



# White over Green

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE 2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

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PATRON: Major-General Sir Ivan Dougherty, C.B.E., D.S.O. & BAR, E.D., B.Ec.

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**Next Meetings: Friday, 6th November, 1970 at Royal Australian Naval House, Grosvenor St.,  
Friday, 4th December, Ladies' Night Sydney, at 7.30 p.m.**

## NEWCASTLE REUNION — FANTASTIC!

(Another Outstanding Country Reunion)

Our Country Reunions, traditionally held annually over the 6-Hour Weekend, go from success to success.

Newcastle proved the point most strongly. Although only able to attend the Sunday Evening Smorgasbord at the Golf Club, I heard the comments of everyone present which all added up to one thing—a fabulous "happening". Although this issue is given over to the Return to Wewak, the Country Reunion was a function of no less importance and will be fully covered by "one who was there" in November issue.

Congratulations to all who made it such a "wow"—those who did the planning and work—and those who "paid and played."

Each one who participates in our functions contributes toward their success.

### LADIES' NIGHT + — WARNING ORDER

All troops, men and femme, are reminded that Ladies' Night is traditionally held on the evening which would normally be December meeting night, that is the first Friday in December, this year the 4th December. Details are not quite finalised, but please keep this date free — and book a baby-sitter.

As more and more wives attend the Country Reunions, so the Ladies' Nights become stronger and

stronger as new friendships are formed amongst our ladies over the weekend.

It is hoped to organise a "bigger and better" function so stand by for action. Full details will be given in next WOG.

### KAMBEK LONG WEWAK

At the outset let us thank all those wonderful people of Wewak who felt that those who sacrificed their lives and our wartime efforts in the area worthy of perpetuating by way of developing a glorious park surrounding the Monument erected in 1946 on the spot where the surrender of the Japanese forces in the entire area took place. The whole concept and execution should be accorded full approbations. That is one side of it. The other is the wonderful hospitality of the self-same people to all who made the trip. As they said:

"You came back and we're glad you did".

Thanks a million — we love you all!

### WELCOME TO WEWAK

So you have returned, after two and a half decades, to pay homage to those, most of whom were not yet of that age in years, who paid the supreme sacrifice for their country's cause — let us then pay that homage, without bitterness or remorse which would surely detract from their sacrifice.



**THE RETURN**

You did come back —  
 'twas a long way to come  
 to enrich memories which you cherish  
 of Aitape/Maprik/Wewak — you were one  
 of many who did not perish.

You knew not all of us who died  
 without fear, remorse or hate,  
 but we will in spirit be at your side,  
 when you march through Steven's Gate  
 with other Pilgrims from far and near  
 this twenty-fifth anniversary year.

We died in hope of Peace for all—  
 your presence at our Shrine answered our call  
 for silent contemplation — a moment of your time  
 to ask what can be done  
 for this world of yours and mine.

Together we'll march — side by side  
 through Steven's Gate — along Robertson Drive;  
 as the mellow notes of the Last Post sound—  
 let thoughts on Peace and National Unity abound.  
 "We are one people" — was our death in vain?  
 Thanks, mate, for journeying so far — and back  
 again.

KERRY LEEN

(Kerry recited this during the Memorial Park  
 Ceremonies, from the steps of the Monument).

**SEQUENCE OF EVENTS**

**SATURDAY.**

- (1) Flight to Wewak (lunch at Townsville).
- (2) Met hosts and settled in.
- (3) Buffet Dinner at Wewak Country Club, where we met all the locals, also Sir Ivan, Brig. Eric Martin and others who were on the V.I.P. plane, as well as Frank and Mrs. Gattenhoff and others who were doing the Ansett Grand Tour. One resident's pronouncement: "Wewak's biggest social night ever!"

**SUNDAY**

- (1) Opening of Cape Wom Memorial Park.
- (2) Barbecue lunch at Moem Beach.
- (3) Tours of battle areas, etc.
- (4) Beating of Retreat Ceremony by 2 P.I.R.

**MONDAY**

- (1) Wreath-laying at Wewak Cenotaph.
- (2) Presentation of Gun Association 4th Bns. to Denny Barnard as President of Memorial Park Trust Committee and President Wewak R.S.L.
- (3) Massed Band Recital.
- (4) Big pella Sing Sing, Wirui Mission.

**TUESDAY**

- (1) Flight to Hay Field.
- (2) Visit Maprik Parade at Hay Field.
- (3) Flight to Aitape (for a lucky few).
- (4) Return to Wewak Ball—(a fitting finale).

**WEDNESDAY**

"Old Lang Syne". What a wonderful group of people —**friends**—to have to leave behind, and I'm sure each and every person in the two groups facing one another

on the tarmac at Boram Strip meant every word of the song.  
 We who attended echo "Snow" McLennan's sentiments, "See you all at the 50th Anniversary!"

**YOU SAID IT**

Dick, a quick message to you and all members of 2/4 Bn. Many thanks for the recent donation of \$50, but more than that—thanks for coming.

Denny Barnard, Pres. Wewak R.S.L.

"You came back." We are glad you did—but most of all we thank God you were here before.—William A. Green.

"Up the White Over Green! Wonderful to have you back here for the Return To Wewak. Best of luck to you all."—Ted Hicks, Dist. Comm.

To my Australian friends to whom my life is dedicated. They brought me into the New World, fed me, clothed me, and taught me the new things that had happened during my captivity.—Chint Singh.

To my mates in the 2/4 Bn. I only wish to say thanks for the trip and that Jack is trying to give up the beer and not making too bad a job of it—only downing about 30 a day. He sends his best wishes.—E. Kenna.

"—I'll see you all at the 50th Anniversary."—"Snow" McLennan. (Hear! Hear!—Dick M.)

**REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**

The Assn. of 4th Bns. will again hold a Wreath-laying Ceremony followed by a Smoko on Sunday, 8th November.

**Assembly Point:** Cnr. Phillip Street and Martin Place.

**Fall-in:** 2.45 p.m., move off 3 p.m.

**March:** To Cenotaph, Martin Place, then via George Street to Macquarie Place.

**Smoko:** Will be held at the Gallipoli Legion next to the North British Hotel in Loftus Street, commencing about 3.30 p.m. Cost will be \$2 per head. This is a day of importance which should never be lost sight of and members are earnestly requested to make every effort to attend.

**CAPE WOM MEMORIAL PARK**

The opening of the Park and the unveiling of the surrender Monument's several plaques was the highlight of the Return to Wewak celebrations. In brilliant sunshine and in a delightful tropical setting overlooking the sea the Park was absolutely impressive with a long double walk of crushed coral leading to the Monument which had been raised about 6ft. with steps and well-grassed slopes. This is a stark-white pyramid-shaped stone monument, standing some 10ft. high; it has a bronze plaque which reads:—

"On this spot at 1015 hours on the 13th September, 1945, in the presence of a parade of over 3000 troops comprising detachments from the Royal



Australian Navy, every unit of the 6th Australian Division, 8th Infantry Brigade, 3rd Australian Base Sub-Area and 2nd New Guinea Infantry Battalion, and from the Royal Australian Air Force.

Lieut.-General HATAZO ADACHI, G.O.C. XVIII Japanese Army, surrendered his sword to Major-General H. C. H. Robertson, C.B.E., D.S.O., G.O.C. 6th Australian Division, and signed a document of unconditional surrender of his army and of the Japanese Naval Forces under the command of Rear-Admiral SATO.

Senior R.A.N. Representative present: Captain F. B. Forbes.

Senior R.A.A.F. Representative present: Air Commodore A. L. Walters.

Erected 21.1.46."

The Park is a credit to the planners and those who carried out the work—over 2,000 volunteers rolled up their sleeves!

The whole scene was gloriously colourful with the uniforms of the 2 P.I.R., Constabulary, C.M.F. Unit, Boy Scouts, Red Cross, etc.

Better than words are the colour slides of Ron Thatcher, particularly the one from the roof of a building, embracing practically the whole Park and centred on the Monument which, from above, showed out starkly white against its green grass surround—our colours!

The Park was opened by the Minister for Repatriation, Senator Holton; District Commissioner Ted Hicks acting as Master of Ceremonies.

The March through the arched gateway and up the double walk lined on either side by native Constabulary and soldiers at the Present was something worth experiencing. I think it was Cec Chrystal who stated that it was just as impressive as treading the walk to the Cenotaph at Canberra. I agree.

The main speakers at the unveiling of the Monument were: Mr. Holton; U.S. Ambassador Rice; Sir Ivan Dougherty (for Aust. Armed Forces); Chint Singh, Indian Army; Gen. Sukiyama, Pres. Jap. Veterans; and, of course, our now close friend, Denny Barnard, Pres. of The Cape Wom Memorial Park Trust Committee; the Vice-Pres. of the Wewak R.S.L., and others.

Plaques were unveiled to: The V.C. winners (the late A. Chowne and our own Nedda Kenna); All Servicemen who paid the Supreme Sacrifice in the area; Congressional Medal winners; and All who fell in the Sepik Campaign.

Some 7,000 natives, mostly in their Sunday Best, watched proceedings.

The free-fall parachutists were most spectacular, one landing within yards of the target in the centre of the Park.

#### WEWAK SCHOLARSHIPS

Following the Sing-Sing on the Monday, Father Ruiter, of Wirui Mission, visited the home of Ernie Smith.

A very convivial evening was spent in company with Ernie's house guests Harry Gjedsted, Russ McWilliams, "Snow" McLennan and Phil. (Blah) Smith. The problems confronting the local natives were discussed, particularly education and the above members

were moved to seek a practical way to assist the wonderful local people who are grappling at first hand with such matters.

The up-shot was a recommendation to the Assn. committee. On the strength of this, the committee proposes to support at least two cholarships annually. Known as the 2/4 Aust. Inf. Bn. Wewak Scholarships, these will be made available to the boy(s) and girl(s) selected by the scholarship committee comprising Father Ruiter, Wirui Mission Ernie Smith, District Health Offr.; and Denny Barnard, Pres. Memorial Park Trust Committee and President Wewak R.S.L.

Each scholarship will, for the most nominal figure of £50 per annum, provide all essentials plus accommodation at a high school in the Wewak District.

The whole concept is wonderful and Harry and those who showed the interest and forethought to go thoroughly into the matter are to be congratulated. I believe many members would be prepared to pledge themselves to contributing regularly into any scholarship fund set up for the above purpose. At such an economical figure, our Assn. could add lustre to its name in the Wewak area (in particular) by supporting far more annual scholarships than the proposed two.

The Assn.'s contingent to Wewak—the numbers, dress and bearing on parade, and general behaviour made a tremendous impact on the local residents (themselves wonderful people!) and these scholarships will perpetuate the Assn.'s name up there for many, many years, I trust.

#### PRESENTATION GUN

Peter Cade did a fantastic job of restoration and mounting the Jap Heavy air cooled Browning-type machine-gun which was presented to the Wewak R.S.L. Sub-Branch President, Denny Barnard, by "Snow" MacLennan on behalf of the Assn. of 4th Bn. This simple ceremony was carried out in the shade of trees in the grounds of the Sepik Club over a beer with a large group of native ex-servicemen. The gun will be utilized in the Cape Wom Memorial Park as the Park Trust Committee sees fit.

Dear Dick,

We have all just about recovered after the long week-end; it is a pity you did not remain for the Return to Wewak Ball—the Commander of the Anzac took his shoe and sock off just before midnight; of course, the inevitable happened, it got lost and could not be found until after the Anzac left next day. We forwarded the shoe and sock addressed "TO ANZAC AT SEA" so trust it will catch up with him. It was only that afternoon that he threatened to brig any of his crew that came aboard incorrectly dressed!

Denny Barnard insists that I send you a copy of my rhyme (attached); the Pidgin English line in it means "There was no old woman living in this shoe".

The photographs have all been developed and we shall be forwarding you some very soon.

The Return to Wewak got a great write-up in the Tracy Press, California, U.S.A., by a friend of mine with whom I correspond, Carroll R. Anderson, a Lightning pilot who flew many times over Wewak;



he was not one of those that shot up our fellows at Cape Wom in lieu of Wewak.

Among the many quips heard over the week-end was the following (we have declared it the Winner): "I was flown out of Wewak 25 years ago with a wounded foot—now 25 years later I am flown out with a wounded head, a man is mad." Admittedly it was the morning after the Wewak Ball.

I am enclosing a few Errata slips for the booklets your chaps may have. The slips correct a few literals—these things to happen! Would appreciate if you would give the booklet a plug in your R.S.L. press; all money goes to the beautification and maintenance of the Park.

The enclosed copy is from Denny and self to WHITE OVER GREEN.

Trusting the rhyme amuses,

Sincerely,

KERRY LEEN

P.S.—Forgot to mention the Commander's shoe was found behind the door in the ladies' lav!

Thanks a million, Kerry, for these contributions to W.O.G., the copy of "WANTOK" and, together with Denny B., the copy of "RETURN TO WEWAK", which is an excellent booklet which I recommend to all at \$1 per copy. (Dick M.)

**CINDERELLA**

*March 2/97*

'Twas the "Return to Wewak" Ball,  
Held at the Sepik Club,  
A jolly good time being had by all—  
But, lo! here's the rub—  
Who stole the Commander's shoe?  
Was it you? was it you? or was it you?  
No, 'twasn't I—'twasn't me—'twasn't us;  
Then who?  
Made off with the Commander's shoe?  
Visions of Cinderella locked in Anzac's brig  
Caused the band to play "I Hate Yer 'Cos Yer Feets  
Too Big".  
An old boogie-woogie rhyme  
Written by the late Fats Waller—back in '39.  
The clock struck midnight—'twas time to flee  
Back aboard Anzac—anchored in the Bismarck Sea  
And report to the ugly sisters  
With one bare foot covered in blisters.  
A fruitless search was carried out next day  
Then the good ship Anzac sailed away—  
With the Commander in the brig in a state of shock  
Still minus one shoe and minus one sock.  
Later the shoe was found in the ladies' toili  
By a Sepik Club employee by the name of Oli,  
†Who said "Nogot lapun meri e stap inside long shoe  
One pela sock dasol, mi tok tru".  
The shoe was posted to "Anzac at Sea"  
With a written note of apology—  
**From who???** Come on, from who???  
No, 'twasn't I—'twasn't us—'twasn't me  
Who stole the Commander's shoe and sent it to sea.  
Must have been those 6th Div. blokes or the 2/4th  
And they've gone south and the Anzac north—  
Anyway, we don't give a damn about the Commander's  
shoe or his blistered foot,  
Send him a cable, "Oi, wot was yer doin' in the  
ladies' toot?"  
† "There was no old woman living in **this** shoe"

**LAST POST**

NX16052—Geoffrey Roy KING (B. Coy.), after a long illness (see Welfare Report).

NX46336—Jim KEEVERS, Byron Bay, 21.9.70, after an illness of 12 months. (Info.: Bill Sheage.) Jim loved the sea and was a powerful swimmer, as many of you will recall. (Thanks for the Info., Bill.—Dick M.)

NX . . . .—Ted De SATGE, Ashfield. Following a road accident. Ted's death was a tragedy, but I am now glad that I made time to visit him as soon as I heard the news the night prior to his death on my way to an Assn. of 4th Bns. meeting. At that time he was reasonably comfortable and appreciated seeing my photos of the Wewak visit.—(Dick M.)

VALE THE VALIANT!

**COCK'S COLUMN  
WEWAK WALK-ABOUT**

I caught the bus at Carrington Street with most of the boys. We pulled into Chatswood to pick up the "North subsidiaries" and were farewelled by some of their ladies, Phyl, Angela and Amanda Chrystal, Enid Latimer, Gwen MacLennan, Shirley Faulder and Rita Staggs. who bid us au revoir.

On the Hercules plane—news from some of the boys, Bill "Bing" Riley. Bing saw Ken Webb and Len Evans. Denis "Danny" Karanges met Jack Keating. Pat Sydenham, Wagga, brought regards from Harry Lindsay, Bob Jackson, Bruce Stuart, Fred Archer and John Lurd.

Fred "Lofty" Taylor, Harbord, would like to get in touch with Jack Armstrong, Mortar Pl. Jack either came from Molong or Orange (93-2130).

One of the crew of the plane was Sgt. Keith Bosley, Flight Engineer, 37 Squad. Well, Ian Wallwork, Kyogle, is Keith's father-in-law, and Tom Provians is Ian's cousin. We are all pleased to have met Keith.

Bob Ferguson, Dee Why, met Bill Fogden (B. Coy.). Bill is in charge of P.M.G. Sales Branch, Chatswood. Bob promised me he would be at the next meeting.

Leo "The Lion" Lynch, Grafton. Leo's two daughters, Kathleen and Elizabeth, sailed for New Zealand the night before we left for Wewak. Leo's son Damien is in his 6th year of study for the Priesthood at St. Patrick's College, Manly. Leo met Mick Green and Roy Kingsley at Grafton and Bill Osborne of Taree, where Bill is a driver on the railway.

Frank Sadler, Dubbo, met Roy "Bonnie" Leslie (C. Coy.) and Ernie Jones, both work at R.A.A.F. up there.

Ted Jackson met Dave Endean and Ferd. Pegg at the Legacy Annual Conference. Sydney Ross Smith, 5 Wisdom Street, Connell's Point, is sorry he is unable to attend our meetings as he is President of an Association which meets on the same night.

Bill "Bully" Hayes, Newcastle, said the Newcastle Reunion was going along quite well. He has met Cliff Curran, Jim Sherritt, Alf Carpenter, Bill White, Joe Behie, Bill Walker and Bill Kennell.

Dick Bawden said that Mick Steele, wife and daughter were staying in Port Macquarie. Dick left in such a hurry for Wewak, did not have a chance to say good-bye.

—"COCK" ROBIN.

(Continued next issue)