



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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NEXT MEETING: Friday, OCTOBER 26th, 1979 at 8 p.m. at the Gallipoli Memorial Club, Loftus Street, Sydney.

PLEASE NOTE!!! There will be NO September meeting, as all the troops will be flocking to Newcastle for another wonderful reunion on Friday, September 28th.

SENIOR VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Although he had made considerable progress, President Bill MacLennan was still in hospital and so I deputised for him again at our meeting on 24th August, when twenty-three members were present, including three whom we have not seen often enough in recent years – Brian Waring, Bob Fergusson and Rex Everson. Captain Elvin Andrews was with us again and produced maps and aerial photographs of Wewak dating back to the time of our Campaign in that area. He pointed out that some of the native villages featured in those early maps are not now marked in current maps – they no longer exist. As the Battalion Intelligence Officer at that time I frequently doubted their existence then. Some of them were difficult to find 'on the ground', and I am sure that various of our Patrols shared my feelings.

Arguments 'for and against' acquiring a new Banner displaying our Battle Honours (as mentioned in the August journal) are being prepared for publication in 'W.O.G.' prior to next Anzac Day Reunion Meeting, when this matter will be decided. When we invited opinions per medium of an earlier 'W.O.G.', we received only one response. However, if any Member wishes to submit his views on the subject, they may be forwarded in writing to Athol Heath who will pass them on to the appropriate Committeeman.

To date we have received Raffle Entry Forms and cheques to a total of \$423.00. Not a very good response from a Membership of 500. You may not realise that it is currently costing us about \$3,000.00 per annum for the printing and posting of our monthly journal – our only means of communicating regularly with our Members and keeping everyone informed of what is happening within our Association. We do need to supplement our funds and preserve what we have. Come on, Chaps, out with the cheque books – right now, while you think of it.

Victoria Vice-President Claude Raymond and others have queried the ruling concerning the left breast position for wearing the Greek Commemorative Medallion. We understand that action is being taken by certain persons in authority to have this situation reviewed and firmly clarified – that is in respect of this particular Medallion, and in view of the circumstances surrounding its award to qualified Australian Ex-Servicemen. If and when your Committee receives further authentic information on the subject the nature of it will be published in 'W.O.G.' Meanwhile we must conform to the advice issued to us by 6 Div. Association, as stated in our August journal.

The latest 'sitrep' re Newcastle Reunion is promulgated herein and your Novocastrian Committeemen are anticipating an extremely happy week-end for all participating 'W.O.G.s' and their families or friends.

Likewise, your Committeemen are looking forward to an enjoyable and well-attended Ladies' Night at Gallipoli Memorial Club on Friday, September 14th.

Please note that there will be NO REGULAR MEETING of our Association in September because on the usual Friday a majority of Members will be travelling to Newcastle for the Reunion there.

Finally — Points to Remember

- (1) Send in your Raffle Forms and Cheques.
- (2) Join us on Ladies' Night.
- (3) See you in Newcastle.

TED FOX — S.V.P.

NEWCASTLE REUNION — September 29th-Oct. 1st

Everything is shaping up for the Big Week-end in Newcastle. Applications for bookings are still rolling in and by all accounts the attendance will be a 'Whopper'.

Just a little run down on the programme which has been arranged for your enjoyment.

If you are arriving on the Friday, there will be a general get-together at Tattersalls Club, where meals are available and a good day is assured for the 'Early Birds'.

Saturday is the main 'Book In' day at Tattersalls Club, 7 Watt Street, Newcastle - telephone 2 2367. Get to know your old mates again and get settled in. Some of the Committee will be in attendance from 10 a.m. Make the Club your headquarters.

MARCH. On Saturday at 5.15 p.m. assemble at F.U.P. Pacific Park, in front of Newcastle Hospital. Medals and Decorations are to be worn. A short march (one block along Hunter Street) to the Soldiers' Memorial in front of the Newcastle Post Office for the Wreath laying Ceremony — then to the Dinner at Tattersalls Club where the Upstairs facilities are exclusive for our use.

On Sunday Church Services are available for all denominations. At 11.30 a.m. there will be a Wine Tasting Bar-B-Que at Hamilton Training Depot. If you don't have a happy time it's YOUR fault. At 7.00 p.m. on Sunday evening there will be a Smorgasbord at Tatts.

On Monday, for the Stayers, there are a limited number of tickets available for the Newcastle Races. See Bookie or Cliff. Tatts will still be open for you.

So you can see it's going to be a 'Whopper' of a Week-end. If you haven't booked yet, send it now and let Newcastle LOOK AFTER YOU.

This will be our last chance of acknowledging in W.O.G. Take a look at these further starters:

For Telford Motor Inn.

Bill & Bob Lever	\$20	Sat.
Gladys & Diane Lever	\$20	Sat.
John Meehan	\$20	Fri.Sat.Sun.Mon.
Leo & Eileen Lynch	\$20	Fri.Sat.Sun.Mon.
Kel & Margaret Lavis and Geraldine Lynch	\$30	Sat.Sun.
Laurie & Ev McCosker	\$10	Fri.Sat.Sun.
Wink & Win Walker	\$10	Fri.Sat.Sun.
Allen & Enid Tobiasen	\$10	Fri.Sat.Sun.
Marj McCarthy and Elsie Parsons	\$20	Sat.Sun.Mon.
Frank Frizelle	\$10	Fri.Sat.Sun.Mon.
Geo & Edna Sugden	\$15	Sat.Sun.
Ross & Nan Smith	\$15	Sat.Sun.

Bob & Nina Fergusson	\$20	Sat.Sun.
Mr.&Mrs. Andrews	\$20	Sat.
Mr.& Mrs. Savings	\$20	Sat.
Doug & Mrs. Groves	\$30	Fri.Sat.Sun.
Percy & Betty Dalla	\$20	Fri.Sat.Sun.

For Great Northern Hotel

Tom Winstanley	\$10	Fri.Sat.Sun.
Enid Dickery	\$10	Sat.Sun.
John & Dawn Robinson	\$20	Fri.Sat.Sun.Mon.
Norm McIntyre		Fri.Sat.Sun.
Mr. & Mrs. Provians Jr.		Fri.Sat.Sun.
Harold & Noni Bowman	\$20	Sat.Sun.
Mr.& Mrs. Taylor	\$20	Fri.Sat.Sun.
Bill Sumpter	\$10	Sat.Sun.
Mr. Wood	\$10	Sat.Sun.
Mrs. Twist	\$10	Sat.Sun.

No Accommodation Required — But will be there
Ron & Alma Chapman Geo., Steve & Lyn Coles,
Elsie Sharpe and two friends of R. Andrews.

If you have not already done so Book in today and let Newcastle look after you for this our 1979 Reunion.

Finishing on a very sad note, all Newcastle Members were deeply shocked at the sudden passing of Tom Provians and to Vera and her family we extend our Deepest Sympathy.

Many thanks to the editor of W.O.G. and all concerned for the opportunity of publishing the starters so that all know that we have received their requests and have acted upon them.

ALF CARPENTER & JIM SHERRITT reporting on behalf of the Newcastle team.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY — ASSOCIATION OF 4th INFANTRY BATTALIONS

The Association meets at the Cenotaph to commemorate Remembrance Sunday each year. This year they will gather on Sunday 4th November at about 1415 hours for a simple ceremony of Remembrance.

This date is selected so that members with n.s.l. and other commitments on the day of the 11th, may attend both ceremonies if that is their wish.

After the ceremony those attending will disperse to the Hellenic Club at 251 Elizabeth Street, where they may enjoy each other's company and will be most welcome.

You are all invited. Please support this occasion, remembering that on previous occasions Harold Smith came from Bourke Ron Barber from the Mountains as well as members from distant suburbs.

Sunday - 4.11.79 — 1415 hours at the Cenotaph.

WELFARE REPORT — As at 24th August, 1979

NX 5858	DOGGETT, Stan, R.G.H. 120. We saw Stan several times. He was later discharged and died at Bethungra.
NX 42709	CUNNINGHAM, Des. We were advised that Des was in R.G.H.430 on 1st Aug. At our next call he had been discharged.
NX 5351	FAULDER, R.J. Jim now discharged. Has returned to Parkes. Is to report back in four months' time.

NX 5135 HARVEY, A.C.K. Now at home recuperating. Is having physio three times a week. A letter from Sailor expresses thanks to the 2/4th Bn. 'stalwarts' who called on BENNETT, W.A. (Enlisted as FAGAN). R.G.H.8. Was visited on 13th Aug. but was

NX 2-648 MOORES' A.C. A letter from Roy. He has had an op. on his right hip. The left hip was done four years ago. He will soon be walking normally. Roy has retired and is now living at Gundagai Street, Adelong.

NX 5862 MacLENNAN, W.F. Ward 10D R.N.S. Hosp. Bill is making slow steady progress, and sends his regards to all.

NX 931 GABRIEL, A.E. Gwen Gabriel wrote on 7th Aug. that Bert (Angel) is still in Kurrajong Hospital, with leg and spine trouble and that they will not be able to come to Newcastle as planned. I asked Brian Dooley - a worthy son of a worthy father - if he could call on Angel, which he has done and kept me posted. Thanks, Brian. The latest news is that Brian called again last night (23rd Aug.) and Bert is a pretty sick boy. He is back in Kurrajong Community War Memorial Hospital.

LAST POST

NX 20648 BENNETT W.A.
VX 52 PINNIGER, S.G. (Ian Fitchett rang from Curtin, A.C.T. notifying the Association of Stewart's death on Aug. 11th. Stewart was an original of the Battalion, and in Ken Moses' words 'something of a legend'. A memorial service was held in the Uniting Church, West Hawthorn, on August 24th, at which no doubt 2/4th was represented).

NX 5858 DOGGETT, S.
NX 97300 REANEY, W. (Bill died on 4th May, but we have only now learned of this).
LEST WE FORGET

IN THE MAILBAG

From 'Robbie' ROBBINS, Myrtle Bank, to Allen Lindsay
'You know our lads really made that front page of the 'Daily Mirror'. They are now showing the fruits of their early training and the older they get the prouder they get. In this picture (June W.O.G.) I think they look as I always wanted them to look - SMART DIGNIFIED and PROUD. I wish I had been with them, however I had to uphold the Sth. Aust. end which went very well with what few we have. I would come over to NSW more often but am not keen to leave my wife on her own these days. All the best.'

From Bert POINER, Geebung to Athol Heath:

'For a lot of years I have received 'White over Green' on a Life Membership of \$5 paid too far back to remember. I am enclosing \$100 for which I would like you to forward a 2/4 Bn. Plaque - the balance to be used as the Association sees fit. Wishing the Association every success.'

From Wem KEAST, Junee, N.S.W. to Athol Heath.

'just a note to record the passing of one of our old mates in the person of Stanley E. Doggett, who passed away in Cootamundra on Aug. 12th and was buried there at on Aug. 14th.

'Stan was a very quiet solid man and for those who did not know, he came from a large family in Middlesex, England. He came out to Australia as a Barnardo Boy in the thirties and when war was declared in 1939, he was working in the Junee District. He was amongst the first batch of enlistments and was posted to A Company where he stayed until classified B Class in Darwin. After the war he returned to Junee area, married a local girl and bought himself a property at neighbouring Bethungra, which he ran until his death.

Sickness caught up with Stan in the last few months, and after a period in Concord he returned to Cootamundra Hospital where he spent his last few days. His funeral at Cootamundra was well attended, with quite a few Ex Servicemen in attendance, including five 2/4thers... Harold Conkey, Joe Wells, Wal Taylor, Matt Bristol and myself (Wem Keast). Harold Conkey read the R.S.L. service at the graveside.

'A reunion of the ex 2/4thers was, of course, held after the funeral.

'P.S. I haven't played much of a part in Bn. affairs, and as a 70 year old pensioner haven't much spare moneys but am enclosing \$10 as a contribution.'

From Frank POHLMANN to Ken Deacon.

'I recently visited a small Commonwealth Graves Cemetery in Austria - only one 2/4 Battalion Member was there. The town was Klugenfurt in the Worthersee. I was with a 6th Div. A.S.C. friend who was a P.O.W. near there, and although he knew many 2/4 Bn. chaps he did not know this one nor the circumstance of his death. However, I thought it may be of some interest to someone who remembers him. The details, obtainable there, are:-

'Pte. MAKEPEACE, Victor Clive, Died 17th February, 1942. Father-Rubin James, Mother-Blanch. Mascot NSW'

Incidentally, the Cemetery is beautifully kept. Should anyone be visiting Austria, the German for War Cemetery is 'Soldaten Friedhof', otherwise they wont know what you are talking about.'

From George (King) COLES, Wallerawang, to Athol Heath: 'Would anyone knowing the whereabouts of any of Eric MORANTE's family, please ask them to contact me at 11 Carey Avenue, Wallerawang, 2845.

I would be delighted to send them some photo-graphs of Eric which I have in my possession, to replace those lost in the recent fire which destroyed their home. Eric (NX 9922) was killed in Greece while serving with 2/4th.'

From Fred APHORP Griffith to Ken Deacon.

'Just a poem for the poet's corner, composed by the late Joe McGRATH, who had quite a knack at the game....

'Now I takes me back to Griffith, and to the Fourth blokes here must tell,

That all our mates in Sydney are doing pretty well. You can say that again, and I ain't going to pause, I sticks me nose into a show down there, on account because

A reunion there was going on, with blokes I'd never seen,

Old diggers from the first war, the same old 'White over Green'.

Singing songs about some dames they knew from Armentieres,

Eating hot dogs, cheese and biscuits, washed down with numerous beers.

The young blokes kept it up quite well, some songs in Arabic,

Then I decided I'd have a go, a song, a dance, a trick Kickin' off with 'Tiger Rose', and songs I thought pretty sweet.

Ha, I pass from light to darkness, outside in Barrack Street.

The show perhaps had ended, anyway that's what I think,

The last thing I remember was Stan Wilkinson pouring his beer down the sink!

Many thanks for the copy of 'Dougherty' and for Ken Moses' info. When is he going to let W.O.G. have his item about his encounter with the ex-resident of Heraklion who now resides in Melbourne and drives a taxi — published in Fourth Infanteer?

From Ken MOSES, East Bentleigh, to Bill MacLennan:

'I will not be able to go to the Memorial Service for Stewart Pinniger, as I have an appointment with a specialist on that day and time. I suggested to Claude he should attend and advise a few others.

'Still plugging along, get all my top teeth out tomorrow so had a beaut carpet-bag steak to-night. They don't want any blood impurities when they operate next. Thank God I was circumcised as a kid or they would have a go at that too.

'Vic Frances is still chirpy, Peter Gyngell has had a spell in hospital — now home, and Dick Parry has returned from Nth. Queensland and is now heading for Darwin via Alice and Cooberpedy - got a season ticket on a bus. Cheers to all from us all. Happy days.'

From Vera PROVIANS, Morningside, to Ted Fox:

'I see that you are filling the breach until Bill is around and about again. With the wonderful brotherhood of 2/4ers behind him, our prayers and our caring, I know he will be O.K.

'I do sincerely thank all for their tributes to Tom. You have all provided a giant prop — the letters, phone calls, beautiful flowers - just the awareness of your concern and love has meant so much.

'As you know, Tom always carried a little notebook around with him to jot down any news which could be used in W.O.G. Since his passing, I have skimmed through his notes and found a couple of items he would have wanted passed on:

A. J. SMITH (Arthur), 15 Grevillia Street, Bellara, Bribie Island wishes to be remembered to Bunny BURROWS and Les or Len ADAMS.

E. C. (Nugget) SWINDALE (2/4) is now living at 103 Leanington Street, North Rockhampton, Q'ld.

Perc BERICK Ex 'C' Coy. has also turned up at 27 The Boulevard, Bongaree, Bribie Island, 4507.

Duncan RUSSELL's widow, May, has rung, and I have appreciated her concern.

To-night Perc LANSLEY, on receiving W.O.G. , has rung from Guyra. Perc went on a few dates with Tom and me on those few and far between leaves stringently doled out to the 2/4th in wartime. (Warmed to hear from him).

Betty & Wally McKENZIE rang - they (enthusiastic nature lovers) have picked up their swags and, with several others, have been dropped by Charter boat onto an uninhabited island out from Cardwell, Q'ld. Betty is an artist of note, and Wally no mean hand either, so I'm looking forward to their return.

A little request now — Norm MacINTYRE wrote to W.O.G. offering to report on Q'ld. news and events to keep Tom's past endeavours alive and active. Typical of Norm, he thought by recommending himself he might be thought 'pushy'. Personally, because of the wonderful almost lifetime, friendship, which Tom, Norm and I have shared, I couldn't think of a better idea. I have Tom's address book and the phone, and Norm has the know-how of putting snippets of news together. This is, of course, up to your committee. Norm is at the moment care-taking on Norm & Jean EVERSON's property while they take a much needed holiday. I have received a card to say they dined with Jack REYNOLDS at Atherton and would see Chris WHITE at Gordonvale on their trip down the coast.

'Thank you all again for your many kindnesses, and I hope to see you all at Newcastle.'

(Go to it Norm - communications is the name of the game' and W.O.G. will welcome your literary efforts with open arms. In fact NO ONE, need wait for an invitation to send any interesting snippets for publication to your old Editor, for the time being at 2 Amaroo Avenue, Castle Cove. 2069).

TOLERANCE AND GOODWILL

A dignified English solicitor-widower with a considerable income had long dreamed of playing Sandringham, one of Britain's most exclusive golf courses, and one day he made up his mind to chance it when travelling in the area.

Entering the clubhouse, he asked at the desk if he might play the course. The club secretary inquired: 'Member?' 'No sir,' 'Guest of Member?' 'No, sir.' 'Sorry As he turned to leave, the lawyer spotted a slightly familiar figure seated in the lounge, reading the London 'Times'. It was Lord Parham, a well-known peer with whom his firm had some business connections. He approached and bowing low, said 'I beg your pardon, your Lordship, but my name is Higginbotham of the London solicitors of Higginbotham, Willingby & Barclay. I should like to crave your Lordship's indulgence. Might I play this beautiful course as your guest?'

His Lordship gave Higginbotham a long look put down his paper and asked: 'Church?' 'Church of England, sir, as was my late wife.' 'Education?' 'Eton, sir, and Oxford.' 'Sport?' 'Rugby, sir, a spot of tennis and number 4 on the crew that beat Cambridge.' 'Service?' 'Brigadier, sir, Coldstream Guards, Victoria Cross and Knight of the Garter.' 'Campaigns?' 'Dunkirk, El Alamein and Normandy, sir' 'Languages?' 'Private tutor in French, fluent German and a bit of Greek.'

His Lordship considered briefly, then nodded to the club secretary and said: 'NINE HOLES.'

STOP PRESS

We are pleased to report President Bill MacLennan is now out of Hospital and enjoying the comforts of home. Although still a long way from being well, he is endeavouring to regain sufficient strength to make an appearance at Newcastle. Meanwhile, he would like to say a very big 'Thank You' to the many who phoned sent cards, flowers and greetings from near and far, also those who made the trek to the Hospital. As Vera Proviens so aptly puts it, the sharing and caring of each one has helped his morale enormously. A very big 'Thank You' from his family also.