



White Cedar Green

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE 2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

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XMAS GET-TOGETHER (unofficial): From 6.30 p.m. on, Friday, 20th December, at the Gallipoli Memorial Club. **NO DECEMBER MEETING.**

DECEMBER GET-TOGETHER

There will be **NO** December Meeting, but members and their ladies are invited to gather at the Gallipoli Memorial Club from 6.30 p.m. on, for an unofficial get-together.

This has proved a popular way, over the past couple of years, to finish up our year's activities, so we hope to see a good roll-up.

IN HONOUR OF SISTER BATTALIONS

Your Editor brought to the notice of the November Meeting an article from "First Post", published by the Assn. of First Battalions.

The result was a decision to make a small donation toward the plaque mentioned as a gesture of esteem and goodwill to sister Battalions.

It is understood that the 2/11 Inf. Bn. may be erecting a separate plaque. Should this be the case the donation will be divided to support both ventures. Members will, I feel sure, agree with the idea, for many had mates in each battalion and all could have nothing but admiration for the men and the units.

The article mentioned is published overleaf.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

1975 Subscriptions to the Association are due by the 31st December.

Members are urged to continue the wonderful support they have given over the years, by sending along their \$6 (\$1 subscription, \$5 for W.O.G.).

This is important:

Due to bulk postage regulations it is vital that members renew membership by the due date so that W.O.G. will be going to 90% (minimum) subscribing members with no more than 10% "free list".

The free list should need only comprise our war widows, T.P.I.'s, good friends of the Association, and to those unit associations who reciprocate by sending us copies of their publications.

LADY DAVIDSON HOSPITAL CHAPEL

John Copland was sufficiently mobile whilst in Lady Davidson Hospital to attend the dedication service of the new Chapel. 6 Div. Assn. had donated a silver chalice set for the altar and President Dr. Tom Selby was present. John reports that it was a marvellous occasion in the lovely, modern chapel, and 6 Div. patients such as himself had seats reserved for them.

MEMORIAL AT RETHYMON, CRETE

Markos Polioudakis has sent a coloured photo of the monument he has had subscribed for, now well advanced in construction. In his accompanying letter, Markos says: "The ground of the area is irrigated with the blood and perspiration of the brave Australian and Cretan soldiers who fought for the freedom of the Island in the Battle of 1941."

Of immense proportions, the monument will be situated in the vicinity of the former Olive Factory. On the other side of the road and running back along the waterfront for some distance are the "El Greko" holiday hotel bungalows to be opened in July this year.

Markos and his fellow stockholders have invited "every Australian fighter of 2/1 and 2/11 Bns. and 2/3 Field Regiment who fought at Rethymon to our hotel for hospitality for a few days". This accommodation complex is ideally situated as a base for tourists and students who want to visit the island's holiday spots and renowned archaeological features. Thus the monument will be under observation of many people of all nations for all time and Markos seems to be building it with this in mind. He intends it to be of the same worth and permanence as the memorials of ancient times preserved on Crete. The unveiling is planned for May, 1975.

General Campbell has kept in touch with Markos, and Michael Kennedy is visiting him during his present world tour.

The idea Mick will discuss is that of having a bronze "Rising Sun" and a plaque of suitable dimensions added to the main edifice, with wording commemorating the dead and embodying the words "Australian Composite Brigade" and mention of the 2/1 and 2/11 Bns. and 2/3 Fd. Regt. From inquiries made in Sydney, the cost of these items, large enough to match the size of the monument, will be about \$700. Sydney ex-members of 2/11 Bn. and 2/3 Fd. Regt. have indicated financial support.

Enshrined in the War Cemetery overlooking Suda Bay is a book setting out the names of those buried there and giving details of the 1941 battles throughout Crete. Mick is thinking of having a similar record compiled, concentrating on the Rethymon battle, and having it placed in safe-keeping with the monks at the monastery in Arkady, in the hills above Pigi. This would be the nearest appropriate repository, perhaps, and enquiries at the monument could be referred to the monastery for information on its full significance. The monks welcome visitors and take care of other historic material.

This project gives a unique opportunity to do honour to our fallen comrades, in a way both substantial and timeless. Their memory would, quite rightly, be perpetuated in the same way as that of fighters for Western civilisation back in ancient times, whose monuments stand in other parts of Greece.

We cannot estimate the cost (at least until Mick gets back to Australia) but we will let you know then and would welcome advice of your interest in the meantime.

A couple of names have been listed of men who say they would like to join a tour for the unveiling next year. If you like, we will add yours. We would also like an opinion as to whether wives would be interested too.

No arrangements or commitments have been entered into yet, but it is not too soon to start thinking about the tour.

NAMEPLATES

200 nameplates are on order for members' use for Anzac Day, Country Reunions and other functions where members may wish to be identified as 2/4 Bn. men. More details when they become available.

WELFARE

It was great to see both our Welfare Officers not only "back on deck", but also "on parade" at the November Meeting.

Dick Faulder has, of course, been managing to front up—with the aid of a walking stick, but now John Copland has finished his long hospitalisation, and although he will be convalescing for quite a time, is now somewhat mobile.

Another welcome return to the fold was W.O.G. "staff member"—columnist Jim "Cock" Robin, after his sojourn in hospital. At the meeting "Cock" thanked all who had visited him and/or sent cards or letters. Good on you, "Cock".

Members will be sorry to hear that Bill Rennie and his wife are both quite ill, creating quite a problem for them to care for themselves and their home.

I'm sure Bill would welcome cheer-up letters/cards and/or phone calls. His address is 8 Commodore St., Neutral Bay. Phone number: 92 8150.

Harry Wright reported that Bill "Bing" Riley has been in Intensive Care at St. George Hospital. Peter Cook visited Bill and ascertained that he had been badly bashed up.

His condition is understood to be gradually improving.

Is this our Australia—the country we fought for, to preserve our way of life? Surely the present-day rate of bashings, knifings and other violence, along with many other factors, negates the good intent of those who fought—and died—or lived! (Ed.)

Bob ("Yappy") Gardner, of Kyogle, is in Concord Hospital for a serious operation, which we trust will put him on the road to a quick recovery and to full health. Chin up, old mate.

We are sorry to report the recent death of Ken Moses' mother. Ken was up from Melbourne, of course, and called in to see President Harry at the Gallipoli Memorial Club. We all sympathise deeply with you, Ken, old friend.

LAST POST

NX46790 LEN HELLYAR

131 Rothery Road,
Bellambi, 2518.
5-11-74.

Mr. Dick Morris.

Dear Sir,

It is with deep regret that I have to inform you of the death of my husband Len Hellyar, on October

29th. His death was very sudden: he had a cerebral haemorrhage at work and passed away in hospital four days later.

I know he enjoyed the White Over Green paper so much, and would wish me to inform you and his mates of the 2/4th.

Yours sincerely,
L. Y. Hellyar.

It seems only yesterday that one had the pleasure of beholding Len's beaming face at Young and yarn-ing on Army days together.

Len was one of the North Coast "Mob"—a grand group who left in two drafts from Tamworth Camp to reinforce the Battalion.

He served well and was a good mate. John Falla will be one who will mourn the passing of his erstwhile batman/runner.

We all join in sympathy with Mrs. Hellyer, family and friends.

Vale Len.

PROMOTION OF A FRIEND

Gordon Maitland is well-known to a great number of members as a past C.O. of 4 N.S.W.R. He has been an honoured guest on Anzac Days and other occasions.

All will join in congratulating Gordon on his promotion to Major-General and appointment as commander of Army Reserve (CMF) Second Division.

ANNUAL DINNER

The Central Coast Group of the 6 Div. Association will be holding their Third Annual Dinner on Friday, 28th January, 1975.

The venue will be the Tuggerah Lakes Memorial Club, 6 Gallipoli Street, Long Jetty.

It is hoped that our members will support this function—and have themselves a good time in the lovely Gosford district. (Must get in a plug for the old home town!)

Let us show that our members can be relied on to support and help build up what should be the strongest and most forward-looking Divisional Association of all.

Perhaps our good friends of Newcastle can make the trip and that we in Sydney can organise a strong contingent.

Enquiries should be made to the Hon. Publicity Officer of the Group, T. Pigot, or G. M. Johnston, Sec./Mgr., Tuggerah Lakes Memorial Club, at the address given above.

6 DIV. ASSN. PROJECT

The present Project undertaken by 6 Div. Association is the raising of funds for the Far West Homes.

Our Association has made a solid donation, both to aid this worthy cause and to show real support for President Dr. Tom Selby and our Divisional Assn.

Individual members may care to make their own donations. Such should be addressed to The Secretary, 6 Div. Assn., c/o Box 4660, G.P.O., Sydney, 2001.

Cheques, etc., should be made payable to 6th Division Far West Appeal.

Donations over \$2 are tax deductible (as at writing).

P.O.W. PENNINGS

2/2 Bn. man, Bill Devine, has been good enough to twist the arm of a Battalion mate, to allow publication of excerpts from a book compiled by P.O.W. inmates of LAMSDORF stalags.

Many of these contributions are gems, depicting, either in sketch or poem, P.O.W. attitudes and thinking; mostly humorous, but some striking a note of solemnity and depth of feeling.

Memories of Crete

On a mountainous little Island
Nestled in the Aegean Sea,
By the dromes of Retimo,
Heraklion and Maleme,
Are the graves of our fallen comrades
In dozens there they lie.
Their death was the kind that only
Gallant soldiers die.

On that mountainous little island
With peaks all capped with snow,
With its groves of olive trees
And grape vines row on row
From the ocean wreathed with white-caps
To the mountains wreathed the same
Are the fields where they fought so bravely
They who carried the Anzacs' name.

And we who were there remember
Those days of hell on Crete
And we hope that when our times comes
Those pals again we'll meet.
And as we trudge along the road
Of life that is left to be,
Our thoughts will often turn to them
Who sleep 'neath the olive trees.

ELDRIDGE, P.O.W.

It Can Be Done

Someone said that it couldn't be done
But he with a chuckle replied:
Maybe it couldn't, but he'd not be the one
To say until he had tried.
So he buckled right in with a bit of a grin
On his face—if he worried, he hid it.
He started to sing as he tackled the thing
That couldn't be done—and he did it!

Somebody scoffed "Oh, you'll never do that,
At least, no one ever has done it".
But he took off his coat and he took off his hat,
And the first thing we knew he'd begun it.
With a bit of a grin and a lift of his chin
Without any doubting or quittit,
He started to sing as he tackled the thing
That couldn't be done—and he did it!

There are thousands to tell you it cannot be done,
There are thousands to prophesy failure;
There are thousands to point out one by one,
The dangers that wait to assail you.
But just buckle right in with a bit of a grin
Take off your coat and go to it,
And start to sing as you tackle the thing
That cannot be done—and you'll do it!
(From "STAND EASY", Wentworthville R.S.L. Club.)

COCK'S COLUMN

November

I received an excellent registered letter from **Andrew "Lofty" Gibson**. Andrew and Mrs. Gibson have been to North and Central Queensland, where they visited the old camp site, and took photos of the old canteen bulk store, and the picture show. Near the cemetery on the road out to Yungaburra, Andrew saw two 2/4th Bn. boys' headstones, in the services section. They were NX191589 Fyffe, S. T., and VX29463, McDonald, G. G.

This was the second letter that I had received from "Lofty". The first was a very nice "floral" envelope, with "Greetings from Atherton, N.Q.", and a lovely coloured postcard of Main St., Atherton, N.Q.

Thank you Andrew, very much. Your full letter will be printed when space is available.

* * *

Also two letters from **Dot and Vic Pike**. Two lovely coloured postcards, one of Lake Barrine, National Park, N.Q., and the other, sent from Heidelberg, is four coloured views of Sovereign Hill, Ballarat. Thank you Dorothy and Vic. I will write to you when you throw the anchor out and stay put.

Mail Bag:

37 Atkins Rd.,
Ermington, 2115.
27th October, 1974.

Dear Jim,

My wife and I have just returned from four weeks in North and Central Queensland. Before launching into the story of our travels, I hope you got my card from Atherton. I put 68 instead of 20 on the address, which I did not have written down with me. A bad guess. Before leaving, I had a letter from the Whittletons, saying they were leaving the farm and going to Queensland by caravan.

We left here on Saturday, 28th September, and made stops at Warwick, Rockhampton, Ayr, and at Port Douglas. We did the 188-mile trip to Cooktown, over some of the roughest roads in Australia. There are some interesting things there, but it is a job for a Land Rover not a V.W. like we have. We managed to struggle back to Atherton and stayed at "Millies" Caravan Park. This is near the cemetery on the road out to Yungaburra and Malanda. I saw two 2/4th Bn. boys' headstones in the services section. They were NX191589, Fyffe, S. T., and VX29463, McDonald, G. G. Both were unknown to me, so could not have been from 'C' Coy. We went up to the old camp site and entered from the lower end of Wulans Road. Last time we looked from the picture show end and found nothing. This time we found the concrete floors of four kitchens and I could see the outline of the semi-circular road in the camp area. There are trees 30-ft. high and a foot thick all over the area. While looking over the site we disturbed a large brown kangaroo, who took off like a well-known 'C' Coy bloke heading for the mess parade. While in the area I took photos of the old canteen bulk store and the picture show, which I enclose. The old racecourse is now the Tepon Motor Racing Circuit and the grandstand has been pulled down. I went down Flaggy Creek Road to Kalunga and spoke to Lindsay Steward, whom I knew from the war years. They had a tin mine which ran up under the racecourse. Both the senior mem-

bers of the Stewart and Foster families are dead now. As we had to go down to Cairns again, I did not see the Millaa Millaa boys. We had a week at Bingil Bay (Harold Holt's hideout), then inland to Charters Towers and more rough roads. We called on Bonnie Hutton, 'C' Coy, who has a butcher shop in Chin-chilla. He says he was at the Grafton reunion. After a few days in Dalby, with friends, we came down the New England Highway home. This is the brighter side of the trip. I have left out the broken windscreen, smashed muffler, etc.

Regards from yours truly,
Andrew ("Lofty") Gibson.

Here is the second card received from Dot and Vic Pike.

3rd November, 1974.

Dear Jim,

We have been on the road again for two weeks. Stayed one week on a farm at Kameruka Estate, Bem-boka, where we enjoyed helping with the milking.

This last week was spent in Heidelberg, seeing quite a lot. Yesterday we went to the place depicted on this card (Sovereign Hill, Ballarat). Very interesting. Went into Melbourne City last Tuesday for shopping, but took a very bad turn so had to come home. Better now, though.

We hope to leave here in the morning to go to Bendigo, then on to Mildura and Murray Valley if the roads are O.K. We have had rain about every day while here.

We should be home again in about 3 or 4 weeks' time.

Give our regards to all the boys, and hope you are all well.

Vic and Dorothy Pike
(alias "Mrs. MacGinty").
"COCK" ROBIN.

THE COSTA RICA

Ken Moses wrote a fine chapter for our Unit History, covering the sinking of the "Costa Rica".

The following article, taken from the Association of First Battalion's "FIRST POST", gives further details and describes the experiences of 2/1 Inf. Bn. men involved in the sinking.

BRINGING BACK THE PAST

(By Vic Friedlander, Editor, "First Post")

I was recently handed two press cuttings from Sydney Morning Herald's of April, 1969, one an article by Ian Allan, M.P. and the other a "Letter to the Editor" from the late Charles W. Golding, who was a Major in the 2/1st Bn.

They concern the sinking of the "Costa Rica" and, as your Editor was one of the "passengers" aboard the ship at that time, I have taken the liberty of adding my recollections of the incident to these items. I would also like to hear from any other men who were on the vessel for their version of the sinking, for publication in this journal.

"A Heritage is Given" - December Issue