



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 - Fourth Friday in each month at 8 p.m. at the Gallipoli Memorial Club,
12 Loftus Street, Sydney.

NEXT MEETING - Friday 26th May, 1978.

ANZAC DAY - 1978

Once again the members of the 2/4 Battalion assembled on Anzac Day to pay homage to those who did not return and to be reunited with those with whom lasting friendships were forged nearly forty years ago.

The Battalion moved off promptly at 8 a.m. from York Street to the Cenotaph for the wreath-laying ceremony. Led by our Patron, Sir Ivan Dougherty and President, Harry Gjedsted the forty two 'early birds' on parade were joined by members of the original Fourth in Barrack St. for the traditional joint ceremony.

The main march was well attended. Led by the Parramatta Pipe Band (for the thirty second consecutive year) and the Banner Party (who for the first time preceded the Pipe Band). 102 members of the Battalion marched with all the verve of forty years ago. In the words of our principal guest, Major-General Gordon Maitland, at the Re-Union dinner

'The 2/4 Battalion had a wonderful war record and the record of this distinguished battalion is continued to-day, you only had to see the battalion on parade to-day to sense its traditions and pride. Very well done, 2/4th!'

The Re-Union Dinner, held at the Gallipoli Memorial Club was its usual resounding success. Attended by 145 members and their guests, both official and private many old friendships were renewed.

Some sort of record was created by Tich Fordham and Charlie Davies. Both were attending their first Anzac Day Re-Union. On the other hand another type of record - John Meehan attended his thirty-third consecutive Re-Union, having not missed a single one since being de-mobbed. The Loyal Toast was proposed by John Copland and Cec Chrysal proposed the toast to the 2/4th Battalion.

This was followed by a toast by our President to 'Our

Fallen and Departed Comrades'. During the traditional one minute's silence The Secretary, Athol Heath read the list of comrades departed during the last twelve months. They were:—

Peel Duncombe	Stan Andrews
Jack Chaseling	Graham Jackett
George Hazel	S. E. Maddon
R. J. McFarland	J. V. Ward
H. J. Westwood	Scotchy McCartney
H. J. Temple	John Reynolds
R. D. McIntosh	Vince Slade
Jim Staples	Charles Reynolds
M. C. Gunn	L. A. Stanford
Ron Booty	

Our Patron, Sir Ivan, then invested our new Honorary Life Members, Ivan (Slim) POLLOCK, Athol HEATH and John MEEHAN with their badges.

President Harry then welcomed our Patron, Sir Ivan Dougherty.

In reply Sir Ivan pointed out that the continued strength of our association was mainly the result of the efforts of the officers of the association, both past and present committeemen. He concluded his address by saying:—
'In these days when we consider what is happening around us and become concerned about our security it is pleasing to have with us General Maitland who represents the Army of to-day. We are delighted to know that he is looking after the young soldiers of this country. It is because of the efforts that he has put in over the last years that we have some young soldiers, although perhaps not enough. We can only wish him success in his efforts to strengthen our Australian Army.'

Ted Fox very ably proposed the toast to our visitors. Our official Guests were Major-General Gordon Maitland, Order of Australia, OBE, ED., Inspector-General (Designate) of the Army Reserve; Major Terry Smith, 4th Battalion RNSWR; Capt. Peter Keating, President of the Association of 4th Infantry Battalions; WO1. Norm Harris, MBE, ED., ex 2/1st Bn. and 4th Battalion RNSWR; The Parramatta Pipe Band.

Major-General Maitland responded to the toast on behalf of all of the visitors. During his response he recounted an amusing anecdote concerning a chance meeting with a well-known Inverell identify - Selby Dean DCM., and the double coincidence of the number of his Staff Car - 2002 being Selby's NX number. General Maitland concluded his response by saying:

'I would like to tell all of you that the traditions that you have created are being carried on. The young soldiers of to-day, in the Battalions, are very fine people, I am proud of them, You would be proud of them, too.'

The raffle prize which was so generously donated by Ken Kesterven, was then drawn with great dexterity by Blah Smith. The winner of the garden setting was Dave McGilvray: the second prize was won by Ian Arnold (ticket sold by Sluggo Wyldeman).

The formalities being completed, fraternizing and conviviality were the order of the day. Space prohibits the recording of all of the activities of note that took place. However, some items of note were memory-catching — the two Smiths, Blah and Ross (Roaring H....) performing an impromptu Highland Fling to the Pipes and Drums of the Parramatta Band — Mick Gray recounting the daring deeds of Stuart Piniger when they served together in the Water Transport.

The following is a list of those who were present on Anzac Day — with apologies to those who were there and managed to be so inconspicuous as to miss out on this list:—

Les Adams	Les Anderson	Bill Andrews
Harold Bowman	Len Bloomfield	Alan Bohle
Dick Boyd	Sid Buckley	Bill Butcher
Cec Cameron	Alf Carpenter	Peter Cade
Gordon Chrisp	Cec Chrystal	Wally Capper
Lionel Clarke	Peter Cook	John Copland
Bruce Cork	Ron Cootes	Cliff Curran
Charlie Davies	Gordon Dale	Dasher Deacon
Jack Delph	Alex Dick	John (Larry) Dooley
Jack Dubber	Dave Endean	Bill Eslick
Bob Fergusson	Des Finch	Dave Follington
Tich Fordham,	Jim Forman	Ted Fox
Peter Foster	Vic Francis	Frank Frizell
Frank Gattenhoff	Harry Gjedsted	Tom Gorman
Curley Gorman	Mick Gray	Charles Grandquist
Doug Groves	Len Hammond	Johnny Hawkins
Ted Harris	Athol Heath	Ray Hill
Ted Hopkins	Jack Huston	Geoff Ings
Ted Jackson	Norm Johnstone	Danny Karanges
Ken Kesterven	Kevin King	Wal Lambourne
Pat Lahey	Allen Lindsay	Harold Maiden
Alan Manning	John Meehan	Bert Milner
Dick Morris	Jack Morgan	Brig McAtamne,
Joe McGrath	Jim MacBrown	Keith MacIntosh
Jack McLaughlin	Les McNamara	Joff Naseby
Charlie Newell	Harry Nichols	Mick O'Regan
Bill Parry	Alan Passmore	Jack Partridge
Harry Pearse	Ivan (Slim)	Cec (Slim)
	Pollock	Powers
Bookie Ray	Ken Richardson	Doug Rodda
Rex Robberds	Jim Sadler	Bluey Saunders
'Blue-eyes' Scott	Charlie Scully	Ron Stennett
Wally Shaw	Con Short	Phil (Blah) Smith
Noel Smith	Ross (Roaring H)	George Stack
	Smith	
Mick Steele	Lang Stronach	Ted Swadling
Ernie Swain	Wally Taylor	Barney Turley
Ken (Slim) Venn	Tom Watson	Laurie Waterhouse
Joe Wells	Jim Whittaker	Hughie Wittleton
Ron Windeyer	Ewen Wood	Harry Wright and
last but certainly by no means least		Sid Young

During the day some items of news were received on your temporary editor's tape recorder, they were:-
Ross Smith reported that Gus Kyle is ill in Hospital in Kiama.

Jim Whittaker said that Jack Reynolds is now retired, living in the town of Atherton N.Q.

Charles Grandquist enquired after Alan Blackwood, last heard of in Melbourne.

Dasher Deacon reported that Lilli was not feeling the best; best wishes for a speedy recovery from the boys, Lilli.

Con Short attended his first Re-Union for 12 years after being away in Queensland for that time.

Dave Follington reported seeing Craig Clarke at Scone recently. Craig sends his regards to all his old mates.

Harold Maiden from Warialda attended his first Re-Union for many years he being absent in the U.K. and USA for a long time.

Wally Taylor, Junee said that Dudley Meecham from Cootamundra sends his regards to all.

WELFARE REPORT - 25th APRIL 1978

NX40019 LAPPIN, James, R.G.H. 410 now discharged. Ulcer condition. Jim was many years in Papua-New Guinea and later Secretary of the North Sydney Sub-Branch Has now moved to Gwandalan.

NX41455 CROCKER W.H., R.G.H. 230 ulcer condition, major operation, now discharged. Bill was in C Coy. and joined us just before Greece.

NX6092 HOWE, Lionel C., Still dangerously ill in Temora Hospital. Thanks to George (King) Coles who has kept me informed all the time.

NX165865 SMITH, Len G., R.G.H. 12 Nervous condition, also eyes. On last call on 24th April Len was away on two days leave so we may see him on Anzac Day.

NX5838 OGILVIE, Colin, R.G.H.3. Colin back again with severe spinal trouble but very cheerful. Has a fund of anecdotes about Battalion life and personalities.

NX4601 CHAMBERLAIN, Dick. The indefatigable Bill Parry calls at the War Veterans Homes and reports that our two friends are well, the other one being:-

NX2055 HONNERY, Athol.

NX53929 GRAHAM, Jim. Mrs. Graham reports that Jim has gone back into Gloucester House,

RPA Hospital for the final patching up operation and may be there for 3 or 4 weeks. Jim is in Ward 510. Phone calls or personal calls would be welcome.

Olive WILLCHAMS - is in RNS Hospital suffering from severe Arthritis.

In the acknowledgements to our Hospital visiting teams mention should have been made of Vera WALSH, widow of John Walsh. Vera belongs to the MIRANDA RSL AUXILIARY who visit RGH weekly. She always seeks out 2/4 Battalion patients and they do enjoy her cheerful friendly visits.

On behalf of all the Teams,
John COPLAND.

ASSOCIATION OF FOURTH INFANTRY BTNS.

ANNUAL CHURCH PARADE - to be held

on SUNDAY 25TH JUNE - ST. ANNES CHURCH

42 Homebush Rd., Strathfield

1430 hrs - Assemble at Davey Reserve,
Beresford Road

1445 hrs - March to St. Annes (approx. 500 yds)

1500 hrs - Church Service

After the service all are invited to be guests of the Women's Guild for Afternoon Tea. All members and wives of our Association are requested to make an extra effort to attend this important function. St. ANNES has been associated with the 4th Bns. for many years right back to the 1914-1918 War. The Queens and Regimental Colours of 2/4th Battalion are laid up here.

Ken Kesterven.

LISMORE COUNTRY RE-UNION

OCTOBER - 8 HOUR WEEKEND

As mentioned in the last issue of White Over Green there is plenty of accommodation available in Lismore for Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights. For those wishing to extend their stay there will be no difficulty in booking you in at seaside resorts as close as 25 minutes run from Lismore for the Monday night, or the rest of the week for that matter.

The Far North Coast mob are joining forces to turn it on, so be in it. Lismore RSL Club has promised full co-operation and what amounts to an 'open-go' for the long weekend. Make the move now and send your deposits to Alan Kirk, 17 Dibbs Street, Lismore, 2480 ... Ph. 21 4464 PLEASE MAKE YOUR BOOKINGS EARLY!!!

NEWCASTLE NOTES

The Newcastle members March get together was held at the Shortland RSL on Thursday night, March 16th. A very large number of members and friends were in attendance to welcome our old mates, Slim Powers and Ron Barber who drove up from Sydney and stayed overnight at the Shortland Motel. John Copland, Ken Kesteven and Cock Robin who intended coming up were unable to make the trip and sent along apologies. Slim and Ron intended visiting Bill (Bully) Hayes who is still in the Mater Hospital having treatment for spinal trouble and other problems, however most of the tests so far have proved negative. I am sure the Sydney boys thoroughly enjoyed themselves and we certainly enjoyed their company.

Regards,

Jim Sherritt.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:—

JOHN COPLAND on being the recipient of Life Membership of the R.S.L. This honour was recommended by John's Sub-branch - Ryde. An honour richly deserved.

MAJ-GEN. GORDON MAITLAND on being the recipient of the Order of Australia awarded in the Australia Day Honours List.

JIM BROWN, M.L.A. on his appointment to the Executive of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. Our members will be interested in the following press release:—

'J.H. Brown, M.L.A., Member for Raleigh, will leave Sydney on 9th March to attend a meeting of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Executive in Penang. This is the first meeting that Mr. Brown has attended since his election late last year as the Australian Regional Councillor of the Association. In this capacity he represents all Parliaments in Australia, including the Commonwealth, as well as those in New Guinea, Cook Islands, Solomon Islands and Fiji. The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association has 8,000 members from some 102 Parliaments throughout the world. The General Conference of the Association held annually is the only forum, apart from the Prime Minister's Conference, where a complete exchange of views is possible.'

LAST POST - Vale G.H. (Tim) FEARNSIDE ex 2/13th and 2/3rd Battalions.

The members of our Association who knew Tim were shocked by his sudden passing on Sunday 16th April.

Tim was a well-known author and publisher. He is well remembered for his book 'Half to Remember' the reminiscences of an Australian Infantry soldier in World

War II. Tim was engaged in the production of Sir Ivan Dougherty's Biography in conjunction with the special committee formed for that purpose. His sudden passing is a great loss that will be felt by all who knew and admired him.

LEST WE FORGET!

CONTROVERSY CORNER

We have had this one before - Jach HUSTON and Hughie WITTLETON came up with it again on Anzac Day. 'Why doesn't the Committee print a book or list of all members names and addresses, enabling members to correspond and visit each other

Well there are for and againsts this idea.

Some members think it is a good idea and others think it is an invasion of privacy. What do you think? Please let us have your views. Send them to:-

ALLEN LINDSAY - Acting Editor

P'S If you have not already paid your 1978 Dues (\$6) please enclose them in your answer to the above request.

Allen Lindsay - Substantive Treasurer

IN THE MAIL BAG

From Griffith: Sorry to say we have Fred Driscoll in hospital at the moment, but have not heard any report on him as yet, will be visiting him this afternoon. He is one of our veterans of both World Wars of which we have about seventeen. Reading the number of members who are scattered to the four winds makes me wonder just where one would run into one of our members, either as permanent residents or as travellers. Well Allen cheer up and best wishes to all members. Sincerely, Fred Aphthorp.

From Ermington: ... Late again with my subscription but have enclosed \$10. Use surplus where it is needed most. I was surprised that there has been no mention in WOG of the death of former C Company member, L.A. (Spud) Stanford, at RPA Hospital. Enclosed is a clipping from the SMH with details. I sent a card to his wife on behalf of myself and also his mate, Doug. 'Dagwood' Smedley, who visited me recently. Another visitor, who came to see me after a break of over thirty years, was Broughton Cox of Mudgee. He was on his way to Bali, Hong Kong and Japan. I got cards from his first two stops, but nothing since. Regards to all, Yours, A.F. (Lofty) Gibson.

from Tamworth: Very seldom visit Sydney so have no chance of being present at the monthly meetings. This city is very short of 2/4 members only Mick Allardice, Peter Foster, Morrey Peters and myself. Kit Carson is our nearest neighbour at Loomberah. Wishing you all success for 1978.

Yours sincerely, George Sugden.