



White Cedar 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.)

35th YEAR OF CONTINUOUS PUBLICATION

Vol. 35 No. 12

PRICE 15c PER COPY

December, 1980

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MONTHLY MEETING – There will be NO December meeting but as done in previous years an informal Christmas get-together at the Gallipoli Memorial Club will be held on Thursday December 18th commencing at 5.30 to 6.00 p.m. Come and go as you please. The club closes at 9 p.m. Wives and families are welcomed.

JANUARY MEETING: Friday January 23rd at 8 p.m. at the above address.

SEASON'S GREETINGS are extended from Sir Ivan and I **DOUGHERTY**, President, SNOW and wife, Gwen and Committee to all members, families and friends.

EDITOR'S REPORT: As the year 1980 draws to a close we may well ponder 'where it went', or is it the consequence of this ageing process? We have witnessed the passing of many of our members and to those who bore the loss in a personal manner we extend our condolences, trusting the coming year will bring a level of fulfilment despite the absence of loved ones. In a happier refrain the Association continued its activities in the manner we have come to expect thanks to the Executive and Committee. A special thank you to the Welfare Team whose tasks inevitably grows more arduous with the passing of the years. This month saw the gathering of the Far Northern Rivers members at the Lismore Christmas Dinner which Nina and I were able to attend, thanks to the hospitality extended to us by Joan CHASELING. Seventy odd members were in attendance the food and fluid was only exceeded by the companionship which was shared by all in my own case the meeting of chaps I had not seen in high on forty years. Doug STEBBING, Fred VARLEY and others involved in the organizing of the dinner did an exemplary job. The

night was capped, when a phone call was received from Vice President, ALLAN KIRK all the way from Wollongong extending well wishes to us all. We, Sydney members can rest assured that the far north of the State is capable of well representing the Bn. for many years to come. Thanks fellows for a much enjoyed evening.

At the November General Meeting, the President presented 25 new Hackles to Bill FORD, secretary of the Parramatta Pipe Band, as a token of appreciation. We are well aware of the many years they have led our Bn. on Anzac Days. A pocket designed by Dick MORRIS was submitted to the General Meeting where it was given wide acceptance. It could be on sale early next year. As previously resolved by Committee and General Meeting there will NOT be a January issue of W.O.G. It is timely to remind all the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held on FEBRUARY 27th at 8 p.m. All offices will be declared vacant. Don't forget to give the incoming Executive your support by attending.

A phone call from Claude RAYMOND in Melbourne – good news – our illustrious Ken MOSES is back home after many weeks of wandering in Northern N.S.W. and

Queensland. He has hoisted his walking sticks. Hoped to hear from him soon. The sad news — Peter GYNGELL died 13th November and was buried on 16th. The service was attended by 17 of our members and the 2/4th wreath was laid and condolences were given on our behalf by Claude RAYMOND.

WELFARE REPORT as at 28th November, 1980.

- NX 2045 BOWMAN, V. Harold rang, Vince was discharged 28th Oct. Now back home in Warialda.
- NX 2055 HONNERY, A. Athol was discharged from RGH. After some time in the hostel was admitted to the Hospital at WVH on 19th Nov.
- NX 42709 CUNNINGHAM, Des. After another by-pass op to his other leg, Des was discharged. Now at home. After 13 ops he does not feel like any more. Des is grateful to all who called on him.
- NX 26150 BELL, H. W. Harold now discharged after a very bad time. We hope he does well.
- NX 11372 BLOOMFIELD, H. L. Len is now home after a vascular by-pass op.
- NX 9868 RAYMONT, Ron. LDH has been called on by the three musketeers, JIM, SLIM and TED. Slim reports all well.
- NX 41889 BENSON, Stan. Stan from Young had a lung infection — now discharged.
- NX 5207 NASEBY, Joffre, 'A' Coy. had vascular by-pass op — now discharged.
- NX 5911 BOWEN, Stan. Q.V.Hosp. has been called on regularly by Bob LEVER who reports all well.
- NX 47094 HAYES, W. G. of Waratah. Dick MORRIS has seen him at the William Lynne Hospital, Newcastle. Bully has had more leg surgery but is 'on top of the world' Regards to all.
- NX 47036 PEARSE, Harry C. Seen at home by Dick MORRIS. Harry has had a heart attack - now doing very nicely.
- NX 2040 SMITH, R.H. (Inverell) was in RGH for lung and abdominal tests — now back home.
- NX 5162 DAWSON, Thos. RGH 12. Tests for lung infection. Tom from Bundeena, now lives at Carramar.
- NX 41889 FENSOM, Stanley from Young. Has lung cancer was in for chemo-therapy — now discharged.
- NX 68764 SMITH, J.B. Ashbury Nursing Home — visited by Harry WRIGHT. Jack is stable after series of heart attacks and strokes over the last 4 years. He had a good long letter from Claude RAYMOND whose batman he was.
- NX 9824 HEATH, Athol. Athol was in for a repair job on his last ulcer op. Discharged 23rd Nov. — now at home. He is to report back for removal of stitches.
- NX 17006 WILLOUGHBY, G. R. RGH 6 was awaiting TPI to return home 24th Nov. Has severe

permanent kidney condition.

NX 5145 ROBIN, Jim. Confined to barracks and ordered complete rest by his doctor.

On behalf of all my colleagues, best wishes for the Festive Season and a happy, healthy 1981.

JOHN COPLAND

LAST POST

LEST WE FORGET

NX 6514 MAIDENS, V.H.E. The Liason Officer TPI Assn., Frank ROWELL rang me. Viv had died. His wife lives in England and he had no known kin in Australia. Frank took care of every thing and represented the Bn. at the funeral.

6TH DIVISION REPORT

40 YEARS AFTER BARDIA

'Veterans of the 6th Division and their families will attend a Commemorative Church Parade at the Garrison Church, Millers Point on Sunday, January 4th, 1981 at 1030 hours on the 40th Anniversary of the assault of the Fortress of Bardia which was actually at dawn on January 3rd, 1941. Unit ties and medals to be worn.

'During the service, a plaque to the memory of the fallen will be unveiled by Major General Sir Ivan Dougherty.

It is hoped that Lady MacKAY, widow of the Commanding Officer of the Division at that time, Major General MacKay and Mrs. Allen, widow of the then, Brigadier 'Tubby' Allen will be able to attend along with Major General Ian Campbell and Sir Frederick Chilton both veterans of this famous Battle. Other State and Civic leaders are also invited as well as guests from other Divisions and arms of the Services.

Bardia was the first action of the newly formed 2nd AIF and the first by Australian land forces since 1918. Much depended on these sons of the Anzacs, they had a valiant tradition to uphold and it is to their credit that they were gloriously victorious and brought a much needed boost to the people of the British Empire, being the first land victory of the Second World War.

Those taking part should assemble at Sergeant Majors Row, which is the historic parade ground of the early Garrison troops. This is situated down Lower Fort Street, near Dowshire Place. Flags and banners will be in position from 1000 hours and the marchers will move off at 1015 hours.'

'Following the Church Parade, there will be a picnic at Garden Island, for all those who would like to see this historical and interesting spot. People are asked to bring you own hampers and refreshments although some will be available at the picnic. The harbour foreshores at Garden Island are quite picturesque and barbeque facil-

ities are available: it is anticipated that there will be an opportunity to have a look at a naval vessel and a tour of the more historical sites.

This is a unique sort of function which should attract a great number of people at no great cost to themselves or their organisations, see you there. Bill Jenkins.

ROBIN'S CORNER

Dear Bob and Nina, enclosed is a letter from Fred APTHORP from Griffith. At the Canberra Reunion met Jack HAMILTON. He promised to write on the Griffiths Boys and Fred has obliged. Its the names that keep the Association together. It shows they are not forgotten JIM. (Thank Jim for your newsy column...all the best for the new year, Bob & Nina).

GRIFFITH MEN WHO SERVED IN THE BN.

(october, 1939)

APTHORP, F. W., BARROW, C. J., CLARK, A.H.,
CURRY, L. DEMERY, W.E., FOSTER, H.G.A.,
GALVIN, J., GARFITT, D. A., HAMILTON, J.R.,
HAZEL, G.R., HOLLAND, J., KILLEN, C., MASON,
C., MORROW Mul, NEWTH W. H., RYAN, D.,
SMYTHE, A.W., SWADLING, O.E., WILMOTT, S.W.
WHITBY, M.R., Arrived INGLEBURN November:
BRADFORD, D.J., BARRETT, W., BOURKE, H.G.,
ERSKINE, T.R., HAMILTON, W.C., HARRIS, L.J.,
JACKSON, D.J., JOHNSTONE, N.W., LEAVER, A.N.
TINSELL, M.W., McCLURE, D.T., McCREADY, A.,
MURPHY, H.F., PARKINSON, J., ROSS, H., THOMP-
SON, E.R., WEVV, A.L., WEBSTER, S.S., WILSON, E.
R., WHITMAN, H.W.,

Arrived January 1940: Driscoll, F.J.

They would make the original embarkation on the Strathnaver a total of 42.

Later reinforcements: HALSALL, T.J., EWBANK, R., POWER, A.G., KILLEN, L....wishing you all the best, regards, Fred APTHORP.

SIR IVAN DOUGHERTY BIOGRAPHY HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS SIR IVAN

I am happy to bring you a further report on the above project and to inform you that on the 10th day of November 1980 we had sold the 1000th Biography. This must give Sir Ivan lots of proud feelings to think this figure has been reached and the Committee as well.

Not to be outdone I had a ring from Athol Heath later in the day saying he had sold the 1001st copy. Since that date we have sold five more so we are on the way with the second batch of books on hand to sell.

Please don't delay if you have not yet submitted your order, get one in now so you don't miss out!

I would like to thank you personally Bob for fitting the whole of my story regarding Greece in the last issue and trust that all enjoyed reading it! I cut it considerably as I know space in the magazine is rather limited. Anyhow my thanks.

Regards to all and best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

CECIL CHRYSTAL

NORTHERN NSW REPORT.....Esca RIORDAN

(Please note Esca's change of address. 111 Kemp Street, W. Kempsey, 2440).

Just a brief note to let the Association know that we have made some preliminary arrangements for next years 'Do'. Have booked two Motels (more details of accommodation later) also catering arrangements for main dinner. It would be appreciated if intending members for the Reunion could indicate their accommodation needs, e.g. Motel, Hotel, and number of nights required as early as possible. I would like to acknowledge the deposits for next year's Reunion: Bruce and Angela CORK, Bill and Gwen Mac LENNAN Alan and Gloria LINDSAY, Peter and Pat DENVER, Phil and Glyn SMITH, Jim and Jean FOREMAN, and Reta FOX.

If members have any queries please dont hesitate to ask.

Bob GRAHAM, John SMITH, John (Bushy) BENNETT and Wally LAMBOURNE attended Tom CLOUGH's funeral. Apologies if I have missed anyone.

Mrs. Peg BARTLETT, widow of the late Tom BARTLETT asked me to put a brief note in WOG re his passing. He went in to Concord on 20th August and had tests, then the Drs. decided to have heart surgery. They did - 5 by-passes, but Tom had a massive heart attack while still in the theatre. Tom passed away on 24th September.

On our way up the South Coast we called on Geo. MOORE at MOLLEY MOOK and found him fit and well. He had been busy spraying his fruit trees and attending his lovely garden. Jean was at Ulladulla playing Bowls. We had a few cans with George. If not already reported we have received the sad news of the passing Merv STEBBING in Casino (Doug's brother) and Tom Clough of Macksville - both during October.

NEWCASTLE NOTES....Aif CARPENTER

Bill (Bully) HAYES has now been transferred from Newcastle Royal to William Lyne Hospital at Waratah, he is much improved and both stumps are healing well. Bill is able to hop into his wheel chair and manoeuvre it around the ward in great style. The visit of Dick MORRIS brightened him up considerably. Dick made a special trip up from Sydney especially to visit Bill.

Quite a few of our Members will be attending the 2/1st Field Regt. dinner on the 9th November at the United Services Club, our members always being most Welcome at this function.

The Newcastle members tendered Jim SHERRITT a surprise Birthday party at his daughters residence at Charlestown on 1.11.80 Jim having reached the young old age of 72.

During the evening Alf CARPENTER extended congratulations to Jim and a large Birthday cake was cut. A great get together was enjoyed by all.

Jim is still having heart treatment and is at present having Bladder Kidney Prostrate tests — otherwise 100% as he says.

Our next get together will be held at Tattersalls Club on the 14th November and our 23rd Annual Dinner will be held in December....Kindest regards.

FROM OUR WANDERING NORTHERN RIVERS VICE PRESIDENT:

Lake Hattarah, National Park, Victoria.

As you can see by the above address this is a far cry from West Australia but the days (nevermind the hours) and the weeks seem to slip by so very quickly, it sometimes frightens me, however, I suppose that seems to be the case when one is really enjoying life. I just remarked to Carma, that we are now 8 months out of Lismore and she promptly told me we have covered almost to the K.M. (20,000 of same). Incidentally, I simply cannot win an arguments re this trip, as Carma keeps a very up-to-date diary, not I assure you, to remember where and when, but just to prove me wrong, anyhow that's what I tell her. When I last wrote I think we were headed for Perth, another lovely city and also very friendly people, we did enjoy our stay but for one small incident, which I had some bother in sorting out, I am sure Johnny HAWKINS can straighten me out here. Carma and I had occasion to visit a small R.S.L. called Riverview (suburb of Perth more or less) and when having a beer with some of the members, I mentioned the 2/4th etc. etc. (I felt quite a chill in the air) and when asked if I perhaps knew C.S.M. HAWKINS I admitted (rather reluctantly, I admit) I did, applying further pressure I discovered that the said HAWKINS had delivered quite an oration at the said RSL on the future of the 'RSL in Australia I might add that this speech, lecture or talk, was arranged (the night before in this instance). Upon being asked if I knew the whereabouts etc. etc. of the said CSM I assured the blokes that you would return soon Johnny, to Riverview, upon receiving this news, they seemed to become quite excited and wished very much to know — WHEN?? Now, Johnny, please don't be apprehensive, they only wanted to know so they could get out of town. Arriving in Perth, one of the first things of course, was to contact my old

China, Fred STANWELL. We hadn't seen each other since the end of the war, it really was terrific to meet him again, to my mind hasn't changed much, grown a little older like all of us. We spent a wonderful week in Perth, quite a bit of it with Fred and Elsie. Fred and I had a session to ourselves at Midlands (suburb) counter lunch and a couple of ales!!! we had so much to talk about and how Fred took Elsie and us to see the Andulsion Stallions perform, to dinner at a really good Chinese place, to supper at the KIRK's van plenty of ale, etc., etc, over a period of days of course — our grateful thanks to Fred and Elsie for a never-to-be-forgotten lovely time in Perth. Fred asked me to pass on his regards to all the boys and especially the Mortar Plt. I understand he will be retiring soon, so we may see him and Elsie over in the Eastern States sometime, I hope.

The trip continues to be first rate and we are really enjoying it. Received the WOG day before yesterday in Mildura and will have more to say to 'DASHER' later. Very glad the Reunion was such a success, more than ever sorry now we weren't there. Regards to all. PS I'm quite sure everyone would be interested in Johnny HAWKINS version of what really happened at Riverview RSL.... WHY not drop a line mate (if you can write as well as you talk) according to the Riverview Fellas it should be good!!!! Allan.

From our ROVING REPORTER: Didn't we have a happy, happy time in Canberra? Thanks to all concerned. Irene and I have taken eight days to get from Sydney to home. Called in on as many 2/4ers as I could. Found Colleen LYNCH in Grafton keeping home fires burning, awaiting Dad's return from hospital. Your garden is a picture Leo! Heavy rain forced us to stay at Maclean overnight. Popped in to see Frar. (Pom) WALLACE, old ticker playing up, but cheery grin is still there. Off the beaten track to ILUKA to see Ian and Edna WALLWORK. Ian is no longer Bowls President so will now be able to return to the Fold. We spent a night at BALLINA, WHITMAS missing, in BRISBANE. Ada having blood pressure problems Harry OK, Herb HOATHER, played host, an enjoyable afternoon. Herb is well and happy in his Caravan home....called in at 118 Cherry Street, Ballina to Doug GROVES new Unit....Irene hadn't seen him since pre embarkation leave 1940....morning tea developed into lunch and beyond.... Jack LISTER in and out of Kyogle hospital for minor surgery, believe all other Northcoasters bearing up. Laurie McCOSKER has had a cataract removed while I've been away, so off work for six weeks — DASHER — what did I do to become so privileged as to receive an invitation to join the 'WHOSE WHO' of the 2/4 at your Central Comedy Capers? I most certainly will leave the kids at home. It would show up too many flaws in their education if they spent a weekend with your mob. Signing off with love, Vera PROVANS.