



White War 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 Meeting: Annual General Meeting, Friday, 5th February, 1971, at 7.30 p.m. Sharp,
Royal Naval House, Grosvenor St., Sydney**

SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The 25th March, 1971, is Greece's National Day and celebrates the gaining of Independence by Greece from the Turkish Empire.

1971 will be the 150th Anniversary of this historic and National day. Similarly, 1971 is the 30th Anniversary of the 6th Australian Division's campaign in Greece and Crete. It was at Bralios Pass in Greece, in 1941, that the 6th Australian Division and the New Zealand Expeditionary Force were formed into an ANZAC Corps for the second time in history.

We have received preliminary advice that a contingent of members of 6th Australian Division will be invited to Greece in March, 1971, by the Greek Government and it is possible that the contingent may be air-lifted, free of charge, to Athens and return.

Information at this stage is limited, but it is important that WE prepare and plan and organise ourselves so that OUR Members are fully prepared and ready when the time comes.

I should like to point out that our Battalion may, of course, only be allotted a very few seats on the free aircraft and this is why we have endeavoured to arrange a Charter Flight on a Credit Plan.

To this end, Russ McWilliam and myself have made contact with GREEK representatives in Sydney and, as a result, Charter Flights will be available on time payment if required, at a greatly reduced fare.

Broadly, the situation is as follows:—

- A. One, and possibly two, aircraft will be made available by courtesy of the Greek Government. These aircraft will airlift members of the contingent free of charge to Athens and return and the stay in Greece will be approximately three weeks.
- B. Accommodation: Good hotel accommodation is available at approximately \$4.00 per day per person and it is anticipated that billeting will also be arranged.

C. In the event of the "Free" aircraft not being available, Charter Flights to Athens and return will DEFINITELY be available on the following basis:—

1. Air fare — Sydney to Athens and return — \$624.60 (half price)
2. Air fare on Terms — Deposit — \$100.00. Balance repayable over 2 or 3 years at 6½% flat rate interest. Terms security will require sound assets or personal guarantee.

1971 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WARNING ORDER: Members are urged to attend the Annual Meeting, on 5th February, as there is a Notice of Motion in regards raising the Annual Subscription to the Association, due to cost of printing and distributing W.O.G. Come and hear the reasons and have your say. Due notice in full will be given in the January issue.

3. Stay in Greece or Europe on Charter basis can be up to three months.
 4. It is anticipated that the Charter Flight will depart Sydney on 23rd March, 1971.
- D. Tours of Greece and Crete will also be arranged in this Tour. Costs not known but it is anticipated that they will be very reasonable. Will advise details later.

I am of the opinion that we should have a uniformity of appearance for this Tour and subject to 6 Division Association approval, suggest that we wear tan shoes, grey trousers, white shirt and Association tie (6 Div. tie if available) and dark blue Bowling Club type blazer with a 6 Division motif pocket. I suggest this type of blazer so that those who have Bowling Club blazers can use them on this occasion and so save money. A separate 6 Division motif pocket can be stitched over the Bowling Club blazer pocket and removed again if necessary after the Tour. A price has been obtained for blazer complete with pocket, or a separate pocket, and these may be further reduced when we know the quantity required.

Prices are:—

Blazer complete with 6 Div. Pocket \$25.00
6 Division Pocket only \$2.50

Your Committee has a lot of work to do on this "Return to Greece" project and your early advice that you are going is essential, therefore we will have to set a "deadline" of 28th February, 1971, and ask your co-operation by completing and returning the pro-forma, published herein.

One point to consider—if you are fortunate enough to get on the "Free" aircraft, you can book your wife on the Charter Flight. The alternative, of course, is to both go on the Charter Flight.

Remember, there are injections, vaccinations, clearances, Passports, etc., to be obtained, so would suggest that you start some preliminary enquiries and not leave it until the last moment.

See You In Athens!!

Harry Gjedsted.

FAREWELL 1970 WELCOME 1971

It has been a vintage year for the Association thanks to the strong support of members and excellent progressive and I must say dedicated work by the Executive and Committee.

Unfortunately this issue will not be published until after Xmas, but I do trust that all had a happy Festive Season. My thanks to those who sent seasonal greetings. These were greatly appreciated. Please take this as my return wishes to you all.

The "Return To Wewak" was the highlight of the year, with the subsequent establishment of the Wewak Scholarships raising the ideals of our Association to new heights.

So, onward into 1971 and greater events — particularly the "RETURN TO GREECE".

WEWAK SCHOLARSHIPS

The 2/4th Infantry Battalion Wewak Scholarships are now well established with Ernie Smith, Father Ivo. Ruiter, and Danny Barnard comprising the basis of the Wewak Committee. The 2 Scholarships will be selected from recommendations submitted from each

School, and we have received letters of thanks and appreciation from all concerned in Wewak. As a means of "Diarying" our Scholarship commitments it has been agreed that our September Committee and Monthly Meeting will henceforth be called the "Wewak Meetings" and all we need now is Financial Support in the shape of Donations from our Members. In creating this Scholarship we have also established a Memorial to our Battalion in Wewak and I do appeal to you for your financial support — our objective being a minimum of \$100 per annum, but I would like to believe that we could raise \$250 per annum, and extend our Scholarship to 5 children. Don't delay — act now and help us start building our Scholarship Fund.

Harry Gjedsted.

("Financial Support" has already commenced with a cheque for \$10 from Leo Lynch to me for the above fund. Go to the top of the class Leo — and thanks for the card — Dick M.)

MONIES RECEIVED

R. Stennett (Life Membership)	\$22
Matt Bristol	\$2
Arthur Harridine	\$2
Brig. J. E. Martin	\$2
Nance Smith	\$10
Gordon Crisp	\$10
R. J. Murphy	\$2
Les Leach	\$2
Bill Kensell	\$2
Doug Meecham	\$4
Bruce Stewart	\$2
Don Ellicott	\$4
Pat Sydenham	\$2
J. Ringrose (Badge)	\$1
Joe McGrath (Ladies' Night)	\$6
Bill Eslick	\$4

GUEST SPEAKER

We were honoured to welcome "Tony" Marsden Hordern (ex-R.A.N.) to our October meeting and hear his graphic and moving story of the war-time rescue from the Sepik area of a group of Indian P.O.W.

Those who went to Wewak will know the story of Chint Singh and his group who were brought out of the Sepik area by Tony's navel party, only to lose their lives in a plane crash. The exception was Chint Singh, who had remained for the War Crimes Trials.

Tony's comment on the Wewak trip (as recorded by "Cock"):

"I never thought I'd end up in the army — if I'd known what a lot of pirates the 2/4th turned out to be, I would have jumped ship at Wewak in '45 and stayed there.

The way old guns, old bombs, and oceans of beer were spirited away at Wewak!! If I'd known what you blokes were like I would have checked the liquid alcohol in my ship's compasses every night my ship was under 6th Division Control!"

(From the Navy, thats a compliment! Thanks for visiting us Tony. May your bollards never grow rusty. Dick M.)

COCK'S COLUMN

Newcastle Reunion:

That wonderful Newcastle Reunion, I wish to sincerely thank **John "Bookie" Rai**, **Bill "Bully" Hayes**, **Joe Bohle**, **Harry Peaue**, **Jim Sherritt**, **Cliff Cunan** and **Alf Carpenter** for their excellent effort, in giving us such a Grand Reunion, the same sincere thanks to all their ladies and others, who made our stay a very enjoyable one.

Travelling up on the early morning train, was joined at Woy Woy by **Bob Lane** of Ettalong. Bob was only going up for the day, but was getting the night train home, as he had other commitments. Good effort Bob.

Belated congratulations to **J. C. (Frank) Woods**, of Lightning Ridge, who this year, was responsible for that area's first ever Anzac Day March. **Dick Bawden** gleaned this information from the "Lightning Flash".

Brian Morris (number 2 son of Dick) recently turned 21. Congratulations! At Wagga, Brian met **Perc. Dalla**, and at Adelong, **Roy Moores**. Brian wishes to thank Perc. for the trouble he took in locating him. **Dad, (Dick)** had added a note on the W.O.G. wrapper that Brian would be in Kapooka Camp.

Vic. and Eileen Frances on the 19th October celebrated their 40th year of married bliss. Congratulations Vic. and Eileen. (Hear! hear! Dick M.)

It was great to see **Jack Robertson** at the October Meeting (and the Reunion). Jack and Dawn travelled all the way from Broken Hill!

Others I met and their news:—

Archie and Eileen Lewington, Corowa. Archie said that **Jack Webb**, (B Coy) Parkes, would have liked to have come, but was too ill. We are very sorry to hear of this Jack, and sincerely hope by now, you're well again.

Alex Miller, Gloucester. He was sorry, brother **Ron** could not make it. Alex is Treasurer of the Gloucester Rifle Club, and has two daughters, Helen and Julie. Helen is doing a Teachers' Course at Newcastle College and will graduate in December. Julie is doing 4th Year at Gloucester High. Julie wants to leave, but Dad wants her to do 6th Year. Keep on at school Julie, please. Wishing you two lassies all the best.

Ernie Bowdidge rang **Jim Sherritt** to let him know he would be going to Norfolk Island on a Bowling trip, and was sorry to have to miss the Reunion.

Joe Bohle, New Lambton, was expecting his cousin, **Maj. Alan Bohle**, to be there. (He was.) **Ron Coutts**, Castle Hill, sent apologies to Joe.

Frank Frizell. Frank flew back from Tasmania on Thursday, booked in at the Great Southern Sydney, but missed **Bruce Stewart**, who left there that morning.

Jack Maloney, Bowraville. Jack said that **Tom Clough** has not been enjoying the best of health. Sorry to hear this Tom, hope by now, you're your old self again. (Cheers from me too, Tom. Dick M.)

Jack Crowley, Drummoyne, (ex Dubbo). Said he was unable to attend monthly meetings, due to work. Jack would have liked to have seen **Frank Sadler**, **Don Ellicott** and **Larry Dooley** there.

Dick Pinson said he had been to see **Monty ("Basher") Boyd**, who sends hearty good wishes and every success for the Reunion. **Jack Dubber** also visited Monty.

Alan Bohle, Wahroonga, met **Bill Key**, at Turramurra.

Bill White met **Glenn Ackerman** at Laurieton and **"Snow" Moores** at Toukley.

Peter Foster, Tamworth, brought apologies from **Nick Allardice**, **George Sugden** and **Dave Peters**.

Stan Andrews, Lismore, good effort Stan, it's a long way. Stan picked up **Charlie Grove** at Kyogle and called into Port Macquarie, but heard that **Dick Bawden** was in hospital. Very sorry to hear of this Dick, as soon as Stan told me, I contacted **Dick Latimer** to let him know, but Dick, on the ball as usual, knew. Hope by now you are well Dick. Letter and "Get Well" card on the way. We missed you Dick.

Charlie Grove said **Jack Lister** could not make it on account of the drought, was hand-feeding cattle. **Bob Gardner**, working shift work on a dam. **Ian Walwork** also feeding cows. **Doug Grove** has shifted to Ballina. I am sorry you four boys could not make it.

Albert "Stumpy" Wright, Mayfield (or is it Jim), said the Reunion Dinner was the 2nd Anniversary of a Major Operation for "Stumpy", he lost 4st, reckons he's beaten the "rap" and will be present at future Reunions. We all sincerely wish the same, and will be looking out for you.

Sam and Eileen Hughes, Kempsey. Sam saw **Harry and Noreen Dowling**, **Jim Brown** and **Esca Riordan**.

Pete Clack (C Coy). Pete's first Reunion, he is going to join the Association, his address: 90 Womboen Rd., Lambton.

Harry Stafford, President of the 4th Bn. Assn. Very sorry to hear that Harry had been in Concord for four weeks. This was Harry's 3rd 2/4th Country Reunion, and will be at our next.

Frank and Min Wright, Belmont. Frank was disappointed that **Bob and Dawn Gardner** could not make it as they were to stay at his place. Frank would like to know any news of **Jack Appleby**.

Tom Gorman, Eastwood, met **"Stumpy" Wright**, for the first time since the Tablelands, long time no see.

Eileen Lewington (Archie's Spouse) said that **Bert and Linda Hudson** were coming, but the distance factor stopped them. Had it been Wagga, yes!

Congratulations to **Johnnie Jordan** who is now a Registered Leriatrie Senuix Male Nurse at Lidcombe Hospital. **Harold Westwood** has been very ill in bed for three weeks, with chronic Bronchitis, and has been nursed by John. Keep up the good work John.

Dorothy Searle said that **Norm**, her son-in-law, broke his leg skiing at Thredbo. Sorry to hear of this Norm, we wish you speedy mending.

Les McNamara, 51 Cornelia Road, Toongabbie. Les has three daughters, Diane, Janet and Margaret, 17, 13, 9 years. Diane has won bursaries for the past two years. Congratulations Diane. Janet is at Catherine McCawley School, Westmead, and is excellent at knitting and crochet. Margaret goes to St. Anthony's School. Congratulations to you lassies also.

Bill Dooley, New Lampton. Bill said that **Bill "Snowy" Walker** is not enjoying the best of health; very sorry to hear this Bill, hope by now you're on the road to good health again. **Bill (Dooley)** met **"Robbie" Robinson** at Hamilton R.S.L. Club, and heard that **John Hough** is at Narromine. He will check.

Peter Cook ran into Jack "Brig" McAtamney at the St. George Leagues Club. Jack was sorry that he missed out on Wewak.

Harold and Noni Bowman, Crows Nest. Harold met Bill "Sluggo" Wildman and Jenny Carroll.

Cliff Curran, Stockton. One of the Newcastle Reunion Committee. Cliff was "Skipper" of the "John H. Walter", the lovely big launch on which we sailed around Newcastle Harbour. I did not see you doing the "Sailors' Hornpipe" Cliff.

Peter and Patricia Denver, from Hindmarsh Island, South Australia. Our "longest distance" entrant, and the only inter-stater. Good effort Peter. Peter said that Father "Paddy" Reid has improved in health, and is a very busy priest. We are all pleased to hear this good news Father, and hope you continue to improve. Peter also met George Walton, Max Rungie, Fred Dibden, Ken "Coffee" Royal, Roy Harrison and Tom Mort. (Cheers from the gang to you all — Dick M.)

Ernie ("Ollly") and Gladys Twist, Merrylands. Their son Ernest is now married, and living at Greystanes.

Noel and Marie Woolcott, Canley Vale Heights. Noel met Ray "Scotchie" McCartney. Ray was sorry he could not make it. How about making a meeting Ray?

Les Anderson, Greystanes. Les met Norrie McGregor at Smithfield R.S.L. and Frank Mills, Fairfield, who was inquiring about Gordon Dale and some of his old mates. I see you have another resident in Greystanes, a 2/4ther's son, Ernest Twist Jnr.

Jack and Dawn Robertson, Broken Hill (another long distance entrant). Jack's first reunion for five years. Jack, at present is employed with the Zinc Co-operation as Ambulance Officer. Good to see you Jack and Dawn and hoping to again at our next Country Reunion, where ever it may be.

Space does not permit me to write of all whom I met but theirs was the pleasure and satisfaction of attending and helping to make a success of the 1970 Country Reunion.

— "COCK".

"RETURN TO GREECE" PRO FORMA

Mr. A. Lindsay,
Hon. Treasurer,
2/4 Aust. Infantry Bn. Association,
23 Ramsgate Road,
KOGARAH BAY, N.S.W. 2217

Dear Sir,

I wish to join the "Return to Greece" Contingent:

Name: (in full)

Address:

Phone No.:

Next of Kin:

Regt. No.:

I served in Greece	} Strike out where not applicable
„ „ „ Crete	
Was taken P.O.W. in Greece/Crete	
Was wounded in Greece/Crete	

I am prepared to accept the alternate Air Charter Flight of \$624.60 return on \$100.00 deposit, repayable over 2/3 years (cross out where necessary) at 6½% flat interest, and enclose herewith my cheque for \$..... representing:

1. Deposit of \$100.00 each for myself and persons (give details).

2. 1 Blazer, complete with pocket \$25.00.

3. 1 Blazer Pocket \$ 2.50.

Security for my Charter Flight are (give details)

I am prepared to stay in Greece or Europe from 23rd March, 1971, to, 1971.

Signed.....