



White Water Green

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE 2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

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NEXT MEETING:— Friday October 24th at 8 p.m. in the Gallipoli Memorial Club, Loftus Street, Sydney

EDITOR'S REPORT:— The 1980 Canberra Reunion has come and gone, as always highly successful thanks to the sustained efforts of Frank Crutchett and Committee, not forgetting the wives and family of same, we thank you one and all.

The short march, and wreath laying ceremony in front of the National War Memorial, the brief eyes left to our former Commander, Sir Ivan, together with the faces of old comrades not often seen, and the memory of those long departed. Some in far flung places and circumstances of many years ago all in the short march and brief ceremony seemed to cascade together in a kaleidoscope of memories, exceeded only by the emotion which wells within the very gut of each and every one of us as we share the fellowship of this almost spiritual time. We indeed know the meaning of 'WE WERE PROUD TO SERVE' and perhaps privately wishing we could transfer some of that unity and purposefulness of those times to our Australia to-day.

The dinner was attended by over 200 guests many travelling from distances far afield, appropriate speeches were made by Guest Speaker, Major General, J. Hughes, D.S.O. MC our own Sir Ivan, Mr. Dimitri Loundros representing the Greek Government also President, Snow MAC LENNAN. As the evening pro-

gressed so the fellowship continued to develop, finally taking to the dance floor with wives and friends.

Sunday arrived, the weather was grand coupled with a great venue at the Barbecue, here we all settled down to the time worn practices of 'THE DO YOU REMEMBER' routine, it may drive you ladies around the bend but we love it. We only have one complaint to the Canberra Committee, 'sunburnt faces'. In closing my brief impressions of our Reunion, it is advert again to be aware of the many ladies, widows of former members who always attend, too numerous to spell out in this brief editorial, yet in the near future I intend to cover more adequately the total spectrum of you all, and the significant and growing part you play in the endeavours of our Association. Lastly, yet probably the most important, the young people who attend with their parents, some of you parents yourselves, adults in your own right, as you and you alone, can project some of the values we cherish into the future on the threshold of your own longevity.

WELFARE REPORT AS AT 26TH SEPTEMBER, 1980

NX 13273 FRANCES, Victor. RGH 130. A lot has happened since last report, Vic's left leg has been removed above the knee, caused by thrombosis. He, as usual is full of life and grateful for the many visitors he has had. Eileen

is staying in Sydney with her sister. There have been ups and downs, but on Monday, 22nd September, the stitches had been taken out and he was full of beans. Thoroughly spoilt by the Staff. He was 72 on 19th September and the ward staff put on a marvellous birthday party for him. He has insisted that Eileen represent him at Canberra (Which Eileen did).

NX 1988 HOLZIGAL, Chas RGH 410 from Inverell. Has a new hip joint by a new process. Also a bad heart and diabetes. Is to report back in 6 weeks for check-up.

NX 11372 BLOOMFIELD, H.L. (Ien) RGH 510 'A' Coy. Vascular tests both legs. Discharged.

NX 11215 LEECH, L. W. Bladder and prostate op. Discharged.

NX 2055 HONNERY, Athol. Athol moved from RGH to LDH. Ward 'A' The report 23 September is that Athol is not well. The ward sister said he had a bad turn a week ago, now more stable.

NX 3981 TAYLOR, Henry S. RGH 520. Eye op. Satisfactory now discharged.

NX 68428 POLLOCK, C.L. RGH 430 Heart tests. Discharged.

NX 9693 PARRY, W. Making good progress at home. Still on light duties.

MACKAY, Lady M. Has been in RGH for an eye op. Now at LDH having made a remarkable recovery.

LYNCH, Leo. Bill MacLennan visited Leo. Thurs. Progressing satisfactorily after major surgery.

4 BN (1914-1918)

WOOD, W. RGH 310. Bill has had a heart pace maker installed. Discharged.

1808 PYNE, Norman H RGH 310. Same old trouble caused by gas in 1916. His main concern is possible interference with his plans to visit USA next year. Norman is a mere 86. Discharged.

424 KEAREY, Bede. I rang Bede. He is back at home and well. Sends his kind regards to all friends.

HONNERY, Athol LDH 'A' Athol is seriously ill. Bill Parry has seen him,

Yours from all the team.

John Copland.

LAST POST

NX 5859 HEANEY, J.T.K. Ted McCAFFEREY rang to say that Jack died of a sudden heart attack on 12 September. Ted and Ken WEBB attended the funeral. Jack was so well known to us and always a good supporter of the Assn. After the war Jack was many years in the Public Service and much involved in Welfare work. He was an original enlistment from the Riverina. To his wife, Jean, and to his family our fondest best wishes. I hope we can keep in touch. LEST WE FORGET.

NEWCASTLE NOTES:

The August get together of the Newcastle members was held at the Shortland RSL Club on the night of the 22nd. The dinner marked the occasion of the birthdays of Heather MITCHELL and Cliff CURRAN also the return from overseas of Joe and Gwen BOHLE. The coming marriage of Guy MITCHELL and fiancée Kathy PALMER was also announced, the date selected being the Saturday of the October long weekend. The clash with our reunion will prevent George and Heather MITCHELL and Harry and Yvonne PEARSE from attending Canberra. Apologies are tendered on their behalf.

At our September meeting held at the Tattersalls Club the following were in attendance, Alf and Marg CARPENTER, Harry and Yvonne PEARSE, Joe and Gwen BOHLE, Cliff and Elaine CURRAN, George and Heather MITCHELL, John and Margaret RAE, Bill WHITE and Darren MANUEL, Jim and Mona Sherritt with daughter Roberta also Jack and Mary MANN down from Nambucca Heads where they now reside. Jack and Mary have a unit close to the water, both look well and are enjoying their move to the North Coast. Bill (Bully) HAYES still in Rankin Park Hos. — troubles with the healing of his leg, still looking for letters from his mates particularly mentioned Johnny HAWKINS and Herbie HOATHER was pleased to have received a note from Gentleman, Jim GRAHAME. Lucky Cliff we call him Cliff CURRAN recently cracked a big double on the horses with four figure result. Cliff looked after the cost of all the light refreshments at our get together in other words the DRINKS were on CLIFF, thanks mate! Newcastle members are not meeting during October, Canberra being the big venue. Quite a few of the boys are planning for Reunion so should meet up with you all then. Kindest regards, Jim SHERRITT.

QUEENSLAND REPORT John FALLA and wife, made a trip to the Sunshine State and stayed with Wally and Betty McKENZIE. Norm McINTYRE spent an enjoyable afternoon with them. I spent a short time with them in the evening, Wink and Win ALKER made a trip from Caloundra to Brisbane recently mainly to take up duties as baby sitters. Norm EVERSON is still in good health Wally and Betty McKENZIE are once again making leisurely excursions from our fair State. Regards Laurie McCOSKER

THE FAR NORTH COAST The latest report received here on the wandering of Allan and Carma KIRK is that they are enjoying the taste of Swan beer in Perth after making the 'downhill run' from Darwin. Just when they will be heading back to 'the rivers' is anyone's guess as their last signal indicated they are considering including Tasmania in the 'grand tour'. On the 'home front' preparations are well in hand for the Far North end-of-the-year dinner which will be held at the East Lismore Bowling Club on Saturday evening, November 29. All North Coasters please note. Special invitation is extended to those who may be travelling in the area at that time. To facilitate catering arrangements please give Doug STEBBING a ring on 215890 as early as possible. The area code

is 066. Regards to all....Fred VARLEY.

SIR IVAN DOUGHERTY BIOGRAPHY Since the 26th January 1979 when I first took deposits for the sale of this book we have now sold just on one thousand copies which is very heartening to the Committee and to me as Chairman. With Christmas coming up in the near future this would be an ideal time to purchase copies of the book to give away or keep for yourself. To get immediate results you can purchase a copy at the Gallipoli Memorial Club 12/14 Loftus Street, Sydney, for \$12.00 or by posting to me at 24 The Battlement Castlecrag 2068, \$14.50 to cover cost of packing and postage, and your copy will then be dispatched forthwith.

I have just returned from a trip to Greece, Crete and London and I hope I will be able to prepare a suitable report of the trip for the next copy of WOG. Kindest regards to all

Cecil CHRYSTAL

6th DIV REPORT: (Extracts from 6th Div. Newsheet)

The 2/4th Bn. have sent a bronze plate to be erected at Veve Pass in northern Greece where the Germans first hit us. I suppose it was a toss-up as to which pass they came through first, so a thought has been passed around that an interpretation of the plaque on the memorial erected by the people of Xenon Neron should be financed by the whole of the 6th Div. The story goes that no sooner had the last German left Greece than these poor people erected this Memorial at Veve to 'Those gallant Allies (us) who helped defend Greece in 1941'. Many tourists have seen this Memorial without knowing what it was, hence the idea of casting a plate with the interpretation'.

6th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY

TOUR: Departing Sydney/Melbourne/Perth....Qantas May 11th 1981. Visiting Greece (11 days) — Crete (9 days) Bangkok (3 Nights) Includes Fare, Accommodation, Most Meals, Tours, Sightseeing, at approx. \$A2600 per person. Limited to 150. Don't miss out — book now! Contact Alan KEMMIS P.O. Box 198 Cremorne Junction, 2090. Phone: 909 1055.

IN THE MAIL BAG From GWEN MacLENNAN to Athol HEATH.

Dear Athol, Would you please convey to your Association my deep appreciation and thanks for the sheath of beautiful flowers presented to me by your S.V.P. Ted FOX at Ladies' Night on the 20th. Words still fail me, as they did on Friday night, in endeavouring to express the joy I received from the gesture, but I assure you I am enjoying every lovely bloom. Congratulations on another happy Ladies' Night though the numbers were perhaps small, the quality was par excellence! With best wishes to all, Yours sincerely, From Frank MALLET...U.K.

Just a few lines from the U.K. Firstly to thank you for the prompt arrivals of WOG and its wide range of news. I was able to have a few days at home with Jim and Jack HUSTON and just before their departure Monty SEIMS and myself

joined Joan and Jack for a day in London which also included a really nice luncheon with a great deal of talk about old friends. Time just raced away and I must say, Jack's wife, the grand person she is, sat with us the whole time. I was sorry when the time came to say good-bye. Monty was just in time for his train and I walked round to mine and I was also lucky. Also had the pleasure of a chat and a drink with our old friend, 'Ferdie' PEGG; he was staying in Norfolk with friends, it was good of him to call. I have had a few callers from down under this year and its been grand — My best wishes to you all at the Reunion, and it was good to read that our President Bill is again in good health. I liked Allan KIRKS letter, the Denvers home is a grand spot. He tells of paying \$1 a can of beer, I recall paying a pound, old money, just out from Alice Springs for a beer. Again my thanks, hope to make the trip to Aussie one of these days. Sincerely, Frank.

From Nell Steele to Athol HEATH Bob Munday passed away on 1st August, 1980 and was interred in the Soldiers Section of the Lawn Cemetery in Queanbeyan on August 4th. He was an original of the 2/4 Infantry, 6th Division and served in Greece, Crete and Western Desert—returned home, then served in New Guinea. His widow, Mary, is an ex WRANS. Her address is Box 36, Post Office Bungendore NSW, 2621 (Thank you Nell Steele for this information Ed.)

From Ken Moses (with Selby DEAN at Tinga)

This is getting monotonous but thought I would get a note away while fresh in my mind of things I told Selby I would do. The said gentleman and myself have decided the local school here should have a decent portrait of Dougherty as they don't seem to know too much about him here, and suddenly have realised that once they had a mighty soldier in their midst. I don't know if it would be possible to get a colour reproduction off the cover of the book but no harm trying. If not a decent black and white or sepia in all his finery would be great. Any expense would be ours (Thanks, Ken, I will take this matter up with Committee, sounds great, Bob) Still having a great time and will be sorry when Friday arrives and I will have to take off for the wedding in Warwick. We were down in Tamworth yesterday then back to Inverell for a re-play of football at night. It is quite an interesting locality and today we were out at the tin mines and keeping out of trouble. Tomorrow, it is Inverell and may see Ross SMITH with a bit of luck, then an early night as we will be leaving for Warwick about 4 am. Still on sausages and chops and onion gravy covered with eggs. Had a break tonight as we were guest at a station and had duck, cherise style. Things are tough here! It is raining at the moment, but not too optimistic, but an inch of rain by morning would be beaut, and more all the better as it is hellish dry. Have got on to a couple of stories so may pay expenses. Must away, love to Nina and your lovely daughter. Will be in touch later, Your Roving Correspondent (Best of luck to Selby, Editor)

From Dasher and Lily DEACON...W.A.

At present we are in Perth, staying close to our family and grandchildren. Lily does not get much of a chance to visit them. Do hope that you and Nina are well. We are going to

Kalgoolie tomorrow for a week.....might find some gold? Am enclosing an article for WOG. The doctor I go to in Armidale, Perth, is officer-in-charge of the Army Reserves. He was very interested in WOG. I also see him about my health. He has helped me enormously. Cannot make Canberra because we can't get a seat on the plane, also we are committed to stay a little longer. Well goodbye for the present...regards to all.

From Dick MORRIS;

Left Melbourne two months ago on a Greyhound 'Eagle Pass' Coach (only way to see everything) and passed through Adelaide, Perth, Mt. Newman, Marble Bar, Pt. Headland, Broome, Ord River, etc. to Darwin, where met ELLIOTS (Maisie and Henry) again. Visited Casino and made fortune (\$14.00)!!

Arrived home via 'The Centre' Alice Springs and Adelaide at the end of the month for birth of 3rd grandchild. Left soon after and went up East coast to Townsville, then across to Mt. Isa Three Ways and Darwin, where we were met by the ELLIOTTS again. They really took us over, and we saw practically everything there was to see including a trip down to the War Cemetery at Adelaide River (where there is a Service every Armistice Day — very impressive) then to Yarrowonga Zoo, East Point, Howard Springs, Berry Springs, Darwin River Dam, Humpty Doo and the Marrakai Plains (where the buffalo really roam), then to Fogg Dam, where we saw a beautiful sunset — beat Fanny Bay any day. Also drove to Rum Jungle — not worked since 1970-71 and to Batchelor, where the workers and families lived — very pretty spot, the buildings of which are to be converted to an Aboriginal Training Centre. Complete settlement, including football oval, swimming pool, etc. I always remember Adelaide River kindly, because it was there that I transferred from 2/4th Inf. Btn. to 119th A.G.H. It was whilst Henry and I were wandering about the cemetery that Henry suggested a bus or Plane load of 2/4th going to Darwin to revisit the old sites, perhaps on Armistice Day. He was a bit worried about the heat affecting some of the boys at that time of the year. Henry, I might add, is a nipper of 57. Anyhow, Henry is willing to organise something there, but it will have to be within the next couple of years, as he is retiring then and moving east. Henry keeps the 2/4th colours flying in Darwin. He puts on a 'WHITE OVER GREEN' day at the Arafura Bowling Club and donates a very substantial trophy and makes sure every one knows the history of the 2/4th, I also noticed Coomalie Cr. and the road to Stapleton and Pell Air Strip.

CENTRAL COAST CAPERS

I have completely restored my old house into an older type house. All with my bare hands normally used for carrying MUNGA ARAK or dancing with Ex- A.W.A.S. The CENTRAL COAST COMEDY CAPERS MOTEL, 4 KERRY LOUISE AVE., NORAVILLE, PHONE (NX) 043965476 is open for business. My first non paying guest was Lily. WHINGING NEW AUSTRALIAN because I poured her a morning cup of tea with COFFEE BEANS. Don't know why she complains every Motel serves CONTINENTAL

BREAKFAST, Bully Beef and Dog Biscuits.

I wish to criticise all the Ex 2/4 PTE ASSOC. who helped in the project Ex. Council Man COCK ROBIN who laid the down hill Bowling Green. Should suit Peter DENVERS style of play. Vic FORBES made the Golf Course with No Putting Greens, he can't putt anyway. Sluggo WYLDMAN who painted the house GREEN over WHITE. Cold Showers and Warm Toilets, plumbing by Peter COOK. The Motel will have terrible service because we have a lousy staff. JOCK MUNRO, CHEF, GLEN ACKERMAN, Pianist, and Relieving Chef. There will be no fish meals because Harry HAMBURGER supplies the fish.

CONDITIONS — Ex Officers cannot stay unless they are accompanied by their parents, although most of them did not have parents. VERA PROVIAN and JOAN CHASELING are more than welcome. But please don't bring your lovely families. We have only one bedroom if they all arrive. We will have to put the old REJULA in our back yard. BROMIDE must be taken with uncooked meals. UNBOOKED Rooms only in the October weekend. DOG TAGS must be shown on demand. LONG ARM PARADE every second day. WALKY TALKY Jim BROWN will announce the guests. Assisted by the PORTER and GUEST singer BLAA SMITH, music by Dick PINSON. Cec CRYSTAL will be in charge of STAFF. At least he made a good job out of B/Coy. With this lousy set up Lily and I will have no guests. Might even persuade Farmer Joe WELLS to grow our vegetables. Can't think of the other WAGGA resident. He sometimes frequents the WAGGA RSL. Lily said his first name was Bruce. Last time she visited him it was in Newcastle Hospital or was it Crown St. when he came to Sydney for the Randwick Races. Lily and I challenge the UNMIXED PAIRS PETER DENVER and ALLAN KIRK in the Central Coast COMEDY CAPERS PAIRS CARNIVAL Snowy MOORES will be playing by himself, nobody will play with him. My bowls have the WHITE over GREEN COLOUR PATCH on them. Allan KIRK might not recognise them. Peter Denver has improved he is being coached by his Grandson. At present we are in PERTH caretaking for friends of Lily's son Peter. Only in the next street away. He is an EX-COLONEL of the Indian Army, W.C. BLAKENEY-BRITTER. Maybe Harry GJEDSTED knew him when they were both riding Camels in POONA. Never slept in an Ex-COLONEL'S bed before. Bad enough sleeping with George (Sporty) Lowe in the desert.

He was that tall I slept underneath him all night. Next day I swapped him for Cheeky Charlie Snowy KEATING. He was worse, if he wasn't talking he was blowing Wild Woodbine cigarettes underneath the Electric Blanket Met a friend of Punchy Hoods at Tourkley RSL He goes by the name of Jock. Does Bill MacLENNAN know anybody with that name. He supposed to be the LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER at NORAH HEAD. He can't be too bright, could not find his way out of the RSL.

(To be continued.....)