



# White Cedar 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 of each month at the Gallipoli Memorial Club, 12 Loftus Street, Sydney

**NEXT MEETING:** Friday, May 25th 1979 at 8 p.m.

## ANZAC DAY REPORT (1979)

April 25th this year dawned fine, crisp and clear. The wreath-laying first march began at the 'spot on' time of 000 hrs. and was carried out most efficiently by all concerned. Whilst a few regular faces did not show, there were others to take their places. No liquor was in evidence prior to this march; thank you!

Next came the main parade, and to be very conservative the Battalion presented itself splendidly and marched in the best tradition in which we had all been trained forty years ago. The effort was a credit to all participants and thanks are extended to each and every one for his part played in putting on such a fine show. Our cheer squad of approximately twenty wives outside Lowes in George Street gave the Bn. a terrific reception – waving masses of green and white bunting whilst cheering their lungs out. We must remember to give them an 'eyes left' next year to show our thanks to the girls for their support in all our activities throughout the year. The liquor problem reared its usually ugly head prior to the main march. One member actually stated that he had been having a drink before the march for 33 years and would continue to do so but promised not to be the cause of any bother or embarrass-

ment. He wasn't, and everything went along as planned.

Unfortunately, through no fault of our own, the end of the march in Hyde Park degenerated into a hopeless rabble just prior to dismissal – something the committee will work on to correct for next year.

And so on to the Gallipoli Club for the reunion dinner where in excess of 150 were served a fine meal to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the formation of the Bn. Unfortunately, shortly before the luncheon began Sir Ivan suffered a dizzy turn and was taken by ambulance to St. Vincents Hospital where he was given an E.C.G. as a precautionary measure but was later allowed to be taken home. Our thanks are due here to Peter Cade who very unselfishly accompanied Sir Ivan to the Hospital and then to his home by cab, returning later to the reunion. Sir Ivan is back on deck again and happily it is 'all systems go' at this stage, but he has promised to take it easier in future.

In concluding this Anzac Day report, three items deserve mention.

1. Cec Chrystal toasted the immediate past President Harry Gjedsted for his long and dedicated service to the Association and presented Harry with a suitably inscribed plaque, to which Harry touchingly responded.



2. Some believe the formalities on Anzac Day are far too long and cumbersome and should not take anything up to 1½ hours. It is difficult to hold the members' interest when all they want to do is to meet and talk to 'long time no see' faces. Your committee will be looking into this area for next year, but meantime how about letting us have your views on this subject.

3. The front page of the Sydney 'Daily Mirror' on Anzac Day gave an excellent picture of our Battalion in the march. We shall endeavour to print same in June W.O.G.

Thanks men! Bill MacLennan.

### A CORRECTION!

Would those desirous of contacting our Victorian Vice President within the next few months please note that CLAUDE RAYMOND's correct phone number is 354-1145

We apologise for any difficulty the printing of the incorrect number has caused and promise that it will be rectified as soon as the present headings are used up.

### WELFARE REPORT as at 26th April 1979

- NX 13395 ALEXANDER, Tom C. Bill Parry has called on Tom at Graythwaite Red Cross Home, Edward St., North Sydney. Tom joined the Association and bought a tie.
- NX 898 LEVER, R. G. Bob advised that he was home again after successful hernia operation. In fact Bob came to our Anzac Day yesterday looking hale and hearty.
- NX 9528 O'HARA, F. R.G.H. 230. Had a tumour removed successfully. Now discharged.
- NX 5911 BOWAN, Stan. Doing well. Frank Rowell has seen him.
- NX 5904 NEWTH, W.H. News from several sources that Bill has been in R.G.H. several times but not seen by us. He had had operation for tumours and follow-up tests, but his name has never appeared on the computer at R.G.H. George Stack made a thorough search and found that Bill was listed as 2/14th. Unfortunately Bill had been discharged earlier in the day that George called with Harry Wright.
- NX 5302 GABRIEL, A.E. (Angel). Letter from Mrs. Gwen Gabriel to say that he is in Kurrajong Hospital with troubles in chest and legs. He was there over Anzac Day — sent apologies and best wishes to all.
- NX 641 CARMAN, Harold. R.G.H. 430. In for artery troubles. Harold lives at 4/205 Brisbane St Dubbo.
- NX 4045 ENDEAN, D.C. Dave is recuperating at home after two coronary attacks. I spoke to him this morning — he said he is improving slowly.

NX 148

DOUGHERTY, Sir Ivan. As mentioned in the Anzac Day report, Sir Ivan suffered a bad turn that day. I spoke to him this morning when he told me he was all right again. The strain of the march was too much for him. He says he will take more care in future...we hope that he really will do so.

### 4 Bn. 1914-1918

7051

SMITH, Ted. R.G.H. 27 In for general tests.

2009

PERSON, George. R.G.H. 520. Cataracts with complications. George was transferred later to Ward 110 for prostate treatment. He is bearing up — is very cheerful at 90 years of age.

CHUDLEIGH, John. R.G.H. 630. John is very well known to all the teams — a very fine old man. Has massive skin cancers on face and head and is very sick.

### LAST POST

NX 5151

KEOUGH, W.J. Bill died at Bankstown Hospital on April 4th and was buried at Rookwood on the 7th. The notice of funeral was only given on that morning, so only a few of us knew about it in time to attend. We were helped in the obsequies by George Gripper of the Bankstown R.S.L. Welfare team, who will look after Elsie's interests. Our deepest sympathy goes to Elsie and to Peter, Patricia and their families.

NX 202038

FRANKLIN, K.V. We apologise for not having reported the sudden death of Ken at the end of March. He suffered a heart attack at the age of 53 years. Those who attended his funeral included Tom Provians, Wink Walker, Norm Everson, Laurie McCosker, Wal McKenzie, Bill Sumpter, plus 6 Div. boys Bruce Flude, Bill Cavanagh and Max Cook. We extend our sincere sympathy and best wishes to Ken's lovely family.

For the teams.....John Copland.

### A MESSAGE TO ALL SECOND A.I.F. VETERANS

This year marks the 40th Anniversary of the formation of the Second A.I.F. and next year (1980) will mark the 40th Anniversary of our bleeding in action.

This Army never fought as an homogenous force.. It was fragmented, the Divisions each served on different fronts and in different campaigns.

Concerned that this fragmentation has continued down through the post-war years, Divisional Associations being individually concerned with their own affairs, representatives of the 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, and Armoured Divisions conferred recently and agreed to form a Second A.I.F. Council, representative of all A.I.F. men and women veterans with the primary aim of commemorating both 40th anniversaries.

To this end a Committee has been set up to organise:



(a) A Wreath laying and Memorial Service at the Cenotaph preceded by a short march, for Saturday evening, November 3rd, 1979, at which wreaths will be laid on behalf of the Second A.I.F. and of each Division, Corps Troops, Women's and other services comprising the Force. (b) In the long term, a large scale ceremony based possibly upon a military ceremony at Victoria Barracks, followed by a military spectacle or reunion at a large venue such as the R.A.S. Showground.

As for the Council itself, senior leaders have been approached for their aid and advice towards its firm establishment. Our thinking is that this Council should continue more or less as a Corps Headquarters, able to speak for us as an Army Organisation much in the same way as do the Navy and the Air Force Associations for their services, on such matters as Anzac Day Observance, Repatriation, Welfare, and most importantly to preserve and promote the traditions of the A.I.F.

We are seeking the support of all members and to this end we would appreciate it if Divisional Organisations would distribute this circular to Unit Organisations with the aim of enlisting their support and feeding back to us an indication of the enthusiasm that might be expected for the proposal. Correspondence may be addressed to the Hon. Secretary, Second A.I.F. Council, C/- Combined Services R.S.L. Club, 5-7 Barrack Street, Sydney, 2000.

(Sgd.) W.C.Jenkins, President.

## 6 Div. Doings

Geoff Edwards of the carrier Platoon of 2/11 Bn., a farmer from Mundijong, south of Perth, W.A., has donated 5 acres of land and sufficient cash to erect a church for the Greek community nearby (about \$35,000 altogether) as a gesture of thanks to the monks of the Prevelly Monastery in Crete for helping him and others escape from the Germans during the war. Actually it is a thank you to all the Greek people who helped and sheltered our mates. The Committee who are managing the affair would like other units to do something towards furnishing the church and indicate that the cost of a jarrah pew is about \$130 and they are short of pews. There are two ways you can help. 1. If your unit is rich enough you can just send in the \$130. 2. You can take up a tarpaulin muster at your reunion and bury it in to the Hon. Treasurer, 6 Div. Assoc., 22 Woodstock St., Bondi Junction 2022.

Next on the list is the Battle of Crete Commemoration and this takes the form of a week long series of functions commencing on Friday 18th May, when two Greek Generals arrive from Athens to be guests of the Joint Committee. Next day, Sat. 19th, there is a short march of Veterans (that's you) from Cnr. Hunter and Pitt Sts. at 2.25 p.m. sharp up Pitt St. to the Cenotaph where there is to be a short Memorial & Wreath laying Service, to be attended by Parliamentary, Civil and Service big wigs, consular people, etc. On Sun. 20th, commencing 10.30 a.m. there will be a Thanksgiving Service at the Garrison Church at the Rocks, Millers Point, followed by a picnic on Garden Island. Thursday 24th at 8.00 p.m. a concert in Sydney Town Hall. Further details upon request.

## COCK'S COLUMN

Amongst apologies received on Anzac Day was one from Phil (E.P.A.) Smith, currently on a five months world trip with the lovely Glen — one from Keith (Sailor) Harvey, who is unfortunately not enjoying very good health, has bad arthritis and is at present having treatment for his eye-sight at the Repat. Eye Clinic — one from Dasher Deacon at present on holiday in W.A. 'Dasher' said he would be marching with the 2/11 but his heart would be with the 2/4. Another apology

from Bob (Dagwood) Jackson, who came to Sydney and hoped to join our march for the first time in 33 yrs but was unable to do so due to serious illness in his family — sincere condolences, Bob. Other apologies came from Dick Pinson, Esca Riordan, Russ McWilliam, Claude Raymond and Gordon Crisp. (Apologies to all those whose apologies have been missed')

Worthy of special mention is the fact that Jack Ormiston attended the Dawn Service in Cowra, then caught a charter flight to Sydney to join our March. How does a performance like that make some of the locals who wouldn't make the effort feel? Great stuff, Jack, we love you!

It was great to have the big fellow from Lismore, Allan Kirk with us for Anzac Day. Allan had previously written:— 'To our newly elected President, my very hearty congratulations on having this honour conferred on him. To Ted Fox — our Senior V.P. - to new Life Members, Peter Denver, Tom Provians, Dick Pinson and Russ McWilliam, also to our other new V.P. Artie Kleem (also with us on Anzac Day) congrats. and good luck from self and the Far North Coasters. I know you must all feel justifiably proud.

'Regarding my appointment as V.P. Far Northern Rivers I am still a bit stunned for having the good fortune to be chosen as such. I do feel very humble and very honoured, and to all those people responsible please accept my grateful thanks. (There's one h..... of a lot of 'Thank you's' to be said up this end of the woods, too.)

'Frank (Pom) Wallace, Maclean, has been in Lismore Base Hospital with heart trouble. He informs me he is to have open heart surgery in the near future — sorry to hear this, but good luck and best wishes for a speedy recovery, Pom. (As usual he has all the nurses on side.)

'Had the Tee Peees as guests for a couple of days on their way back to Brisbane from the Annual Meeting. While they were here had Harry and Ada Whitman up from Ballina (where they are at present caravaning) for lunch and, of course, a couple of 'tinnies' — dozens that is. Luckily Jack and Joan Hughes called in for a beer — they were down from Southport to see their brand new grandson (No. 3 + 1 grand-daughter). They have just bought a very nice campervan, which Jack has been modifying to some extent, with additions of cupboards, etc. There was some mention of built-in stirrups, too?? Next day the Provians and Kirks joined Herb Hoather at Ballina R.S.L. Club for lunch. Herb looks fit and sends his regards.

'The 2/4th Bn. Association was thanked for their support and received a special mention in the Annual Report made by the President of the Lismore R.S.L. Club, Bob Wighton. Mentioned in the list of distinguished visitors to the same R.S.L. during the year were Sir Ivan and 'Nedda' Kenna.

'Vic Slade still bowling, fishing and taking a little nourishment. Doug Stebbings, Fred Varley, Mel McInnes and Roy Andrews all going strong — haven't seen much of these stalwarts since the reunion'.

Some extracts from our Queensland Roving Scribe's (also down with us on Anzac Day) latest bulletin:—

'Ruth Allardice contacted recently and assured us Nick busy as usual on his cab — reckons he was too lazy to come to Lismore.

'May Russell and family all well — reports for those who knew him that Humphrey Bates (19 Bde. H.Q.) has now retired and is enjoying life.

'News from Hugh Whittleton, Townsville that he had heard from Stan Quinn C.Coy., who had lost his wife just before Christmas. Sympathies Stan, and chin up, old son. Had also had a visit from Lofty Gibson, who was touring the Sunshine State. Hugh's daughter Helen, and husband Peter, moved to the Big Smoke, where Peter is doing a Uni. course with the Army.

'Col Ferguson spotted in the surrounds of Ryde R.S.L. Club — unusual haunt for a W.O.G.

Many thanks to Harry & Hilda Wright for their efforts in contacting all and sundry re death of late Dot Pike (Searle). Sincere condolences to daughter and family from Cock's column.

'Bill Sumpter spotted at 6 Div. Committee Meeting in



Brisbane. He had seen both Jim Whittaker and Harold Cox also from Ipswich, and supposedly behaving. Harold none too happy about being on strike and unable to use his water cart.

'New Far Northern V.P. tickled with the job and will be ably supported by Carm and all the gang.

'Also news that 'vivacious' Vera Walsh rustling the precincts of Coolangatta-Tweed Heads. Plenty of bandits down that way.

'Chris and Pat White settled in new home in Gordonvale. Watch him, Pat, else you will have a garden full of sugar cane.

'Sar-Major Robbie and Millie very well in Adelaide. Reckons they keep fit by fighting...skite. Saw John Hawkins on his way to Perth - another one.

'Joan Davies of Corrimal quite busy with two grandchildren - regards to the local R.S.L. boy, Joan.

'Betty Rungie of Adelaide had news from Marj McCarty and all the news from Lismore.

'Craig and Edna Clark spotted by Wink & Win Walker at Scone and swapped more than a few you-know-whats.

'Peter & Pat Denver now as busy as ever and most proud of grandson, Bradley.

'Jack and Marie Reynolds enjoying retirement at Atherton.

'Frank, Norma & Sandra Gattenhoff heard from. They enjoyed the Lismore "Do".

'Bill Staggs has been visiting his mother and sisters in Ipswich - mother improving and expected home from hospital soon. Bill upset Norm Mac's Saturday morning session in Brisbane. However, they both recovered.

Perc & Eileen Lansley, Guyra, heard from. Eileen pressing Perc to retire -- he is rather reluctant as he will have to get Hubby to talk to him.

'Mert and Bet Harris going well -- Mert still helping Woolies to keep afloat with supplies.

'Ken Watt enjoying life in the Sunshine State.

'Esca & Beb Riordan proving very elusive these days. They will also be Indian-Pacificing in August. The West must have something after all.

Nancy Smith busy looking after the School Library at Blackheath and an occasional game of golf.

Many thanks to all the boys who accompanied me to Ken Franklin's funeral. Our sincerest sympathy goes to his family who have always been in attendance at our Country Reunions and assure me they will be. Will be keeping in touch with Dolores (Ken's widow) and family. Our 6 Div. Welfare Officer, Bruce Flude (also President) will also be in touch, also Les Guyder who is Redcliffe Sub-Branch R.S.L. Welfare Officer, so she will not be neglected.

'Wondering if any connection between domestic duck landing in Norm Mac's nephew's yard and same gentleman selling raffle tickets near local polling booth on Council election day.

'Had morning coffee with Big Eric Martin, as sprightly, or more so, than ever, at 75, and looking forward to a game of bowls. Sends best wishes to all.

'Bob Jackson reports that the local 2/4 boys send their regards and good wishes for the year ahead. He saw Perc Dalla the other day and meets Stan Blacksley, Joe Wells Bill Cosier and others from time to time.

Claude Raymond sends best wishes from all the lads in his territory. They also hope Harry G. stages a full recovery, and send best wishes to all Sydney mates for their big gathering on Anzac Day. Claude says their reunion do there takes the form of 6 to 8 of them meeting on the Saturday night at the Lower Melbourne Town Hall at the Bn. 'do', then up to about 14 marching on Anzac Day, with a number - including some lame, halt and weary - gathering at Caulfield R.S.L. after the march for food, natter and amber fluid.

Claude sends thanks to Cec Chrystal for the arrival of 'Doc's' book with which he is very impressed and will treasure it, endeavouring to get the lads down there to send for copies.

Peter Denver, whose happy countenance we were also pleased to see in Sydney for Anzac Day, had previously sent his thanks for the notice of his recent appointment - 'a tremendous surprise'. He said it was a thrill to be coupled with Tom, Dick and Rusty Mc. all of whom he considers great guys.

Another very entertaining bulletin to hand from Ken Moses, which will have to be saved for next issue, but we are sorry to learn that Ken has had another long spell in hospital for further surgery on his foot.

As cheerful as ever, Ken overlooks his own discomfort and makes a special request regarding Vic Francis, who is now totally blind.

Ken says very modestly not to let on that it was his suggestion, but we give him full marks for making it -- that is, for as many as possible to give Vic a ring from time to time, an effort which he knows would bring a lot of happiness and contentment to the other end of the line.

Vic's number is 93-3743 prefaced by 03 for the sake of any Interstaters who might care to make the effort.

Dick Parry rings Vic regularly -- Ken does too, now that he knows how much it is appreciated. Good work, mate. We feel sure Ken would appreciate some contacts, too, during his long convalescence.