



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., LL.D (Hon.)

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MONTHLY MEETINGS: There will be no normal "4th Friday" meeting in April. This will be replaced by the VERY BRIEF MEETING on Anzac Day.

The May meeting will be held on Friday 27th at 8.00 p.m. at the Gallipoli Memorial Club, 12 Loftus Street, Sydney.

ANZAC DAY (1977) ARRANGEMENTS

This year's Anzac Day arrangements will be exactly the same as for last year, and it is hoped that there will be another good roll-up at the Wreath Laying Ceremony, the March and the Re-union at the Gallipoli Memorial Club. Decorations, Association Ties and name plates should be worn, and for those who do not have ties or name tags, these will be available on the day as previously.

Order of events for Monday, April 25th is as follows:-

Wreath Laying Ceremony -

F.U.P. Corner York & Erskine Sts. at 0730 hrs. Battalion will move off promptly at 0800 hrs., preceded by the Parramatta Pipe Band and 4th Bn. A.I.F. (1914-18).

ANZAC Day March -

F.U.P.: In the vicinity of the corner of King and Elizabeth Sts. (Look for 2/4 Bn. sign.) It is expected that the Battalion will move off at approx. 0930 hrs.

ANZAC Re-union -

This will be held as last year at the Gallipoli Memorial Club, 12-14 Loftus Street, Sydney (near Circular Quay). Luncheon tickets will be available from any Committeeman for \$4.00, and the lunch will commence at 12 noon on the 1st floor. The entrance fee will be, as previously, exclusive of liquid refreshments, which will be readily available at the bar. This arrangement has been proved most acceptable and fair to all since the transfer of the re-union to the Gallipoli Club. Draught as well as Canned Beer will be served.

May I wish you all a very happy and memorable

Anzac Day. I regret I shall not be with you in person, but will certainly be so in spirit, and will more than likely be marching with the Australians in London ...Bill Mac.

EDITOR'S NOTE ----- I M P O R T A N T

In the March issue it was stated that Allen & Gloria LINDSAY would take over the production of W.O.G. whilst my typist and I are overseas. This has now altered due to the fact that Allen is not well and has been ordered by his Doctor to divest himself of all extraneous interests in the pursuit of becoming fit again. (This divesting does not include Gloria). As a result, Dick & Enid LATIMER are the new stand-in Editors, so please don't bother Mr. "Have-a-chat" Lindsay with your letters and subs. Forward all to Dick & Enid, who will attend to same and will make sure all correspondence ends up in its correct niche. The Latimer's address is:

298 Bobbin Head Road,
NORTH TURRAMURRA, 2074
Phone: 449 5370

EDITOR.

WELFARE REPORT 25.3.77

Visits to Hospital since last report:

- NX 46536 ANDREWS, Stanley. R.G.H.3 No change since last month. Still in isolation. Very cheerful.
- NX 6514 MAIDEN, V. R.G.H. 310. Diabetic Blackouts, etc. In for tests.
- NX 5190 FINCH, Noel, R.G.H. 30. Ulcers. Operation due to-day (25th)
- NX 2055 HONNERY, Athol. On 10th March Athol rang from War Veterans Home at Narrabeen to report that he was home from R.G.H. Had seen Dick CHAMBER-LAIN, and both well. Then on 22nd March Athol was back in R.G.H. 28 for further blood transfusion.

4 Bn. W.W.I

WOLFF, Otto. R.G.H. 310. Eye trouble, now discharged.

LAST POST

- NX 68519 EWINGS, Roy. Roy who was far from well when visited last month, died on 27th Feb. Our sympathy goes to his wife and family.
- NX 4026 WAITE, J.O.
- NX 46826 BROWNLEE, J.T.
- NX 31925 HEBBLEWHITE, C.A.

LEST WE FORGET

NEWCASTLE NEWS

Cliff and Aileen CURRAN entertained Newcastle members of our Association at their newly

renovated home at Stockton on Sunday, 6th March. Those in attendance included Marj CARPENTER (Alf unable to attend, having prior commitments in Sydney), Audrey WRIGHT, Bill WHITE, John & Margaret RAE with daughter BONNY, Harry & Yvonne PEARSE, Joe & Gwen BOHLE, Bill & Estelle HAYES, George & Heather MITCHELL, Jim & Mona SHERRITT. Plenty to eat and plenty to drink - an excellent day, enjoyed by all, thanks to our hosts, Cliff and Aileen.

Joe and Gwen BOHLE recently farewelled their daughter CHRISTINE, going overseas to further her nursing career in England.

George & Heather MITCHELL report having spent a few days with son GUY, who is now stationed at Ingleburn.

Regards to all from Newcastle Members.

Jim SHERRITT

CASH REGISTER

Treasurer Allen wishes to acknowledge and thank the following:-

Subscriptions \$6.00

- | | | |
|------------|------------|--------------|
| E.Fox | A.Gibson | R.Everson |
| M.Steele | R.Small | H.E.Williams |
| P.Cook | E.Richards | H.Russell |
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Subscriptions: \$9.00

W.Gibbes

Subscription: \$12.00

J.M.Wilson

Life Membership \$30.00

- | | | |
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| W.Andrews | L. Goodwin | W.J.Reid. |
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Donations: \$5.00

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Donations: \$8.00

J.M.Wilson.

Donations: \$10.00

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| R.R.Blackstock | Mrs. S. Faulder, | W. Sumpter |
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Donations \$20

H. & D. Silver, D. Naphthali L. Goodwin

IN THE MAILBAG

Chic SLEEMAN recently wrote from Warragamba:

"Dear Bill, Please convey my thanks to your hard-working 'Secretary' who so obligingly tried to find Brian Hill's address for me when I rang recently. I managed to track him down and got in touch by phone and mail. To pad out my letter to him I enclosed a few back copies of W.O.G. His reply to my letter contained a cheque for \$30.00 and the request that I pass it on to you as his subs. to W.O.G. It is so good to read the little bits of information about our old cobbers and since most of us are pretty uncommunicative we owe a great deal to those who take the time and trouble to keep you informed. May their shadows never grow less."

(Thank you, Chic, for bringing "Kanga" back into the fold. The reason my secretary could not find his address was that he was for so long unfinancial his card had been removed from the file ...Ed.)

Les SHAND writes from Scarborough, W.A.:

"I have been receiving 'W.O.G.' for many years now as editor of our 'L.E.M.' over here. I might add that your publication is always read with interest and over the years an odd name or two has brought back memories - names such as Danny KARANGES, the brothers George & Norm CATT, Norm McINTYRE (does he still receive his Roubles from Russia?), Arthur REILLY and "Porky" HOLLAND are a few that spring to mind and then I noticed in Feb. issue of 'W.O.G.' the name of Brig. J.E.G. MARTIN, which is the main reason for writing and requesting that you help me out by forwarding the enclosed press cutting on to 'JEG' as we affectionately knew him in our service days. The Jock MURRAY the cuttings are about was Brigade-Major to 'JEG' in our Darwin, Tableland and New Guinea days after our return from the Middle East. I was Bde. Orderly Room W.O. in the same era and I am sure the Brig. would like to know of Jock's tragic passing, and in particular, his success as a 'Man' in every respect in Civvy Street."

H.C. ("Pop") WILLIAMS writes from Birrong:

"My wife and I have booked our passage to sail on May 18th to the U.K. We will stay with our son in London, who is a permanent resident there. We plan to tour the Continent, also will call on Grahame & Joyce WOODWARD of Dawlish in South Devon, and return home on December 21st. We recently, for the fourth time in 10 years, revisited Mt. Lofty

The Castle, as also Crafers and Stirling, is hidden from view by the vigorous growth of trees and the Super Highway - only a few glimpses of roofs are to be seen. Regards to all."

Jack ORMISTON writes from Cowra:

"Phyl and I are still talking about Southport and looking forward to Wagga in October. Have not seen Ted HARRIS or Tim WEST lately must look them up again. Our best wishes fellow members of the Association."

Bill FACEY'S "Secretary" Aimee writes:

"We are only just catching up on mail after retiring to Evans Head owing to Bill's health not enabling him to work again.

"We were most disappointed not to attend Southport re-union, but Bill was in hospital. Reading January's "W.O.G." and what Ernie SWAIN had to say I can add it made Bill's hospitalisation (also in traction like Ernie) a lot easier and 100% brighter when 'Dasher' Deacon and wife popped in on the way to Southport. Bill hadn't seen 'Dasher' since War days. Seeing and talking to another 2/4 comrade was very good therapy - in fact the best also for another 2/4er - Reg MURPHY - in bed opposite to Bill.

"Living at the beach is very relaxing. Bill caught 'fish of the week' (4 lb. 3.3/4 oz. bream), was 'fish of the year' until last week when it was beaten by 2 ozs.

"Have had a house full of family - our son Grant (Chief Petty Officer Q.M.G.) his wife and two sons who have now taken up new appointment at 'Lewen' Perth, W.A., his last ship being the 'Ardent'. Daughter Judith, husband Ian and four boys from Clifton, daughter Margaret and two boys - Marg is D.C. Sister at Kyogle Memorial Hospital. Only one missing was daughter Susanne, husband Mark and two boys who live in Adelaide, but Sue is also D.C. Sister in Adelaide. We hope to visit next year - Bill's health permitting. So we had eight of our ten grandsons home for Xmas holidays. Don't know when a granddaughter will turn up but we are still hoping. "Cheaper by the dozen". Thank you and your wife & Dasher and wife. Kindest regards"

Norm EVERSON writes from Manly, Q'ld.:

"Saw Tom and Vera PROVIANS at Cooparoo R.S.L. on Friday night, also Allan and Enid TOBIASON. Tom has had a spell in "Greenslopes" with his second coronary, but is back to his usual merry form again although very thin. Kind regards to all."

W.J. (Bill) REID writes from Kamarah:

"Kamarah is in the Riverina, about seven miles from Ardlethan and about 35 miles from Griffith on the Griffith road - really a great spot. The wife and I were put out to grass last April - we found this place and so decided to spend the

rest of our days here. It is really a great area to retire in. I don't know when I'll be able to get to Loftus Street to see you all, so if I can't make it to Sydney beforehand I'll see you all at Wagga. All my best regards."

(The dates of the Wagga re-union you wanted to know, Bill, are Oct. 1st, 2nd and 3rd. ...Ed.)

"FOR VALOUR" - THE STORY OF THE VICTORIA CROSS
(Continued from January issue)

Lt. ALBERT JACKA (Cont'd)

"Two of the ten men holding it were killed, two were wounded and the rest fell back under the onslaught of men, bullets, bombs and smoke. In all, the Turks had gained 11 metres (12 yds) of trench - but they were pocketed. To move southwards meant passing the mouth of another trench where members of the 14th kept up steady fire whenever anyone attempted to move. Neither could the Turks move northwards, because Jacka had taken up a position in a firestep jutting out from the main trench.

"Along a communication sap opposite Jacka crawled an officer to check on the situation in the front trench. As he reached the junction, he was seen by the Turks and fired on. He fell wounded. As a warning to others, the men who had the intruders bailed up shouted 'Turks in the front line'. Lt. Crabbe from Battalion Headquarters arrived on the scene and was about to enter the front trench when Jacka stopped him. Jacka indicated the situation to the newly arrived officer; Crabbe then asked Jacka if, with support, he could charge the Turks. 'Yes', shot back Jacka, 'I'll want two or three.' Three men immediately volunteered, Jacka hurled himself across the trench to join the volunteers and then fixed bayonets.

"On the signal, the four men charged around the corner and into the trench - and into a murderous volley of fire, Within seconds, all except Jacka were hit and the attackers fell back. Crabbe and Jacka now discussed a second assault. 'Create a diversion', pleaded Jacka. 'Just enough to give me a moment's break on them'

"Allowing Jacka time to get into position Crabbe's men then hurled two bombs into the Turk's trench. As the explosions boomed out, Jacka hurdled the parapet and dropped into the midst of the Turks. With his rifle blasting shot after shot, he waded into the Turks. When other Australians arrived, the battle was over. Amid a pile of bodies, unlit cigarette in his mouth and face flushed with excitement, sat Jacka. As Crabbe approached, Jacka smiled: 'I managed to get the beggars, sir.'

"There were seven dead in the trench. Two had been bayoneted. Two more lay dead where they had been shot down fleeing from Jacka. The trench

was back in Australian hands, and Albert Jacka was given the V.C. He was also pushed through all NCO ranks in a hurry and in April, after withdrawal from Gallipoli, was given the pip of a second lieutenant.

"The former fencer was even more pleased with the £ 500 and the gold watch which had been promised by Victorian financier - promoter John Wren to the first Australian to win a VC.

"By August of 1916 the 14th Bn. was shuddering under the impact of a heavy German artillery and infantry assault at Pozieres on the Western Front. On the night of August 6th the enemy set to work digging out the Australians with an intensified artillery barrage that, it seemed to the troops, would never end. But it did. At dawn. By this time advancing German infantry had overrun the Australians' first line and was advancing on the support lines. Jacka and the survivors of his platoon were now in a dug-out behind them. Jacka was staring at the backs of the Germans when he saw a party of Australian prisoners being escorted to the rear. He waited until the group was about 30 yds. from his dug-out. Then, screaming at the top of his voice and with his seven men at his heels, he charged with rifle (he never used his pistol). A bullet hit Jacka. He shook his head and charged on. Another ploughed into him. It drove him to his knees momentarily but he was up again and closing the distance to his target. He was only a few yards away when another bullet caught him. It entered his right chest and came out the other side.

"Next instant he and his men were on the Germans with bullet and bayonet. And as each German died his rifle was seized by one of the Australian prisoners who then joined the battle. It was so one-sided now that the surviving Germans panicked and, turning their backs on the other Germans in the vicinity, seeing this, did likewise. The terror spread from man to man and the entire attacking force fell back. As a result, a counter attack with the inevitable heavy loss of life became unnecessary.

"For Albert Jacka it had been a personal victory even if he had suffered five wounds in the body and two in the head. Jacka's deed was, said the official war history: 'The most dramatic and effective act of individual audacity in the history of the A.I.F.'. At any rate, apparently the authorities decided one VC was enough for any man, so the Australian lieutenant was given the next best thing the Military Cross.

(To be continued)