



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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APRIL MEETING: Anzac Day, Manresa Hall, Carlow Street, at 12 Noon.

MAY MEETING: Friday, 24th May, Gallipoli Memorial Club, 60 Loftus Street, Sydney, at 7.30 p.m.

ANZAC DAY - IT'S SIGNIFICANCE

Anzac Day, 1971, at the request of Ashley Morris, Sir Ivan Dougherty defined the significance of Anzac Day to young Australians, in the following terms:

"Anzac Day is misunderstood by many people who do not realise what the significance of Anzac Day really is.

"Those of us here this afternoon are men who faced death and saw their mates killed alongside them and I must say that we **all** loathe the thought of war and will oppose war coming by any means up to a certain point. But we must not give our country away with dishonour; we must protect our country.

Not so much protect our country but protect our way of life.

I feel that we in Australia live in a beautiful country, a happy country; a free country where young people can live healthy lives in happiness.

Unfortunately, in the world, there arise at times, people who do not believe in the things we believe in and if we are not prepared to stand up against them, just as we would stand up against a thug who came to rob our home, we ourselves would die. But that would not matter so much perhaps, but our children and their children would suffer. And this is why we fought. It

was not for self gratification; it was not for power; nor was it for glamour.

And this is what people have to realise.

I have tremendous faith in the young people of this country. Being a lot older now, I would be pleased to see younger people taking over responsibilities, so long as they had the qualities required: for this is their country and it is up to them to carry on.

I know that they would look after this country if they understood just what it is all about.

We want to help other countries, too, there is no question of this: and what we are aiming for is a peaceful world.

But even great leaders like Sir John Monash, who was a great Australian General in the First World War of 1914-1918 have expressed in writing the fact that they loathe war: the loss of life; the loss of property; and the loss of all the things that are good. He stressed that unless we are prepared to stand up against these bad people in the community, we will go under.

"That is what we fought for, as did the men we remember today.

"We renew old friendships, but we are remembering those who did not come back with us. And they gave their lives for the young people of tomorrow.

"That is Anzac Day."

COUNTRY REUNION AT YOUNG

Young will be the happy venue this year, thanks to Arthur Kleem, who has come forward with a positive offer backed by quick action.

Within one week of making his decision, Clem had set all the necessary wheels in motion to ensure a well-planned, enjoyable week-end in Young for all who make the trip. Doubtlessly he has had sound advice and help from our faithful Vice-Pres. (Southern N.S.W.) Tim West.

The Committee to handle the Reunion comprises—
Pres.: Tim West. Sec.: Arthur Kleem. Treas.: Bruce Millard.

An excellent programme has already been mapped out, and will be included in later issues, but rest assured that it will be one which will make the trip well worthwhile.

In the meantime, assist Tim, Clem and Bruce by sending off your bookings and deposits (£4 per person).

To Arthur Kleem, 3 Karabah Ave., Young 2594.
Phone: Office 063-82-2289. Home 063-82-2461.

ANZAC DAY

THE REUNION

The Reunion Luncheon is at Manresa Hall. Your committee has selected an excellent menu with a variety of dishes — there will be ample to satisfy even the most eager appetite. Capable stewards will be on hand to keep "things" flowing smoothly. There will also be ample soft drink and ice for those who prefer it.

THE WREATHLAYING CEREMONY:

0750: Fall in at corner of York & Erskine Streets — Service Medals and Decorations and Association Ties should be worn.

0800: Proceed to Barrack Street to join 4 Bn. A.I.F. ('14-'18) members.

0810: Led by Parramatta Pipe Band proceed to the Cenotaph where Wreaths will be placed by representatives of both units in honour of departed comrades of their respective units.

After observing one minute silence the Units will march off to their Assembly points for the main march.

THE MAIN MARCH:

0930: Members will assemble at the 2/4 Bn area in King Street, adjacent to Phillip Street, to meet old friends prior to moving off with the Sixth Division troops.

AFTER THE MARCH:

Buses chartered by your Association will be available to transport members to Manresa Hall for the Anzac Day Reunion and Luncheon. See the Embussing Officer before the March for the exact location.

Do the old Battalion proud—

Come along and pay your respects to those mates who are no longer with us; and enjoy the company of those who still are.

A Message from the Young Reunion Committee:

Although October is some months away, we have but a small committee and would appreciate your early indication of making the trip so that this 1974 Country Reunion will be up to the standard set over past years. Young is not a big place but there is plenty of activity and sights to see and I'm sure you will have a wonderful weekend. We are delighted to have Bruce Millard on the Committee with us. I know that Bruce is looking forward to meeting a lot of members whom he hasn't seen for many years. In particular: Allan Manning, Ernie Bowdidge, Stumpy Wright, Tommy McNamara, Johnny Lane, Tex Morton, Kenny Casey, Ron Stennett, Col. Ogilvie, Dick Parry, Sid Gillies, Keith Ford, Toppy Crispin, and other A Coy types.

ODES TO THE FALLEN

A very beautiful and impressive ode has been used by the Ryde District Sub-Branch for many, many years on Anzac Sunday, Remembrance Sunday and at funerals of members.

One of the foundation members, Mr. Gerard Ruffels, heard it at a service long ago, and it has been used ever since in Ryde.

It is not known who put it together but the first part is quotations from various verses in the Bible. The second part is, of course, part of Laurence Binyon's "For the Fallen."

I quote from memory:

"The souls of the righteous are in the Hand of God and they are in peace. Hallowed in Christ be the memory of these brave men and women who have died as a result of the great wars in the battle for the freedom of the world.

They shall yet stand before the Throne, an exceeding great army. And in the Last Muster, there shall be found these, our own well-beloved.

They went with songs to the battle, they were young,
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow,
They were staunch unto the end against odds uncounted,
They fell with their faces to the foe.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them.

—JOHN COPLAND

RETURN TO WEWAK PLAQUES

It may be that some member has one of these plaques that is not being used to the full.

There is a real need for a couple of them for display in historic displays of plaques and these would round off our Battalion's contributions.

The people who made them are now out of business, so should anyone be so generously inclined, please contact John Copland, who will be pleased to arrange the purchase and make faithful use as outlined above.

John Copland

(Your Asst. Ed. would also be delighted to buy one of these plaques as he missed getting one in Wewak.—
Dick M.)

ST George's Hospital
11/11/74
SIR
John Copland
cc. Legation

WELFARE REPORT

Dick Latimer has been laid low with 'flu but Jim Cameron has carried on the Welfare visitations.

R.G.H. Concord: Al Murphy (Wellington); Tim Cloke, Ward 330; Dorothy Pike, further complications.

Molly Irvine now home and thankful for visitation and card.

LAST POST

NX108861 A. DOHERTY (Vide Reveille)

NX36424 W. L. HICKS (Vide Reveille)

NX5160 R. S. WILLIAMSON (Vide Reveille)

VX23118 J. McSMITH (Vide Reveille)

Our deepest sympathies to the families and relatives of these men. We also sympathise with Bruce Cork on the recent sad loss of his father.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.

RON BELFORD of Ashford

As recorded in March issue under "Last Post", we have lost RON BELFORD.

All members, particularly Ron's close mates, join in extending deepest sympathies to Lyn Belford and sons Jim and Fergus.

Ron was an original member of the Signal Platoon and a fine soldier. On our return from the Middle East, Ron was sent to O.C.T.U. and was subsequently commissioned. At that time, the rule was that those commissioned from the ranks were not to join their own unit and so the Batt. lost the services of one of its outstanding men.

In the Ashford district, Ron was a well-known and well-loved citizen, being Secretary of the N.S.W. Tobacco Growers Assn.; a keen Hereford cattle breeder; and Patron of the Ashford R.S.L. Sub-Branch.

Selby Dean, unable to attend Ron's funeral due to distance and time, rang Ken (Spanner) Graham, who not only attended but also sent details to "Cock".

Selby was also good enough to send "Cock" the above details on Ron, and concluded his letter—"Ron will be greatly missed in the Ashford community".

Thanks to John Copland we know that Mary Hawke, wife of Geoff, travelled to the funeral and was doubtlessly of great comfort to her close friend, Lyn.

Ron was laid to rest in the little Ashford cemetery with simple dignity, yet as a soldier, with an R.S.L. ceremony and a superb bugler.

Those present were consoled, yet stirred, by both the ceremony and the bugle's notes.

And so to rest, the warrior!

John Copland reminds us that Lyn was Sister Foley of the 2/7th A.G.H. and knew many of the 2/4 Batt. men.

Son Jim has been accorded the singular honour of being elected Patron of the Ashford R.S.L. Sub-Branch to replace his father—a gracious gesture, touching in its sincerity.

Fergus, we are told, is pursuing a fine career with the National Bank, Head Office, here in Sydney.

So Lyn has two superb supports. And may the sympathies of friends and we who offer friendship in the name of the Battalion—Ron's Battalion—sustain this true Australian trio—mother and sons.

VALE RON

—(Dick M.)

"First - The Bad News"

Dear Dick,

I had just finished my homework last Sunday night (I always get help with my studies) and was fast entering the Land of Nod when the phone rang and it was Joan Chaseling of Kyogle to say that Jack was being admitted to Prince Henry Hospital next day. I went out to the hospital on Tuesday and found the "Kyogle Kid" in Ward 4 surrounded by visitors including wife Joan and brother Trevor. Since the Grafton Reunion, when Jack suffered a heart attack, he has also had a mild stroke, so health-wise, things have not been the best for the chief of the Chaseling clan. The popular prince of the "I" section is down from the scrub for a series of tests to find out the cause of all the bother. Jack reckons he is in the "slow" lane at the moment, but I believe it won't be long before he is back on the "freeway" and belting along again in his own inimitable style.

(Signed) "The Batman" NX931.

"HOT OFF THE PRESS"

Jack and Joan Chaseling have informed me that our Northern Vice-President and latest Life Member, the one and only Esca Riordan, is to be married later in the year, probably around September. Esca has chosen as his future partner, Mrs. Dulcie Hack, of Kempsey, a long time neighbour of Esca and his late wife Vera. May we wish you both every happiness for all the years to come.

Regards to all,

(Bill MacLennan)

CHIN UP JACK: HOPE ALL IS WELL SOON:

CONGRATULATIONS TO ESCA AND DULCIE!

COCK'S COLUMN

Those present at the Annual General Meeting were: Sir Ivan Dougherty, Harry Gjedsted, George Stack, Allen Lindsay, Dick Morris, Dick Faulder, John Copland, Dick Pinson, "Slim" Powers, Reg Cole, Athol Heath, Harry Wright, "Lofty" Gibson, Ron Barber, Stan Bowen, Ted Fox, Jim Cameron, Sid Young, Ken Webb, Peter Armstrong, Ewen Wood, Charlie Scully and brother, Sid Thompson, Frank Rowell, Don Baxter, Norm Auberson, John Meehan, Dick Latimer, Bill MacLennan, Harold Silver, Charlie Adams, Dave Tearall, Fred Hudson. Country Boys: Hugh Whittleton and son Desmond, from Lynch's Creek, Kyogle, Stan Blacksley of Humula and, from north of the border: Tom Provians, 4th Batt. A.I.F. (1914-18) was represented by President Jim Short, and Hon. Sec. Len Hadlow.

It was pleasing to see so many new faces. Let's hope they become regulars.

Prior to the meeting I met Peter and Maude Armstrong, Blaxland. Maude has volunteered to visit any sick or hospitalised W.O.G.'s, Old Fourth, Anzacs or other service types on the Lower Blue Mountains. Phone Glenbrook 39384. Thank you, Maude, for a very nice gesture.

Was pleased to see Stan Blacksley who had recently seen Perc Dalla, Bruce Stuart, and Bob Jackson at Sid Croaker's funeral. Stan drove from Humula to Sydney to be at the meeting. Locals please take note!

Charles Adams, Woy Woy, reported that **Dick** and **Eileen Frances** stayed overnight on their way through to the North. 'Bon Voyage' on the highways—and the bumpy roads, Vic and Eileen.

I was also pleased (me too—Dick M.) to see **Andrew (Lofty) Gibson** (C Coy.), at his first meeting ever. (Shame!). Lofty recently met **Goffre Naseby** at Ermington. Both had been living in that district for the past 20 years without having previously bumped into one another.

Hugh Whittleton and son **Desmond**, are two people I really look up to—Dad is over 6 ft. tall and son even taller! Des works in the C.B.C. Bank opposite Wynyard. Hugh has recently seen **Charlie Groves**, **Jack Lister**, **Ian Walwall** and **Bob Gardner** and hopes to see **Esca Riordan** on the way home. He would like to hear from **Allan Blackwood**, M.C.

Ken Webb reports that **Gordon Crisp** was down from Wingham. **Harry Gjedsted**, **Jack Heaney** and Ken had a drink with him in the Club.

Dave (Rocky) Tearall (Good to see you, mate) sends a "coo-ee" to **Jim Whittaker**, Milla Milla, "Confirmation of your accident will be coming through." Dave recently received the Efficiency Medal from **Maj. Gen. Ken Mackay** at Victoria Barracks. Dave's son, **Graham**, is a permanent soldier—a trooper in the 2nd Cavalry Regt., R.A.A. and has hopes of attending Duntroon.

Sid Thompson and I had a good yarn but he had to leave early. Please write to me, Sid, re the subject we were discussing.

Frank Rowell reports that he often sees **Bub Graham** and **Jack Maoney** at Bowraville, who always ask after Association Members. Frank mentioned that brother Rex has been holidaying in Victoria.

Congratulations to **Sid Young** and family on the marriage of **Jacqueline** to **Stephen Brady**. The reception was held at the Gallipoli Memorial Club, with Dick Pinson's Band providing the excellent music.

Perhaps it is now "old-hat" news but I'm sure all his old mates would like to know that **Alex Maxwell** received the R.S.L. Certificate of Merit some years ago. Alex is still doing a sterling job on the Committee of the Concord R.S.L. Sub-Branch.

In the Mail Bag:

Received an interesting but sad letter from **Selby Dean**, Inverell, reporting the death of **Ron Balford** of Ashford. Distance and time prevented Selby from attending the funeral, but he rang **Ken (Spanner) Graham**, who was able to represent the 2/4th Batt. Selby gave details of Ron's active service and life since. These will be set out elsewhere. My personal sympathy to Mrs. Balford and family.

Tim West reports having received a letter from **Aloysius Denis Murphy**, NX5882, Wellington, who enlisted from Cootamundra on 24th Oct. '39. "Murph" saw service in the Middle East and Greece with A Coy. and spent four years and one month as a P.O.W. in Germany. "Murph" goes into Concord Hospital in early March and, being a bachelor, has no family to cheer him up. He would dearly love to see or hear from **Jim (Fred Astaire) Sadler**, **Bill Luck**, **Les Fox**, **John Copland**, and other A Coy. boys. Thanks Tim, Jim Cameron will see he is well looked after.

Esca Riordan writes that he is very well but having physiotherapy for his shoulder following his accident. During the long week-end Esca phoned the **Chaselings** in Kyogle, only to find that Jack was a very sick boy. Esca reports that **Isobel Nelson-Slee** is keeping very well. He also met **Noreen Dowling** who said that Harry was well and that they will be holidaying in Sydney in March. Esca had news that one of "**Bub**" **Graham's** sons was in Kempsey Hospital for a few days.

He extends sincere sympathies to **Glady Twist** and family. Esca wrote "our numbers are certainly dwindling, and "Ollie" will be missed—particularly at reunions."

P.O. Box 1991

Boroko

Papua, New Guinea.

Dear Robin,

Greetings from afar—I hope you are keeping well and wish you and all the Bn. members the best of health and happiness for 1974 and evermore.

I have just returned from leave in New Zealand where I watched my wife Olive and two of her team mates become runners-up in the Triples of the Women's World Bowls Tournament. We called in to Sydney on the way back to be with our eldest son Ian, his wife Lauren and our grandson Brennan—we had not met Lauren and 8-months-old Brennan before. As you might imagine, the few days we had in Sydney were taken up. Ian is Managing Director of K-Tel International (U.K.) based in London—you might see K-Tel advertisements on TV for records and other items. Our second youngster Bruce who is 22, has gone to London and is also with K-Tel. Our youngest, Steve, will be 21 in March and is still with us in Port Moresby. I am working in the Accounts Branch at the University and have been here just on five years.

Kindest regards,

Newton (Doc) Howard

Adelong

Dear Robin and Dick,

I am combining you two in the one card and Association too. My best wishes go to you all—don't see very much of you but am with you in spirit.

As you know I have been in England this year and was entertained by the British Legion Club at Harfenden, when I was over there. Frank Pafflewell, the President, was an "Old Contemptible", aged 73 years. He was an old boy at my school and was commanded by my Headmaster, Major E. M. Jones, of the Hertfordshire Regt.

Had a great time over there; saw my 400-year-old farmhouse where I was born, now nearly strangled with housing estates. Visited many other places such as: London, Oxford, Cambridge, Shakespeare's birthplace (Stratford on Avon), Coventry (where the Huns burned the cathedral), and many other places.

Some of you boys may have watched the A.B.C. show "All Gas and Gaiters". Well, that was filmed at my old school, St. Albans, over a thousand years old.

Well, all the best to you, and I hope I can attend a meeting during 1974.

Regards,

Roy Moores.

—"COCK" ROBIN