



# 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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**PRESIDENT:** Bill MacLennan, 2 Amaroo Avenue, Castle Cove, 2069. Phone: 407-3320.

**VICE-PRESIDENTS – Senior:** Ted Fox, 29 Longford Street, Roseville, 2069. Phone: 46-1200.

**Queensland:** L. McCosker, 60 Hillsdon Road, Tarina, 4068

**Far Northern Rivers:** Allan Kirk, 179 Dibbs Street, Lismore, 2480. Phone: 066-21-4464.

**Northern N.S.W.:** Esca Riordan, 36 Cameron Street, West Kempsey, 2440. Phone: 065-62-4671.

**Newcastle:** Alf Carpenter, 66 Chatham Road, Georgetown, 2298. Phone: 049-67-1969.

**Southern N.S.W.:** Artie Kleem, 3 Karabah Ave., Young, 2594. Phone: 063-82-2461.

**Victoria:** Claude Raymond, 92 Rose Street, West Coburg, 3058. Phone: 03-354-1145

**South Australia:** Peter Denver, "Wyndgate", Hindmarsh Island, P.O. Box 51, Goolwa, S.A. Phone: 085-55-2252.

**COMMITTEE:** P. Cade, C. Chrystal, P. Cook, G. Stack, L. Waterhouse, K. Kesteven, M.C.

**SECRETARY:** Athol Heath, 5 Akora Street, Frenchs Forest, 2086. Phone: 451-4466.

**ASSISTANT SECRETARY:** J. Meehan

**TREASURER:** Allen Lindsay, 21a Mirral Road, Caringbah, 2229. Phone: 524-1937.

**WELFARE OFFICERS:** John Copland, 117 Charles Street, Ryde, 2112. Phone: 80-3771.

Bill Parry, 5 Blackbutts Road. Frenchs Forest, 2086. Phone: 451-2790.

**EDITOR:** Bob Fergusson, M.M., 3 Summit Avenue, Dee Why, 2099 Phone: 98 0654

**NEXT MEETING:** Friday 24th May at 8 p.m. at the Gallipoli Memorial Club, Loftus Street, Sydney.  
(Please note that due to ANZAC DAY there will be no April Meeting).

## ANZAC DAY, WEDNESDAY APRIL 25TH, 1980

### ORDER OF EVENTS.

#### WREATH LAYING CEREMONY.

F.U.P. Cnr. York and Erskine Streets at 0730 hours. Bn. will move off promptly at 0800 hours, preceded by the Camatta Pipe Band and the 4th Bn. A.I.F. (1914-18).

#### ANZAC DAY MARCH

F.U.P. in the vicinity of the Cnr. of King and Elizabeth Streets, look for 2/4 Bn. sign. It is expected that the Bn. will move off at approximately 0930 hours.

#### ANZAC DAY RE-UNION

At the Gallipoli Memorial Club, 12 Loftus Street Sydney (near Circular Quay), commencing at 12 noon on the 1st floor. Luncheon tickets \$6.00.

#### REQUESTS FROM PRESIDENT RE ANZAC DAY MARCH

Once again I have the pleasure of leading our Bn. on Anzac Day. May I ask for a record attendance and that attention be given to dress that is, Suit, Bn. Ties, Decorations and Medals.

Please be aware of my previous requests. A total ban on all liquor prior and during March. Also be aware that only members of the 2/4 Bn. are permitted to march with the Unit, thus maintaining our continuing high standard of march discipline.

A group of interested wives normally attend to watch the march from a position outside Lowes Store, between Market and Park Streets on the Eastern side of George Street. They would be very happy to be joined by other wives who might also appreciate the company. After the March there is a luncheon to be organised....any interested ladies please contact Hilda Wright, phone 871 5312.

In effect, what all the foregoing really means is that I am asking for the backing of the whole 2/4th, on behalf of your Committee, during every aspect of ANZAC DAY. You are all welcome and we need you! Please join us.

Bill Mac Lennan

#### EXTRACTS – R.S.L. CIRCULAR, 7th Feb. 1980 re: ANZAC DAY MARCH DRESS & DISCIPLINE

Ex Service group organisers are requested to ensure that their members participating in the March are neatly

**CONGRATULTIONS!** Pat and Athol HEATH on the birth of a Grandson. Snow Mac Lennan and I visited Bill PARRY and Athol HEATH in Concord both have had successful operations, should be home soon. Athol sports an abdominal cut about a foot long. We reckoned he must have had a caesarean???  
All the best fellas. Editor.



attired to suit the occasion and in particular are wearing issue medals correctly mounted. Miniatures and ribbon bars should not be worn for Anzac Day Marches.

Cases have increased where members participating in the March are obstructing Anzac Day Marshals in their duties at the forming up point prior to commencement of the March, in some cases due to excessive drink and in other cases the non observance of instructions given by Marshals. This has led to seriously hampering the Marshals and their staff in the efficient organisation and conduct of the March.

In the interest of all concerned and in particular to the Anzac Day March itself this type of behaviour can not be tolerated and must cease.

Recently introduced N.S.W. Government Legislation concerning trading hours for hotels will mean that hotels will be open during the Anzac Day March where as previously hotels were closed in the city until after the March.

Bearing in mind that the City March has a full television coverage together with appropriate commentary, it is essential that Marchers participating do not discredit the good name of ex-service men and women, and in particular that marchers are not seen on television or observed by the general public carrying cans of beer while marching. I feel sure all concerned can see that problems can eventuate where the good natured general public may offer cans of beer to marchers passing by. Commanders of individual marching groups are requested to ensure that this particular matter is closely watched and policed.

W. G. OSMOND (State Secretary R.S.L.)

#### **FIRST REPORT ON 2/4 AUS. INF. Bn. ASSOCIATION RE-UNION CANBERRA OCTOBER LONG WEEK-END**

4th October to 6th October, 1980. Frank Crutchett reports that arrangements are well advanced for the staging of the 1980 re-union and submits the following notes for your information.

COMMITTEE: Chairman: Frank Crutchett.  
Secretary: John Falla.  
Treasurer: Cyril McCosker.  
Members: John Huston, John Hyles, David Wren, Roy Findlay, Keith Bailey

ACCOMMODATION; A block booking has been made at the Canberra Motor Village, Kunzea St., O'Connor where there is ample accommodation to house the expected visitors.

The Canberra Motor Village offers a choice of accommodation with 38 motel units (some of which will accommodate six persons), 4 cabins and 42 on-site caravans (accommodating up to 6 persons) as well as powered sites for those who travel with a caravan.

The on-site caravans are fully equipped with refrigerator, stove, crockery, cutlery and bedding and towels are available for hire on request.

The motel units and cabins are complete and modern in all aspects.

Facilities available at the Village include a swimming pool, barbecue, automatic laundry, licensed mini market, news-agent and restaurant.

Tariffs are very reasonable and the committee has been told that some concession will be made available to those attending the re-union. Further information concerning this subject will be communicated at a later date.

VENUE — The Canberra Workmens Club has been chosen as the reception centre and the Venue for dinner. This Club is situated in the heart of the city, and is handily situated to both the Village and the War Memorial.

There is a restaurant which is open at weekends, and a bistro which is available 7 days a week. Visitors will be accorded honorary membership during their stay. In choosing the reception and dinner centre the committee has, apart from other considerations, given thought to the ease of its location and the minimising of travel required between the points where the activities will be centred.

GUEST OF HONOUR. This being the year in which the Greek Medal is being awarded, the Committee has issued an invitation to the Ambassador for Greece to attend the dinner as an honoured guest and has been informed that, in the event of his inability to accept, the Ambassador will be suitably represented.

SUNDAY: BARBECUE: John HYLES has again undertaken to allow a barbecue to be held at 'BOOROOMBA' on the Sunday and arrangements will be made for those attending to be transported by bus.

RESERVATIONS. Should any visitor require hotel accommodation this can be arranged at the Hotel Civic which is located within easy walking distance of the reception and dinner centre. However, as this accommodation is limited, applications for reservations should be made without delay. A deposit of \$10 should accompany each booking.

GENERAL REMARKS: John HUSTON will be attending the Anzac Day ceremony in Sydney, and he will be able to elaborate upon any of the matters mentioned herein, should such be called for. There is a chance that I will be able to put in an appearance on that occasion also but at this time I cannot say with any certainty that I will make it. Kind regards and best wishes.

Frank CRUTCHETT

Further to the above report, Frank CRUTCHETT has now made available the exact tariffs at the Canberra Motor Village as follows:—

(a) Motel Units

with Kitchenette— 2 persons \$31, 3 persons \$34 (guests staying more than one night can elect to take an unserviced room at the rate of \$27 for 2 persons and \$31 for 3 persons).

without kitchenette — 1 person \$25, 2 persons \$28 (the rates for unserviced rooms are \$23 for 1 person and \$25.50 for 2 persons).



extra person in room, \$4 per night in each category.

Family rooms - 4 persons \$40, 5 persons \$44, 6 persons \$48 the minimum capacity of any motel unit is 3 persons.

(b) On-Site Caravans.

All are equipped with crockery, cutlery, stove and refrigerator and bedding and linen can be hired if required.

(c) Cabins (4 only)

With bathroom - 3 persons \$30, 4 persons \$33, 5 persons \$36  
Without bathroom - 3 persons \$27, 4 persons \$30, 5 persons \$34.

(d) Caravan Sites - 2 persons \$6, 3 persons \$6.50, 4 persons \$7, family of more than 4 persons \$7.50.

The management of the Canberra Motor Village is anxious to have firm bookings as early as possible because of the demand for accommodation in Canberra at the time when the re-union is held.

Requests for accommodation should be forwarded to Frank C. MITCHETT, P.O.Box 55, MONARO CRESCENT, ACT 2603 as soon as possible and should be accompanied with a deposit of \$10 per person or \$6 for a caravan site.

More reports on Canberra Re-union as they come to hand.

**WELFARE REPORT as at 28th MARCH, 1980**

- NX 5324 REID, W.J. Bill has retired and has moved from Ardlethan to Sefton. He intends to take an active part in the Assn. Welcome aboard Bill.
- NX 17006 WILLOUGHBY, G. R.G.H.420. At present home on leave, George is to report back early April. Then to R.P.A. for a heart by pass op.
- NX 5911 BOWEN, Stan. Bob LEVER has called on Stan regularly. Stan sends regards to all. Especially to Bill NEWTH.
- N 4021 IVEY, F. R.G.H. 429 vascular tests. Discharged.
- NX 31233 HEALEY Stan. George and Harry saw Stan 18 March. He was just being discharged.
- NX 6514 MAIDENS, V. was at o.p. dept. having further checks on skin grafts.
- NX 3941 HOGAN, Frank. Len Smith rang Frank had a stroke on Feb. now discharged and progressing well.
- NX 13375 ALEXANDER, Tom. Graithwaite Red Cross Hospital. Satisfactory.
- NX 9824 HEATH, A. R.G.H. 230. Expects op. for ulcers.
- NX 46363 LAMBOURNE, J.W. R.G.H.510 had a hernia op. progressing well.
- NX 9868 RAYMONT, Ron. L.D.H. satisfactory.
- NX 9681 DRISCOLL, Fred. L.D.H. ward D. Fred is up

from Griffith for investigation and tests. Bill PARRY keeps in touch with Graithwaite, L.D.H. and W.V.H. He reports that all our friends at W.V.H. are well.

**4th Bn. 1914-18**

COSGROVE, J. R.G.H.31 Removal of polonoma from shoulder. Satisfactory.

SLANEY, M. Graithwaite. Satisfactory.

DOWNIE, Clarence W. R.G.H. 3. Not very well.

**LAST POST**

- NX 11564 DEVEY, S.P.
- NX 13565 LIEBECK, C.J. (from Reveille)
- NX 72690 BROWN, H.J. reported by Frank Rowell (TPI Association)
- NX 5176 LYNCH, F. After a long illness, died at R.G.H. 22nd March. The Granville RSL Welfare Officer (Frank Ashton RSM MAIW) conducted the service.

To the families of all we extend our deepest sympathy.

For all the team.....John COPLAND

**ROBIN'S COLUMN**

An apology to Cecil (Slim) POWERS whose name was omitted from the 'Christmas Get-to-gether Party'. Sorry 'Slim' I cannot say the one and only 'Slim' as there were several, calling to mind 'Slim' POLLOCK, 'Slim' VENN and 'Slim' DESMOND.

Met Bill (Sluggo) WILDMAN at Milson's Point Station. Bill looks well, was going to the races to meet Peter HILL. Hi Peter, hope you backed some winners.

On Wednesday 27th February, went to Sydney with Cecil 'Slim' POWERS and called in to see Sandra CROWE, daughter of Jim (who died in 1970) and Marcia CROWE of Cootamundra. Sandra told us Marcia is keeping quite well, also that her brother, Graham, and sister Leoni are both now married and also keeping well. We stayed with Sandra about an hour. Had lunch at the City of Sydney RSL, then Sandra had to return to work. She is working at the Goulburn St. Branch of the Commonwealth Bank. Sandra said she often sees Harold CONKEY who looks very well. Jim ROBIN.

**NEWS ITEM:** Claude RAYMOND writes re an invitation he received to attend the Graduation Ceremony on the 11th Dec. 1979 at the Royal Military College, Duntroon. These invites were extended to officers who graduated at Duntroon 50 years ago. Congratulations, Claude. I thought this letter would be interesting to his Bn.friends. Editor.

Dear Bob, As promised, here are some of my impressions on the VIP treatment, Nan and I received at the Graduation Ceremony on 11 Dec. '79, at the Royal Military College, Duntroon.

I graduated as Lieutenant, aged 21. With 5 other of my classmates and 4 earlier graduates, accompanied by a total of 6 wives, we were Guests of Honour with all the



glamour and trimmings of that colourful occasion. We stayed at the Canberra Rex Hotel in style, were met by Army escorts and bus to Duntroon and taken to our special seating. The wives lapped up the attention bestowed on we 'oldies' amongst the uniformed senior guests and their wives, and the rich looking gowns and head gear of the University Fraternity.

There were over 300 cadets on the parade, plus the band, with 64 in the graduating class. The year I graduated, the college strength was 60 with 17 getting their commissions. We wore khaki, with pitch helmets (s-la British India) and the old .303 rifle and bayonet. To-day they wear smart white jackets, red striped blue trousers, forage caps and carry FN rifles. The parade was identical with the ones 50 years ago, slow march quick march past advance in Review Order, etc. Saluting and the Colour Party drill is still the same. The only great difference is the stamping of the foot, exaggerating all foot movements — not like our days. The parade received the Commandant, the Chief of General Staff, the Chief of Defence Force Staff, Mr. Killen (on behalf of the PM) and the Gov. General with the appropriate salutes in turn. After the GG's inspection of the cadets turned on a most spectacular parade. I didn't see one mistake throughout it. Then after 'March off' the presenting of Commissions by G.G. and University degrees by the Chancellor of N.S.W. University took place. The Sword of Honour and Queen's Medal were presented to the top cadets, the latter a Singapore lad.

We, special guests, were ushered away by boys to 'Duntroon House' for morning tea, then when the big parade and academic ceremonies were all over, the crowd were served morning tea on the lawns. Sir Zelman and Lady Cowen arrived and we 'oldies' were presented, Nan doing a fancy curtsy, and I a polite bow. As a matter of fact, we all had a great chat with them and the top line guests. Nan and I had a great advantage because we are old friends of the RMC Commandant and his wife, served with him in Japan 20 years ago.

The Guests of Honour were treated to lunch on the lawns with the main guests — a sumptuous spread. Later, we 'oldies' were taken for a bus tour of the College and all over Canberra to sights we would not have otherwise seen and dropped off at our hotel tired, happy and thoroughly contented that every thing possible had been accorded us to make the occasion memorable after 50 years. All the old buildings as I knew them, except the gymnasium, have been replaced by modern structures at the College and it is incorporated with the University. The cadets are still soldiers, probably still having the basic trials and worries we had.

By the way, when I entered RMC, I had the distinction of being the youngest on admission to then, and on graduation my long jump record of 22'11½" (now in metrics) in 1929 is still unbroken after 50 years. How's that for an old bloke.

Best regards, Bob and I wish you every success as Editor of WOG. Good health and cheers to all the lads in Sydney.

Claude RAYMOND

## IN THE MAILBAG

**From Eileen FRANCES.... Melbourne** A few lines to let you know that Vic is home from Hospital and feeling much better than when he went away. He spent a month at McLeod rehabilitation and was very pleased to receive a visit from Claude RAYMOND, Ern MACKEY, Dick PARRY and was delighted when I took Ken MOSES to visit him. I wish to thank all who rang inquiring about Vic and many thanks to Les DUNN. We are hoping to make Sydney for Anzac Day, Best wishes and good health to all.

**From (Bub) GRAHAM.... Bowraville.** I have had the pleasure to meet a few of the old boys in the past few weeks. At Numbucca Heads RSL I met Harry DOWLING and his good wife, Noreen, had a good yarn and a few middies, met Bushy BENNETT and John SMITH at a funeral a couple of days later. John SMITH has just had a trip to Israel, went right down to KILO 89 which is now a cotton field. He said a new highway now by passes Julius and Deir Suneid.... he enjoyed himself but had forgotten most of Palestine. Have seen Tommy CLOUGH, Tom & Sheila GORMAN and met Tim ELLIS at the races. We backed his horse, Tryrian but it finished down but he made up for it by putting u on a winner.

**From Steve McDOUGAL.... Haberfield.** You are probably well aware that our Regiment (2/3rd Field Regiment) was with your former Battalion in Northern Greece — at Vevi — in April, 1941. A member of our Regimental Assn. recently paid a visit to the area and as a result a small article was published in our Journal ('Ubique'). Subsequently I received a letter and photograph of a Memorial from (Major) Ian Bessell-Browne of Perth, W.A., who was a Battery Commander at Vevi in '41. He asked me if I could have a translation made from the Greek of the inscription on the Memorial, which incidentally is situated high in the Pass. Ian Bessell-Browne located the Memorial on his visit to the area in '72 and at that time there were two armed guards stationed within the rail surrounding it. The reason for the guard could not be ascertained then, nor can any of my Greek friends, at this stage hazard a guess. I have had the inscription translated and it reads: THE COUNCIL OF ZYNO NEPO HONOURS THE FALLEN ALLIED IN APRIL 1941, 4th November, 1945.

To me it is wonderful to think that those who died in Battle at Easter, 1941 in that place have been so remembered. Perhaps you people know of the Memorial and this screed is really 'old hat'. Nonetheless it would be a fine gesture if those who cared enough to cause the Memorial to be erected, knew that we who served there also cared enough to appreciate their effort and to also remember those who fell in April 1941.... kindest regards.

**From Harry Gjedsted...Vaucluse.** The location is XINON NERON, the date 12th April, 1941. A photo of this Memorial is in our Bn. history, page 124 and if I remember correctly was taken by Peter CADE in the early '50s. I personally consider Steve's suggestion for a Memorial Plate to be fixed to the Monument is commendable. The only other Plates I know of are our Bns Mem. Plates erected in Athens and Heraklion.