



White Cedar Green

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE 2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

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Patron: Major-General I. N. DOUGHERTY, C.B.E., D.S.O., E.D.

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Next Meeting: Friday, 1st September, 1967, at 8p.m. Royal Naval House, Grosvenor Street, Sydney

THERE IS STILL TIME TO BOOK FOR OUR
1967 ANNUAL COUNTRY REUNION
AT

TAMWORTH

ON

6 HOUR WEEKEND, 30th SEPTEMBER - 2nd OCTOBER

Bill Smith and his energetic committee are all set for the best Country Reunion ever. Guest Speaker will be Major Tom Chambers, 4th Bn. R.N.S.W. Regiment who is shortly to return from Vietnam. It should be most interesting to hear the real facts from someone we know.

The Reunion will officially commence at 4.30 p.m., on Saturday, 30th September, when members will assemble outside the R.S.L. Club for transport to the Memorial Gates at Anzac Park. After the Wreath-laying Ceremony members will march through the City Streets to the R.S.L. Club for the Reunion Dinner.

The Ladies' Dinner will be held at the Club also. Mrs. Peggy Hall heads the Ladies' Auxiliary and ladies can be assured of a very enjoyable evening. After the Dinners members and their ladies will mingle in the main dining room for refreshments and introductions before moving to the main lounge where a dance will be held. A barbecue has been arranged for 4.30 p.m., Sunday, at "Mornie" Peters farm on the outskirts of the City.

The following bookings have been made to 7th August:

Harry and Marjorie Gjedsted
John and Doris Jordan
Esca and Vera Riordan
Jimmy and Eunice Dubber
Doug and Connie Grove
Ian and Edna Wallwork
Jack and Mavis Humphries
Tom and Freda Clarke
George and Vera Catt
"Nicky" and Mrs. Allerdice
Alan and Mrs. Shannon
Ron and Mrs. Ford
Vince and Mrs. Bowman
Rusty and Barbara McWilliam
Tom Provians and his Queensland Contingent

Jerry Coughlan
Bruce Cork
Johnny Morrison
Jock Parker
Johnny Miller
Jim "Cock" Robin
Cec and Phyl Chrystal
Fred and Dorothy Searle
Harry and Hilda Wright
Rex and Norma Everson
Sam and Eileen Hughes
Phil and Glen Smith
Geoff and Peggy Hall
Jack and Joan Chaseling
Alf and Mrs. Schweitzer

George and Mrs. Sugden
Bill and Mrs. Smith
Frank and Mrs. Foster
Mrs. Molly Irvine
Athol Heath, Wal Henry
Rupert Carrington
Frank Frizzell
John Meehan
Les Adams
Chas. Hansen
Bill Wall
"Slim" Desmond
Ted McCaffery
Dick Pinson

Add your name to the list NOW! Book with BILL SMITH, 23 Denne Street, West Tamworth.
ACCOMMODATION—Hotels; Bed and Breakfast from \$4.00; Motels from \$4.15.

AUGUST MEETING

There was a particularly good roll up (for a Winter meeting) on the 4th August. The committee had a very busy meeting prior to the general meeting and, although they spent 20 minutes over the allotted time, were still unable to get through all the business requiring attention. In fact it was decided to hold a mid-month informal Committee meeting in future to discuss general business and so enable the regular meeting to be completed within the set time. These informal meetings are to be held at various clubs in selected areas the first being at Chatswood R.S.L. of which club **Fred Staggs** is Deputy President.

A surprise "visitor" to the general meeting was **Dick Chamberlain** who came along with a contingent from Bundeena including **Ern Swain**, "**Tommy**" **Dorsey** and a young recently-returned veteran of Vietnam, **Cullen Hart**. Dick contributed \$21 to become a financial member for life and promises to become more active in Association affairs—he doesn't sing a bad "Wog" song either!

Also at the meeting were 4 Bn. R.N.S.W.R. members **Tom Hall**, **Peter Keating**, **Ray Hirst**, **Norm Harries**, **Kev Marshall** and **Don Burgess**. On behalf of his Unit Tom accepted a gift of vitreous glass enlargements of the Colour Patches of 4th Bn. A.I.F. and 2/4th Bn. for mounting on their Memorial. These patches were donated by **Peter Cook** whose generous action is very much appreciated.

THE LAST POST

4 Bn. A.I.F.: 7232 **T. Evans**; 6997 **R. Hall**; 2615 **H. M. Hallett**; 75 **L. J. Honey**; 6037 **R. L. Lutherburrow**.
2/4 Bn. A.I.F.: NX119472 **A. P. Alchin**; NX142761 **Alex "Snow" Livingston**.

HOSPITAL NEWS

Fred Searle and **Johnny Morrison** report having visited the following members in R.G.H. Concord: **Kevin Spurway**, Ward 17, "**Beau**" **Rowbotham** (17), **Jeff King** (7) and **Jed Burns** who is being transferred to Lady Davidson Home, Turrumurra.

Fred Searle entered R.G.H. Concord, on 7th August, for a further kidney operation. Best wishes, Fred, for a complete and speedy recovery—and many thanks to your good wife Dorothy for carrying on the Treasurer's many tasks in your absence.

"Cock" Robin has returned home from R.G.H. and is progressing although far from 100 per cent yet. He has expressed his very deep appreciation of the many enquirers after his health and is especially grateful to President Harry Gjedsted and Secretary George Stack for the letters.

NOTES FROM THE TREASURY

Hon. Treasurer **Fred Searle** has asked us to advise that in the interest of economy, and in keeping with modern business practice, the issue of individual receipts for subscriptions, etc., will be discontinued, unless specifically requested. All monies received each month will, however, be acknowledged in "W.O.G."

Guessing Competition: Ticket butts and cash for 165 books have been received so far. A few members have advised that they have not received their books and replacements have been forwarded. Books of

tickets have been sent to all Association members in Australia. Fred would be grateful of advice if any member has not received his book.

Subs and/or Raffle money have been received from Reg Angel \$4, Alex Miller \$4, Kev Peacock \$10, John Falla \$5, "Pop" Williams \$2, W. G. Bartlett \$2, Bill Facey \$6, Stan Harris \$2, Fred Catley \$4.05, Tom Clough \$5, Geo. Ormiston \$2, Jack Ormiston \$2, Barry Herwig \$2, Alec Maxwell \$2, Cec Hogan \$4, H. "Nugget" Greedy \$4, Vince Bowman \$8, Tom Provians \$2, Chas. Adams \$2, M. E. Hardie \$2, Bill Smith \$2, Bill Parry \$2, Harry Whitman (Donation).

STOP PRESS!

FOURTH BATTALION MEMORIAL DEDICATION

The Ceremonial Parade and War Memorial Dedication Ceremony arranged and carried out by 4 Bn. Royal New South Wales Regiment was an outstanding success. Time will not permit a full report in this issue but a full coverage will be provided next month. Suffice it to be said that members were proud and happy to welcome "**Nedda**" Kenna V.C. and Mrs. Kenna to Sydney to take part in the proceedings and the number of members and their ladies at the Ceremony surpassed even the most optimistic estimate.

COCK'S COLUMN

When in hospital, I asked the chap in the bed next to mine what Unit he was in. When he replied the 2/4th Bn. I almost fell out of bed. His name is **Clarrie Brasier**, his address, 85 Old Canterbury Road, Lewisham. Clarrie enlisted from Glen Innes and travelled down with **Perce Lansley**, **Allan Legge**, **Gordon Biddle**, **Bob Richardson** and **Reg McPherson**. He would like to hear from Perce Lansley. At Ingleburn, Clarrie and several of the boys were stricken with enteritis, and went to hospital. The Unit had sailed before they returned but once a 2/4th-er always a 2/4th-er. Pleased to hear of you again!

I heard that **Stan Carpenter** called in at the meeting on his way to New Guinea, also **Morrie Wilson** called into the North British, then on to the meeting. I wish to sincerely thank Pat, Athol and Julie Heath for the lovely "Get Well Soon" card received from them. I also wish to thank our two stalwart hospital visitors **Johnny Morrison** and **Fred Searle** for their visits and gifts, and many thanks to Russ McWilliam for calling out there.

Kevin Spurway, Parramatta, called in to my ward at R.G.H. Kevin was in Ward 17. I was very pleased to see you Kev and hope you're well again.

Our thanks to two ladies of Enfield/Croydon Park R.S.L. Ladies' Auxiliary for their very kind thought in visiting our Association members at R.G.H., Concord.

"**Cheeky Charlie**" **Keating** mentioned in a note that **Jack Maloney's** youngest son passed away recently. Our sincere condolences to you and Mrs. Maloney, Jack.

Our very deep sympathy too, to **Mike Richardson**, Lindfield in the sad loss of his wife recently.

"**Soccer**" **Coomber** reports meeting **Les Berriman** at Bankstown R.S.L. one Friday recently.

Sorry to hear **Ron Small**, Rockdale, is not enjoying the best of health. Hope you are soon on the mend, Ron.

IN THE MAIL BAG

From Pat Heath, French's Forest: "I have been going to write to you for weeks but somehow or another something always happens and I put it off. Even now I am surrounded by Tax in some class or another but never mind I shall "do or die" and get this written.

Jim, it has occurred to me that there may be some members of the Battalion with "littlies" that would love to go to Tamworth and have no-one to leave the kiddies with. As you know I will not be going this year as I fly to England the following Wednesday after the reunion so I would be only too willing to take care of the youngsters if there are any. I would have room for . . .

- (1) A boy and a girl, or
- (2) Two boys, or
- (3) Two girls.

This offer isn't made lightly and I most certainly will not drop out of it at the last moment so if you know of anyone just get them to ring me and I'll see what can be done. I don't think we need to say that they will be well taken care of, etc., etc.

As you probably know Athol and I went to the 4th Battalion Ball at the Australia, Harry and Marge were there of course in an official capacity. It was a really enjoyable night and decorations were all W.O.G. The balloons on the wall were white over green and Major Tom Hall had special little pennants or flags made for the official table. All in all I thought very, very thoughtful and much appreciated . . . what a nice crowd of youngsters they are; only one thing about it though, it makes you feel very old.

Best wishes to you, I do hope you are better and that you enjoy the weekend at Tamworth . . . all being well I'll see you at Ladies' Night! Keep your eye on that larrikin of mine!"

Thank you Pat for your very nice gesture—it is certainly appreciated.

From **Kev Peacock** (C Coy.), Charleville, Queensland: "I am afraid I have been rather remiss in the last couple of years—failure to notify change of address, etc. I moved from Rockhampton 18 months ago and my new address is as above.

I return herewith raffle butts together with my cheque for ten dollars. Would you kindly allot the remaining eight dollars to payment of subs. Thank you for continuing to send "White Over Green" as I always look forward to its arrival and will continue to do so.

Have another 2/4-er in the town here. One **Alex Collins** (known as Beetles) from A Coy. (I think). Alex runs his own motor vehicle repair business and is a top class mechanic. Also have a 2/8th man here—**Les ("Darky") Phillips**. He received a rather bad wound in the leg when he was hit by shrapnel from a tank shell during manoeuvres at Walkers Creek early in 1945. Les was hospitalised for a long time and took no further part in the proceedings.

I hope to be travelling south on vacation towards the end of the year and if possible will pay a visit to the much spoken of North British and see what goes.

This town as you know is in South West Queensland, population about 6000—this and other western parts of the State are still feeling the effects of the disastrous droughts but there has been winter rain

recently and hopes are high for an improved season at long last. I am Stipendiary Magistrate with headquarters at Charleville and as I have to hold courts at nine other smaller centres in the south-west I am required to do quite a lot of travelling.

Well, must say cheerio for now. Hope the raffle is an outstanding success and that the Association continues to prosper. Kind regards to yourself and fellow members and I look forward to seeing you at the end of the year."

From "**Butch**" and **Peg Warren**, 29 Pettit Street, Yass: "We are both very grateful for the work you city members and your wives do for the Association. Should any of you be passing through Yass at any time you would be most welcome."

From "**Bush**" **Bennett**, Macksville: "Have a nice little farm here and apart from too much rain and floods life is pretty good. See a bit of **Tom Clough**, **Bub Graham** and **John Smith**, but so far have not been able to drop down to see **Dick Bawden** at Port Macquarie. Billie joins me in sending kindest regards."

From **Jack McLoughlin**, Middle Park, Victoria: "Had an accident injuring my arm recently but hope to be in Sydney late in the year and will look up some of the boys."

Graham Jackett, Sandy Bay, Tasmania: "Finally caught up with one—J. F. E. Chapman-Mortimer—in Burnie and duly collected his \$2.00. He is reasonably well and became a father again a few months ago." Thanks Graham and congratulations "Chappy".

George "Turnbull" Parry, Pymble: "Am always interested to read of my old mates in "C" Coy. and Mortar Platoon and wish them all the best. Also, my good friend George Stack. We are sorry to hear your wife is not well George and offer our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

From **Kev Franklin**, Woody Point, Queensland, requesting another copy of War History.

From **Jim Quinnell**, "Omega", Yetman enclosing \$4.00 for two books of raffle tickets. Thanks, Jim.

From **Bill Facey**, Kyogle, sending \$6.00 for raffle and subs: "Regards to **Fred Gardiner**, **Bill Colley** and **Bill Burns**. Bill's wife Aimee reports that their only son has been in the Navy for seven years, one daughter is married and two others are nurses.

From **Vince Bowman**, Warialda: "Have booked for the Tamworth Reunion and hope to see you all there."

From **Jack Hardstaff** advising change of address to Finley and mentioning he had met up with **Bill Michell** ("A" Coy).

From **Bob Lever**, Glenbrook: "On the way to work on Sunday I met a 2/4th chap, **Eric "Sailor" Humphries**, who works around the country. He left the Bn. at Haifa and joined 2/3rd Bn. **Harold Conkey** would be his Company Commander.

From **Monty Siems**, 152 Marston Avenue, Dagenham, Essex: "Am kept up-to-date with events in Aussie via "W.O.G." It's pleasant to read of old pals meeting and enjoying each others company and conversation. Read in "W.O.G." of the possibility of chaps coming over here on trips. I'd be pleased to hear from anyone visiting London. They could phone me at 01,580,4468 and I would be happy to show them round London at the weekend."

From **Bill Humphries**, "Nerrigundah", via Bodalla. Congratulations on the good job you are doing for the old 2/4th Fred. Would be glad if you would

pass on my best wishes to **Bill Colley**, Bathurst, and a welcome to any of the old mob at my place any time."

From **Aub Priest**, Kyogle: "Reading an issue of "W.O.G." I saw **Don Watson** mentioned for the first time I can remember. I was very pleased as I often wondered what had become of him. Was talking to **John Hinett** and he hopes to accompany me to the Tamworth Reunion. Have seen **Bob Gardiner**, **Doug** and **Chas. Grove**, **Jack Chaseling**, **Wal Henry** and **Ian Wallwork**. These boys make any ex-2/4er welcome always. At the last annual meeting of the R.S.L. I took on the job of President after 15 years as Secretary. Please convey my best wishes to the Executive of the Association and regards to all members of the 2/4th. Will be seeing you all at Tamworth, I hope."

From **Tom Clarke**, Dorrroughby, via Lismore: "I do look forward to receiving my "W.O.G." each month. Had the pleasure of taking a run over to Kyogle to spend the day with **Doug** and **Connie Grove**. Hope to see you all at the **Tamworth Reunion!**"

From **Ken Moses**, Melbourne: "Went through the latest Middle East War from the desk side—by far the best way I can assure you. There was a funny side though which might appeal to other 2/4ers. When the war started all Melbourne TV stations were desperately short of background—visual shots of the area. The Moses photographic album of Palestine, Gaza, Jerusalem, the Wailing Wall, Lake Tiberias, Kantara, etc., rapidly made the Channel "0" screens. It took these photos 26 years to make the grade but they served a good purpose and had half a million audience. Many 2/4th characters appeared in these shots including one of **Mark Whitty** with Arab kiddies selling oranges at the Gaza Rifle Range." (Ken is Chief of Staff of Channel "0". Ed.)

From **Max Rungie** in Scotland: "Having a wonderful time in Scotland. Now in Edinburgh at Army and Navy Club. Called on the Black Watch H.Q. in Perth—chock full of interest. The 2/4th Bn. is shown on their family tree as an affiliated Unit—quite a thrill! I thought other members of the Unit might like to know of it. Balhousie Castle, Perth, formerly the seat of the Earls of Kinnoul is now Regimental Headquarters and Museum of the Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment)."

From "**Brig.**" **McAtamney**, Kogarah: "Was pleased to read that dear old **Padre Tom Keyte** was at the Anzac Day March on Anzac Day. He was one of the finest men I have ever met. My best regards to one and all."

From **Cec Hogan**, South Grafton: "Moved here from Cowra early this year and have only now begun to feel settled in. Fortunately, we could not find a house to our liking in Grafton itself, so bought one in South Grafton. It has several things in its favour: 1. Not far from "The Good Intent" Hostelry. 2. On the road to the golf course and 3. High and dry and flood free. If any of the boys come up this way my house is easy to find. They will direct you."

From **Fred Catley**, Brisbane: "Hope to make it for the **Tamworth Reunion**, together with my wife and will look forward to seeing all old 2/4ers."

From **Lal Peek**, Blackalls Park: "Met Dick Minnit at our local Club—looked for five minutes before I really picked him out. Anyway he sent me some copies of "W.O.G." and from then on we had plenty

to say. I'm to call at Belmont Club when I go over and will I suppose end up with a skin full. Regards to you all."

From **Miss M. E. Hardie**: "Do you know of anyone who might be interested in a book of the History of 30th Battalion A.I.F.? It was presented to my late brother Jim by Lieut-Col. Sloane in 1939. I would very much like to get it to someone interested who would value it. It would be a fine addition to someone's Library. Best wishes to the Association."

From **Chas Adams**, 6 Springwood Avenue, Woy Woy: "Would it be possible for you to send me the names and addresses of the three ex-2/4 Bn. members living in this area. I had the pleasure of meeting them at our Anzac Day Reunion and thought we might make up a party to visit Naval House for the monthly meeting."

(Chas., the members are: **Doug Barry**, 18 Welfare Street, Woy Woy; **Bob Lane**, 24 Schnapper Road, Ettalong and **Ron Rayment**, 23 Lurline Street, Ettalong.)

FROM PAT LAHEY IN LONDON

(Continued from July issue)

Left Cairo at 6.30 p.m. to do the three and a half hours trip to Port Said as the boat was leaving at 10.30 p.m. We were the second last of seventeen coaches to arrive back at 2 a.m. The Army really turned it on—they were all over the road, in ditches, etc. Don't think they had a clue what was going on—does any Army let on? They had their usual smashes, etc. On one occasion I even noticed an officer give a truck a four gallon drum of petrol. The soldier put it straight into the petrol tank; still trying to work it out, were they really short or didn't they trust the boys out there even. Thinking of a possible relative or the black market! Pireaus and Athens were a vastly different proposition. Taxis still very cheap, did a three and a half hour trip with Janet and four others for \$6.00 Aust. All the main spots plus a few extras. Didn't get to a lot of places away from Athens, so we are thinking of going back—watched a beautiful sight at night at the Acropolis, etc. A play was heard over the amplifying system whilst they played with lights, called Light and Sound. Next stop was Cannes to let off two-three hundred passengers for a Rotary Convention to be held at Nice. France is expensive. Had a bus ride to Nice, but not enough time to go to Monte Carlo so missed the gamble. Still might make it. Lisbon we took a city coach tour and it was very nice—we covered a lot of area. It has a very beautiful (partly covered by a vine) roof park, tropical style, gold fish in abundance, very big; must be honest people, couldn't see them lasting in Aussie. The countries we have visited could teach us a few points (especially London with 12 million people in a small area)—that's for a later edition. My impression was Portugal had a sleepy atmosphere. It's a dictatorship of a fashion, but at the moment apparently not as harsh as most of them, but think more could be done for the people generally. Been in London since 26/5/67, now have a '65 Devon Caravanette, leave for Dover tomorrow, Calais Sunday, Le Havre, Wednesday and Paris about Friday—ooh la la! Regards Janet and Pat."

"COCK ROBIN"

(To be continued in August issue)