



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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MONTHLY MEETING FRIDAY MARCH 28th 1980 at 8 p.m. Gallipoli Memorial Club, 12 Loftus Street, Sydney 2000

THE 1980 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

There was a good attendance once again we welcomed the presence of our Patron, Sir Ivan Dougherty. Our immediate past president the indomitable Harry Gjedsted BEM and as returning officer for the election of office bearers for the ensuing year.

The results showed little change, all positions being re-elected unopposed, the one change being Harry Wright, standing down because of commitments this year. His position on committee being occupied by Ken Kesteven MC.

So once again your Association is ready for another successful year under the able guidance of President, 'Snow' MacLennan.

ANNUAL CHURCH PARADE – Association of 4th Inf. Battalions. An Annual Service to Commemorate the laying of the Queen's and Regimental Colours of the 4th Inf. Bns. (Australian Rifles) was held in the beautiful old St. Anne's Church of England, Strathfield, on Sunday, 24th February. The Band of 4 RNSWR was on parade to lead the short march from Davey Reserve to the Church. The Sermon was given by Rev. A.C. Tipping, Rector of St. Anne's Church and Chaplain to the Association.

Afternoon tea was provided by the ladies of St. Anne's making it possible for all present to meet and chat in most congenial surroundings.

The Association was represented by President of the 4th Inf. Bns., Lt. Colvin Hallinan, Sir Ivan, Lady Mackay, Bill & Gwen MacLennan, Major General Gordon Maitland, Brigadier Ray Sharp, Brigadier C.E. Cameron, Capt. Stefan Frodsham, Ted and Heather Fox, Athol Heath, George and Marj Stack, Harold and Dell Silvers, Molly Irvine, John Copland, Laurie and Joy Waterhouse, Harry and Hilda Wright, Ken and Fi Kesteven, Vic & Margaret Forbes, Norm Harries, Maurice Porter, Vera Walsh, Harold Smith, Bob & Nina Fergusson, Jack Hyles, Dick Morris, Peter Cook, Maurie Jessop, Ron Barber and Bill Parry.

QUEENSLAND REPORT Due to the good efforts of Alan TOBIASEN and Esca RIORDAN a 2/4 Plaque was obtained and an inscription 'In Memory of Tom PROVIANS' was added and has now been mounted on the wall above where Tom did his drinking at the COORPAROO SERVICES CLUB. A few of his mates met to dedicate this Plaque, they included Norm EVERSON, Norm MACINTYRE, Bill CAVANAGH, Alan TOBIASEN, Bill TRAPP, Bruce FLUDE Max COOK (from the 6th Div.) and myself.

When I saw Norm MACINTYRE he was much improved in health and he has had a good report from his Doctor.

A funeral notice which appeared in the Courier Mail indicated that Allan Buer CROWLEY was a former member of the 2/4 Btn. and his number was NX 42811. I attended the funeral and after speaking to relatives they said his discharge Certificate showed he was a member of the 2/4 Inf. Bn. Norm MACINTYRE said he could only remember a Tom Crowley. Did anyone know Allan?

On Friday, 8th February, Bill SUMPTER passed away after a long illness. The funeral was held on Monday and the Chapel at the Crematorium was crowded. Those from the 2/4 attending were Ted WEARNE, Wally McKENZIE, Norm MACINTYRE, Harold COX, Jim WHITTAKER and myself. Bill's daughter, Pat requested that she still receive a copy of WOG.

Regards.....Laurie McCOSKER.

WELFARE REPORT as at 22nd February, 1980

NX 13375 ALEXANDER, T.C. RGH 7. Tom was very ill for some weeks. Now discharged and back at GRAYTH-WAITE.

NX 24021 IVEY, F. RGH 430. Vascular trouble was 'A' Coy and PW Greece. Now discharged.

NX 6514 MAIDENS, V. RGH 630. Some skin grafts done last year had broken down and had to be done again. Discharged.

NX 17006. WILLOUGHBY, Geo. RGH 120. Kidney and haemorrhoids op. George came from Wallerawang. Joined 'A' Coy. in Darwin. Condition satisfactory.

NX 11558 SMITH, R. LDH Ward C. Throat cancer also spinal tests. Condition fair.

NX 5859 HEANEY, J.T. RGH 430. Recurrence of vascular trouble right leg. Satisfactory. Greetings to all freinds.

NX 9868 RAYMONT, R. LDH. Waiting for new legs. Well and cheerful!

NX 7601 CHAMBERLAIN, R.H. NX 5233 BENNET, W.G.H.

NX 2055 HONNERY, A.W. NX 1977 WARING, B.

NX 5154 GUEST, J.P. (W.V.H. Narrabeen)

NX 6922 O'TOOLE, R. Discharged from Gladesville Psychiatric Hospital.

NX 11949 DEACON, K. (Dasher) RGH for a few days for tests. Now at large and at our AGM.

Bill PARRY maintains contact at W.V.H. Reports all well.

4th Bn. 1914-1918

6793 SHARKEY, A.E. RGH 510 then 3. Very ill but on 18th Feb. was waiting discharge.

1493 RIBOT, G. RGH 230. Abdominal tests satisfactory. George now 81, original bugler with 'D' Coy.

CASH REGISTER

The treasurer advises that he has received subscriptions and

donations, during the 1st July, 1979 to 31st January, 1980 from the following members and supporters.

\$6.00 W. Newth, Elvin Andrews, T.J. Taylor, R. Raymont, E. Mackie, L. Moon, W. Capper, D. Endean, N. Rogers, B. Martin, W. Shearwin, B. Barnes, C. Geelan, V. Bowman, J. Cummings, P. Dalla, G. Parry, T. Alexander, R. Madden, J. Barrow, D. Ellicot, L. Clarke, A. Arnott, F. Burke, P. Cook, R. Small, R. Lane, R. Groat, W. Alker, J. Bennett.

\$10.00 D. Bundy, B. Davies, R. Staggs, W. Keast, L. Waterhouse, E. Swain, H. Bowman, J. Wilson, E. Fryer, H. Greedy, V. Pike, W. Shaw, K. McCaffrey, F. Gattenhoff, W. Facey, W. Shaw, Rita Blackstock, Marj Bacheldor, Elsie Bradford, W. Nilon, E. Jones, A. White, L. Hammond, J. Whitelaw, R. Finlay, F. Wright, C. Gillard, J. Holland, Vera Walsh

\$5.00 W. Sumpter, B. Griffiths, S. Valentine, H. Smith

\$4.00 W. Reid **\$12.00** G. Hart, S. Sutherland

\$13.00 W. S. Robbins **\$14.00** G. Chrisp

\$15.00 M. Siems **\$16.00** C. Barrow

\$18.00 J. Sheridan **\$20.00** A. Bromilow, B. Rae, A. Miller, W. Burton, B.

\$25.00 J. Ewbank **\$40.00** T. Gorman, A. Powell

\$30.00 J. Hine **\$40.00** T. Gorman, A. Powell

\$90.00 H.J. Poiner

CENTRAL COAST CAPERS — Lily and I have moved to Norville on the Central Coast. The first thing we did was to have a Committee Meeting. She elected me Vice President Central Coast.

Also residing in this area are Butch Warren, Vince McDONNELL, Jack (crow) PARSONS, Ken RICHARDSON, Johnny HAWKINS (here nearly every weekend), Bert (Snowy) MOORES, and Geof QUINTON — Both ex B/coy Quarter Masters. It was good to see Geof again. I haven't seen him since he was captured in Greece.

Bert does a wonderful job coaching the Gosford District handicapped Bowling Group at Toukley R.S.L. He is mentioned in the January Bowls Journal — so beware Allan KIRK when 'B' Coy. plays Lismore. Bert is also my coach, which is his biggest handicap. It will be a change giving ex. Sgts. orders. Denny KARANGES could be another ex Staff Sgt. in my team.

We all know our Country Reunions get better every year but this time the Ex. Ptes Assoc. will hold a Disastrous, Disorganised, Dreadful April Fools Day Short Weekend at Davistown.

Bunny BURROWS and the rest of the Chaos-Committee chose the date because we sailed to Greece on the first of April and only fools become privates. There will be no speeches, no munga, no accommodation. Just bring your dixies, shovels, housewife or any other wife. Don't forget your portable slit trench. I still have my old original PST made in the Western Desert. We made them well in those

days, specially outside BARDIA — it didn't take long as there were no Union strikes. Mine still has the original owners name engraved on the side. Must have been an Ex-Officers one built by a Batman.....The marking is E.R. (cannot recall any Ex-Officer in the Bn named Erwin ROMMEL. Must ask Blaa SMITH, he knows them all from the Mess (what a Mess).

No worries at DAVISTOWN regards toilets, showers, etc. the reserve outside the R.S.L. Club is scattered with P. of Phones all brought back in good condition from the ATHER-TON TABLELANDS. The showers are from WEWAK. Peter COOK need not bring his P.S. Trench with him, He is lucky every time he plays golf he digs up one.

So all you Clifty WOLLARDS book in BOOKRA for the Dreadful, Disastrous Disorganised April Foods Day Short Weekend at DAVISTOWN. The long one will be too long... send no money, early bookings will get their slit trench closer to the R.S.L. C/- Bunny BURROWS or Punchy WALKER, Davistown R.S.L. I might dig my P.S.T. at Davistown for a trial run while Lily is visiting her mother in F...LAND next month.

All we need is the same weather we had in BURG-EL-ARAB to make a perfect week-end.....Dasher DEACON.

THE CASE AGAINST CHANGING THE BATTALION BANNER.

I am DEAD AGAINST CHANGING THE BATTALION BANNER as I feel the present one serves adequately, General DOUGHERTY and many others agree completely.

The cost of a new banner is one sided, \$5,000/\$6,000, two sided \$12,000/\$15,000 and money wasted. The idea is to have all battle honours for all to see. We have marched behind a plain and simple banner for thirty odd years. It is carried by two men....transport of a huge new banner would be out of the question for country reunions, Church parades etc.

Why change it now-We are all getting old.

Cecil CRYSTAL.

THE CASE FOR CHANGING THE BATTALION BANNER

Members on Anzac Day at the Dinner you shall be asked to vote on an important matter — additional up-dating of our Banner, the displaying of our Battalion Campaigns and actual operational areas which the Battalion proudly served. The advantages of displaying the names of the countries in which the Battalion served far outweigh any considered disadvantages:—

1. It serves to continually boost the pride we have in our Battalion.
2. It will show the viewing Public —young and old attending or viewing the Parade on TV the extensive range of our Battalion's active service.
3. It will be a 'READY MADE' and immediate visual aid for TV and Radio Commentators.
4. It will be a self-explanatory history of our Battalion in the years ahead when the Association no longer exists

and the banner laid up and displayed for future generations to see and understand.

Please give this matter your thoughts and support our motion on ANZAC DAY. If you are unable to attend the dinner you may register your vote by letter. Your letter should be addressed to Hon. Sec. Athol HEATH C/- Gallipoli Memorial Club, 12 Loftus Street, Sydney.

The cost in altering the present Banner would be small, just an extension of present Banner of 14 inches on either side.

.....Peter COOK.

ROBIN'S COLUMN At the Christmas 'get-together' in the Gallipoli Memorial Club, I spoke to Athol HEATH who informed me that Dick PINSON, had a heart attack and was in intensive care at Marrickville Hospital. Thank God Dick is now O.K. Ron BARBER came down from Blackheath but could not stop because of the fires ranging in the mountains. I spoke to Harry GJEDSTED. He looked well and appeared just as debonair as usual. Then Peter ARMSTRONG, his wife, Maud and son, Andrew came along all appeared well. I met Bill MacLENNAN (President) and his good wife, Gwen. Others attending were John COPLAND the two reliable, Harry and Hilda WRIGHT, our Editor and wife, Bob and Nina FERGUSSON, (I heard a whisper that Nina is an excellent Pianist). I met Vic and Eileen FRANCES, Laurie WATERHOUSE and friend, Bill THORNTON (Bill was 2/11 Bn. a sand-groper) and we must not forget, Bill PARRY, hope you got that 'Jack pat' Bill. With excellent food and refreshments a very enjoyable evening was spent.

At our last meeting, interstate visitor was Winston 'Wink' WALKER from Caloundra. Wink has seen Bruce CORK, Laurie McCOSKER and Norm MacINTYRE. Was pleased to see and meet Bob 'Lascai' ROACH (HQ Coy.). Bob has recently seen Wally LAMBOURNE, Nuggett McGREEDY and Jim DONALDSON. Bob lives at 188 Hillcrest Ave., Greenacre. Bob came with his son Tom, who works for the Navy in General Administration work. Welcome Tom! It was good to see Peter COOK from Caringbah. Peter had a ring from Ken 'Dasher' DEACON. Ken lives at Noraville...plays bowls with Arthur 'Snowy' MOORES. Bad news is Ken is going into Concord Hospital, 4th Feb. for tests. Good luck mate, kind regards to Lily and children. It was nice to see Brian WARING (sigs). Brian has been in touch with Cecil LOUGHNAN. Cecil lives at Solamanda Bay. Brian was also in touch with Dick CHAMBERLAIN...regards, ROBIN.

NEWCASTLE NEWS The January get together of the Newcastle members was held at TATERSALLS CLUB on Thursday 25th commencing at 7.30 p.m. The evening took the form of a send off dinner to Alf and Marj CARPENTER who sailed on the 'IVAN FRANCO' two days later. Alf and Marj plan to be away for 3 months. Alf hopes to be home for Anzac Day. All Newcastle members were able to attend with the exception of Bill WHITE who is still grounded but is on the improve. Bill HAYES reported that daughter, Alicia and Ricki had returned to Singapore after attending Estelle's funeral. George and Heather MITCHELL have just returned from a Queensland Holiday which entailed a trip to the table-

lands and our old camp site at HERBERTON. Harry PEARSE has definitely retired.....still having heart problems and one leg giving trouble. Henry ELLIOTT and wife are well. They have moved into a new home, Darwin.

The February get together was held at the SHORTLAND RSL on the 22nd. In attendance were Harry and Yvonne PEARSE, Jack & Mary MANN, Jim & Mona SHERRITT, with son-in-law Bill BURGESS, George & Heather MITCHELL with son Guy and his fiancée, Kathy PALMER. Apologies were received from Bill WHITE, Doreen MANUEL at present visiting Port Macquarie, Joe & Gwen BOHLE, John & Margaret RAE, Cliff & Aileen CURRAN, and Bill HAYES. We were favoured with the company of Bob and Sylvia KENNINGALE and Bill and May CARTER of Griffith who were holidaying at Nelsons Bay. Bob will be remembered as a Battalion member who joined the unit in the Middle East and served in Darwin, Atherton Tablelands and New Guinea, also many will recall the challenge foot races between Bob and Archie LEWINGTON at Darwin where big money was bet on the result. Archie had the edge over the 75 yd course but Bob won the photo finish over the 100 yds.

Quite a few NOVOCASTRIANS are planning to attend the Anzac Day march and dinner this year so will see you all then. Kindest regards Jim SHERRITT.

NORTHERN NSW NEWS Apologies for being remiss in sending in any news to the magazine, but the truth is I haven't been able to glean much. A couple of months ago at a local golf day for Charity, three of our members participated, John SMITH John (Bushy) BENNETT and self. Bushy was among the trophy winners. Harry DOWLING and Jim BROWN are the only two in our area who are still working (helping to keep the rest of us off the breadline). I was speaking to Harry's wife and she said he hasn't had the best of health of late. Gordon and Marcia CAMPBELL had a wedding in the family during January. Their third daughter, Belinda, was married to a Darwin man and they propose to settle in the Northern Capital. Sam and Eileen HUGHES are enjoying their retirement and use some of their leisure time playing bowls. I was speaking to Chas. (Punchy) HOOD today and he is in reasonable health, plus a few noggins. Tom MALCOM spends most of his time in the vegetable garden and his lucky neighbours share some of them. Beb and myself have just returned from a fortnight in North Island of New Zealand. We went over with a group of ex PW's who played their traditional Cricket test against the Kiwi ex PW's. Australia won the 'ASHES' on this occasion. The trip was most interesting and enjoyable and hospitality superb. I am afraid this is all at the moment, but will keep the magazine posted if I get any news from North of Kempsey. Wishing the Association a further successful year and looking forward to the reunion in Canberra. Kind regards, Esca RIORDAN

IN THE MAILBAG

From Sailor HARVEY expressing thanks from well wishes, particularly from Major General G.L. Maitland.

From Vera PROVANS — Re conversation as to the painting of Norm MacINTYRE in the War Museum, Canberra.

Norm said it was painted in three settings by Guy MAINWARING in South Australia under orders issued by Brigadier MARTIN. The ordeal was only equalled by the presentation of the Medal itself. I think he still holds it against 'Robbie' for confiscating his old Jungle Greens and Craig CLARK for supplying a complete new set so that he had no way of escaping the Parade. Norm mentioned that it is forty years this week since the 2/4 arrived in the Middle East. I'm sure that those boys present and the many that have passed on will be remembered by comrades over the next few days and many days to come. Regards.

From Max SYDNEHAM — Joe WELLS retired from h. Junee farm and is living at 18 Huthwaite St., Wagga looks well and hopes to be down for Anzac Day March. Pat CUSACK also has retired from Wagga and is living on the central coast, Gosford. He hopes to make the reunion.

From Jack HUSTON, A.C.T. — Cec CHRYSTAL has advised me about the action taken by the Association on the proposed changes to the status of the Australian War Memorial.

Bill SWEETING and Bill LANCASTER have asked me to tell you that they are most grateful for our support. These two men worked in a most dedicated way to help make the Memorial what it is and in helping us compile our History. Sincerely, Jack HUSTON.