



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: Friday, 2nd July 1971, at Royal Naval House, at 7.30 p.m.

RESERVE THIS DATE NOW PATRON'S AND LADIES' NIGHT

FRIDAY, 13th AUGUST, 1971, AT 8 P.M.

AT GALLIPOLI MEMORIAL CLUB

AT 12-14 LOFTUS STREET, SYDNEY

A NEW FUNCTION AT A NEW CENTRAL VENUE

For some time your committee has been anxious to provide an opportunity for members to pay their respects socially to our **Patron Sir Ivan Dougherty** and **Lady Dougherty**. Additionally the committee after due consideration has decided that Ladies' Night this year should be brought forward to avoid the hectic pace of the Christmas period. So it has been decided to combine both efforts this year and to hold the joint function in the **1st Floor Lounge of the Gallipoli Memorial Club** on Friday, 13th August at 8 p.m.

Members and their Ladies will find the new venue eminently suitable for the purpose with its original stone walls, excellently prepared floor, modern central bar and other first class amenities.

It is envisaged that the function will take the form of a social get together where Members and their Ladies who are interested in the aims and object of our Association can meet **Sir Ivan and Lady Dougherty** and each other in a spirit of comradeship.

Fuller details of the evening will be given in the next issue of W.O.G., but mark your calendar now for this function.

REMEMBER !! FRIDAY, 13th AUGUST PATRON'S AND LADIES' NIGHT

VALE DICK BUTTERS

It is with the deepest regret we have to inform you that the search for our dear friend and colleague **Dick "Colonel" Butters** has proved fruitless. Dick, who was returning to his home in Tasmania after visiting Sydney for his first Anzac Day March, was accompanied by his son **Don**, aged 25 years and his friend **David Richards**. Their 35 foot cutter "Ki-yu" disappeared in heavy seas in Bass Strait and despite an intensive search by sea and air no trace of them could be found.

Dick who was an original of "B" Coy is survived by his wife **Emily**, son **Doug**, 21 (at present on leave from Vietnam), daughter **Caroline** 18, and his parents **Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Butters**. To them we offer our heartfelt sympathy in their sad loss.

"O valiant heart who to your glory came
Through dust of conflict and through battle flame,
Tranquil you lie, your knightly virtue proved,
Your memory hallowed in the land you loved."

RETURN TO WAGGA FOR THE 1971 COUNTRY REUNION

Stan Blacksley the President of the organising committee of the 1971 Wagga Reunion has advised that he will be in attendance at the monthly meeting on Friday, 2nd July, and will be happy to provide any information regarding the Wagga event.

Members are assured that the energetic Wagga committee has everything in hand for a first class weekend. Make your reservations now with the Hon. Secretary, P. R. Jackson, 14 The Boulevard, Koorringal, Wagga Wagga, N.S.W. 2650. Enclose \$4 per person deposit on accommodation.

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER

At the June meeting **Dick Faulder** was elected to fill a vacancy on the committee. He was also appointed Assistant Welfare Officer to help **Dick Latimer** in his ever increasing calls on sick and indigent members. Welcome **Dick Faulder**.

WELFARE REPORT

I'm afraid I haven't been very active since last reporting due to a rather severe attack of flu and one is not welcome with the Nursing Staff in Hospital when suffering from the wog. Enid has done my visiting for me so the blokes have not been neglected and from comments passed by a couple of patients they prefer the "stand in" welfare officer.

VISITED IN HOSPITAL

Dick Bawden. Dick had another nasty ticker attack and if he doesn't stop working as hard as he does for ex-servicemen and their dependants, will become another statistic. Please ease up **Richard**!

Wesley (Jack) English had a very torrid time after a nasty abdominal operation, but I'm pleased to report is on the road to recovery.

Johnnie Ringrose had a painful operation on his back to rectify an infection to an old gun shot wound and I'm pleased to report is now home recuperating. **John** is due back in R.G.H. in a week or so for a final check up.

In civvy street **Johnnie**, who is a Government Bus Driver, picked a good time to drive a wheel chair instead of an Atlantean. During his stay at R.G.H. he

was a wonderful help to Enid and I, keeping us informed on the progress of inmates, particularly **Wes English**—Thanks **Johnnie**.

Mrs. Staggs, Mother of **Fred** has been in R.G.H. suffering from a back and leg complaint, but is now recuperating at Lady Davidson Home. I saw **Fred** this morning and **Mrs. Staggs** is staying with him and **Rita** for the weekend. **Fred** said his mother was tickled pink by visits from R.S.L. representatives and from Enid on our behalf.

Rick Carter is hospitalised again and I regret I have not been able to see him. Hope to be able to do so very soon.

SICK AT HOME

Rusty McWilliam. I hate to say this, but I think **Rusty** is paying the penalty for a misspent (but very enjoyable) youth. **Rus** is confined to barracks with very tender feet, which, like King Farouk, he swears is not gout.

CORRESPONDENCE

A phone call from **Tiny Eglington** from the Tweed Heads area with a request for assistance to obtain a release for his son from C.M.F. duty and information on a pension claim.

I suggested he contact his State or Federal member re his son and his R.S.L. Sub-branch re pension claim. Good luck, **Tiny**.

Long distance call from **Ken Moses** to say our efforts on his behalf look like bearing very big fruit. **Ken** will probably benefit to a small degree only, but that is how **Ken** wanted it. His campaign was in the interest of all of us and it looks as though the evidence we compiled on the mortality rate of 2/4 Battalion members will be used to support an investigation into the entire Repatriation set up. **Ken** is particularly anxious to obtain a Statutory Declaration from **Claude Raymond**—*digitus extractus*, **Claude**.

Medical history sheet from **Johnnie Hawkins**. **Johnnie** has lodged an appeal for a pension increase and has done it through **Eric Carter**, Legal Aid—it's in good hands **Johnnie** and please keep me posted.

LAST POST

We were all shocked to read of the tragic and untimely death of **John**, son of **Pat** and **Peter Denver**, in an aircraft accident last week out of Adelaide. To **Pat**, **Peter** and family, our heartfelt sympathy.

A cutting from **Dick Bawden** from the local Cabramatta paper reporting the death of **Major Walter Morrison Huston** ex HQ Coy.

Whilst looking at the plaques in the Memorial Garden at Dee Why R.S.L. recently, I found plaques to the memory of:

NX 5168 J. Ogg. Jack was a member of 12 Pl B Coy and transferred to the 2/1 Bn soon after our arrival in Palestine.

NX 11187 D. W. Barry. If my memory serves me well, this was **Dave Barry** who went in the bag in Greece or Crete. But I can't find a reference in W.O.G. Please let me have any information you might have, chaps.

NX 87113 G. Bourke. I'm afraid I can't find any reference to this member. Info, please.

NEW GUINEA PLAQUES

A very welcome letter from "**Sluggo**" **Wildman** with information regarding the place and circumstances of

the death of **Mick Lawry**. Enclosed was a generous donation of \$10 towards our Plaque Project. Thanks, **Sluggo**.

Peter Cook rang to say **Frank Pohlmann** has donated plaques to **Frank Hood** and a member of our choice. Many thanks, Frank.

We are particularly anxious to get our plaques to Wewak as soon as possible, so I would ask all members who have promised a plaque and those who would like to donate one, to forward your cheques together with relevant details to **Allen Lindsay**, cost \$3.50 each.

APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT WELFARE OFFICER

At the last General Monthly Meeting, **Dick Faulder** was elected to the Committee and was appointed Assistant Welfare Officer.

I can't say how pleased I am about Dick's appointment. Firstly, because we can now achieve two and a half times as much as I have achieved, and secondly, because if ever a bloke has the welfare of our members at heart it's **Dick Faulder**. Without his assistance the **Ken Moses Project** would have taken us much longer.

PERSONAL

My sincere thanks to the members who sent me good wishes for an improvement in health—to those who signed the card I received I've done as you ordered—"I'm on my feet and I've picked up my gear". Our sincere wish to all members,

GOOD HEALTH
LITTLE DICK AND BIG DICK.

COCK'S COLUMN

On a recent trip to Campbelltown I visited the R.S.L. Club and was pleased to meet **Vince McDonnell**. Vince and his wife Iris were shortly on their way to the Gold Coast for a holiday. Vince mentioned that **Bill Reid** (B. Coy) of Douglas Park, was not in the best of health. Sorry to hear this Bill and hope you are well again now. Vince also mentioned seeing **Douglas "Darby" Munro** who was fit and well.

Called in to see **Ken "Dasher" Deacon** and **Lily**, his wife, in their lovely Campbelltown home. They send their best wishes to all.

On Anzac weekend I had family commitments at Portland and Kandos with my nephew-in-law **Tom Nicholson**. On the Friday night called in to the Lithgow R.S.L. Club and, as in the past, was made most welcome. Sec./Manager **Herb Wilson** and Treasurer **Ron Wilkinson** again shouted "a round" with compliments to the 2/4th Bn. They extend an invitation to any members passing through to call in and make themselves known. **Tom Ousby** (Sigs) was in the Club and sends regards to all. **Hylton Harvison** was in earlier in the day and **Les Bayliss Perce Lane**, **Jack Hine**, and big **George Cole** have been seen recently. Thank you Herb and Ron for a very pleasant evening at your club, also for the excellent Club Badge.

At Kandos R.S.L., with my nephew **Roy Morrison**, was made very welcome by Sec./Manager **Mr. Jack Blakeney**. On Anzac Day I marched with the Kandos men and after the ceremony was the guest of the Kandos Sub-branch of the R.S.L. I am most grateful

to the Executive of the R.S.L. for their welcome and generous feeling of fellowship, and for the magnificent luncheon and liquid refreshments.

At the North British I have seen various members from different areas since Anzac Day. Among them were **Dick Pinson**, **Dick Morris**, **Ken Webb**, **Ted Gamble**, **Fred Hudson**, **Ted McCaffery**, **Ted Swadling**, (Griffith) and **Jack Heaney**. News from some of them: **Jack Heaney** was unable to attend the Anzac March but the family was well represented by his two sons **Pat** and **John**, who marched with the Vietnam contingent (Jack says there are four more to go). **Ted Gamble** has recently seen "**Massa**" **Brooks** who missed Anzac Day because it coincided with the wedding of his daughter **Sue**. "**Massa**" has promised to go to the next meeting with Ted. Ted also reported enjoying a delightful evening at **Dick** and **Enid Latimer's** home for the showing of the Wewak slides.

Ted Swadling from Griffith on his annual Anzac trip enjoyed the company of his comrades. **Fred "Bludso" Hudson** met **Harold Begbie** (H.Q.) and **Gordon "Snowy" Cowie** and reports them O.K.

Others to call in and leave their names in **Eileen's** notebook were **Jerry Coughlin**, **Colin Campbell** and **Ted Wearne** from Brisbane Ted called three days in a row and failed to see my 2/4thers. Sorry Ted that I missed you but I called in on the Friday about 5.40 p.m. and also failed to meet anyone.

At the May meetings: Those in attendance were **Harry Gjedsted**, **Russ McWilliam**, **George Stack**, **John Meehan**, **Cec.. Chrystal**, **Bill MacLennan**, **Athol Heath**, **Vic. Frances**, **Ted Fox**, **Jim Cameron**, **Dick Pinson**, "**Larry**" **Dooley**, **Dick Faulder**, **Stan Bowen**, **John Reynolds**, **Ron Thatcher** and yours truly.

Vic Frances reports meeting **Gus Kyle** and **Ken Casey**, at Shellharbour. Vic and Eileen were holidaying and were very happy to meet Gus and **Mrs. Kyle**. Pleased to hear of you again Gus—long time no see or hear. Please write.

Jim Cameron, "The Rope Man", saw **Lang Stronach** on Anzac Day—the first time for 30 years. After 23 years in the country Lang is now Commonwealth Bank Manager at Glebe, and is very happy to be meeting old comrades again.

John Reynolds, Merriwa, was given a special welcome. John asked me to thank **Don Ellicott** for travelling from Gilgandra to Narromine to attend John's mother's funeral. John also mentioned that his son **Peter**, B.A., Dip.Ed., has been teaching Indonesian at Lithgow High School for the past two years. Peter has been awarded a scholarship to further his studies in Indonesia. Congratulations Peter.

IN THE MAIL BOX:

Letters recently have been received from many sources and as space prevents us from printing them all in full we relate some news from them.

From **Lt. Col. Constance Fall** (R.L.) to **Cec Chrystal** thanking the Association through Cecil for the letter of congratulations she received on the recent award to her by the International Red Cross of the Florence Nightingale Medal. Many members will remember Miss Fall as **Matron Fall** of 2/1st A.G.H. at Gaza, Palestine in the early days of the War. The latest award was "for exceptionally distinguished service in peace and war, for great devotion to the care of the sick and wounded and for outstanding work for

the Australian Red Cross! Matron Fall was mentioned in Dispatches in 1941 and awarded the Royal Red Cross in 1942. From **Jim Brown**, Kempsey, to **Allen Lindsay** enclosing a cheque for \$30 for membership fees for life. Jim reports that a group of 2/4th members met at Kempsey on Anzac Day and drank a toast to the Unit and all those at Manresa Hall. Included in the gathering were **Harry Dowling**, **Gordon Campbell**, **Sam Hughes**, **Tom Malcolm**, and of course Jimmy himself.

From **Ken Moses**, Victoria, to **Harry Gjedsted** with items of news including info on his Numbers 2 and 4 punting system of which more will be heard when space permits. Ken mentioned that he had been approached by Publishers to write articles on the Middle East Campaign for a projected book. He also passed on some information for **Dick Latimer** regarding his (Dick's) magnificent efforts on the Welfare front. Finally Ken enclosed a cheque for the Wewak Scholarship Scheme.

From **Fred Athorp**, Griffith, expressing pleasure at the wonderful success of the Colours Ceremony and at meeting **Lady Mackay**, also apologising for not recognising a number of 2/4th Comrades of yesteryear. We have taken the liberty of offering a copy of Fred's letter to **Peter Cade** the Editor of "4th Infanteer" for use if desired.

From **Dorothy Searle**, Coogee, asking for the **Ronnie Fords'** address—anyone know it please?

From **Ken Moses** which we hope to print in full as soon as space permits. It was read out at the monthly meeting.

From **Ken "Dasher" Deacon** apologising for not attending the Anzac March because of ill health. Hopes to see us all at the Wagga Reunion.

From **Jack "Brig" McAtamney** advising that on a recent holiday he had called on "**Pom**" **Wallace** at Maclean, also our old friend **Craig Clark** of Scone both of whom intend coming down next Anzac Day. Glad to hear from you Jack and thanks for your remarks.

From **Miss Eva Morrison** with best wishes, which of course are reciprocated.

From **Esca Riordan** telling of his tour with **Vera** through Europe and sending regards to all.

John "Bush" Bennett was in Sydney for the International Rotary Convention at Sydney Showground. He stayed with **Russ and Barbara McWilliam** for a few days while his wife **Billie** held the fort at their Macks-ville property. John reports that son **Rowley** is married and settled into a Veterinary practice at Moree while daughter **Libby** was married last month to **Don Jones** a Veterinary Officer in Bourke.

Congratulations to the Bennetts and our best wishes especially to the Rowley Bennett and the Don Jones families.

Harry Gjedsted reports meeting **Fred Trender** a brother-in-law of **Bill Lennard**. Fred expresses his own and the Lennard family's sincere thanks for the help extended to Bill through Welfare Officer **Dick Latimer**.

Bill "Happy Hamo" Hamilton called in to the North British but no 2/4thers there.

Bill "Slug" Duffy (A. Coy) arrived with **Jim Wilson** (ex Moree). Sends regards to **Jack Maloney**, Bowraville, and **Tom Clough**, Macks-ville. At Leichhardt R.S.L. Bill met **Sid Coombs** from Taree also **Jacky Martin**.

Bill sends regards to **Jim and Mrs. Brown**, Kempsey, to **Shirley Vaughan** of Raleigh, and **Basil Doherty** of Murwillumbah.

Miss Eileen Cooper called in to her bar at the North British. Her arm is not yet mended but she hopes to be back in the 2/4th corner soon. Eileen mentioned that when she last had an X-ray in Macquarie Street **Sue MacLennan** introduced herself. Sue who is a trainee in the Specialists rooms remembered Eileen from Ladies' Night.

WEDDING BELLS

Congratulations to **Jim "Happy" Davis** and **Thelma** on their recent wedding. Best wishes from us all for your future health and happiness.

IN THE SECRETARY'S MAILBAG

From **Captain John Storey** now of Military Intelligence Canberra with best wishes to all.

From **Leo Gunn**, Victoria, offering to donate a plaque in memory of **Cpl. Pat Raynor** for Cape Wom Memorial Park. (Thanks Leo.)

From **Mrs. Doris Naphthali** with change of address and kind regards to members.

From **S/Sgt. D. Allan**, 6 R.A.R., Townsville requesting a 2/4 Bn. Colour patch for his collection. I found one among my treasures and obliged. S/Sgt. Allan replied by return extending best wishes to the 2/4th and many thanks for the famous "White Over Green."

From **Miss Peg Hardie** congratulating the President and all concerned for the Colour Ceremony and including a donation to the Wewak Scholarship Fund. Miss Hardie has sent a copy of the "White Over Green" to the National Library for the generations to come.

From **Leo Carter** enclosing a cheque to bring his life membership payment to \$30 and requesting news of **Keith Ross**—"Since last writing to the Association," said Leo, "I have had to retire from work due to ill health (3½ years), but some comfort I won the Opera House Lottery a couple of months ago."

From **Wem Keast**, Junee, mentioning the sad news of the late **Dick "Colonel" Butters** and enclosing subs. Thanks Wem.

NEWS FROM THE CENTRAL WEST

From **Jim Sherritt**, 26 Mulbinga St., Charlestown 2290.

During a recent visit to the Central West, I had a good yarn to **Ernie Dawe** an original Bn. member. Ernie is employed as Head Greenkeeper at the Bathurst Leagues Club and lives quite close to his work.

At Forbes I called on **Bernie O'Mara** who has a business in Rankin Street and other business interests in the town.

Bernie gave the main address on Anzac Day after the march and I have enclosed a photo and cutting from the Forbes Advocate covering the ceremony.

At the Forbes R.S.L. Club, I met **Jack Parsons** ex 2/1st Bn. who was wounded and taken P.O.W. at Retimo. Jack is Secretary and Welfare Officer of the Sub-branch. Large extensions are planned to the present Club building.

While passing through Parkes, I called at Vanderfield and Reids Timber Mill to see **Arthur Wright**. However, Arthur was absent when I called.

At all points of call where the Bn. was mentioned, the hand of friendship and hospitality was fully extended, making my trip most enjoyable.