



White over Green

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE 2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

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**NOVEMBER MEETING: Friday, 22nd November 8 P.M. Gallipoli Memorial Club
60 Loftus Street, Sydney**

"WE'RE GOING (BACK) TO YARRAWONGA"

1975 Country Reunion is to be held at Yarrawonga (Vic.)—Mulwala (N.S.W.) thanks to fast planning and action by Peter Denver in co-operation with Claude Raymond.

Peter attended September Committee Meeting to present his suggestions which the Committee readily accepted.

The site will be a glorious lakeside holiday complex (bring your own boat and "rubber duckie"), so start your planning now for 1975.

Do NOT send bookings yet, please.

YOUNG REUNION

The 1974 Country Reunion was all that we have come to expect such a function to be—a well-organised and happy week-end in an interesting country centre.

Our wholehearted thanks to Arthur Kleem, Tim West and all "Youngsters" who helped make a success of the week-end and made W.O.G.'s and their ladies from far and wide so welcome.

"Slim" Powers, on behalf of "Cock" Robin, has covered both his trip to and from Young as well as the week-end's activities, so we will make that suffice for this issue.

See you at Yarrawonga in 1975.

A TRIP TO YOUNG REUNION

(By Cec Powers, for "Cock" Robin)

6.15 a.m.: Left Carlton in heavy rain.

8.30 a.m.: Arrived Blackheath. Picked up Ron Barber and went non-stop to Blayney. Had something to eat, and then straight through to Cowra. Arrived there at 1 p.m. Went to Services Club and met Ted Harris. Ted said he often sees Hylton Batchledor, Tim West (Tim is now the endorsed Labor candidate for the next State elections), and Jack Ormiston. Ted said they were all keeping well.

2.15 p.m.: Arrived Young, booked in Royal Hotel and then went to the Servicemen's and Citizens' Club. Met "Brick" Bradford first, then went into the lounge. Met Peter Denver and wife (Pat) from South Australia, Phil ("Black") Smith and wife (Glen), Jack and Dawn Robertson from Broken Hill. Also Cliff Curran and sister, and Bob Ferguson.

Saturday

Met Lennie Hellyer, "Slim" Venn and Joe Rogini. (Joe now lives in Harbord.)

10 a.m.: Went to the S. & C. Club and had a morning session with "Slim" Venn, Ted Swadling, Kenny Webb, Ron Barber and others who came to the table from time to time.

Wreathlaying

5.30 p.m.: We all assembled in Anderson Park for the March and Wreathlaying Ceremony. Although light rain was falling at the time there were many who marched. Our President then laid the wreath on the

Memorial and we were then welcomed by the Mayor of Young.

Reunion Dinner

On arrival back at the Club I met Frank and Norma Gattenhof. Frank had a bad injury to his right hand (his car's gearbox fell on it) which was very heavily bandaged. But that did not stop him from driving up and taking part in all activities.

The Dinner went well and was enjoyed by all. Our President presented to the Mayor of Young, and the State Member for Young, copies of our war history, "White Over Green", and to the President of the S. & C. Club, our Battalion Association Plaque.

Our President then introduced Mrs. Elsie Parsons, wife of the Battalion's first Commanding Officer, Lt.-Col. Percy Parsons.

Sunday

6.30 a.m.: Got up and went to Frank Gattenhof's suite at the Town Motel and saw the Mundine-Monson fight. The result was as I expected—a k.o. win to Monson.

10.30 a.m.: Went on organised bus trip around the Young District. The trip was very interesting and the cherry blossoms were very beautiful. It was a most enjoyable trip and lasted about 1 hour.

1 p.m.: We all assembled at the Young Bowling Club for a smorgasbord luncheon, which was enjoyed by all.

Peter Denver, at the Club, told me that Tom Mort, Fred Dibden, Max Rungie, Bill Loy and George Walton all send best wishes to their Battalion mates, and are all pleased we have a "Cock's Column" to keep in touch with all.

"Bookie" Rae informed me there were about 20 members from Newcastle at the Reunion. I did not have time to get round them all, but I did see "Bookie" Rae, Jim Sherritt and Alf Carpenter.

Met Joe Wells. Joe informs me that Ken Northrop is a teacher of wool technology at Wagga Tech. Ken can be contacted at Romano's Hotel, Wagga.

Met Jack and Eunice Dubber. Jack has seen Dick Pinson, who sends his apology for not making the Reunion. Also saw Wally Moore, who had a slight heart attack and is not too well just now. Also met Jack Shearer at the Sans Souci Hotel, who wishes to be remembered to the boys.

Met "Brick" and Elsie Bradford. "Brick" says that he and Fred Burke will definitely be down for Anzac Day.

"Brick" has also been over to Mount Tom Price in West Australia to see his daughter Janice.

His son, Peter, is being married in March.

"Brick" also says that "Budda" Bowman (Warialda) was a grandfather in September and has now got his T.P.I. "Budda" sends his apology for not making the Reunion.

During the smorgasbord luncheon our President presented to the Vice-President of the Young Bowling Club a Battalion Association Plaque. Later the Plaque was placed on the Honor Wall of the Club.

Stayed at the Bowling Club, met many old mates (too numerous to mention).

8.30 p.m.: Attended Beef and Burgundy Social at Young Bowling Club. The dinner was very good and enjoyed by all. Left Club at 10 p.m.

Monday

6.10 a.m.: Picked up Ron Barber and "Slim" Venn for the trip back home.

8 a.m.: Arrived Blayney. Stopped for light refreshments.

10.30: Arrived Blackheath. Dropped Ron Barber home, then on to Blaxland, where "Slim" Venn and myself had light refreshments.

12.45: Arrived Lidcombe. Had drinks at local Hotel, then drove "Slim" Venn home, then later dropped him back to the local Hotel.

1.30 p.m.: Arrived home at Carlton.

To sum up, it was one of the best Reunions I have attended, and full praise must be given to Arthur Kleem for the wonderful organising he did.

EX-P.O.W. AT YOUNG

George Cole, Tim West, Athol Heath, Sid Young, Ken Webb, Joe Rognini, Esca Riordan, John Robertson, Irwin Wood. (From Esca Riordan.)

"Slim" Powers.

IN MEMORY OF "PADDY"

At the September Meeting Peter Denver gave a full report of the Service held in the Flinders Park Parish Church (S.A.) for the presentation of an icon and Association plaque in memory of the late "Paddy" Reid.

He presented a colour photo of the icon and plaque in situ in the church and spoke of the obvious love of "Paddy" displayed by those who attended the service.

Thanks, Peter, for so ably bringing to fruition this project.

—(Dick M.)

NOVECASTRIAN NEWS

Dear Dick,

Enclosed please find copy of Newcastle news as discussed with you at the Young Reunion.

The September monthly get-together of the Newcastle members with their wives and friends was held at the Shortland R.S.L. Club. Those who attended were Alf and Marg Carpenter and friend, Bill and Estelle Hayes, George and Heather Mitchell, with son, Guy, Jim and Audrey Wright with friends, Norman and Lorna Magin, Bill White and Athol Noble, Jim and Mona Sherritt, Harry and Yvonne Pearce, Cliff and Aileen Curran, John and Margaret Rey. Joe and Gwen Bohle were unable to attend owing to other commitments.

It was pleasing to have Jim Wright present as he is recovering from a recent serious operation, which has necessitated his retiring from work and prevented him from attending the Young Reunion.

Also on the retired list is Bill Hayes, still on the stick and limping a little, and Bill White, who has given up work to carry bricks, I mean, lay concrete, which he is busy doing at present.

The girls cracked a good jackpot and as usual, the Scholarship Fund received its 10% dividend.

George and Heather Mitchell's son Guy has his leg in plaster, the result of a recent car accident.

Jim Sherritt met the late Tommy Beasley's sister, Mrs. Bennett, at Cessnock recently and discussed at length with her the good work Tommy did on Crete when with twelve men, he drove from Heraklion to

Suda Bay to pick up urgently needed Bren carriers, Vickers guns and motors, which were duly delivered without loss back to the Battalion. The party included Sergeant Tom Beasley, Bill Leonard, Vic Hall, Len Smith, Alex Webb, Gus Kyle, Mick Miles, Bill Nesbitt, Col Halmarick, Fred Simmons, Bill Wall, George Hazel and Harry Coomber. Good names to remember.

Jim also recently met Dick Mennie's son Richard and daughter-in-law, Carol, who live in New Guinea and were visiting Pop at Belmont.

Bill ("Bully") Hayes has had his needles in preparation for his plane trip to Singapore to visit his daughter, Alicia, and son-in-law, Richard. Bill expects to fly out on the 29th October.

Regards,

Jim Sherritt.

WELFARE

John Copland is progressing favourably in Lady Davidson Hospital and may be discharged by the time you read this.

Harry Gjedsted and Dick Morris visited John and found him in good spirits.

* * *

LAST POST

NX68245 J. (JOHNNIE) JORDAN

Vale Johnnie

* * *

Johnnie Jordan was well-known as an instructor in the early years and later in the Battalion ranks where he served in the Band and as a stretcher-bearer.

Prior to the war he was an N.C.O. in the 4th Battalion (Militia).

Johnnie was active in Association affairs with years of Committee service, reaching the position of Vice-President.

To Dot and Antionette (Michelle) we extend our sincere sympathies.

Present at the funeral were Harry Gjedsted, who gave the Address and Ode, Cec Chrystal, Cec Powers, Dick and Wally Pinson, and Dick Morris, as well as representatives from Lidcombe R.S.L.

"COCK'S" COLUMN

Being retired, I intended going to the Young Reunion. **Ces "Slim" Powers** kindly invited me to go in his car with him.

But instead of being at the Young Reunion on the holiday week-end, I was at Chatswood in a hospital bed.

I wish to sincerely thank those who came to see me or sent cards and letters.

The first letter I received was from Harry and Marg Gjedsted. Thanks Harry and Mrs. Gjedsted. **John Copland**, whom I had tried to ring, was in hospital too. That did not stop John from writing. Thanks John.

From Athol, Pat and Julia Heath: "Athol was coming to see you on the Saturday, but daughter Julia went into hospital herself on that day. I am very sorry to write that Julia had an accident to her back and she was in for manipulation and traction, and they hope that will cure her problem." So do we all. I am home now Julia, sincerely hoping that you are too. Thank you Athol, Pat and Julia for writing.

Letter from **Ron Barber**, Blackheath. Ron came down for the monthly meeting, and went to the Royal North Hospital to see me, as that is where I thought I would be. Instead I was placed in the Chatswood Community Hospital. Then Ron made a trip to my home. Sorry Ron, and thank you. I have written to you.

And thanks to all those who came to see me: **Dick Latimer**, his usual efficient self, with gift (thanks Dick); **Cec Chrystal**, two visits (thanks Cec); **Cec "Slim" Powers**, two visits, and three to my home (thanks Cec); **Bill Key**. I had met Bill in North Sydney, before I went in, and had told him. We had a great yarn about early Balgowlah in the Twenties. Bill's friends were my friends. Thanks Bill for coming, and for what you brought.

Also thanks to you, **Des Finch**, for coming to see me. **Enid and Dick Latimer** rang and told him.

* * *

The Young Reunion was covered for me by "special reporter", **Cecil "Slim" Powers**.

Thank you sincerely "Slim", you did an excellent job, much better than I would have done.

Hi to all the people that "Slim" mentioned in his write-up.

I am sorry to read that **Frank Gattenhof** has an injured arm; hope it mends quickly Frank.

Hi to **Peter Denver** and the Southstrilians, and thanks for those kinds remarks they made about the Column.

Also my sincere thanks to **Esca Riordan-the-reliable** for his North Coast news, and list of the ex-P.O.W.'s at Reunion.

I am sorry to read that **Jack Chasling** was in Lismore Base Hospital. Hope you're home by now, pal, and feeling well.

Now friends, as I had a stomach operation, I have to take things easy for a while, and although I want to get into the jobs around the place, I can't. So I can sit and write, so PLEASE, those at the Reunion, send me any news—those you met, those you had not met for many years, those you wished you had met, etc. It's your column, so keep it chock-full of news.

* * *

Angela MacQueen (nee Chrystal) gained her Diploma of Education, following her B. A. in 1972. Congratulations, Angela. Angela and Paul are now installed in their own home at Eastwood.

* * *

Ken Webb, on a trip up to Dubbo, met **Frank Sadler** at the R.S.L. and had a few beers. Frank's O.K. He is the only 2/4er in that area now.

* * *

Don Baxter was not so lucky, on a trip to Canberra recently he did not meet any 2/4ers.

* * *

In the Mail Bag: Letter from **Ivan Pollock**, 5 Burdadoo St., Beverly Hills, 2209. "Slim" enclosed an interesting article about **Roy Moores**, from the Sun-Herald (June). I am sending it on to **Dick M.**, our Editor. Thanks Ivan, I took it along to the Meeting. How about seeing you at the next meeting, mate? Thanks also for newspaper cutting re cars.

* * *

Letter from **John "Brig" McAtamney**, 4 Queens Ave., Kogarah, 2217. "Brig" writes of his holiday

trip to Grafton and Maclean, where he met our old pal "**Pom**" **Wallace** (read his letter in "Mail Bag"). Thanks "**Brig**".

I saw **Cecil "Slim" Powers** at the Meeting, Friday night. He showed me your letter to him; thanks for writing. "**Slim**" and I made arrangements for the Young Reunion.

* * *

A few notes for the column from **Esca Riordan**:

At Easter, **Dot and Vic Pike** called on us for a couple of hours. They were on their way to Queensland.

* * *

At the end of August my new wife and I called at Grafton Services Club, and found **Leo Lynch, Roy Kingsley and wife**, and **Cec Hogan** having a few noggins. Also the manager and host of last year's Reunion, **Wal Sinclair**, who welcomed us to the Club.

* * *

A couple of weeks ago, we were in Brisbane for the Federal Legacy conference. On the Saturday afternoon we were the guests of **Tom Provia** and family at Morningside, where we were treated royally. Also on the Sunday afternoon I had a few drinks with **Norm McIntyre** and Tom. Norm is quite well.

* * *

On our way home, we called at Kyogle, to learn that **Jack Chaseling** was in Lismore Base Hospital, having had an operation, but he was progressing favourably. Also found **Bob Gardner** was holding his own healthwise.

* * *

Last week-end I phoned **Ruth Bawden**, and she is in very good spirits and health. Her younger daughter, **Sucllyn**, is holidaying at Mt. Hagen with her brother.

* * *

About a month ago, an old 4th Battalion veteran passed on. He was **Arthur Perry**.

—JIM "COCK" ROBIN.

MOUNT LOFTY MEMORIES REVIVED

The following item from "Army" will bring back to many memories of our sojourn at Mount Lofty, when we were fortunate enough to have nearby at "Arthur's Seat", a fine group of girls of the AWAS.

I could be wrong, but was it not Miss Douglas who was O.I.C. of that group?

"In Adelaide, former soldiers of the Australian Women's Army Service — AWAS — the forerunner of today's WRAAC, organised a memorial in honour of Col. Sybil Irving, who died last year.

Col. Irving was the Controller of AWAS between 1941-46 and Honorary Colonel of the WRAAC, 1956-61.

A plaque, which was mounted on a park seat, was unveiled by Miss May Douglas, first Commandant of the AWAS in South Australia.

The Army was represented by a former Deputy CGS, Maj.-Gen. R. N. L. Hopkins; the Commander 9 TF, Brig. I. S. Barr, and the Commander, 4 MD, Lt.-Col. Robin Hone.

Representing the WRAAC were Maj. C. Cruikshank and Capt. J. Melton."

ERRATA

1. You will agree that costs have gone sky high, but our "aerial" subscription (August issue) is still only \$1 annual subscription.

2. The correct Regt. No. of the late A. W. Wright is NX47723.

3. Following Frank Frizell's letter, I asked after Johnnie Grahame, M.M., who used to work at the **Wingham**, NOT the **Billingham**, Golf Club.

RETIREMENT FOR TOM

Well-known W.O.G. Tom Watson was accorded quite an article in "Army" newspaper, including a photo of his 48 ft. "retirement cruiser", "Coaster".

"A man who met every R & R flight from SVN in Sydney for six years, is now getting some fulltime R & R himself.

He is Sgt. Tom Watson, of 2MDPD, who leaves the Army on May 16, after 31 years' service.

Sgt. Watson has gone into the charter boat business out of Palm Beach, Sydney.

"I've always had a line in my hip pocket, so the fishing boat business seemed to be a natural to fill in my time after discharge," he said.

"One thing I'll really miss when I leave the Army will be the companionship.

"I hope this project will fill the gap," he told ARMY's Capt. Ian Edwardson.

If all goes well, Sgt. Watson will see plenty of familiar Army faces.

He intends starting a "Day in Lieu Club" for Diggers with weekends off, or on leave.

"Weekends will be pretty busy catering for fishing clubs and permanent bookings," he said, "but the Club will be a good way for me to fill in the weekdays and to keep in touch with my Army mates."

Deep Sea fishing trips are not the only use Sgt. Watson will put his boat to.

"We've got 2500 miles of the most beautiful waterways in the world we can explore without putting to sea," he said.

The "Coaster" fulfils a lifelong ambition for Sgt. Watson.

"I've always wanted to do something like this," he said.

"It's meant nine months' study for a coxswain's certificate, and further study at Technical College, two nights a week for 18 weeks for my Second and Third Class Marine diesel ticket," added Sgt. Watson."

Tom would like any fishing W.O.G.'s to form a group and have a mid-week outing. Cost per head would not be prohibitive and Tom guarantees a good time (plus fish?).

* * *

I'm careful of the words I say,
To keep them soft and sweet.
I never know from day to day
Which ones I'll have to eat!

Annual Subscriptions are due by 31st December, 1974, \$6.00.

Subscriptions	\$1.00
W.O.G.	\$5.00