



# White over Green

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE 2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

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**MEETINGS:** MAY - Friday 23rd ) 8 p.m. Gallipoli Memorial Club, Sydney.  
JUNE Friday 27th )

## ANZAC DAY 1975

25th April 1975 - the 60th Anniversary of the landing on Gallipoli by the AUSTRALIAN and NEW ZEALAND ARMY CORPS - and in the tradition of our Battalion we proudly joined our old comrades of the 4th Battalion AIF 1914-1918 for our combined March to the CENOTAPH and wreath laying ceremony.

Not a good day from a weather point of view - cold, rather bleak with blustery winds and the ever increasing threat of a downpour, and yet despite this it became apparent at the F.U.P. in King St. that we were going to have one of the best attended marches for years. Members of the Battalion that we have not seen for years together with those that we don't see very often were appearing and joining us as the time approached for the march to move off. Arthur Riley (Vic.) Peter Denver, Owen Harrison, Roy McAdam (S.A.) Ted Swadling (Griffith), Jim Wright (Newcastle), Harry Elliott (Darwin), David Wren (A.C.T.) and Bill Reaney to mention just a few.

The preparation that we carry out when we fall in for the march is done with the purpose of presenting ourselves for what we are - a PROUD AND EFFICIENT Battalion - and our appearance and bearing on parade is reflected in the acclamation that greets the Battalion on its progress through the City and the compliments that come to me for several days after the march. In this regard, I would like to thank Alf Carpenter (Newcastle) for acting as our R.S.M. again and assisting greatly to achieve our object of forming up in an orderly and presentable manner.

Our Reunion Dinner was a great success and I'm sure that you all enjoyed the atmosphere and facilities of the GALLIPOLI MEMORIAL CLUB. We had anticipated 120 attending but the final count was 160. Thanks to the Club Chef, Louis, the staff and the patience and co-operation of a group of our members we were all seated and catered for with minimum inconvenience. The location of the Club to transport, the ability of the Club to cater efficiently, plus the atmos-



phere confirms that the decision to have our Reunion in the Club was right - all that we have to do now is to make it better next year.

It was wonderful to have Sir Ivan with us again and looking so well. As always his schedule is rather tight and obligatory on this day but his stay was long enough for us to enjoy his company.

I was tremendously proud to join the company of Dick Morris, John Copland and Peter Cade to be presented with our Life Membership badges and for this great honour I thank you all most sincerely.

Your committee has always worked hard in the interest of our Association and Anzac Day is especially demanding on their time and services, particularly Allen Lindsay and Athol Heath and on your behalf I extend to them all Sincere Thanks and appreciation for all that they do. On this occasion I would like to specifically Thank John Meehan for his preparation of the name tags which was quite a time consuming task. The introduction of these name tags is another forward step by our Association - wear them on all occasions when we get together and don't forget to wear them on all occasions when we get together and don't forget to wear them TO - AT and FROM - YARRAWONGA in OCTOBER.

As always we were delighted to have "our band" join us after the March, with the Pipes and Drums entertaining us as is their custom, and the pleasure of the company of our Guests Maj. Gen. Gordon Maitland, Lieut. Col. Vin Hallinan and Garry Lucas and our Impressive Colour Party from 4Bn, The Royal N.S.W. Regiment, S/Sgts Graham Black, "Slim" Rayner Bob Pickard and John Rice.

ANZAC DAY 1975 - a great day and wonderful to be together again.

God willing, we'll see you again next year.

Best wishes to you all

HARRY GJEDSTED.

#### ANZAC EVE

John Copland and Dick Faulder were Duty Directors at the Gallipoli Memorial Club on the night prior to Anzac Day. John reports that there was a distinct 2/4 Bn flavor to the evening, with some of the boys "down from the bush" utilising the Club as a

gathering point - which is as it should be. Present were Peter Denver with brother Derry, Dee Why; Henry Elliott, Darwin; Gordon Chrisp, Wingham; and Newcastle stalwarts Harry Pearce, Cliff Curran, Booky Rae and "Stumpy" Wright. President Harry was also present - just signing off from a long, hard day as Sec/Mgr. of the Club. A good prelude to the following day's activities.

#### FURTHER ANZAC DAY NEWS

Together with all our tried and true regulars, many out-of-town and "long time no-see" members helped make the day memorable. Distance Champion would be Henry Elliott from Darwin, then there was Arthur Reilly from Victoria (with Noel Ford and Bruce Mulquinney) Kay McIntosh from Inverell, Owen Harrison and Peter Denver from South Australia; Peter Foster Tamworth, Bruce Cork, Gold Coast, Ted Swadling, Griffith; David Wren and Jack Huston Canberra and many others.

It was good to see the smiling faces of ever popular Ted Gamble, Charlie McAdam, Vic Francis, Ron Stennett, Jim McBrown, and the Newcastle gang - Harry Pearce, "Bookie" Rae, Cliff Curran and Stumpy Wright. Then there was "Dasher" Deacon, Danny Kananges, Charlie Adams, Jack "Starvation" Pearce, (were my ears receiving me or was he heard to mutter something about "there should have only been 1 tin of jam to every 20 men for this mess parade"?) Bill Andrews, Ron Barber, Ken "Pluto" Kesteven, Stan Bowen, Bill Loy (Bathurst), Jack Humphries, Pat Lahey, Barney Turley and Phil Smith.

#### ANZAC DAY APOLOGIES

"Cock" Robin, Bill MacLennan, "Lofty" Gibson, Tom Chamberlain, Russ McWilliam, Bob Lane, Ray Sharpe (Ex \* C.O. 4 RNSWR), Joe Rognini, Frank Gattenhoff, Ted Swanson, Peter Hill, "Blue" Pinder, "Slim" Venn "Brick Bradford, Clem Killeen.

#### "LAST POST"... ANZAC DAY 1975

As those present at the Anzac Day Dinner stood in Remembrance, Secretary Athol Heath read out the names of members deceased since Anzac Day, 1974.

JOHN LANE  
ERNIE PICKFORD  
J.E. HIBBARD  
A.McLEAN  
A.W. WRIGHT  
W.J.McGINNITY

LEWIS LEMON  
LEN HELLYER  
W.P. WEIR  
BOB WOOD  
TIM CLOKE  
J.W. BARRETT



C.L. GRAHAM  
GEORGE HAINES  
JOHN JORDAN  
G.R. KING  
H.F. HOWARD  
NORM IRWIN  
E.V. STEVENS

V. CUNNINGHAM  
R.G. MATTEWS  
J.J. NOLAN  
D.B. HAIR  
ROY HARRISON  
JOHN WELLS  
TICH BAYLISS

### "LEST WE FORGET"

#### WELFARE REPORT

STAN (S.J. GLYNN, T.P.I. NX5836, 26 Haig Ave., Ryde is in Aeolus Private Hospital, Ryde. Stan is 70 years old. Originally 2/4 Bn, transferred later to 2/17 Btn. Belongs to Ryde R.S.L. and their Welfare have case in hand. His wife rang and wanted to pay his dues in Assn, she enjoys reading W.O.G., but she was relieved when told that T.P.I. are not charged subs.

Old friends will be sorry to hear that COLONEL ROY CHAPPELL is in R.G.H. CONCORD Roy was the original "fang farrier" with 2/1 Field Ambulance and sailed with us in STRATHNAVER.

Calling MORRIE WILSON: Des Reid A.A.S.C. who was with Morrie in Darwin would like to renew an old friendship. JOHN COPLAND has DES's phone number.

#### YARRAWANGA - MULWALA REUNION

Your Editor was given a special message by Peter Denver at the Anzac Dinner:- "Don't forget to include in W.O.G. an invitation to all members to attend this year's Country Reunion. It will be a wonderful opportunity for "older" Btn. members to extend the hand of friendship to that wonderful band of young Victorians who joined the Battalion on the Tablelands - "the Grasshoppers", for we are making a special effort to have as many as possible of these men present for the occasion."

#### COCK'S COLUMN

Wedding Bells Congratulations to the youngest son of "Brick" and Elsie Bradford, who was married at Cessnock on the 15th March. I do trust that everything went as planned, for Brick's illness must have created problems. Harry Pearce, on Anzac Day was proudly anticipating the wedding on 3rd May of everybody's sweetheart (we all love her!) daughter Margo to Phillip Haine. Congratulations to the younguns and the oldies, Yvonne and Harry.

Nancy Shearwin sent along subs for Bill and mentioned that they have their youngest daughter, her husband and baby son with them. Involved in Cyclone Tracy, they lost every thing in Darwin, but fortunately are O.K. themselves. Bad luck, May everything turn out O.K. for the future.

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Your Editor is looking forward to huge commissions following Anzac Day. "Lasca" Roach fronted up following our special message in last issue, and so David Wren paid his long standing debt. Then I should get a rake off for introducing to Hon. Treas. Allen, two who wished to have paid up life membership. These were Des Cunningham of North Rocks, and our old mate Tom "Blue" Saunder. Good on you, boys! Come to think of it, I believe there was someone else at the F.U.P. with the where-with-all for life membership, which would have reached the "cash register" safely. Read all about it in the "Cash Register" when published.

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In his letter, mentioned in last issue, "Pom" Cole said he had a couple of visitations by Bill Keys and Jack Heaney, and that it was good to see some of the boys whilst in Concord. He also met in hospital a chap who knows Harold Conkey and spoke highly of him, saying Harold cannot do enough for ex-servicemen. Thanks Pom.

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In the mail bag, a letter from the reliable Esca Riordon, with the news of the North Coast boys.

#### Cullings from Kempsey

Had a phone call from Tom Provians to say that he and Norm McIntyre had visited Chas Groves, who is convalescing in "Rosebank" Repat. Nursing home in Brisbane. He said that Chas Burns from Murwillumbah, had had a stint in Greenslopes but had returned to his home. Tom was bright and cherry.

15.2.75 Today I attended a District Council meeting at Nambucca Heads, and Bub Graham and Jack Maloney were in attendance. Both are well.

18.2.75 Tonight I was speaking to Tom Provians in Brisbane, and he said that Chas Groves had now been transferred to Kenmore Repat. Rehabilitation Centre and was doing alright. Tom is well.



28.2.75 Was speaking to Harry and Noreen Dowling, and they told me their son Phillip (in Police Force) was playing 1st Grade football at Cowra. Both are O.K. Also saw Tom Malcom.

3.4.75 Went to Kyogle for Easter, and had a few noggins with Eddie Slade. Also phoned Jack and Jean Chaseling and they are both well. Jack said Alan Kirk and Carma are O.K. Chas Groves has been transferred back to Kyogle and is in hospital there. I saw him for a few minutes on Sunday morning - my neighbour told me that Jack (Brick) Bradford was in Lady Davidson Home. Has had a stroke. Can't think of any more news at the moment Jim, and hope you are keeping well. I sent down a news sheet last year (to the Secretary) but I don't think it was published. Kind regards to yourself, Esca.

Thank you Esca for keeping up the good work. I wish to offer my sincerest sympathy Esca, on your recent sad bereavement. I would have written earlier, but I did not know. Sincerely hoping that things go right for you in the future.

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News from "Lofty" Gibson is not so good.

Dear Jim,

I read on the March W.O.G. about your retirement. I hope this does not include retirement from Cock's Column? Would you pass on my regrets on Anzac Day that I will not be present this year. On March 19th I had a coronary occlusion and was rushed off to Parramatta hospital. The doctor has set April 30th as a possible date for my return to work, subject to more tests before then. In the meantime I am resting at home now and trying to accustom myself to this poly-unsaturated diet. I don't want a repeat of this trouble so have become very cholesterol conscious in a short time. Regards to yourself and all former mates. I will be thinking of you on the 25th while eating my non fat and non beer dinner.

Yours truly

Andrew (Lofty) Gibson.

I am indeed very sorry, Andrew and sincerely hope you'll soon be enjoying good health, thanks for writing. You will have my letter by now. Good luck mate.

#### OVERLAND WITH COPLAND

On my recent trip, there may be something of interest to report. I flew to Brisbane 2 Jan to attend the wedding of my godson on the 4th I booked into Anzac House, Wickham Terrace and recommend it most heartily. I met TOM PROVIANS and DUNCAN RUSSELL at the R.S.L. club next day - also two of DUNCAN's cronies HUGH SHAW (ex R.F.C.) and JOCK MILNE (ex R.A.F.). A rascally crew, but we had fun. On the Sunday I moved to my cousin's new house, where I stayed most of the week, and of course, saw TOM several times where together with his wife VERA and lovely daughter JAN. Also visiting Tom for a fishing trip was ALAN DAVIES son of our MATTHEW. The fishing there is tremendous.

The following Friday (10th) again in Brisbane I met the above of Duncan's friends. Duncan was not there but DOUGLAS CHANNEL came in. DOUG was 2/1 Bn. P.W. Germany then returned to the A.B.C., later manager in PNG and WA. He then went to Brisbane and retired there. He sent especial greetings to CEC CHRYSTAL.

On the Sunday morning I was invaded by four of Tom's gang, who many will remember from our country re-unions. BILL CAVANAGH (2/8 Bn) Max Cook (2/3 Fld Reg), Laurie McCosker and Ted Werne of our own battalion. Norm McIntyre had dashed off to Bribie so I did not see him, unfortunately.

On Monday I went down to Labrador on the South coast for luncheon with family friends who drove me down to Palm Beach to see Bruce and Angela Cork and daughter Fiona. Bruce said he had tried to ring John Meehan twice for John's birthday 10th Jan, (the day we sailed 35 years ago) but John was out.

Then to Inverell by coach were Lindsay Bedford met me. Took me around to see Mary Hawke before going out to Ashford. Mary is well and I heard a fine tennis player. Then 50 miles north to Ashford, where Lynsday and Son Jim are carrying on the tobacco growing - if anyone wants to see really hard work, long and intensive hours, just take up growing tobacco! They made me very welcome and I spent a wonderful week with them. Ron and Lyn settled there in 1951 and really have worked wonders.

Returned to Inverell on 15th where SELBY DEAN had kindly booked me into a motel for the night as well as my plane ticket back to Sydney. Had dinner with him and a good long talk. He is well and hopes to come down in October. Before leaving I called on Mrs Ross Smith, Ross of course being at the Wentworthville RSL Club.