



White Clover 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: (Fourth) Friday, July 22nd, 1977, At 8 p.m. at the Gallipoli Memorial Club, 12 Loftus Street, Sydney.

EDITORSHIP

Sincere thanks have already been recorded in the minutes of the Association and passed on personally by all and sundry to Dick LATIMER and his able assistant Enid for the excellent job they did in the production of "W.O.G." during my recent absence from the Sydney scene, but I would also like to record here my own personal thanks for a job well done. As we all know, Dick suffers from rather indifferent health, but seems always to be there to lend a hand when there is a job to be done and also sets a particularly high standard in so doing. Congratulations, Dick and Enid.

Bill MacL.

ASSOCIATION OF 4TH INF. BNS. ANNIVERSARY CHURCH PARADE

St. Anne's Church of England, Strathfield, the Garrison Church of the 4th Infantry Battalion was once again fairly well attended on Sunday afternoon June 26, 1977 for the Annual Service to Commemorate the laying up of the Queen's

Regimental Colours of the Battalion there on March 14th, 1971.

Prior to the Service, conducted as usual by the Rector of St. Anne's the Rev. Angus Tipping (Chaplain of the Association), a short march to the Church was held behind the Band of the 4th R.N.S.W.R., which also took part in the service which followed. The lessons were read by Sir Ivan Dougherty and Col. Vin Hallinan, Patron and President of the Association respectively, and the message of the Rev. Tipping's address was entitled "Remembrance, Thanksgiving, Dedication". We were once again grateful to Mrs. Tipping and the members of St. Anne's Ladies' Guild for the very enjoyable afternoon tea served in the Church Hall after the service, giving everyone the opportunity of "catching up" socially. Apart from Sir Ivan, 2/4ers present included John Copland, Bill Parry, Ken Kesteven, Allen & Gloria Lindsay and Bill & Gwen MacLennan. It is intended to give more publicity to the approach of this important event in our calendar next year, in the hope that more

of our members might find it convenient to attend.

SIR IVAN DOUGHERTY BIOGRAPHY PROJECT

Since the first report on this project in May W.O.G. a great deal of progress has been made. As was reported, Rod Humphries had agreed to produce the book with the proviso that he could not do any writing for at least eighteen months, and said that as much as he would like to undertake the job in memory of his father, he would not be offended if we found an author who could do the job more quickly. It was decided that for obvious reasons time was the essence of the contract. Mr. Tim Fearnside, a Journalist, Author and Publisher, should be approached, and Tim has kindly agreed to be our Author.

Tim is an original of the 2/13 Bn. who took part in all 9 Div. actions up to and including Alamein. On returning to Australia he went to No. 4 O.C.T.U. Woodside, and on being commissioned was posted to 2/3 Bn. and served with them until the end of the war. We are very fortunate to obtain the assistance of a person of Tim's calibre. Besides being a very experienced Infanteer he is a very successful Author, having produced five well received books including "Sojourn in Tobruk" and "Half to Remember".

At our last meeting on Monday, June 20th, we were honoured with a visit from Mr. Richard Smidt, who gave us some invaluable advice on methods of financing the project. Richard is a Solicitor who specialises in Company Law and is a close friend of the Pegg family, having been at University with John Pegg and served in the University Regiment with him.

One of the functions of the Committee of this project is to ensure that all material concerning the life and character of Sir Ivan is made available to his biographer. The 2/4 members on that Committee - and indeed all members of the Association - would be very remiss if any material relating to Sir Ivan's service with the 2/4 Bn. was omitted through lack of effort. Specifically we require vignettes illustrating all facets of his character. His qualities as a soldier, his sense of humour and his popularity (a quality perhaps not at its zenith at the time of the Spitfire Fund), the "Spitfire Fund" itself and other incidents strictly relating to the 2/4th. If you were in daily contact with him, or even if he only spoke to you once, you must have an impression - and all this a biographer needs to know. So this is it! There is no second go! NX4050 (N.S.MacI) and others - what about it?

All items to Peter Cade, 19 La Boheme Ave., Caringbah, 2229. Thank you Gentlemen!

CASH REGISTER

Apologies are due to the following members, who due to an error by the printer were wrongly credited in June issue of W.O.G.:

1. Subs. \$12.00 (2 yrs.) - Hugh Wittleton (Not published)
2. Life Membership - \$30.00 W.J.Stephens, L. McCosker, D. Munro (Shown as Subs. \$12.00)
3. Donations - \$12.00 Ferd Pegg, Cec Cameron, Dave Tearall (Not published)

Further receipts since last issue are as follows:

Subs. \$6.00 Tom Bartlett, Jack Heaney, Slim Powers, Don Bundy, Ken Webb. Sid Young.
Donations \$4.00 - Don Bundy, Ken Webb.
Donation \$25.00 - Athol Honnery.

WELFARE REPORT

- NX 13398 MALCOLM T.F. (R.G.H. 210) "A" Coy. In for kidney tests. Discharged.
NX 14111 SHAYLOR, N. (R.G.H.630) Discharged after a tough time.
NX 5085 SCULLY, C. (R.G.H.23) Hopes for early discharge.
NX 41889 FENSOM, S. (R.G.H.610) Joined BN. after Crete and served through to New Guinea Discharged.
4 Bn. (1914-18)
5756 PARKES, Les. (R.G.H. 520) Discharged.
7051 SMITH, E. (R.G.H.210) Slight op. Discharged.
510 MILLER, Arnold (R.G.H. 510) In for Op. on ear. An old and cheerful friend of the visiting teams.

Mrs Vera WALSH who has been visiting our members went in as a patient on June 23rd, but expects to be there only a couple of days.

LAST POST 4 Bn. 1914-1918

2211 NIXON, Robert Rex. May 31st at Dee Why.

COMING SOCIAL EVENTS

For the benefit of any of our Country Members who may be able to visit Sydney for the last weekend in August, the next two 2/4 social functions have both been arranged for that weekend, and it is hoped that we shall have a good roll-up at both of out-of-towners as well as city folk.

LADIES NIGHT will be held on Friday, August 26 at the Gallipoli Memorial Club, 12 Loftus St. Sydney. Dick Pinson and his band will be in attendance as usual to ensure a bright and happy evening, and a good supper will be provided, so come along with your family and friends at 8 p.m. Admission is \$6.00 per head, and drinks will be available at the bar. Please note that this function takes the place

of the usual August monthly meeting.

BACK TO INGLEBURN BAR-B-Q arrangements for Saturday, August 27th, are well under way. Portable Barbecues, food and drinks will need to be taken by all attending, as there are no barbecue or mess facilities available on that day. Time of arrival will be before lunch and departure late afternoon, and in next month's W.O.G. we shall be including a map of the area of the Camp in which we shall be gathering. So mark down the dates of these two events NOW, and make sure that YOU and your family help to make them both a 2/4 success.

COCK'S COLUMN

Athol HEATH reports having seen Clive NAPTHALI attending a function at the Gallipoli Memorial Club. Clive is the son of Reg and Doris. They had a chat in the foyer about various things, and the lad is obviously a solid citizen. Members will remember Reg as a good solidier and a good bloke. On the same evening Barry LYNCH, who is a member of the Gallipoli Club and a friend of Clive NAPTHALI, told Athol he would be seeing Russ McWILLIAM two days later. Athol asked him to give Russ our regards.

Again on the same evening Athol had a phone call from Tex DALLOWAY, who reported that Col. (Bunny) BURROWS has retired as Sec. Man. at Davistown R.S.L. because of ill-health. It would seem that Bunny was a little remiss in not informing the Editor of his change of address. However, this has now been rectified, and Bunny can look forward to receiving W.O.G. again. May we all wish you good luck Bunny, and express the hope that your health improves and that we might see you soon now that you are not tied down by your duties as Sec. Manager. Thanks for ringing, Tex.

John COPLAND reports having met Brian WARING at the Annual State R.S.L. Congress. Brian has been through bad times but is now well. He was in North Shore Hospital for 7 months, but unfortunately our Welfare teams did not know. John also ran into Dick FENTON at the War Veterans' Home at Narrabeen when Sir Roden CUTLER was opening the grand new Medical Centre and 98 new self-contained units. John was not able to see Dick CHAMBERLAIN or Athol HONNERY.

Dick LATIMER recently had a phone call from Sailor HARVEY to say he had met J.P. REES and his wife in Sydney. Unfortunately we don't have a Christian name, so will call him J.P., is confined to a wheel chair, the aftermath of cerebral malaria contracted in New Guinea. We will attempt to contact J.P. to see if there is anything the Association can do to assist him.

Cec and Phil CRYSTAL leave to-day (July 4) as this edition is being compiled, to attend their Son Rolfe's wedding in England. May we wish them a particularly happy trip, a healthy stay and a safe return, also the very best of good wishes to Rolfe and his bride for a very happy future.

Hugh WITTLETON, who has been out of circulation recently, dropped into the Gallipoli Club to have a yarn and renew acquaintance. Athol HEATH looked after him very well, if we're any judge, and also extracted from him two years' subs. Hugh left Lismore some three years ago and is now living at Kerso, via Townsville, Q'land. Lucky Hugh! No wonder your W.O.G. was being returned - it's great to have you back in the fold.

IN THE MAILBAG

Enid and Dick LATIMER recently received two letters from Meryl HOWELL, WIDOW OF Noel. Meryl has had a tragic twelve months, having lost Noel, then her daughter-in-law and recently Noel's brother, but despite all that sadness her letters were very bright. Noel was Inspector of Police at Mudgee, and occupied the residence adjacent to the Police Station, so of course when he passed away Meryl had to find other accommodation. She and Brad, her youngest son, have recently moved into the new home Meryl has built. The Police have been very helpful with working bees to lay and sow her lawn, and the wives have assisted in making curtains. It's good to know there are still some good samaritans. Young Brad has recently joined the C.M.F. and is shortly to be interviewed for enrolment at Duntroon. We all wish him every success.

In a letter to Athol HEATH, his namesake Athol HONNERY, who was recently discharged from R.G.H. Concord, expressed his appreciation of visits by members of the Association and made a very generous donation of \$25.00. Athol sends best wishes to all Association members.

Two of our jet-setting couples have also sent post-cards to Dick and Enid recently. One from Harry and Hilda WRIGHT dated June 5 read:

"Have arrived in London after good trip. This card (Kleine Scheidegg showing Mt. Eiger) was just as we saw it. We went up by train which runs from just outside Interlaken, Switzerland, but we did not go right to the top, which is the Jungfrau, the last stage up being by cable car. We have particularly liked the scenery of Switzerland and also of Yugoslavia. Hope you are both well. Love."

The second card from Jack HUSTON, dated June

21st, read:

"We are having a quiet day in Edinburgh after a very hectic week of Jubilee celebrations in London. It started on Monday with the lighting of the Jubilee Bonfire at Snow Hill Windsor - Tuesday following the Queen's progress up the Thames, with fireworks on the River at night - next day the splendid service in St. Paul's - special receptions on Thursday and Friday, and a glimpse of the parade on Saturday. Regards to all."

Fred APTHORP wrote from Griffith:

"Reading of the citation for the award of the Military Medal to Jack MALONEY makes me wonder just what deed a man has to perform to receive a V.C., as I am of the opinion that Jack must have come very close to winning that award. Apparently the 2/4 was not so fortunate as some units in this regard, as I honestly believe that three such awards were warranted, as Terry PAFF's action was worthy of a V.C. also. Also in regard to Ron SMALL's request for a Bn. colour patch, I can supply same. Best wishes to yourself and family and to the Association."

Thank you, Fred, for your prompt reply to Ron's request - his address is

80 Gibb Street, ROCKDALE, 2216

Mrs. C.W. YOW wrote from Bathurst:

"It was with deep regret that my husband was unable to attend this year's Anzac Day march in Sydney, as he looks forward each year to meeting his old friends once again. However as our youngest son-in-law, Roy BROWNLOW, had just been elected President of the Bathurst R.S.L. Sub-branch, he decided that he would attend the march and reunion here. Roy, a Vietnam war veteran, now 27, is believed to be the youngest R.S.L. Club president in N.S.W. He served as a national serviceman in the 2/1st Engineers Support Troop in South Vietnam, and is now a grazier on a property called "Briar Park", which has been in the one family for over 100 years. My husband looks forward to receiving W.O.G. each month and hopes to see you all at the next Anzac Day in Sydney."

Please pass on to your son-in-law the congratulations of all members of our Association Mrs. Yow, and best wishes for a most rewarding term of office.

In a letter to Dick and Enid recently, Vera PROVIANS wrote as follows:

"Tom is writing his screed for W.O.G., but I just wanted to add a piece of my own. We had a marvellous trip, made all the more enjoyable by the 2/4ers we met. After reading the latest W.O.G. to-day it's more and more

obvious that as the boys get older they take strength from each other. In their letters of last month so many who have slipped away are now anxious to rejoin. It's a pretty precious "mateship" that has developed over the years and people like you and Dick have contributed in no small way with your untiring effort for the Association. (We'll drink to that, Dick!) The LUCKs came to dinner the night after we got back - a terrific couple. Bill was in Brisbane as N.S.W. vice-president of the Blinded Soldiers of St. Dunstan's, to attend the Blind Ex-Servicemen's conference at the United Services Club."

From Pat HEATH we have the following report:

"As requested, some details regarding the Cretans' Annual Ball held on May 28th at the Wentworth Hotel. At our table were John COPLAND, Dick MORRIS, Ken KESTERVEN, his wife and sister-in-law, Harry and Marge GJEDSTED, our daughter Julia and husband Colin, Athol and I.

"It was a most enjoyable evening - if there were any disappointments it was because there was so much of the dancing we could not join in. The displays of national dancing were really lovely, and Julia and I at least were almost standing on our chairs to get a better look! Also at our table was a family of Cretans - very charming - I am afraid we did not find out their names, but their company was indeed a pleasure.

"The evening included the crowning of two "Beauty Queens", both of whom were still at school. Miss Crete had raised over \$6,000 - not a bad effort for a school girl, eh!

"Sir Eric Willis and the Hon. Gough Whitlam were in attendance with their ladies. I'll leave it at that - any personal comments from me would not be proper!

"Altogether a thoroughly enjoyable evening with, as I have said before, only one regret, and if I attend next year I intend to ring the Organiser and request "just one waltz"...."

Thank you Pat. Do hope Athol has recovered well from his minor op. and that the faith you have put in your chiropractor has proved to be well founded.

The following account of Tom and Vera PROVIANS' trip from Anzac Day on makes good reading, so we include as much as space permits:

"Arrived home a couple of days ago, after being A.W.L. for quite some time, as you know, and have just received the June issue of W.O.G. Congratulations to yourself and Enid for an excellent job well done. It is very good to see so many contributions - must have been catching! Also many thanks for a pleasant afternoon

accorded Vera and myself.

"Had the usual good Anzac Day with the gang, thank to all the good work by Harry and his Committee and conscripts. The only difference between Dasher and myself is that I think I must have used the lift - as for windbagging' about golf the next day, I would need positive proof - not that I would doubt your word, old boy! However, Vera and I managed to proceed onwards and had a chat to Nancy SMITH at Blackheath. Nancy's cold can was most enjoyable, and she her usual sparkling self. Cowra was our next port of call, where we found Jack and Phyl ORMISTON, also saw Ted HARRIS who hasn't been on top, but is battling on regardless, and had words on the phone with Tim WEST who, as usual, was a very busy boy. Jack & Phyl insisted that we stay overnight and, as is the case with Vic & Dot PIKE, we can really recommend them as a chauffeur and guide combination. We were really impressed with Cowra, and have kicked ourselves for not attending the reunion there.

"Saw Arty KLEEM at Young. He had recovered from Anzac Day and is looking forward to retirement. Had news of Bruce MILLARD, who is around these ridges and kicking along. Found "Joe Bloo" WELLS at Junee; he had been shearing and it was most unnecessary to twist his arm to get him to the R.S.L.Club. We went out to Joe's property and had a very pleasant afternoon and evening with him, wife Bob and family. Joe took us for a run around his ranch - he has a very nice place, as much as it hurts me to be nice to him. Of course, I had to run a check on Wem KEAST and have formed the opinion that he is the most unemployed employed bloke in the place - he looked so busy I was upset.

"Stan BLACKSLEY at Humula thought his eyesight had let him down when he dropped in for a chat with he and his wife - however, Stan has been in touch and I need say no more. I was having a quiet modest ale at the Wagga Club and thought the bloke near me was familiar - sure was, as it was Bruce STEWART who works in the place, and to my disgust he was quaffing SQUASH. However, the matter was suitably rectified. Had a word on the phone with Bill COZIER and Bob JACKSON - both going well and very busy boys, then found a chap done out like an "astron - something or other" with his head in a hole - turned out to be Perc DALLA cleaning out a boiler. Got the drill from his wife as to his whereabouts first. He looks like a King and also talking about retirement.

"Griffith was a quick port of call. I was scared when I heard a certain gentleman was still on holidays and thought he might still have had some rum in that bottle - not that I

mind, but I do prefer two fingers side by side - wasn't bad Anzac morning though, "Swaddo". We then proceeded in easy stages via Mildura, Lake Vista, Barossa Valley to Adelaide, where we called on "Sam" - sorry, "Bill" ROBBINS and his good wife Millie. That character has reformed so much it really worries me - must be Millie's influence. Anyway we spent a pleasant arvo with them both and the short snort in the kitchen was a touch of the Sar-Maj.ROBBIE we all knew. Robbie informs me that he has to go carefully for health reasons - know a few blokes who wish that had applied some years ago. Whilst there, had a chat with Bill LOY, who lives quite handy to Robbie, and rang Betty RUNGIE who is going along quite well despite the upset of Max's brother passing away a couple of weeks before. I understand that quite a few of our boys knew him.

"After showing Vera all I wanted to about Adelaide - Crafers, Stirling, Aldgate, Mt. Lofty (Carminow is still there, though you can't get in) and all points in between, we arrived at Hindmarsh Island, where Peter DENVER and the boys were busily depriving some young steers of their future prospects of re-production, and Pat getting ready for a pre-arranged Bar-B-Q. Must give credit - those steaks were nearly as good as the "Provians" variety - they were beaut. Peter and Brian are renovating the old homestead on his property (100 years old I believe) and are doing very well - while Pat is like the proverbial "Bee", doing excellently in keeping up with the people who seem to home in onto the place when some tucker seems the order of the day. I was lending Peter a very leisurely hand to sand down a ceiling when who should come through the door but Vic PIKE. He and Dot were on their way to West Aussie and decided to drop in. He finished up on the end of a trowel helping plaster some walls, and Pete did not object one little bit! We had a very pleasant couple of days - no fish though - tried out the Goolwa Golf Course and had a satisfactory score (Dasher please note) with Brian and the local "Fangs, and between chores Peter and Pat showed us all there is to see between their place and Victor Harbour.

"Victoria turned on some of its worst weather, unfortunately, and as our stay was in South Gippsland, we didn't see anybody from 2/4. I did try to ring Harry WHITMAN on the way, but have since heard that Ada wasnt too well and was in Brisbane - they were on their way to Cairns and I will check further through Ian WALLWORK.

"Harry GJEDSTED was up to his ears at the Gallipoli Club when I called, and it took two calls at the Reception Desk to find out that

the charming young lady was Marge, whom I had never met before. Sorry to hear that Athol and Allen haven't been their usual selves and do hope they are both on deck again.

"On the slow crawl home we called on Craig and Edna CLARK at Scone - he is still full of the stuff he used to use to keep us quiet when he was in the Q. Store. However, we spent a pleasant overnight stay with Craig and Edna and was pleased to meet Jim and Joe, his brothers, and make some room in the fridge for Edna.

"Tried hard to get hold of Nick ALLARDICE at Tamworth - however, he was having trouble with his Cab and time ran out, so we had to get moving, as we had arranged to call and stay the night with Perc and Eileen LANSLEY at Guyra (not exactly on the Equator). Have never seen "Ghost" look better, and when we ran out of lies we left Eileen and Vera watching T.V. and went to bed to wake up to one on Guyra's beaut frosts - it would have, too.

"Came across a creek at a joint called Tingha and found Selby DEAN doing nothing in particular but getting ready to come and filch some of our Bananaland fish on the long week-end. How did you go, Selby? And I would rather not hear about the usual one. Looks like a King and living like one too, by the way. Ross SMITH was busily trying to beat the "pokies" (there's a sad case for you) at the Inverell Bowls Club and looks a bundle of punch - still trying to deform the feet of the people in the place. However, we had places to go and people to see, and one day I will find out which he has done.

"Max NERNEY was elated over his game of bowls when I called at Urbanville - he had just committed the unpardonable sin of beating his boss. However, they were enjoying the last and so all must have been well.

"By prior arrangement I met Aub PRIEST at Bonalbo, and for a retired gent he is on top of the world and a very active member of the Community. Aub will be in Wagga as he has family there and has no excuse. Just missed John HINETT, who is also retired and keeping the distillery operating - would have looked him up but time ran out.

"Final port of call was the old stamping ground at Kyogle, and victim No. 1 was Bob GARDNER who had news of Jack LISTER and Reg MURPHY. Bill FACEY is now living at Evans Head and Hugh WITTLETON at Mackay (If I don't hear from him he had better look out). Found Bob via Dawn, who consented to us paying a visit to the Bowls Club. We availed ourselves of the opportunity - unfortunately time did not permit me to catch up the next day, so will see Bob next time. Jack & Joan CHASELING were a pair of crocks, as Joan had gone to Lismore to have an op. and Jack

decided to get a blood clot in his leg and finished up there too. They weren't really full of beans and we hope all will soon be A.1 again.

"My apologies to Wal TAYLOR. I found Wal in Cootamundra doing a good deed by one of his mates who was shifting shop - he had recovered from Anzac Day quite well.

"Now it's home and plenty to do, Dick, but I'm not in any hurry as yet - one must take their time about these things. However I must say that a trip like Vera and I have just had confirms a strongly held belief that the 2/4 W.O.G's and their wives are a bloody fine lot of people to know. Cheers & Fourex's."

HALF TO REMEMBER - By G.H. ("Tim") FEARNESIDE.
(Published by Haldane Publishing Co. Pty Ltd.
154 Elizabeth Street, Sydney, Price \$7.95)

Both Harry GJEDSTED and Dick LATIMER have recently reviewed this book - we offer you their remarks:

Harry writes: "I have always admired and envied those too few people who are gifted with the ability to write in such a manner that they literally draw the reader into the book to become part of the action and the people concerned, and make it difficult for the reader to put the book down, and impatient to pick it up again at the first opportune moment. Such an author is Tim FEARNESIDE. "Tim" takes you through the life and actions of an A.I.F. Infantry Battalion and his fellow citizens come volunteer soldiers in World War II, and their doubts, fears, bravery, humour and sadness that is the life of an Infantryman on Active Service. This book will make fellow A.I.F. Infantrymen proud of their brother Battalions and those men and women who served in other Services aware of the hardships, courage and unquenchable spirit of the men of the A.I.F. To those who did not serve, or could not serve, and of the younger generation than ours, I hope that this book will kindle a strong flame of pride in our Nation, our Service personnel, and an understanding of the unbreakable chains of comradeship that were forged under unforgettable conditions, and which bring us together on ANZAC DAY".

Dick writes: "We Infanteers are understandably proud of our Corps, and Tim's book is a very readable and at the same time modest reminiscence of an Australian Infanteer in World War II which justified our pride. This book is commended to all Infanteers, and any order coming from the 2/4 Bn. Assn. or any purchaser mentioning membership of 2/4 Bn. earns a commission of \$1.50 for the Assn. Welfare Fund".