



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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COLUMNIST:

MONTHLY GENERAL MEETINGS: FRIDAY: 24th OCTOBER 1975

28th NOVEMBER 1975

At the GALLIPOLI MEMORIAL CLUB, 12 Loftus Street, Sydney - 8 P.M.

A SUPERB RE-UNION AT YARRAWONGA-MULWALA

Our headline is taken direct from the Yarrowonga Chronicle of Thursday 9th Oct. 1975. The Chronicle quoted Peter Denver South Australian Vice-President, as follows: "Yarrowonga-Mulwala hospitality was absolutely superb, this is equal to the best Re-union we have ever had in 30 years. Senior Vice-President Bill MacLennan (who ably deputised for President Harry - absent overseas) summed up the Re-Union in his usual few words = There has never been a better one.

A total of 174 (or thereabouts) members wives, families and friends of the Association were present at the Re-Union. For posterity we list the names of the members who were present. We apologise in advance to the wives for not listing their names. This omission is due to the limitations of space:- Sir Ivan Dougherty, Les Anderson, Tom Bartlett, Harold Bowman, Hugh Burgdoff (V), Peter Cade, Stan Carpenter (V), Rupert Carrington, M. Chapman, Jack Chaseling,

Alfie Carpenter, Stan Blacksley, George Coles, Bruce Cork (Q), A.E.(Dick) Coyle (V), Frank Crutchett (A.C.T.) Cliff Curran, Perc Dalia, Peter Denver (S.A.) Larry Dooley, Les Dunn(V), Jack Dubber, Vic Eason (V), Rex Everson, Alex Faulder, Bob Ferguson, Jim Foreman, Peter Foster, Ted Fox, A. Gariel (S.A.), Frank Gattenhoff, G.J.(Norm) Gillespie (V), Doug Grove, Bob Griffiths (V), Tom (Wishy) Hart (S.A.), Athol Heath, Jack Hoskins (V), Jack Huston (A.C.T.), Norm Johnston, P.R. (Dagwood) Jackson, Wem Keast, Arthur Kleem Wally Lambourne, Leo Lynch, Arch Lewington, Allen Lindsay, Scotchy McCartney, Bill MacLennan, John Meehan, Ron Maczkowiack (S.A.), Doug Miller (V), Chas Milner, George Mitchell, George Moore, Jack Moore, Dick Morris, Tom Mort (S.A.), Ken Moses (V), Harry Nichols, Jack Ormiston, Bill Panter (V) Bill Parsons (V), Maurie Pickles (V), Dick Parry (V), Bill Popline, Harry Pearce, Slim Powers, Stan Pretty (V), Vince Quinn (V), Claude Raymond (V), Arthur Rielly (V), John Ringrose, Esca Riordan, Gordon Robbins (V),

"Coffee" Royal (S.A.), Jack Sheridan (V), Phil (Blah) Smith, Pat Sydenham, Fred (Lofty) Taylor, Wally Taylor, Lyle (Baldy) Thomas (V), Sid (Gunga Din) Valentine (V), Chas (Blue) Warren, Ted Waterstrom (V), Ken Watt (V), Bill White, Harry Whitman (V), Harry Wright, Sid Young.

Besides wives and families our loyal and staunch supporters, Molly Irvine, Dot Pike, and husband and Harold and Delma Silver were among those who gathered at Yarrawonga.

The whole re-union was such a series of happy gatherings and pleasurable occasions that it is difficult for your scribe to present them all in this article. We therefore list what your scribe considers the highlights of the weekend.

The presence of our Patron Sir Ivan Dougherty, his address in reply and its spontaneous reception by the members.

The Magnificent venue - (thanks Peter Denver). The magnificent weather (our thanks for this go one notch higher than Peter).

The tremendous roll-up of Victorians and South Australians (31) again justifying Peter's choice of venue. (special mention for Bruce Cork who made it from Queensland), the visit to our Bar-B-Q at Skilands by the Mukhta of Beit Jirga Village - Sheik Saud Ramon Bin Fattah and his donkey (Wahid Big Saieeda George-Marleesh Dee Condies); the superb exhibition of acrobatics and aerobatics by Phil Smith on the trampoline (even if Phil completed his performance with what the fisherman get when they catch no fish) The musical honours afforded the Battalion by Deputy Shire President Horrie Prescott at the completion of his speech, his rendition of "We're going back to Yarrawonga" was well received by an appreciative audience; the suave and polished performance of our Re-Union Dinner Chairman, Claude Raymond. The unique Bar-B-Q apron worn by our Treasurer, all members who were privileged to see it turned white and green with envy; the strains of "Scotland the Brave" played by the Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders (on tape) accompanied by Phil Smith on the cowbell floating over Lake Mulwala at 7 a.m. Saturday morning (appreciated by the early birds only); Peter Denver's speech at Skilands; memories of the Middle East revived by an harmonious rendition of "O-Rielly's Daughter" by Messrs. Smith and Mort; the serious depletion in the town's supplies of ales and aerated waters. All of these highlights contributed to a memorable re-union. Finally, the "Thank you's" First and foremost to all the citizens of Yarrawonga who toiled long and selflessly to ensure that our weekend was a success. This

was the first country Re-Union held where there were no 2/4thers on the spot. Congratulations to John Eastdown and his local committee. Next - thank you to Peter Denver, Claude Raymond, Hughie Burgdoff, Vince Quinn, and their assistants for their organising and co-ordinating efforts. Also thank you to Horrie Prescott, Deputy Shire President and President of the R.S.L. local Rotarians and their wives and the ladies who catered our Reunion Dinner. Peter Denver also wishes to thank Doug Miller, Harry Gjedsted, Frank Frizelle, J.McLaughlin and Rupert Carrington for their donations.

EDITOR'S NOTE: We are looking forward to a professional report on the Re-union by Ken Moses which we hope will be published in our next issue.

WELCOME HOME, BILL AND GWEN MacLENNAN

Bill and Gwen returned from Europe and the Clan Gathering in Scotland early in September. They had many interesting stories to relate about their travels also a very fine collection of photos to exhibit. While they were in th U.K. they met Frank Mallett (see Mailbag). They also had dinner in London with two of Noel Ford's very old friends, Tom and Marie Nicholls who sent their very best regards to Noel and Betty.

BON VOYAGE: MARG AND HARRY

President Harry Gjedsted and wife Marge left fo the United Kingdom for a month's holiday, early in September. Harry hopes to visit Henley for the rowing and, of course, all his Old Sussex Regiment mates. A convivial party of their family and friends, includ Patron Sir Ivan Dougherty, Senior V.P. Bill and wife Gwen, Treasurer Allen and wife Gloria gathered at Mascot Airport to speed them on their way.

WELFARE REPORT

Members seen by the four teams since last meeting:-

NX 15504	CECIL WILLIAMSON	Discharged
NX 5349	DICK FAULDER	Fair
	MRS (MICK) WELLING	Not Well
	FRED EVANS 4 BN	Improving
NX 5151	BILL KEOUGH	Expects discharge 26/9
NX 9924	CHRIS BATHO (Joined Association)	Fair

Once again our thanks for the willing and

efficient work of all teams. Harry Wright reported that TOM PROVIANS had been involved in a car accident but not hurt seriously, recuperating in Bribie Island.

Bill Keough rang from home. Quite well. Has to report to Grace Building in 6 weeks for check-up.

Finally, our very best wishes to our Welfare Officer John Copland who will be entering hospital this month for an operation. The very best of luck, John. John wishes to thank Frank Frizelle for calling on his son David at Wingham when David was hospitalised after being thrown from a horse.

LAST POST

NX 46794 GROVE A.C. (CHARLEY)
NX 68624 RILEY W.A. (BING)
VX 116879 McKENNA C. (CHARLIE)

We also regret to announce that two well known members lost their wives recently, namely Mick Gray and Doug Groves. To Mick and Doug our sincere condolences on your sad bereavements.

"LEST WE FORGET"

ASSOCIATION MONTHLY MEETING Friday 26th September - Gallipoli Memorial Club.

In the absence of President Harry the meeting was chaired by Senior V.P. Bill MacLennan. Besides Bill the following twenty members attended: Athol Heath, Allen Lindsday, John Meehan, Goerge Stack, Harry Wright, Bill Parry, Dick Pinson, Peter Cade, Jack Heaney, Ken Webb, Ian Pollock, Harry Nicholls, John Copland, Les Anderson, Ted Fox, Cec Chrystal and Sailor Harvey.

It was good to see Bruce Stewart down from Wagga. The formalities of the meeting were expeditiously completed by Chairman Bill and the meeting retired upstairs to the lounge where the usual happy and convivial evening was enjoyed by all.

REMEMBRANCE DAY MARCH - Sunday November 2nd

A reminder to members to support this important occasion on our annual calendar of events. Full details were supplied in the September w.o.g. Briefly - for those who have lost their September W.O.G. the parade will assemble in Martin Place at 2.30 p.m. Following the ceremony at the Cenotaph and the March a smoko will be held at the Gallipoli Memorial Club. All members are requested to attend to ensure

that this occasion becomes the success it deserves to be.

IN THE MAIL BAG

Bill Panter writes:-

Dear Bill (MacLennan),
I would just like to pass on sincere thanks on behalf of Bonny and myself for a really marvellous time at our weekend at Yarrawonga. A special thanks to those boys who did such a great job on the organising of so many people and filling so much into one weekend. Our special treat was to see Baldy Thomas and his lovely wife Freda after nearly thirty years. I don't think Baldy had a smile off his face all the weekend.

Finally, congratulations to our Patron, President and the committee of our wonderful Association for doing such a fine job over all these years in keeping us in touch with each other. We certainly look forward to seeing you all again in the near future.

Kind regards,

Bill & Bonny Panter.

Tom Mort writes:- It was certainly a good few days at Yarrawonga. It was good to see you all again. I hope you will be able to send me a copy of the picture taken of the (Motar) Platoon at the Re-union.

Regards,

Tom Mort.

F. Mallett. Purser C/S
P. & O. S.N.Co.
General Cargo Division
Albert Docks, LONDON.

Dear Allen,
How are you in health well, I hope, speaking for myself and family we can't grumble. With all this sunshine yes its a wee bit like the big city Sydney.
I have just finished a holiday and it did not fit in with the arrangements made by Bill & Gwen, however we may be able to have a short visit at my house in Norwich; They are trying to fix a time to fit in.
I must tell you the first time I received their letter was when I made a quick visit home. I had been staying in a hotel very near them so that was a week missed.
However when we did arrange a meeting I must say how much I enjoyed it. First a few drinks at their flat and then out to a restaurant for a grand meal, the MacLennans are champion

hosts. On our return to the flat we talked about old times.

The time came for me to depart but Bill MacLennan had another surprise for me, a talk with John Meehan in Sydney (by radio telephone).

On my way back to my hotel it was hard to believe that I had just had a few words by telephone with John; and it was so clear, Had a few beers with an old 2nd/4th man his name Tom Bartlett. He and his wife are having a holiday in London he gave me what news he could.

My appointment to my next ship came through this morning so I must pack up and get down to Avonmouth.

When Bill and his wife return from Norway maybe we shall have a chance to get together before they go up to Scotland.

My respects to you all,
Sincerely,

Frank Mallett.

COCK'S COLUMN

Captain Doug Miller was at the Re-union. Long time no see Doug. Doug told us that the "home" of the 2/4th in Melbourne is the Caulfield R.S.L. - "The Bow and Arrow Club". So all you Melbourne members make it your business to report in from time to time at the Bow and Arrow Club.

Paul Brooke, now at the Bank of New South Wales - Guyra, wrote and said he had hopes of getting to Yarrowonga however the distance was just too much for him. He sends his best to all his old mates. He sends his congratulations to Lofty Taylor. He reckons Lofty never shouted in his life but maybe now he'll be able to get a "nip" out of him.

A letter from Vic Slade of Lismore. Vic has done the right thing and paid up for Life Membership, good on you, Vic.

Sorry to hear that Dick Fauler has had two heart attacks, however, my latest news is that he is improving. Good on you mate, you can't keep a good man down.

We had a very nice letter from Cheryle, daughter of "Butch" Warran, Cheryle sent a cheque for \$50 to cover Life membership for Dad and a donation of \$20. We suspect that it was a Father's Day present for Dad, a very nice thought, Cheryle.

Harry Gjedsted met Ken Northrop recently at

the Gallipoli Club. Ken is now living at Wagga.

It was nice to hear from Max Nernay all the way from Urbenville. All the best Max.

G.J.(Norm) Gillespie of Reservoir Victoria wrote and said he hopes to see us all at Yarrowonga. Norm is President of our "Victorian Battalion the 2/22nd Battalion Association. Please give our best wishes to all the 2/22nd boys, Norm.

Haven't seen much of my old mate, Dick Morris, these days. Maybe Laurel is keeping his nose to the grindstone. How about a few more "leave passes" for Dick, Laurel? After all, we knew him before you did.

It was great to see Dick Coyle at Yarrowonga. Dick was a 2/22nd man also. His mates in the Sig Platoon remembered him after 30 years. Dick was sorry that he missed Frank Sadler and Ted Harris who were booked for Yarrowonga but didn't show up. What happened, Frank and Ted?

Several members of the battalion fell victims to the "Murray River Wog" including Bill MacLennan and Ted Fox at Yarrowonga. It was noticeable that the beer drinkers survived intact. It must have been the water you put in your Scotch.

Thanks to Treasurer Allen for organising our petrol supplies on the Yarrowonga trip. Anyone who wants some cheap petrol see Postmaster Vince Quinn at Albury; we heard he has plenty left over due to the calling off of the strike.

Bruce and Angela Cork came all the way from the Gold Coast, Queensland to the Re-union. Bruce expects to go to North Queensland on a business trip soon. He hopes to see Jack Reynolds and Jim Whittaker up there.

We heard that our old Queensland cobbler (and Vice President) Tom Provians was in a car accident and is now recuperating on Bribie Island. Hope you are OK now, Tom.

Many enquiries were received at Yarrowonga about Rusty McWilliam. How are you, mate? How about a short note for inclusion in the column.

It was just great to see Jack Chaseling all the way from Kyogle, at Yarrowonga, Jack has not been in the best of health lately, however from the form he displayed at the Re-union he appears to be well on the way to recovery. He sends his regards to all his mates and was disappointed that Peter Armstrong and Norm McIntyre couldn't make it.