, at **Narromine** recently. **Brian** was off to **Trangie** buying sheep.

Gordon Murray was happy to report all was well with him and sends regards to all.

Had a pleasant yarn with "**Snowy**" **Whitehouse**, **Noel Woolcott**, **Roy Garner** and **Kevin King**. **Kevin** suggests we should have a 2/4th night at various clubs such as **Hornsby** where "**Snowy**" has been on the committee for 15 years. What about coming along to a monthly meeting and organising something, **Kevin**?

"**Slim**" **Pollock** was very pleased to see **Bill Shearwin**, **Mudgee**, and spent an enjoyable day with those other "splendid fellows of 'C' Coy."

John Copland, **Ryde**, mentioned that **Len Wilson** 4 Bn. (W.W.I.) had just joined **Ryde R.S.L. Sub-branch** and **Club**. Other 4th Bn. men in the Sub-branch are **Stan Johnson**, **John Davis** and **Arthur Burrows**.

Jack "Horsedocter" Huston mentioned that he would sound out the possibility of a **Country Reunion** at **Canberra** or **Queanbeyan**.

Committeeman **Fred Staggs** must be very proud of his **Chatswood-Willoughby R.S.L. Youth Club** after their wonderful showing on **Anzac Day**. Smartly attired in their "**White Over Green**" uniforms they were certainly outstanding as they took up their positions in **Martin Place** to applaud the passing **Units**.

Ernie Swain reported he had seen **Andy Kerr** and **Wal Bickley** at the **R.S.L. Bowling Club** at **Sutherland**.

Padre Tom Keyte was pleased to meet his friends again. The **Padre** had a particularly long yarn to **John Meehan** and **Bruce Cork** his Bn. cricketing colleagues.

North British News:—

Frank Frizell had departed and I was about to go when I walked **Ted Swadling** and his mate **Wally Ford**, an ex-**Griffith** man. **Wal** has a very high position. (He drives a crane on top of the 50 storey **Australia Square** project). **Ted** had recently seen **Fred Driscoll**, "**Nedda**" **Erskine**, **Arthur "Smacker" Webb**, **Fred Apthorp** and **Ron Ewbank**.

Ron Booty said he was sorry he was unable to make **Anzac Day**.

Johnny Morrison was with **Vic "Wichita" Crowhurst**, of **Tathra**, still in the "**Big Smoke**" after **Anzac Day** but flying home that day.

Jack Reynolds, **Merriwa**, reports that his son hopes to get his **Arts Degree** this year. **Jack** says his 11-year-old daughter is good **Uni-** material, too.

Jack "Cheekie Charlie" Keating, **Jerry Coughlan** and "**Bully**" **Hayes** paid us a visit, also **Peter Armstrong** who had seen **Reg "Pommy" Cole** at **Museum Station**.

Johnny reports that **Jim "Stumpy" Agnew** from **Tumut** had called in. **Jim** on holidays, had been to the **North Coast** and **Queensland**.

It was a surprise when **George Friend**, 25 **Palmerston Avenue**, **Vaocluse**, joined us. **George** would like news of **Maurie Pickles** (the first casualty at **Wewak Point**), **Claude Lunn**, **Johnny Graham**, **Johnny Shearer**, **Alex Jack "Pom" Wallace** and "**Ike**" **Ready**. **George** had a yarn to **Tim Lamont**.

"**COCK ROBIN**"