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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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SEPTEMBER MEETING: Friday, 27th September } **8 P.M.** } **Gallipoli Memorial Club**
OCTOBER MEETING: Friday, 25th October } } **12-14 Loftus Street, Sydney**

STRAIGHTENING THE RECORDS

22 August, 1974

Dear Dick,

Although rather later than intended, I'm writing this as a reply to Fred Apthorpe's article which included references to myself and Mick Gray.

To set the record straight, I didn't serve with Mick on the North West Frontier of India, but at the same time we have been friends for many years.

Mick and I served in the 9th Field Brigade, Australian Field Artillery (Militia) from 1931 to 1934. (The Title "Royal" was conferred on the Artillery in 1934 or 1935 and the Unit then became 9th Field Brigade, Royal Australian Artillery (M).)

In 1934 Mick told me that he intended joining the British Army, but before doing so he joined the 1st Field Cadre R.A.A.—the Permanent Field Artillery Unit occupying Victoria Barracks, Paddington.

Late in 1934 Mick left for England and joined the Household Cavalry (The Blues) and in 1936 transferred to the Argyle & Sutherland Highlanders. It was during his service with this Regiment that he saw active service on the North West Frontier during 1936-37.

In 1939 Mick returned to Australia and joined the A.I.C. (Australian Instructional Corps). In the inter-

vening period I had transferred from the Artillery to 30 Bn. (The Black Watch), N.S.W. Scottish Regiment, and after renewing our friendship, enlisted in the A.I.F. and joined the 2/4 Bn., together with Alan Bohle and Wal Daven.

In 1945 Mick and I were amongst those accepted for transfer to the British Army in India for Operation "Octopus". On arrival in Calcutta we were automatically discharged from the A.I.F.—I went to The Royal Sussex Regiment (I am a Vice-President of The Royal Sussex Regimental Asscn. in England), 25 Indian Division, and Mick went to the Cameronians, 36 British Division.

Mick has had a most colourful and distinguished career in the service of the British and Australian Armies.

He served on the War Crimes Tribunal in Japan after the War, and then on active service in Korea, Malaysia and South Vietnam.

I could have made this explanation easier and shorter by just saying "I didn't serve on the North West Frontier with Mick", but, thanks to Fred and W.O.G., look upon it as an opportunity of briefly extolling the distinctive and colourful service that Lieut. Col. W. M. Gray has given most of his life to in the British and Australian Armies.

With kindest regards,

HARRY GJEDSTED.

YOUNG COUNTRY REUNION 6-HOUR WEEK-END

OCTOBER, Saturday 5th - Monday 7th, 1974

Be "Younger than Springtime" In the Springtime at Young!
Here are the details supplied by the "Youngsters" for a fabulous week-end.

TRANSPORT

Train Service: **Check if service has been reinstated.**

Plane Service: To Cowra, and Bus to Young.

Private Vehicle: Road distance 372 km (231 miles).

ACCOMMODATION

Three (3) First Class Motels have been booked. Plus ample Hotel Accommodation.

PROGRAMME

SATURDAY

Check in at S. & C. Club, Cloete Street, to receive all details, together with Honorary Membership at the Club.

MARCH

5.30 p.m. fall in at Anderson Park—led by Young Town Band. March to Memorial Hall for Wreath Laying Ceremony and welcome by His Worship the Mayor.

DINNER

At S. & C. Club—6.30 p.m. (Ladies included). Social to follow.

SUNDAY

Young Tourist Promotion Officer, Mr. Bill Kearney, will conduct members and wives on a bus tour of Young. Leaving at 10 a.m. and arriving at the Young Bowling Club at 12 noon for refreshments and buffet luncheon.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON

Bowls at Young Bowling Club for Ladies and Members.

Golf at Young Golf Club for Ladies and Members.

Both Clubs extend an open invitation.

SUNDAY EVENING

Commencing at 8.30 p.m., Barbecue Tea and Social at Young Bowling Club. (Not exclusive to our Association.)

MONDAY

"R" Day (R = Rest, Recovery and Return to Normal).

This programme has been slightly modified due to circumstances, but be certain that arrangements will ensure a good time for all.

IMPORTANT

If you have arranged your own accommodation, please make certain that you advise the organisers in Young so you will be catered for at the Dinner, etc.

This **IS** important so please assist by contacting Arthur Kleem, either by phone — Young 82-2461 — or by telegram — Karabah Ave., Young.

WELFARE

Our Welfare Officers, John Copland and Dick Faulder, were unfortunately recently involved in a car accident, but members will be pleased to know that Dick, although sustaining minor injuries, is up and about and attended the 6 Div. Reunion.

John was less fortunate with a nasty "scratch" on the forehead and a damaged kneecap, plus plenty of bumps and bruises. He has, however, now been discharged from Concord R.S.L. and with best wishes from us all, we trust he will soon be mobile again.

* * *

Your Editor made a point of checking on our Welfare Officers' condition as soon as he was advised of their bad luck, and visited John in Concord with the intention of also visiting any other 2/4 men also in there, in lieu of John and Dick. The only other inmate was Bill Keough, whom I was pleased to see, although he has had quite a long illness and was due for an operation the following day. This was apparently successful as Bill was discharged on the 13th September.

* * *

Sir Ivan, whilst improving gradually, was still not sufficiently mobile to attend the 6 Div. Assn. Reunion. Doc is Patron of that Association.

With the best wishes of all, Sir, we do hope you will very soon be back to full health.

* * *

Sorry to report that long-time member John Jordan is not enjoying very good health at all. He is in Prince Henry Hospital at Little Bay and I'm sure would appreciate a few cards, letters and visitors.

LADIES' NIGHT

Held Saturday, 24th August, at the Gallipoli Memorial Club, Ladies' Night, I understand from all reports, proved to be a great evening enjoyed by all 53 present.

Regretably, our Patron, Sir Ivan, & Lady Dougherty, were unable to grace the occasion with their presence, "Doc" still not being 100 per cent mobile.

Other apologies were from Jim and Beth Cameron, Keith and Thora Harvey, Russ McWilliam, and yours truly, Dick Morris.

Guests were Lady Mackay and Peg Hardy and Dick Pinson and his group gave the type of music that suited the occasion—and the "customers".

All the way from South Australia were Roy and Irene McAdam (D Coy.) whom we trust will long remember with pleasure their "reunion" with some of Roy's Army mates and their good ladies.

Roy had, of course, fronted up for the meeting the previous night and it certainly was good to see him.

All in all—a great night.

* * *

Best wishes to all have been received from Monty Siems, whose address at present is c/o Post Office Hostel, Johnsonville, N.I., New Zealand. Monty says things are going well for him, but he's finding the weather rather boisterous.

6 DIV ASSN. REUNION

This function was held on the 8th September and was the 35th Anniversary of the formation of the Division.

Amongst the apologies was, unfortunately, that of our Patron, Sir Ivan Dougherty, who is also Patron of the 6 Div. Assn. Sir Ivan is still not sufficiently mobile, following his accident, to be present on those occasions when so many would be delighted to have his company.

There was quite a roll-up at the F.U.P. in O'Connell Street and the old 6 Div. steadiness in the marching to the Cenotaph for the wreath-laying and then to the Town Hall, was well in evidence.

By the time President Tom Selby had opened proceedings at the Dinner, the numbers had swollen to almost "house full" proportions.

With good food and liquid refreshments plus interesting speakers, it was a happy occasion for all present. Guest speaker was the Rt. Hon. Maj. Gen. Sir Victor Windeyer, but the other guests were a most distinguished group, amongst whom was Maj. Gen. Eather, Brig. Ferguson (6 Div. Cav.), Norman Rose, Brig. Lucas (Engrs.), and Hon. Life Member of the Gallipoli Legion of Anzacs.

An important point brought out by President Dr. Tom was that the Association's project for this year was aid to Far West Children, for which donations will, of course, be welcomed by 6 Div. Assn.

Another point worthy of note was the fact that the 6 Div. Cav. Rgt. History has been published. This should be a most interesting volume and I look forward to studying it.

Many, many, well-known Div. personalities were present, naturally too many to list, so may the Association go on to even greater things.

Bn. members present were President Harry Gjested, Ken Kesteven, Mick Grey, Harry Wright, Ron sted, Ken Kesteven, Mick Gray, Harry Wright, Ron Barber, Dick Faulder, Ted Fox, Tom Bartlett, Mike Richardson, and your Editor.

Shades of "Return to Wewak"—sitting at our table was Max Derbyshire with some of his 2/2 Inf. Bn. mates, including Bill Devine, Gallipoli Memorial Club Director.

Many would also remember Jack Fitzgerald, 2/1 Inf. Bn., who has attended many 2/4 meetings in the past.

Most of our members completed the day by a pleasant little "session" at the Gallipoli Memorial Club, where the jackpot experts tried their skill against the machines with honours about even, despite a jackpot by yours truly.

All in all, a good day, worthy of 6 Div. tradition.

6th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION ASSOCIATION (N.S.W.)

To all ex-members of the 6th Australian Division and attached troops:

As President of the above Association, I feel that my "message" should go out to as many of the old 6th Divvy as it is possible to reach. Firstly, because I believe that there are many of you who have not been in touch with your old comrades for many years and would like to, and secondly a good many more who have not thought about it.

The toughest of Australian troops are capable of sincere sentimentalism in their relation with their former Units and many have managed to maintain a

practical form of liaison through their ex-Unit Associations. The Unit bond links men together in mutual respect and affection based on a common purpose which they pursued together, accompanied by merry companionship, danger and death of friends. There is nothing else quite like this and my Assn. would love to see those who have lost touch give it some thought and join or rejoin their Unit Associations. Those who belonged to Units that do not have an active Unit organisation are welcome to join the Divisional Association as individual members.

We believe that the Division was the family group; we fought together, we shared its Honours and we try to maintain its traditions, act as a spokesman for the member Units on matters affecting all or any of them and to disseminate information of common interest. We consider that it is the duty of our Association to keep the Division's name and traditions in the public eye, so following generations will remember the men who served and gave their lives.

We also provide opportunities for men to meet members of their own Units and those from other Units within or attached to the Division, at Reunions and other functions, also a meeting place for those who do not have a Unit Association.

To help publicise the fact that the 6th Division served and is still serving, we undertake projects, such as gifts or books to Greek schools and support to local welfare organisations and an Ecumenical Communion set to the new Chapel at Lady Davidson Hospital.

Our committee is made up of elected representatives of the member Unit organisations and three individual members. All Unit organisations remain completely autonomous and fully support the functions of this Association.

If you do not know the address of your old Unit Association, you should ring Anzac House, College Street, Sydney, phone 31 3121, or our Secretary, W. (Bill) Jenkins (2/3 Bn.) on 389 5718 Home or 939 2566 Bus.

Our Project this year is to raise money to help the work of the Royal Far West Homes at Manly. All Units have given support to this endeavour and it is hoped that many members of the public will also contribute to this worthy cause in its Jubilee Year. Because of their isolation, country children are seriously disadvantaged relative to metropolitan children in regard to many of the things which city residents take for granted—educational opportunity, entertainment facilities, medical services, etc., etc. While some of these disadvantages can be countered by mobile medical and dental teams, etc., many children need to come to the city to avail themselves of the diagnostic, therapeutic and remedial facilities offered. Such excursions are a costly exercise for someone, whether this be the child's parents, the taxpayer or the Royal Far West Homes. It costs the Far West \$119 per week to maintain one bed, which only accrues a Commonwealth Benefit of \$24.50 per week if the occupying child has an accepted disability. In a significant number of cases Far West meets the entire cost of hospitalisation, because the child's condition does not attract a subsidy.

With this Association pledged to support the Royal Far West Children's Health Scheme, your support is urgently needed. Donations may be sent to Hon. Sec. Treas., 22 Woodstock Street, Bondi Junction 2022,

or through your own Unit Association.

Thanking you,

I am

Yours faithfully,

Dr. C. H. (Tom) SELBY,
President.

R.N.S.W.R. REGIMENTAL PARADE

On 17th August, over 400 representatives from all Battalions of the Regiment converged on Sydney from statewide centres to parade for the last time under Regimental Colonel Maj. Gen. Paul Cullen, C.B.E., D.S.O., ED., who retires from that post shortly.

The State Governor, Sir Roden Cutler, inspected the parade in Martin Plaza. Sir Roden is Honorary Colonel of the Regiment.

Six Battalions of the R.N.S.W.R.—the 19th, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 17th and 41st—had contingents and Colour parties on parade.

A combined Church Service and wreath-laying followed, after which the Regiment marched past the saluting base at the Town Hall.

Members Dick Faulder, Sailor Harvey, Stan Bowen and your Editor were present, although there may have been others not sighted.

Sailor, Stan and yours truly fronted up at the F.U.P., yarned to the 4 R.N.S.W.R. boys but "came the old soldier act" by ducking parade (owing to lack of numbers to form a reasonable group). Instead, Sailor and self took a short cut through Sydney Hospital grounds to the Cenotaph whilst Stan awaited his transport.

At Martin Plaza and under sunny skies—a perfect setting—we assembled with a small group of contemporaries at the rear of the colourful parade, where we were joined by Gallipoli Legionnaire Horrie Stanley. Sailor had gotten off course somewhat and found himself sharing Lady Cutler's programme for the Church Service.

I sighted Cols. Gordon Maitland, Ray Sharpe and Tom Chambers (all past C.O.s of 4 R.N.S.W.R.), but they moved off for the saluting base at Town Hall before I could speak to them.

A pleasant session was afterwards spent at the Gallipoli Memorial Club.

COCK'S COLUMN

August Meeting

Those in attendance: **Harry Gjedsted, Athol Heath, Dick Morris, Dick Faulder, John "Larry" Dooley, Ces. Chrystal, Peter Cade, John Meehan, John Copland, Harry Wright, Ces. "Slim" Powers, Ken Webb, Don. Baxter,** and last but not least, our interstate visitor, **Roy McAdam,** and myself.

It was a pleasant surprise to see **Roy McAdam** from Mannum, South Australia, at the Meeting, his first meeting ever in Sydney. The last time I saw Roy was at the North British, about 6 years ago.

Roy looks well. He has recently seen **Roy and Owen Harrison, Max Rungie, Peter Denver, George Walton, Ken "Coffee" Royal, "Bluey" Hart** (what's your first name, "Blue"?—nobody seems to know), **Ron Maczhowiackrk, Dr. Dibden and Tom Mort.** Roy is Senior Linesman, Electricity Trust, South Australia.

It was good to see you, Roy; let's hope we do so more often. Hi to all you Southralians, and a "Cooee" to **Ken "Coffee" Royal.** I had word from my nephew, Ken, that you had called on him. Thank you mate.