



White Water 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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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: Friday, February 23rd, 1979, at 8 p.m.

MONTHLY MEETING Friday March 23rd 1979 at 8 p.m.

THE 1979 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the 2/4th Infantry Battalion Association will be held at the Gallipoli Memorial Club, 12-14 Loftus Street, Sydney at 8 p.m. on Friday, February 23rd, 1979.

Business

1. To confirm the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting.
2. To receive and consider the Annual Reports.
3. To receive and consider the Accounts and Balance Sheets for the year ended December 31st, 1978.
4. To elect Office Bearers for 1979.
5. To elect an Honorary Auditor.
6. General Business.

Athol HEATH - Hon. Secretary.

A good roll up at this meeting would be very welcome and encouraging to the incoming Office Bearers for 1979.

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The year 1978 is now behind us, and I'm sure that we are all in agreement that generally it was not a particularly good one. We experienced a wide and prolonged range of Industrial Stoppages, coupled with our economic

and unemployment problems, all of which must have had some direct or indirect affect on most of us and our families.

Within our Association we had one of the worse casualty lists we've had for some time and which included Sir Ivan, 'yours truly', Dick Morris, 'Larry' Dooley, George Stack, 'Sailor' Harvey, Jim Graham, 'Bully' Howe, Jim Sherritt and Joe McGrath, to mention a few of the many. We were also shocked to hear of the tragic and unexpected death of Jennifer, daughter of Dick Morris, in mid December. Dick is currently staying with son Brian in Townsville, but our thoughts and sympathy are very much with him and the family until we see him again. As always, let's hope that the New Year will be a better year for all of us.

There are four items on the list for 1979 that I wish to bring to your attention:

1. This year is the 40th Anniversary of the raising of the 6th Australian Battalion A.I.F. and our own Battalion. Plans for a Divisional Reunion for the occasion are in hand, but I suggest that we have a special Battalion re-union whereby original members of the Battalion, who are members of the Association are the guests of the Association. We could do this on Anzac Day?
2. Sir Ivan's Biography, scheduled to be available early in April.

3. The 1979 Country re-union which will be held in Newcastle — and which Alf Carpenter and his team have been planning and organising since I saw them in May.

4. I will not be standing for re-election as your President. My decision to stand down is in consideration of my health and consequently my family and the Association. Although I have made good progress in my determination to recover from the stroke, I do get very tired by the end of the day and develop a 'floppy foot' after walking a reasonable distance. With continuing therapy and exercises this may eventually disappear, but it does mean that I would not be able to lead our Battalion on Anzac Day, and in my book this is one of the many requirements of being a President. To me, the other requirements include being a good Diplomat for the Association, to be above approach, to conduct oneself, behave and act at all times in such a manner that there is no adverse reflection or criticism of our Association, and — by a motivation of ideas — to keep our Association alive and interesting for our members.

These are some of the standards I set myself when I was elected your President. I sincerely hope that in your eyes I achieved and maintained them.

In looking over the past 13 years, it has not only been a very important part of my life, but a great and unforgettable honour to have been President of the finest Battalion Association in the A.I.F. We have introduced and achieved many things in that period — thanks to the encouragement and support of Sir Ivan, our members, and the wonderful teamwork, planning and efforts of the best committee a man could wish to work with.

Looking back in retrospect, here are some of the things we did:

1. The introduction of Life Membership in recognition of the dedicated work and service given by members.
2. 'Tin Hats' to get our Welfare Funds under way.
3. The creation of the Association of Fourth Infantry Battalions.
4. Participation in the creation of the 4th Battalion Memorial at 4 Bn. R.N.S.W.R. Arncliffe.
5. Presentation to the Parramatta Pipe Band of an Association Banner to be carried on the drone of the Pipe-Major's Bagpipes.
6. The 2/4 Infantry Battalion Marksmanship Trophy for Annual competition within 4 Bn. R.N.S.W.R.
7. The appointment of Country and Interstate Vice Presidents.
8. Our move from Royal Naval House to the Gallipoli Memorial Club as a venue for our members to meet when in town, and our monthly meetings and Anzac Day Reunion.
9. Forming up in 12's on Anzac Day (instead of regulation 18's) to eliminate congestion and present ourselves as an efficient and smart unit to the public. (12's have since been adopted by the R.S.L. Anzac Day organising committee.)
10. Our successful protest to the R.S.L. re the cutting out of bands before the end of the Anzac Day march and using 'canned' music to complete the march.
11. 'The Return to Wewak' project. A masterpiece of teamwork, organisation and sound planning, and a lot of

hard work by our committee. Starting with a chance meeting between John Copland and Danny Barnard (President of Wewak Sub-branch R.S.L.), and finishing with our Association getting our own members, 6th Div. groups and V.I.P.s air-lifted to Wewak.

12. The Wewak Scholarships that followed the 'Return to Wewak' project.

13. The Association Wall Plaque, made to our own design.

14. The 2/4 Infantry Battalion Memorial plates — suitably inscribed in Greek and English — one presented to the Mayor of Heraklion, Crete, by Sir Ivan, the other presented to the General Officer Commanding Greek Armed Forces (representing the Greek Prime Minister), at His H.Q. in Athens, by myself.

15. The introduction of our general purpose cards.

16. Our 2/4 Infantry Battalion Medal with clasps — another 'first' for our Association, well received, and viewed with compliments and envy by people outside our Association. Don't be surprised to see a number of Associations following suit in the near future.

On Sunday 3rd December, in the company of Cec Chrysal, John Copland, Athol Heath and Bill Parry, I presented our medal, plus a Wall plaque to Bob Scott — custodian of the Victoria Barracks Military Museum (Photo-below). During our visit to the Museum I observed that they have Major Bob McCarty's Greek Military Cross on display and that amongst a number of small medallions belonging to the late General Woodward, past Governor of N.S.W., was a gold circular medallion on which was superimposed a White Over Green colour patch. On the reverse side was inscribed 'presented to Lieut. Woodward by the 4 Bn. A.I.F. France, 1918' I wonder what the story is behind that presentation.

In standing down from the Presidency, I shall also not be standing for election to the Committee, and by doing so will create a vacancy for a new member for the committee. Fresh ideas are a necessary factor in keeping our members interested and the Association alive, and there is plenty of talent and skills in our ranks to fill this vacancy.

To Sir Ivan, my fellow committeemen and members and to all of your families and our friends who have made it all so wonderful and worthwhile I say God Bless and Thank You for all that you have done in the interest of our Association.

I'll be seeing you,

Harry Gjedsted — President.



THE SECRETARY'S REPORT

You will already have read the President's report and he, I am sure, has covered anything topical, current and worth comment. My report is in the nature of a request. No doubt many members have wondered in the past what had happened to cheques forwarded to me for various commitments, why hadn't said cheques been presented? The reason for this delay is that your worthy Treasurer, Allen Lindsay, does the banking for the Association and we only meet once a month — hence the delay. My request is that in future all subscriptions, etc., be sent direct to the Treasurer — unless otherwise directed. The same applies to Welfare and Editorial matter. To save a lot of time and double handling please forward same to the Welfare Officer

or Editor. My second request is relative to Anzac Day. In the past a percentage of our members have made a habit of paying subs., buying histories, plaques, etc., on this day, which keeps some of us very busy, and as a consequence we are not able to join the early conviviality. I for one miss seeing quite a few blokes I would like to have a yarn to and a drink with. Please give us a go and allow us to enjoy this special occasion, as you do, by paying your subs, etc., beforehand. In closing, may I wish you and yours a happy, healthy New Year.

Athol Heath — Hon. Secretary.

2/4th INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the Year Ended 31st December 1978.

RECEIPTS		
Balance as at 1.1.78	Bank Account	175.23
Subscriptions Received		
Association	722.00	
W.O.G.	1891.00	2613.00
Income from Functions		1347.98
Proceeds — Special Raffle		1421.00
Donations Received		813.12
Sale of Ties, Badges, etc.		167.50
Bank Interest Received		75.83
Sales — Battalion Medal		2360.00
		<u>\$ 8973.66</u>

PAYMENTS	
Printing Cost — W.O.G.	1370.00
Postage — W.O.G.	414.15
Subscription — Assn. 4th Inf. Bns.	10.00
Sundry Postage	84.42
Purchase of Badges	243.28
Purchase of Battalion Medals	2023.46
Classified Advertisements	49.10
Stationery and Telephone	338.40
Cost of Functions	1534.03
Donation — The Gurkha Assn.	20.00
Biography Committee Expenses	73.25
Floral Tribute	16.20
Transfer to Benevolent Fund	425.00
Balance as at 31.12.78	Bank Account
	<u>\$ 8973.66</u>

RECEIPTS		
Balance as at 1.1.78		
Bank Account	525.23	
R.S.L. Building Society	6755.81	7281.04
Donations and Tin Hat		50.73
Sales — Plaques	250.80	
War Histories	20.00	270.80
Transfer from General Account		425.00
Interest Received		
Bank Account	15.37	
R.S.L. Building Society	592.31	607.68
		<u>\$ 8635.25</u>
H.E.C.Gjedsted — President.		

BENEVOLENT FUND	
PAYMENTS	
Paid-up Members Subs — 1978	681.00
Donation — Legacy	50.00
Hospital Comforts	72.08
Balance as at 31.12.78	
Bank Account	484.05
R.S.L. Building Society	7348.12
	<u>\$ 8635.25</u>

Allen F. Lindsay — Hon Treasurer

AUDITOR'S CERTIFICATE:—

I have audited the books of account of the 2/4th Infantry Battalion Association for the year ended 31st December 1978 From this audit I am of the opinion that the above Financial Statements are correct.

H. Silver — Hon. Auditor.

WELFARE REPORT 26th January 1979

- NX 9763 MEEHAN, John, R.G.H.31. Well again, Discharged.
- NX 2055 HONNERY, Athol. R.G.H.110. In for tests. Now back again at W.V.H. Narrabeen.
- NX 6514 MAIDENS, V. R.G.H. 630. Now discharged after several skin grafts.
- NX 68570 ELDER, Ron. H. R.G.H. 18. Treatment for arthritis (Joined 'C' Coy. after Crete). Discharged.
- NX 15534 ROBBERDS' Rex. M. R.G.H. 410. Discharged
- NX 148 DOUGHERTY, Sir Ivan. R.G.H. 330. Sir Ivan suffered a heart attack at home on 1 Dec. and was admitted to R.G.H. After some weeks there he is now at home. It is expected that a couple of months of complete rest and careful diet will see the damage repaired.
- NX 5227 PEAD, John. R.G.H. 110. John was in for a few days for treatment for his stroke condition. Discharged.
- NX 14111 SHAYLOR, Norman R.G.H. 430. In for abdominal tests. Discharged.
- NX 5911 BOWEN, Stan. Q.V. Hospital, Wentworth Falls. Bob Lever is keeping up the good work calling on Stan. He hopes to take Stan for a drive soon, calling on Ron Barber en route.
- PIKE, Mrs. Dorothy. Dot had a heart attack 20 Dec. She spent the holidays in Hornsby Hospital. She went home again early in January.

4 Bn. W.W. 1

HOBBS, Arthur of Belmore R.S.L. In R.G.H. for tests and very grateful for the call by Laurie Waterhouse.

Best wishes also to Fi Kesteven, who recently underwent serious surgery but is thankfully on the mend, we hear.

For the various teams.....

John Copland.

IN THE MAILBAG

From 'Brig' McAtamney to Bill MacLennan:

While on holidays quite recently in Scone, as is my custom always, I called to see how our mutual friend and esteemed colleague Craig Clark is. I'm happy to relate he is as bright as ever — still retains that infectious smile and charm of manner, and I would like to give a 'plug' for Craig to any ex-Bn. members passing through Scone to call in to the shop which Craig and his brother run. There you not only receive discount for cash but a special discount from Craig.

'Craig retains very fond memories of the 2/4 Bn. Later on, he invited me to his home for a par excellent dinner, where also I had the pleasure of meeting his charming wife and equally charming daughters — it was really a splendid evening.

'Craig has high hopes of getting down for the coming Anzac Day march and re-union etc., but that depends on many factors. He has missed the last two through pressure

of business, which in today's hussle and bustle is not hard to understand.

'Do sincerely hope, Snow, that you and yours are keeping A.1 and that 1979 will be kind to you all in every possible way.'

From Ron Small to Allen Lindsay

'Not too late, I hope, to wish a Happy New Year and good health to all. I enclose \$11 to cover subs, two Battalion brooches and six Battalion Car Stickers. Someone stole my coat and wife's, with Btn. brooches attached — hence two new ones required. The reason for wanting six car stickers is that it usually takes me about six tries to get a good one on my car — me being so handy!

'Best wishes to any of the boys you might see.'

From Jim Barrow Ashburton to Athol Heath:

'Herewith cheque for \$16.00 — \$6.00 for my sub for 1979, \$6.00 for sub for Russ Maddern, 156 Mitcham Road, Donvale, 3111, the balance as a donation. If any more is required no doubt I will read about it in W.O.G.

'Russ says nobody has asked him to join the Association so now he is in. Russ and his wife Sue have recently returned from a European trip — he swears that the only reason for not visiting Greece was shortage of funds!

'I called in to Hamilton during the holiday break and was introduced to 'Kenna's Gap' an area also known to Ken Moses, I hear. The Gap is a convenient short-cut from Ted Kenna's place of work to the Grand Central Hotel. The beer was good too!

Kindest regards to all.'

(No one ever has to be asked to join our Association, Russ anyone who served with 2/4th is eligible.....Ed)

From Dennis Jackson Griffith to Allen Lindsay.

'Enclosed please find cheque for current subs. I still don't seem to get down that way any more, so can't look in on you. Most of my journeying is South or West, i.e. Melbourne or Adelaide.

My regards to all.'

From R.A. (Pommy) Cole, Padstow, to Allen Lindsay

'Please find enclosed a cheque for my 1979 dues. Remember me to the old mob. I have been travelling all through the tablelands of Queensland and saw a lot of the Army camp that used to be. The only place I saw was the Boob tin shed with a barbed wire fence around, but the country is beautiful.

'We travelled inland and came back down the coast from Cooktown to Brisbane. We were away for about eight to twelve weeks and had the most wonderful trip. We had a campervan so were able to pull up for the night where we liked and start off the next day to suit ourselves. There are some very good camping spots, with shower, etc.'

From H.J.(Charlie) Ellway, Southport to Athol Heath

'Have enclosed a cheque for \$10 subs., and if anything over, something I can't think of. Regards and good wishes to all.'

From E.Coyle, Carnegic, Vic. to Allen Lindsay: Just a few lines to say that I was pleased to see that Bluey Guthrie is still hale and hearty. Regards via White over Green. Would you also please send a copy of the paper to Alex. Tolmer who was an officer of the 2/22 Bn. and was in 2/4th for a while.