



White Water 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, Taringa, 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 July 25th at 8 p.m. in the Gallipoli Memorial Club, Loftus Street, Sydney.

LADIES NIGHT:

This function will be held this year on August 22nd at 8 p.m. in the Gallipoli Memorial Club. As you are all aware there will be no monthly meeting on this night. A nominal fee of \$6 per head will be charged to help defray the cost of the supper and entertainment. We appeal to ALL Association members to bring their wives, families and friends, so that we may enjoy a well attended and convivial get-together. PLEASE don't disappoint your committee, who, endeavour to make this a pleasant evening.

EDITOR'S REPORT. During my monthly phone around I have contacted Vera Provians, who, has recently been in Sydney because of the time factor was unable to visit the Gallipoli Club. Vera sends her regards to all. She informed me that she enrolled with the W.E.A. doing a course in Writing or is it Expression? Anyhow it augers well for extension of our 'Queensland Roving Reporter' when we receive her paragraph. Apparently Norm MACINTYRE is not the best and Vera keeps in constant touch with him. All the best Norm, and regards to you from Sydney town.

The customary contact with Ken MOSES. This guy would be about the most colourful conversationalist

the Bn. has. His knowledge of Australia and its history never ceases to amaze me — Not bad for a new arrival! Ken can lay claim to quite a lineage in our country's short history — hope this stimulates some retorts from names like Tom MORT, Norm MACINTYRE etc. etc. Ken even knows all the pubs around Chatswood and as far afield as the GREENGATE... not bad from an expatriate New South Welshman. Thanks for the information regards Peter GYNGELL. Peter I think joined the Bn. on the tablelands, a young officer from Duntroon. Sickness has now befallen Peter. He is presently in Hamilton Russell Hospital in Melbourne, suffering from what I can gather is a circulatory disorder, which has necessitated three separate operations, the final one amputating his leg above the knee. Ken gave me his hospital number, and, despite the pain and the psychological impact of his illness, showed extreme fortitude. He carried on a long conversation with me, mentioning Claude RAYMOND had visited him. Peter, at times such as this, mere words seem inadequate, yet I can assure you, concern goes out to you from the Association and to your Wife, Kath. We all join in wishing you a quick alleviation from your pain and a speedy return to your family.

Other news from an 'ex enemy alien', Ken STEEL, alias 'Stainless', from Melbourne. Nina and I enjoyed his

company one evening. Perhaps a lot of you chaps remember him as that long guy who used to be in the 1 Section....come to think of it at one stage the 1 Section had three foreigners, Stainless STEEL, Stan CARPENTER and Guy VANCE, all Mexicans, no wonder they had problems reading maps!! Ken is an engineer with a Melbourne based firm which has made some economic penetration into the Premier State, hence his visit. When yarning to Ken re past years, he acquainted me with an interesting item — his Dad was 2 IC of the 14th Bn. on Gallipoli. Most of us have seen a painting called, 'STEEL'S RIDGE', somewhere on the Peninsular, I think it is in the National War Memorial in Canberra, like an over sized Mt. TAZAKI, fellows digging in everywhere like mad market gardeners, well it was named after his father, Major STEEL.

Later, when relating this story to one, MOSES, He told me the tale about his great great, Grandfather on the side of Mount Sinia.

Closer to home, and, worthy of note, Trudy JACKSON wife of Ted JACKSON, M.B.E. has been awarded the Certificate of Merit and was to attend the opening of the R.S.L. State Congress in May, 1980, where she was presented with this award. Congratulations, Trudy from our Association. Both Trudy and Ted have given devoted years of service to the R.S.L. Ted has been President of the Dee Why R.S.L. Club and more lately President of Dee Why R.S.L. Sub-Branch and presently secretary of same.

At our own Association JUNE meeting discussions centred around the Associations activities on ANZAC DAY, namely, the Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Cenotaph at 0800 hrs. There were members who considered the early attendance at this ceremony made Anzac Day just too much for those who attended. It was suggested that we ask members to consider their attitude on its continuance, or change, of the early morning ceremony. To enable your committee to deliberate on this issue, would members write to the Secretary giving their opinions, or better, attend our next monthly meeting where this matter could be discussed.

Other aspects of interest — the Secretary, Athol HEATH was commended on his decision to supply a certain Greek Officer, (I won't pretend to spell the name) with one of our Bn. plaques to be displayed in the headquarters of an S.A.S. Greek Regiment.

For all who are waiting the issue of their Greek Medals there are 1500 — 1800 on the way.

President, Snow MAC LENNAN, has organised an order for the purchase of new HACKLES. These will be presented to the Parramatta Pipe Band as a token of appreciation for the many services rendered over the past years.

As next year heralds the Fortieth Anniversary of the first major defeat inflicted on the axis powers — which our Bn played an important role — it was decided to embody this historical occasion with our next Anzac Day Dinner.

The Committee will endeavour to have our esteemed Sir Ivan to attend, as he would, as our then Commander, be the most appropriate person to speak on which was the Battalion Baptism of fire, and to all our original members a hallmark in our Nations Military History and more indelably in their own memories.

ROBINS COLUMN: Slim POWERS assures us that Jim is progressing in his health. We are all looking forward to the resumption of his column when Jim is on deck again. All the best, Jim.

WELFARE REPORT AS AT 27th JUNE, 1980 It has been a busy month, although we have only one in RGH at the time of writing and one in LDH.

NX 3952 HONEY, W.W.F. Wal wrote to Athol HEATH on 14th April that he had further surgery to his leg. The letter was not received till 28th April. The letter was given to me at our May meeting. I rang RPA 24th May but Wal had been discharged the previous day. Hope all is well with you now, Wal.

NX 46901 CLOUGH, Tom. RGH 430. Tests on pancreas. Now returned to MACKSVILLE. Tom was 'C' Coy. Sent regards to Dick PINSON.

NX 5145 ROBIN, J.J. was discharged 29th May. Is doing well at home. Slim POWERS takes great care of him. Slim told me Jim has the phone on now (922 5303). He must be out a lot for I have tried to ring him several times without success.

NX 2039 STAGGS, F.W. Fred had a hernia op at Hornsby District Hospital on 4th June. He rang me 10th June to say he was home again and feeling well. Thanks Fred! Unfortunately I do not have his phone number to have made a later check for this issue.

NX 42709 CUNNINGHAM, Des. RGH 432. Vascular tests. According to my records, Des, was in for the same thing, Sept. '74 and Aug. '79. He was only in for a few days and on each occasion not in the day of our weekly visit.

NX 6922 O'TOOLE, Ron. RGH 26. Ron back again, as time for heart tests. Very sick and very vague.

NX 5887 WEST, Tim. H. RGH 130. Tim, from Cowra was in for heart tests. He had had a slight stroke earlier. Now discharged.

NX 31311 FOX, E.H. Ted had a couple of rather nasty ops. at the Mater Hosp. Now at home and doing well. Will be at our July meeting.

NX 58 CHRYSTAL, C. Went to RNS Hosp. 25th June for further oesophagus treatment for a few days. Returned home 27th June.

NX 11175 ESLICK, Cecil N. RGH 5. For observation. Internal bleeding and ulcer tests. Was not in the ward when LAURIE called and was discharged before my visit on 24th June.

NX 148 DOUGHERTY, Sir Ivan. Had another fainting turn 20th June. I rang 24th June, Sir Ivan said he is quite well again. He certainly sounded hale and hearty but must learn

to take more care.

NX 9861 DRISCOLL, Fred. Was discharged from LDH on 18th June to the Narranderah Nursing Home, Narranderah. Sister said he shed no tears at leaving LDH.

NX 9868 RAYMONT, Ron. LDH. Still well and happy.

NX 9693 PARRY, W. Still taking things very quietly at home. Bill was to report back to the specialist at RGH on 26th June.

NX 5911 BOWEN, Stan. Bob LEVER writes that he called on Stan 22nd June and found him in good spirits. His brother Allan had taken Stan to Bowral the previous week-end. They are thinking in terms of attending the Canberra Re-union.

W.W.I 1914-18

1018 PYNE, N.H. RGH 310. Lung troubles caused by gas in France. He has been there several times. Norman served with 4th Bn. throughout the whole war. His main worry is that his condition may interfere with plans for a projected trip to the U.S.A. Discharged.

BRYANT, Alex. J. Was expecting an op for ulcers but now discharged. Alex is a member of Assn. of 4th Inf. Bns. He sends his regards to his friend, Harold Smith, back of Bourke, also a member.

LAST POST

NX 5233 BENNETT, W.J.(Buzz) Died suddenly of a heart attack at WVH Narrabeen on 15th June. He was an orderly for many years at RGH. Buzz, had his first attack in Feb. 1976. He retired soon after to the WVH.

NX26758 WINDEYER, Ron. The RGH Chaplain, the Rev. David HAYES very kindly rang me on 16th June to tell me that Ron had been transferred to the Eversleigh Nursing Home, Petersham, where he died that morning. A very sad affair as his mother was also a patient at the same Home and had died the previous night. I rang his sister, Dulcie, who said, Ron, wanted us to know and said that double funeral would be on Wednesday 18th. However it was brought forward to Tuesday 17th on which day the notice was in the S.M.H. Even Harry WRIGHT who had known Ron since school days could not get to Woronora in time.

W.W.I 4th Bn.

SHEPPARD, Bob. M.M.& BAR, M.I.D. died 14th June.

HANSEN, Charles. Dick PINSON told me that Charlie had died 3rd May 1980. Charlie was such a friend to many of us, joined Dick's orchestra in '46. He played the saxophone with Dick for our dances for at least twenty years. He had a heart attack in Jan. (see WOG Feb.) and seemed to be recovering. We shall miss him.

NX 6143 CRAIG, H.W. (Bert) Ex P.O.W. News from Bob FERGUSSON from Ken MOSES that Bert died at Heidelberg RGH 20th June. The 39 'ers Assn. Conducted the services at the funeral on 26th June.

Best wishes from all team members,
John Copland

CANBERRA 1980 REUNION REPORT

Dear Bob, Since Frank CRUTCHETT wrote to you last, 29th May, calls for accommodation have been received and arranged as requested for the following — Peter and Pat DENVER, Phill and Glen SMITH, Ewen WOOD (for two persons), Elsie BRADFORD, Tom MORT, Jim and Betty BARROW, Ted McCAFFERY, Ted SWADLING and Ken WEBB.

I shall attend to any further requests for bookings received during the next fortnight then Frank will pick up the reins again when he returns on 14th of the month. Best wishes.

Cyril McCOSKER

FROM THE FAR NORTH

With the Allan and Carm KIRK around-Australia Safari sampling various brands of 'foreign' brew, somewhere in the west comes the following news items from those still in the southern shadow of Joh Bjelke-Petersen. Mel McINNES has sold his business and is now enjoying the good life on Lismore and district golf courses. Doug STEBBING reports Bob GARDNER dropped in to his Lismore shop recently. Stebbo said Bob was full of his usual 'beans'. He was returning to Kyogle after a visit to a Lismore doctor for removal of a cyst or two from his back. Ken ANDREWS, of Bexhill (a few miles from Lismore) hasn't been sighted for some time. He's probably busy playing tennis and looking after his business. Harry WHITMAN, Herb HOATHER and Bill DARRAGH are believed to be still residents of BALLINA. Roy ANDREWS living a life of ease, is still waiting on 'brickies' to repair some of the damage his house received in the wild storm that hit Lismore several months ago.

All Northern Rivers 2/4thers are advised that their annual dinner get-together this year is at the East Lismore Bowling Club on Saturday November 29th. So reserve this date, it will be worth it, and, remember any 2/4 visitors to the area will have the 'red mat' rolled out.... Allan and Carma KIRK (Thanks, Fred, for forwarding Allan's news items. Ed.)

6TH DIVISION REPORT

Greek Medal, 1500-1800 on the way. Greek Medal 500 minatures ordered. At this point in time, the Federal Government has been unable to reach a decision re the wearing of the same. Currently awaiting the Federal Treasurer's decision on allowing the 6th Division to be registered as a charity which would be of great assistance in raising funds for any future project.

THE AUSTRALIA-PAPUA NEW GUINEA FRIENDSHIP TRUST

WHAT IS THE TRUST? A Trust set up with the generous help of Burns Philp Trustee Co. Ltd., to provide income to pay for a gesture of friendship between Australia and Papua New Guinea.

WHO STARTED IT? A small group of ex-servicemen who served in the 6th Aust. Div. A.I.F.

WHO IS BEHIND IT? Many unit Associations including

those of other Army Divisions and all Services (Navy, Army, Air Force). Many distinguished citizens.

HOW IS IT TO BE DONE? Primary school books will be widely distributed in P.N.G. with approval of and advice from their Education Ministry. The books will display our logo (Kangaroo and Bird of Paradise, etc.) on the covers and will contain a bookplate carrying the message that Australia remembers the help from P.N.G. in World War 2.

WHAT DOES PNG THINK OF IT? They are enthusiastic about it.

HOW LONG WILL IT GO ON? If enough money is donated only the interest generated will be used; so it will go on indefinitely.

HOW WILL IT BE FUNDED? The 6th Aust. Div. Ass. (NSW) is approaching nearly two thousand clubs of all types in NSW asking them to publicise the project and to invite their members to subscribe to it through the club.

WHAT ELSE WILL BE DONE? This will depend on the Australian public's response to the appeal for funds. Plaques, apprenticeships and scholarships will be considered.

WHY IS IT BEING DONE? 6th Div. members and many others think that we should remind young Australians and Niuginians of the help given to us by the Papuan and New Guinea people in World War 2 in combat, engineering, carriage of stores and wounded etc.

WHAT CAN YOU DO? When you hear that your club has been approached, encourage your friends to support the project financially within the club. Meanwhile tell your friends what we are doing.

THERE IS NO INTENTION TO RE-KINDLE ANY ANIMOSITY TOWARDS THOSE WHO WERE OUR ALLIES IN WORLD WAR I, OUR ENEMIES IN WORLD WAR 2 AND ARE NOW OUR FRIENDS. The project is based on sentiment. It is neither political, paternal nor patronising.

Please address all correspondence to the Hon. Sec. 7/10 Isabel Street, Ryde, N.S.W. 2112

IN THE MAILBAG

From Bruce CORK: Dear Bob, In June W.O.G. a letter I wrote was published but an error was made in the name. It should have read MATHEWS, H.F.T. and not MATHERS. Thanks! Hope to see you at Canberra Reunion (Apologies Bruce, from the typist).

From Gwen MacLENNAN: 'Pom' WALLACE has been in Maclean District Hospital for some weeks suffering from sugar diabetes. 'Pom' says its salt diabetes and he always knew that corned beef was no good for a clean living person like himself.

From Del and Harold SILVER: Dear 2/4 Folk, having a wonderful time in Germany. Cannot begin to describe the beauty of the countryside. Enjoyed seeing all along the Rhine. Went through some of the ancient Castles and witnessed the beautiful views of river and valley from them. Enjoyed Cologne, Heidelberg. It was an experience to go through border control to Berlin. Made contact with Mr.

& Mrs. Huston, while there by phone — going to Munchen this weekend and to Paris for 4 days. Fond regards to all our 2/4th Friends.

From Jack HUSTON Dear Bob, arrived in London — off to Scotland to-morrow. Have been in contact with Monty Siems and Frank Mallet. Hope to see them on return. Regards to the WOGS.

From J. M. HICKS Dear Bob, I go into Heidelberg Hospital on Thursday 26th June.....don't know how long I will be in for. I guess Vic FRANCIS or Claude RAYMOND have clued you up with all the news from down here. Regards to all, I trust all the sickies are well or improving.

From Harold SMITH Dear Bob, Can't resist reading the 'White Over Green' I've read every word of it twice, maybe again within a day or so, it takes my mind off my own troubles. Thank you! Did any of the 2/4th know a chap in the 2/1st Machine gun lot, his name was Reg. SMITH. In '46 I was having some amber lemonade with Reg and some of his army mates. They told me that Reg was a blood th. sort of chap and reckoned he dispatched more Germans than any other AIF man. Reg, by the way was a brother of mine. It is some years now since Reg died over your way... Cheers to all.

FELLOW WOGS OUR MAGAZINE IS REACHING A POINT when a diagnosis of the situation is acute malnutrition. The continuation of your monthly issue is dependant on material sent to me. Remember also articles of news etc. must be in by the end of the month. This enables me to have it typed printed, wrapped and posted by the middle of the month. I look forward to hearing from you.....Bob Fergusson, Editor.

THE AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL When the title 'Australian War Museum' was changed to 'Australian War Memorial' by the 1925 Act, the latter title was chosen to honour a promise made to the Diggers that the relics they collected from the battlefields would eventually be housed in a national memorial in honour of their fallen mates. The concept of remembrance and honour was epitomised in the translation by the eminent scholar Prof. T.G. Tucker, of the memorial oration recorded by Thucydides, spoken by Pericles over the Athenian soldiers in 430 BC, which for many yrs adorned the letterhead of the Australian War Memorial and so well expresses its philosophy. The quotation ran: 'They gave their lives. For that public gift they received a praise which never ages and a tomb most glorious — not so much the tomb in which they lie, but that in which their fame survives to be remembered for ever when occasion comes for word or deed' A.J. SWEETING

When the Minister for Home Affairs, announced the foreshadowing legislation which would have the effect of changing the status and title of the Australian War Memorial to a Museum, there was much criticism. We are pleased to report that this proposal will not take place and our War Memorial will remain as is.....