



White Water Green

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE 2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

Registered at the G.P.O. Sydney, for transmission by Post as a Periodical, Category "A".

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32nd YEAR OF CONTINUOUS PUBLICATION

VOL. 32 No. 11

PRICE 15c PER COPY

NOVEMBER 1977

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NEXT MONTHLY MEETING: Friday November 25th, 1977 at 8.00 p.m. - At the Gallipoli Memorial Club, 12 Loftus Street Sydney

THE FUTURE OF THE R.S.L. by Sir Ivan Dougherty
(Some thoughts on this subject, printed in
"The Serviceman" - October-November issue.)

It is assumed that the role of the committee on "The Future Development and Planning of the R.S.L." is to advise Headquarters on what it considers should be done. To arrive at the advice which the committee will eventually tender to Headquarters, an appreciation of the situation, or indeed several appreciations will need to be made. For these appreciations a considerable amount of information would need to be set out. We have a general idea of the information required, but it is not specific enough.

THE INFORMATION required would include information about:-

1. The Assets of the R.S.L. - value, nature, where located, how controlled etc. (assets would include interest due, rent due on property leased under any contract, etc.)
2. Nature of the membership of the R.S.L. (age of members to be included - a general picture only).
3. Summary of our objectives to date.

THE AIM should be clearly determined for each appreciation. In example, one appreciation

would have as its aim a determination as to whether the R.S.L. should continue as it is. Another would have as its aim a determination as to what to do with the assets of the R.S.L. under different circumstances. In example, if there are no more wars, and if the requirements for membership are not changed, there would be no effective R.S.L. in 50 (even less) years. How would our assets have been disposed of? Secondly, if we do alter our membership requirements, we will still have the problem of safeguarding our assets and ensuring that they are put to the best advantage.

SOME FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED.

1. Some Sub-Branches are reaching the stage where they must discontinue - and indeed some have already reached it.

Deduction: Provision must be made for the assets of these Sub-Branches to be disposed of.

2. Age of Members: The R.S.L. is comprised of men and women who are fast becoming older - this even applies to those who served in Korea and Vietnam - and it will not be long (let us say 50 years hence) before not enough are left to conduct the affairs of the R.S.L. (This

assumes, of course, no more wars outside Australia.)

Deductions: (a) We must decide whether or not we want the R.S.L., perhaps under a changed name, to be functioning in 50 years' time.

(b) If the answer is "yes" we must:-

(i) decide whether an appropriate different name is to be adopted at some specific date in the future.

(ii) decide on whom we want in our membership at that time in the future.

(iii) decide what are to be the objects of our organisation in, say, 30-50 years' time - or before that.

(iv) decide on how our constitution may be changed (the machinery) to meet our new circumstances.

3. If the answer to deduction (a) under paragraph 2 above is "No" we must decide what we will do with our assets so that they can be of maximum benefit to our nation. We may form a Trust to administer something like a hospital (or hospitals) or a "retirement village" with facilities for the ageing incorporated in it (or perhaps more than one village), or some large sports and exercise complex (or complexes) to help the Australian people to reach the highest possible standards of physical and mental fitness. Initial planning to set up this Trust should be commenced NOW, and indeed the Trust could be set up with provision for our assets to be transferred to it later.

4. Although our policy has been to look after our own ex-servicemen and women and their dependants first, and rightly so, there will come a time (assuming no more wars for us) where there will be no ex-servicemen with "Active Service" to whom can be given welfare assistance. Therefore, the type of facilities indicated in paragraph 3 must be planned to help all Australians. We have played our part in keeping Australia out of enemy hands; we could, after we have all passed on, continue to help to keep Australia of the future a happy and healthy nation if we made some decision such as that indicated in paragraph 3 above.

5. If we decide that there will still be an R.S.L. - with perhaps a different name - in 50 or 100 years' time or more, we could still proceed with some projects along the lines of those indicated in paragraph 3 above.

A THANK YOU FROM OUR WIDOWS

Having just attended my twelfth re-union I feel it would be nice to say "thank you" from the widows - at least six of us who were at Wagga - Gladys TWIST, Elsie BRADFORD, Marg McCARTY, Elsie PARSONS, Vera WALSH and myself. The last four were at the same motel and all agreed it was such a happy time, with no shortage of transport to and from the functions. Many

thanks to Betty DALLA for a tour of Wagga. We really appreciate the chance to share in these re-unions and to meet so many men who were mates of our husbands.

From all of us - THANK YOU.

Molly IRVINE

IVAN DOUGHERTY GALLERY

In order to provide for the need within a professional School of Art for a public exhibition facility which would complement Sydney's State and private galleries, the Council of the Alexander Mackie College recently approved and established the "Ivan Dougherty Gallery". The Gallery is named after the first Chairman of the College Council, and serves to commemorate "the distinctive contribution made to education in general - and to this College in particular - by Sir Ivan DOUGHERTY."

A special inaugural exhibition is at present being held in the Gallery (from 25th October to 18th November) of the work by Mr. Elwyn "Jack" Lynn entitled "Two Decades". Mr. Lynn is a well-known artist, author and critic. He is the Curator of the Power Gallery of Contemporary Art, Sydney University, and advisory editor to "Quadrant" and "Art International". In 1975 Mr. Lynn was made a member of the Order of Australia for his services to art, and in 1976 was appointed Chairman of the Visual Arts Board of the Australia Council. This is the first occasion on which the viewing public has been given the opportunity to "review" a substantial body of Mr. Lynn's work covering the period 1957 to 1977. The Gallery is open on the second floor, 200 Cumberland Street, The Rocks, from 10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. Tuesday to Friday inclusive.

WELFARE REPORT

On Oct. 6th I rang Bill RANEY. He is getting along alright. A district nurse calls daily and he is due at the Mater Hospital for tests in mid October. It happened to be the 80th birthday of his wife Alma. Bill will be 80 on Jan. 6th, 1978.

Bill PARRY saw Athol HONNERY at War Vets.' Home early in October. Athol had a bad asthma attack and is now back in R.G.H. 7.

Bill PARRY and I attended the funeral of George HAZEL on Oct. 7th. Smithfield R.S.L. was there in force. Norrie MCGREGOR is their Pensions Officer and Tex DALLOWAY their treasurer. Norrie conducted the R.S.L. part of the obsequies and included our Association in his very fine address. He covered George's service with the Battalion in the Middle East, Greece, and his evacuation from Crete in H.M.S. "Orion", where

he was on constant duty as anti-aircraft gunner. Our deepest sympathy goes to Mrs. Lilian Hazel and their family, also to George's mother. Mrs. Hazel Senior has been a constant visitor at R.G.H., and we have become good friends.

It was noticed in the T.P.I. journal for October that NX 2045 Vince BOWMAN of Warialda has been declared T.P.I.

Members seen in Hospital in October:-

- NX 7001 PETERSON, N. R.G.H. 34 Nervous condition - unchanged.
- NX 15424 THEOBALD, R.E. R.G.H. 120. Dick was Bn. bandmaster on the tablelands and stretcher bearer in New Guinea. In R.G.H. for general overhaul, ulcers and nervous dyspepsia.
- NX 65899 BUTLER, Kenneth J. R.G.H. 5. Heart condition - undergoing tests.
- NX 2055 HONNERY Athol, R.G.H. 7. Heart condition and asthma.
- NX 42707 CUNNINGHAM, Desmond, R.G.H. 130. In for spinal op. Now discharged. Very sore but fit.

4 1914-1918

- 15667 SHARMAN, Percy, R.G.H. 520. Discharged.
- 28773 DAVIS, Edward, R.G.H. 34. 91 years old and very deaf. In for lung and heart tests.
- 1808 PYNE, Norman, R.G.H. 630. Was always having X-rays, so was not seen.
- NX 5460 REYNOLDS, John. John is still at home and doing well in the care of his wife Allison.

Dick LATIMER, although well in health, has had further bad luck, in that his car was hit while parked outside his home and was a complete write-off. Dick therefore has had to withdraw temporarily from the hospital team. Thanks to Bill PARRY, he and I can carry on in the meantime.

John COPLAND, Welfare Officer.

COCK'S COLUMN

The Wagga "do" must have been something special. Norm MacINTYRE reports seeing a low flying aircraft in the park on Sunday morning - trouble was it wasn't going anywhere!

John COPLAND has received a note from Albert (Angel) GABRIEL, who was unfortunately in hospital in Kurrajong and missed the Wagga reunion. He is now home and much improved and sends regards to all.

Apologies on non-appearance at Wagga have also come from Doug GROVE, Herb HOATHER and Merv McINNES.

Dasher and Lily DEACON recently spent seven weeks in Western Australia at Rockingham with their son, his wife and two grandsons. Even

before embarking on the Indian Pacific, strolling along the platform they met Harry BROWN, his wife and son. They had a good journey with Harry, although when they arrived at Kalgoorlie they had to strap him into his seat - he wanted to join the two-up game! Dasher and Lily have a caravan in a permanent site in North Haven - Brigadoon Caravan Park, and they intend to spend most of their days there. Visitors are always welcome - George SUGDEN please note - regards to self and wife. Not very far from you, Gordon CRISP, and there are no stairs! Glen ACKERMAN lives in Adelaide Street, North Haven - has been a T.P.I. for a long while, has had a couple of serious operations and is going into Port Macquarie or Wauchope Hospital for another one, so "A" Coy. drop him a line. Dasher was sorry he missed Bill SUMPTER and daughter Patricia - please write to him Bill, as he doesn't have your address. Dasher's is 5/130B, Marine Parade, Maroubra - Phone 349 7814.

There are several ways of wearing medals and decorations. There is the official way, all in line and order. There is the French way, all over the chest like you had been hit with a tomato and egg pizza, and this method seems to have been the one Alf CARPENTER favoured at Wagga, as many will doubtless remember. Peter CADE was seen talking to Alf and extolling the merits of the official way, and Alf must have been impressed because he gave Peter the job of mounting them properly. Members will no doubt notice the difference when Alf next appears on parade - turned out as an Ex-R.S.M. and Officer should be.

A final reminder to Far North Coasters and travellers that the annual Lismore Dinner and Reunion is being held this year at the East Lismore Bowling Club on Saturday, November 19th at 7 pm. Doug STEBBING of 96 Casino Street, South Lismore 2480 (Phone 21 5890) would be pleased to take your booking up to Thursday, November 17th to facilitate catering arrangements.

IN THE MAIL BAG

Secretary Athol received the following letter recently from R.P. ("Bluey") WIDDOP, NX 4208 of 49 Sussex Inlet Rd., Sussex Inlet.

"An old 2/4th member gave me a journal of your Association the other day and it brought back some memories of the Battalion. I was one of the originals of the 4th, 2nd A.I.F. (Breeches and Spurs). In fact I wore the White over Green colour patch on my militia uniform into Ingleburn on 3/11/39, and was sworn in at Homebush Drill Hall. My militia company was at Auburn, and at the outbreak of the war we guarded the Shell depot at Auburn while in uniform. TWISTY, Teddy WAKEHAM, SUNDESTROM, CUTCLIFF, John DOWNIE, Jack PARSONS (Col). - I was his mounted orderly at

Ingleburn (Horse Transport) in the 2/4th - Lizard GOUNINAN, Tim WEST, Frank FRIZELLE were some old names I can remember, both from the militia and the 2/4th. (Billy RYAN?) I can remember being on horse picket lines at night at Ingleburn too. Jock DOWNIE and Bill SUNDSTROM were there too. So was a rogue of a horse called "State Express 333". Anyway, I didn't sail with the 4th. I was transferred to the 2/1st M.G.Bn. Greta. We went to England, and on the way back I ran into a bloke in Egypt, Lieut. de Meyrick, in 1941. We also went to Greece and Crete - saw some of the 2/4th - can't remember the names. I was on the "Costa Rica", later sunk. Doug McKinnirey from Nowra and I often have a schooner together. I would like to join the 2/4 Assn. I am 56 years old this month and on the burnt out pension. Is there any chance of getting a White over Green badge? I belong to the Thirty niners Assn. Sincerely yours."

(Hope you enjoy reading your own copy of "W.O.G." this month, "Bluey"Ed)

A little belatedly, but never too late for a breezy note from Ken MOSES, we give you his latest literary effort, dated August 20th:

"What cooks with this Legion of Frontiersmen business? If you want an A/Cpl. (paid) or a humble private, you have one. Just a case of letting me know the gen, as I must have been in hospital or somewhere for the March issue, which has escaped me. Must say that you and Mick Looked "Sweet" in your uniforms in Blankenberge."

I have put my home address up top as by the time the Redfern mail exchange sorts things out your end I should be out of hospital and home. Have been in a month now and looking forward to getting out. Will have the foot in plaster for another ten weeks and a permanently stiff ankle, but no pain, which is the main thing. Had a visit from Joan and Tom MORT when I first came in here - would you all please start eating beef up there to put a grin back on Toms face. Was nice of them to drop in. After all, I was on my way to have tea with them I collected the trees, but Joan made it up to me by bringing me some daisies.

"Sorry I won't be at Wagga, but lugging half a ton of plaster around the parade ground is no joke. But in advance, please wish all the gang and their ladies a beaut weekend from Rosemary, myself and Jillian (who is at present in Inverness, Scotland, having a ball.) Cheers to all."

(We all hope that by now you are getting around like a two year old again, Ken. You were very much missed at Wagga, as was our friend MORT.

Ed.)

From Selby DEAN at Tingha, we acknowledge the following:-

"Read your interesting article in the August W.O.G. on the Legion of Frontiersmen, and as you are calling for volunteers please put my name down as a member. As you can see by the above address I would be a country member. Please send details. Regards."

(Will send further printed details as soon as they come to hand, Selby - Regards Ed.)

Jack and Phyl ORMISTON recently wrote from Cowra "We enjoyed Wagga very much indeed. It was good seeing everyone again, and we are looking forward to the next re-union, wherever it may be. Kindest regards."

"Morrie WILSON wrote a while back from Mullumbimby:

"Since being here I attended Anzac Day at Mullumbimby - had a long chat and a drink or two with Alf SCHWEITZER, we being the only two reps. of 2/4 on parade. I did come up here to retire and fish etc., but have found myself working harder than ever. Have about eight acres, mostly fruit trees, so am really kept busy - it at least keeps me fit and well. Regards and all the best."

From Norwich, U.K., we recently received the following from Frank MALLETT:

"Hilda and Harry (WRIGHT) came down for a few days - I hope they enjoyed their stay. I found them an absolute tonic - maybe shall be able to see them before they leave. When you see Hilda, tell her I have at my house the best whipped cream in the area - she will understand what I mean. Like you, they tell me that a trip back home will do me good. Yes, I must make the effort, I have so many friends in Aussie that to renew their friendships is a must."

"My garden was really good this year, with the extra rain the red, white and blue effect was really good - well that's what visitors tell me. I was sorry about the "ashes" - I did enjoy the games and the Pommies played well but the Aussies I felt may not have been the best side to come over."

"It's good to see Chic SLEEMAN's name in W.O.G. also Fred APHORPE makes the column now and again. My very best wishes to you all."

Bill SUMPTER wrote several weeks ago from Ipswich:

"Am looking forward to attending the re-union at Wagga - as I enlisted in Griffith in 1941 and stayed in the army until July 1954, I am no stranger to Wagga, as I was stationed at Kapooka Camp from May to November, 1952, and from there returned to Ingleburn Camp to the 13th National Service Bn., and terminated my army service at the 19th N.S.B. at Holsworthy. Had a pleasant surprise in April when Bob LEVER, wife and son Bill call to see me."