



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".

PATRON: Major-General Sir Ivan Dougherty, C.B.E., D.S.O. & Bar, E.D., B.Ec., LL.D (Hon.)

33rd YEAR OF CONTINUOUS PUBLICATION

Vol. 33 No. 6

PRICE 15c PER COPY

JUNE 1978

PRESIDENT: Harry Gjedsted, B.E.M., 2/25 Mona Road, Darling Point, N.S.W. 2027.

Phones: 27-6350 (Bus.); 32-3977 (A.H.)

VICE-PRESIDENTS—Senior: Bill MacLennan, 2 Amaroo Ave., Castle Cove 2069. Phone: 407-3320.

Northern N.S.W.: Esca Riordan, 36 Cameron Street, West Kempsey, N.S.W. 2440. Phone: Kempsey 62-4671.

Newcastle: Alf Carpenter, 66 Chatham Road, Georgetown, N.S.W. 2298. Phone: 049-67-1969.

Southern N.S.W.: Tim West, "Yarrabundah", Cowra, N.S.W. 2794. Phone: Chiverton 42-9240.

Queensland: Tom Provians, 65 Foxton Street, Morningside, Qld. 4170. Phone: Brisbane 399-5181

South Australia: Peter Denver, "Wyndgate", Hindmarsh Island. Box 51, Goolwa, S.A. Phone: Goolwa 55-2252.

Victoria: Claude Raymond, 92 Rose Street, West Coburg, Vic. 3058. Phone: Melbourne 35-1145.

COMMITTEE: H. Bowman, C.Chrysal, E. Fox, M. Gray, K. Kesteven, G. Stack, H. Wright, L. Waterhouse

SECRETARY: Athol Heath, 5 Akora Street, Frenchs Forest 2086. Phone: 451-4466.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY: J. Meehan.

TREASURER: Allen Lindsay, 21A Mirral Road, Caringbah 2229. Phone: 524-1937.

WELFARE OFFICERS: John Copland, 117 Charles Street, Ryde 2112. Phone: 80-3771.

Bill Parry, 5 Blackbutts Road, Frenchs Forest 2086. Phone: 451-2790.

EDITOR: Bill MacLennan, 2 Amaroo Avenue, Castle Cove 2069. Phone: 407-3320.

MONTHLY MEETINGS: Fourth Friday in each month at 8 p.m. at the GALLIPOLI MEMORIAL CLUB,
12 Loftus Street, Sydney.

NEXT MEETING: FRIDAY 23rd JUNE 1978.

1978 COUNTRY RE-UNION

Arrangements for the Lismore Re-Union are well in hand. The local committee has advised that due to heavy bookings for other functions in Lismore it is **IMPORTANT** to book early in order that they can furnish names to the various motels and hotels concerned. They have made a special appeal that your bookings reach them before July 31. The following details, accompanied by a deposit of \$10, are requested Name, names of people in party, address, date of arrival, Date of Departure, Type of accommodation (hotel or motel). How you will be travelling.

Fred Varley supplied us with the following information 'A meeting of the organising committee for the 1978 Country Reunion was held in Lismore, on Saturday, May 20 at the Lismore R.S.L. Club.

Those present were: Allan Kirk (Chairman), Doug Stebbing, Mel McInnes, Ken Andrews, Fred Varley, Jack Lister, Leo Lynch and Tom Provians. The last three travelled considerable distances to attend — Jack from Kyogle, Leo from Grafton and Tom from Brisbane.

Leo and Tom, with their experiences in organising the Grafton and Southport reunions, respectively, were of great assistance in clearing the basic initial hurdles. With the nominal roll filling rapidly the meeting decided to have the need stressed in W.O.G. for those planning to attend to get their deposits in as early as possible to avoid sleeping out. Locals not requiring accommodation are also advised of the need to contact Allan Kirk, 179 Dibbs Street, Lismore, 2480, phone 214464. The area code for Lismore is 066.

Bookings to hand are: Harry and Marj Gjedsted, Bill and Gwen MacLennan, Allen and Gloria Lindsay, Jack and Phyl Ormiston, Vera Walsh, John Meehan, Rusty McWilliam, Ted and Heather Fox, Else Bradford, Mollie Irvine, Jack and Eunice Dubber, Dave and Stella Endean, Selby Dean, Norm McIntyre, John and Belle Shingles, Laurie and Evelyn McCosker, Norm and Jean Everson, Wink and Win Walker, Bruce and Nina Flude, Tom and Vera Provians, Bruce and Angela Cork, Les Anderson, Bub and Margaret Graham.

Those from Grafton to the Tweed who have signified they will attend and from whom confirmation is requested

Handwritten notes:
23285
13/4/78
Lindsay
Lofthouse
Culling
250 x 30
75000
\$1000.00

are: Lloyd (Tiny) and Robin Eglington, Ron and Vera Ellem, Ian and Edna Wallwork, Jack and Joan Hughes, Bill and Una Sheaffe, Tom and Freda Clarke, Morrie Wilson and wife, Alf and Jeanette Schweitzer, Jack and Joyce Lister, Eddie Slade, Mick Antonelli, Reg Murphy and wife, John and Doreen Hughes, Alan and Mavis Hughes, Allan and Carma Kirk, Mel and Lyla McInnes, Dave Crosthwaite and wife, Herb Hoather, Doug Grove, Ken Andrews, Fred and Laureen Varley, Bill and Amy Facer, Doug Stebbings, Aub Priest, Wally Graham, Roy and Dorrie Andrews, 'Blue' Saul and wife, Alf and Doss Graham, Mick Green, Roy Kingsley, Johnnie Hinett, Frank (Pom) Wallace, Tim and Ailie Lamond, Geoff Hall, Max Nerney and wife.'

The Committee also advise that our Patron Sir Ivan Dougherty, has consented to be present at the Reunion as our Guest of Honour.

Get your bookings in early and help to make this Reunion the rousing success that we are sure it will be.

WELFARE REPORT

- NX5838 OGILVIE, COLIN R.G.H., 17. Has a long spell in hospital. Still confined to a wheel chair but very cheerful and looks forward to our visits.
- NX27103 STRONACH, W. Lang, R.G.H. 230. Had been in for a few days but had been discharged just before Harry and George called.
- NX168410 SMITH, Len. R.G.H. 12. Len has been in several times for tests, now at home.
- NX31233 HEALEY, Stan. R.G.H. 3 'B' Coy. In for anaemia and eye trouble, was only in a few days. Stan asked for news of DICK HARTNETT.
- NX18572 BURGIS, W. R.G.H. 310. Has had a heart pacemaker installed which seems to be functioning very well. Bill was for many years with S.M.H. but retired some years ago to BELLINGEN. Sends greetings to HARRY GJEDSTED
- NX12373 FRANCIS, Vic. R.G.H. 273. Vic was reported by his wife EILEEN to be in with thrombosis. He was only in for a few days because he had been discharged when DAVE MCGILLIVRAY called the following day. Good luck, Vic.
- NX8746 RICHARDSON, A.E.K., R.G.H. 120. Hernia, not serious Discharged.
- NX53929 GRAHAM, J.P. GLOUCESTER HOUSE, Jim had the final patching up job done 23 May. Expects to be finally discharged early June and to see us at the June meeting.

4 BN. 1914—1919

- 7488 HARRISON, CEDRIC, R.G.H. 230. Hernia op. Now discharged a remarkable 85 yrs. young.

LEO CARTER rang BILL PARRY from Kiama to say that BILL BROOK's wife had died 13 May. Our deep sympathy to Bill and family.

MRS OLIVE WILLCHAMS now at COORABEL Rehabilitation Hospital, Ryde and making excellent progress. Expects to be there for at least 4 weeks - on behalf of the welfare gang.

JOHN COPLAND.

LAST POST

NX6092 HOWE, LIONEL, C. Lionel died at Temora 10 May after a long, illness. Our deepest sympathy goes to his wife Rosa and their family. Lionel was a good soldier, taken P.W. in Greece (Florina Pass). He soldiered on bravely after the war in Temora. Even after a serious railway accident he kept going well till this last illnessVale Lionel.

APOLOGIES TO RON BOOTY - In last month's WOG we included Ron's name on the list of departed comrades. We have since learned that our informant was incorrect. We are happy to report that Ron's departure was a trip overseas and not to the nether regions.

NEWCASTLE NEWS

The Newcastle members of the Association held their pre-Anzac Day get together at Shortland R.S.L. Club on Sunday 23rd April. After a short march to Sandgate cemetery where a service was held, all adjourned to the Club. A good roll up of our members and friends were in attendance and enjoyed the dinner provided by the Club. Just to keep it in the family, Alf Carpenter won the raffle conducted during the afternoon, the prize being a large Barometer. Alf Carpenter, Cliff Curran, John Rae, and Harry Pearse attended the Sydney march and reported a great day.

Bill (Bully) Hayes, who is slightly improved but still having problems with spine made the Dawn Service at Hamilton on Anzac Day. Bill is still very happy about the visit of Slim Powers and Ron Barber while he was in the Mater Hospital and swears their visit helped to speed his partial recovery. Good on you, 'Old Mates'. George Mitchell and son Guy, Joc Bohle and Jim Sherritt attended the Dawn Service in Civic Park, Newcastle where the address was given by our Lord Mayor, Ald. Joy Cummings. Our next get together will be held at the Gallipoli Legion Club in Hamilton during May. Regards, Jim Sherritt.

SIR IVAN DOUGHERTY BIOGRAPHY PROJECT

Members by now will be well aware of the untimely death of our author for this project, Mr. Tim Fearnside. As Mr. Ken Clift says 'Sunday Afternoon 16th April 1978 I answered the shrill persistent ring of the telephone: 'Ken?' 'Yes'.....'Dick Latimer here.' In a voice choked with emotion Dick continued, 'Tim Fearnside's dead!.....I don't

know the details....heart attack....in his garden.' A profound silence...how could it be true? I had only lunched with him the previous Thursday at the City of Sydney R.S.L. Club. He was well and in excellent spirits... a deep feeling of loss, of utter regret, passed over me. Death seems so final...the very last Goodbye.' At a special meeting of the project committee called on Monday 29th May, Mr. Ken Clift DCM, was recommended as a suitable author to carry on in Tim's place, by Dick Latimer. Favourably recommended by Sir Ivan Dougherty and myself, he was elected to carry on the project. Ken has written other books (mainly on the 16th Bde.) he was a Sig. in that Brigade and served with the 2/1, 2/2 and 2/3 Battalions in the M.E. and N.G., was commissioned in the field by Maj.Gen. Paul Cullen and later joined the Parachute Battalion, so he has plenty of experience and is going to endeavour to emulate Tim's style of writing.

The best of luck, Ken, from all of us

Cecil Chrystal.

MAJ. MONTHLY MEETING In the absence of our President on holidays, John Copland chaired the meeting which was attended by 15 members and one visitor. Those present were: John Copland, Athol Heath, Allen Lindsay, Mick Gray, George Stack, Laurie Waterhouse, Bill Parry, Harold Bowman, Dave McGillivray, Ian Pollock, Barney Turley, Dick Pinson, Ron Barber, Dasher Deacon, Ted Fox, Ken Kesteven and Harold Silver. What the meeting lacked in numbers was amply compensated for by the conviviality and comradeship that became more apparent as the evening progressed. Mick Gray entertained the meeting with an account of his recent visit to Taiwan, as a guest of the Government of that Country. We found out that he was presented with two medals by his hosts, making the latest count, about.....er how many Mick?

LADIES NIGHT Don't forget it! It will be held in lieu of our regular monthly meeting in August, Friday 25th. Festivities start at 8 p.m. so come along and assist your Committee to make this evening it's usual resounding success. A modest entry fee will be charged to cover the cost of the supper. Dick Pinson and his band will provide the harmony.

DON'T FORGET The Annual Church Parade at St. Anne's Church at Strathfield on Sunday, 25th June, 1978. The Church is situated at 42 Homebush Road and the parade will move off from Davey Reserve, Beresford Road at 1445 hours. Members are requested to attend and support this important function of the Association of Fourth Infantry Battalions.

WELCOME HOME' BILL and GWEN By the time this copy reaches you the W(andering) MacLennans will have returned from their 'Silk Route' tour of Asia and Europe. To date we have received cards from them from Delhi, Leningrad and Loch Broom, Scotland. An interesting Itinerary! We sincerely hope that they have had a wonderful time and just as sincerely hope that they arrive home in time to produce July issue of WOG as your temporary Editor, and wife Gloria, will be going on tour visiting Adelaide, Melbourne and

Canberra and later on Perth, during the next two months.

LAURIE WATERHOUSE recently visited his old 'Stamping Grounds' he writes: 'Recently I undertook a trip to Wagga and environs as I wanted to see some friends of mind of long standing. During my brief stay there I managed to see Bruce Stewart whilst at the RSL Club. also spent an evening with Perc and Betty Dalla. Missed seeing 'Jock Cummins. I arrived at the South Wagga Bowling Club too late.

Both Perc and Bruce don't seem to have changed much despite the passing of the years. Perc was seeking news of 'Angel' Grabriel, who he said had had a heart attack some time ago, and wondered how he was getting along. I did not have the time to look up other members of the unit living there, but was given to understand that they were O.K. Bob Jackson has just relinquished the Presidency of Legacy at a handing over dinner whilst I was there. He is still out at the Agricultural College.

I was to have gone onto Adelong and Tumut, but a change in plans took me over the river road through Nangus to Gundagai and onto a place called Tarabandra, stamping group of my youthful days.

I had the occasion to take my friends for a drive up onto the road leading to the Look-Out on Wilan's Hill to view the spreading panorama of Wagga. Whilst at this spot we spent some time at the small reserve there where there are a couple of tables and seats, and in the centre an enclosed pine tree (5 feet tall) is growing. It is this tree that aroused our interest and jolted me into writing this article.

This pine tree, flourishing and well attended to, was planted on this spot during a small ceremony some eight years ago on Anzac Day. It was planted by an old 4th Battalion Anzac. I don't know if there is any record of this in the Association's annals, if not, then I forward to you this inscription that I copied from the plaque that was set in the stone commemorating the event:—

This lone Pine is a seedling from a pine tree on Gallipoli and was planted by A H SECCOMBE DCM 4 Battalion AIF on April 25 1970. In memory of his mates lost at Gallipoli.

This is something that members should be aware of, and if any should visit Wagga, a trip to this spot is a must, not only to view the beauty of the Look-Out, but to see the Result of a thought from an old soldier of the 4th Battalion (from ex-Wagga-iteLaurie Waterhouse)

IN THE MAILBAG

FROM PORT MACDONNELL, S.A.... 'I have had hopes of making it to one of the Re-Unions but as I am a cowboy and October is about our most hectic month I haven't been able to make it.

I look forward to receiving WOG and the committee is to

be congratulated on the work they do to keep the rest of us in touch with the doings of members of the old unit.

I met Sam McCreedy a few months ago and he is as chirpy as ever. I often see Roy McGregor as he is barbering on in the Mount. I am enclosing a cheque for Life Membership and would be grateful if you could send me a Plaque, Tie and Badge and I would like to donate the left overs to the Association.....Thanking you, Regards to all, Bill Black.

FROM CAPALABA, QUEENSLAND 'Always had the intention of acquiring one of our Plaques so here is \$10 and I hope there is still one left. Anzac Day is fast approaching and once more we Bananalanders of the 2/4th will be getting together again in Brisbane. I trust that all the Members in the BIG SMOKE will enjoy themselves on the same day (We did, Stan!...Ed) Best wishes to All, Stan Sutherland.'

FROM MOLLYMOOK, N.S.W. ...'I am taking a trip to Greece and Crete and the Greek Islands. Will be leaving on 19th April and returning at the end of May, so will be in Crete for the Battle of Heraklion celebrations on 23rd May. I am looking forward to being able to have a good look around the old battle grounds, will let you know all about it when I return,Yours faithfully, George Moore.'

FROM MACLEAN, N.S.W....'A bit late getting this money to you, Allen, I enclose \$50 as I think that will clear me up, I remain.....'Pom' Frank Wallace.'

FROM MANLY, QUEENSLAND. 'Saw Tom Provians and Norm MacIntyre at Cooparoo RSL recently. Both well and doing their bit to keep Castlemain-Perkins out of the Red. Kind regards to Bill Mitchell of Bingara. If you want to know anything about roses, Bill, or rose growing, drop in sometime, Jean could even have a bottle of rose-wine in the cellar, All the best AllenNorm Everson.'

FROM URUNGA N.S.W.....'Dear Athol, Much water has flowed under the bridge since last we met. Since seeing you last, I left the land and finished up in Wollongong where I had ten years with the Wollongong University College. After a heart attack and turning 60 years old, retired to Urunga and have lived here for the last four years. I am enclosing a letter from the people who Charlie Reynolds worked and lived with before and after the War. At their Request I am informing you of the sad news of his passing. Charlie was one of the first contingent I can't remember his number (It was NX5935 Ron). I think he was in D. Company. He was taken P.O.W. with me and we were together from then on. His passing to me is the loss of a very good friend, comrade and soldier. I would also like to thank you all in connection with the running of our Association, and congratulate you on a job well done. Sending my regards also to all the fellows of the 2/4th one of these days I may turn up at a monthly meeting — Sydney frightens me nowadays, All the best Athol.... Yours sincerely, Ron Perram.'

FROM PERTERSHAM, N.S.W.....'Enclosed are Subs for 1978 for Ken Webb and Myself. I have just returned from a few days visit to him at Nelson's Bay where he is now living.

Webby has settled in nicely with the locals and enjoys the quiet life, Regards, Jack Heaney.'

FROM SAR-MAJ ROBBINS' Myrtle Bank, S.A.

'Dear Allen and Gloria, While I am writing this note I have to have a dictionary alongside of me because I have forgotten how to spell and can only do sums. You see, I have been retired now for seven years and during that time I have only written three letters and one goes out of practice.

During that seven years I have carved and turned lamp-stands, jewel-boxes, cabinets, made furniture, you name it. I have made it, also inlaying and plastic work. I have worked more during my retirement than all my working life.

I am still a rooting tooting vile type of a fellow.....that's what Millie, my wife, calls me. Of course, like when in the Services, I thrive on sweet remarks like that, it's a mark of respect, the most famous saying being 'Bloody Robbie'.

I forgot to mention I have never sold one piece of the work I have made. I am thinking of carving a bust of myself that's if I can stand looking at myself in the mirror long enough.

Now for the best news, over the last 12 months my wife and I have had the pleasure of the company of Tom Provians and his wife Vera, we had a most wonderful afternoon. This was Tom's second visit, the next will be fatal! The next lad to pay me a visit was Ian Wallwork with his son-in-law. We spent a very pleasant afternoon, without any grog, at that. Ian, next time bring your wife and phone ahead. I next had a visit from two lovely people Wally MacKenzie and his wife, Betty. We were as busy as a fish market. Wally took quite a line of photos, however the afternoon went all too quick, I would have liked another day, still I was grateful for the visit. If any of the lads are travelling through this way give me a ring ahead, you will be sure of a welcome.

Allen, you seem to be doing well, no doubt you are enjoying very good health. I am sure you will be able to cope, as always, when filling in for Bill MacLennan. You know it was he who asked me to write something about myself for WOG. This will be one instalment.

By the way, the 19th Bde. gang marched on Anzac Day myself as always, but this year the weather did not favour us until half an hour before starting time. Then the rain stopped and out came the sun and the, believe me when the last unit finished marching down came the rain again, I tell you, we are God's people in South Aussie. Of course, there are times when we miss out. Usually when N.S.W. people invade us. We think you are a wicked lot over there!

Coming back to the March we have canned music with all different steps, sometimes the beat is with the left foot and other times, the right, and then at times, both feet. We had a good turn up this year, troops and people. Coffee Roy led the 19th Brigade this year, of course the Whiskey spurred him on, we marched about 1½ miles.Robbie

(W.S. Robbins, Flat 14, 10 Riverdale Rd Myrtle Bank