



White over Green

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE 2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

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NEXT MEETING: Friday 23rd October at the Gallipoli Memorial Club, at 8 p.m. This is the FOURTH Thursday not the last.

EDITORIAL

The report on the Kempsey Re-union will be in the November issue of W.O.G. To delay until this is available would preclude the W.O.G. being in members' hands before the October meeting. From snippets that have come through, Kempsey was again, a great success and all due to Esca Beb and the sustained effort put in by the local committee and supporters, by no means the least of which was Beb's family who put in a marvellous effort before and during the Re-union.

Thanks to all on behalf of the Association members.

FOR THE SIR IVAN DOUGHERTY BIOGRAPHY, ORDERS TO CECIL CHRYSTAL, 24 THE BATTLEMENT, CASTLECRAIG, N.S.W. 2068.

Remember that at the October meeting members will be voting on the proposed changes to the Constitution. Briefly, the changes are to up-date the Constitution in a few minor matters and correct the anomaly of Welfare Officers not being able to attend and speak at Committee meetings.

THE SECRETARY'S MAILBAG.

Our members have been quiet during the month of September, they must be hibernating or gone to warmer climes.

1. First off our list is Berton Kingwell of Tumut, a very brief and to the point communication with a cheque to cover subs etc. Thank you and good wishes to you Berton.

2. A short note from Jack Morgan also sending in subs for the year and good wishes to all. Thank you Jack and we wish you well too.

3. Fred Staggs, former president some years ago wrote in saying that he had retired and may be able to attend a meeting or two. You will certainly be most welcome Fred. Hope you will enjoy yourself in your retirement and may good health be yours.

4. A letter from that courageous little lady, Eileen Frances asking for a couple of our battalion plaques to be sent. Eileen wants her two sons to have something associated with the battalion and their late father Vic. What better than a plaque to hang in their respective homes. This has been attended to and we hope they will be well received. Best wishes Eileen.

5. Gordon Bladen sent down a rather lengthy epistle to Cec. Chrystal who forwarded it on to Allen Lindsay and myself. Quite a humorous letter in parts and contains some facts of the battalion in Greece that should prove very interesting if our Editor decides to print it. Thank you Gordon for going to all the trouble and I'm sure now you will see why W.O.G. had become a collector's item.

6. Well, wonders will never cease. Out of the blue comes a letter from none other than Jack (Starvation) Pearce. I think by the reading, Jack has had himself a ball and I think our editor will give our members the facts of Jack's letter. Nice to hear from you Jack, keep it up.

7. Mrs. K. Keast of Junee sent the Association a card expressing their appreciation of the message of sympathy from members of the Association.

8. A message from Roy Moores of Adelong full of appreciation of the marvellous way our welfare team and the Miranda R.S.L. and Vera Walsh looked after him during his stay at R.G.H. Concord. Good luck Roy.

Laurie Waterhouse.

THE SEPTEMBER MEETING

In the absence of the President, Vice President Ted Fox took the chair. Apologies were received from Bill MacLennan, Peter Cade, Harry Wright and Allen Lindsay.

The business of the meeting was the usual matters and arrangements for the Kempsey Re-union. Cec Chrystal brought in two scrap books of press cuttings he had made up relative to the publication of our war history and Sir Ivan's biography. These complete collections of press cuttings attracted much interest in the social time after the meeting.

THIS MONTH'S BEAUTIFUL THOUGHT

"With modern women putting up such a false front a man never knows what he's up against."

WELFARE REPORT (as at 21st September '81)

NX2055 HONNERY, A: W.V.H. Hospital. Athol has been discharged and is now living at the Jessie Hunt Nursing Home, 66 Gibbons St. Narrabri, 2390. Brian Waring has been to see him at Narrabri and reports all well.

NX7601 CHAMBERLAIN, R.H. Dick is in the Churchill Hospital at W.V.H. Generally run down.

NX19616 FENTON, R.L.: Dick is also at W.V.H. Bill Parry keeps in touch.

NX9824 HEATH, A.: R.G.H. 12. Athol was there having strained his back. Is now back at work and attending R.N.S.H. for out-patients treatment thrice weekly.

NX4002 BAXTER, Donald: R.G.H. 310. Has had a bad time with bronchial and foot troubles. Now expects early discharge.

NX8662 CONNOR, Ben: R.G.H. 8. Lung cancer tests. Was H.Q. Coy. Transport Platoon. Discharged.

NX4013 LOW, John: R.G.H. 120. Leg amputated below the knee. Discharged to L.D.H.

NX5162 DAWSON, Tom: R.G.H. 12. Tom has been between L.D.H. and here for some time following

an unsuccessful hip operation and foot infection. He faces further surgery but always bright and cheerful.

NX42700 BARNETT, A: R.G.H. 310. Skin cancer - discharged.

NX118923 FLANNERY, K.D.: R.G.H. 530. He was not in the ward when visited so was not seen. I am not sure that he is one of ours.

4 Bn. 1914 - 1918

KEARY, Bede: Bede had a stroke 5th September and was in Sutherland District Hospital. Laurie Waterhouse and Vera Walsh saw him. He is now home again and coping on his own but his left hand and arm are affected. He sends best wishes to all friends. I keep in touch with his daughter, Yvonne Tierney.

LADY MACKAY: At home and doing well and does regular exercises. She sends her best to all.

LAST POST

LUCAS, H.T.: Death reported in "Salute" of July/August. We have in our records, NX9591 Lucas, H. and NX10574 Lucas H.C. As he was reported as being 2/4 Bn., we are unsure which.

NX47036 PEARSE, Harry C.: Harry died quite suddenly following a heart attack on Wednesday, 23rd September. Bill and Gwen MacLennan will attend the funeral at Stockton and will give further details. Harry and Hilda Wright and Dick Morris are expected to go from Sydney also. Doubtless we will have a full account from Alf Carpenter for the November W.O.G.

BILL WHITE died mid September. A Legacy man. From Doug Milne. Details when they come to hand.

GENERAL INFORMATION.

Laurie Waterhouse has had to retire from the hospital visiting teams. He finds he is doing too much, (he was told this a long time ago and would not listen) and his place has been taken by Slim Powers and Jim Robin. Welcome aboard!

The four teams now are: Bill Parry and myself, David McGillivray (solo), Harry Wright and George Stack, Slim Powers and Jim Robin.

Each team rotates to ensure we call every week throughout the month but our most assiduous visitor is Vera Walsh who calls every Saturday. Her calls are appreciated by every patient. Thank you, Vera!

Best wishes to all from John Copland and the gang.

YOUR HORROR-SCOPE

SCORPIO: (October 24th. - November 22nd.)

Scorpio - from Scorpion. Scorpions are land-bound lobsters that taste like rotten mud crabs. Scorpions get into Robert Mitchum's boots on African safaries. Scorpions can stand anything after that! Scorpions serve no useful purpose except for biting Hollywood actors. They have a thundering complex and hallelotosis as a result.

If you were born on 20th. November at 6 am you should have left until after breakfast. Nevertheless you are our Birthday Boy for the month. For you, a woeful year ahead! You won't be hit by an "H" bomb this year but don't walk under any ladders. Keep away from black cats, particularly panthers. It will be safer. Had you been a seven-months baby you wouldn't be in this mess!

"Seer-Sucker"

("Seersucker" has been away at a resort and apart from his coat sleeves being restricted at the back, he has had a good time. He is with us again and with a certificate to prove his sanity. Maybe he should stand for Parliament! We need some good certificated men in that lot. (No offence intended Jim!)

REPRINT FROM 4th. INFANTEER.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1st 1981

Please gather in Martin Place at 1400 hrs on the corner of Pitt Street.

Please wear your medals and join us in this brief act of remembrance. Comradeship on this occasion is strong and appreciated by those in attendance.

Support the President and do not be surprised if 4 R.A.R. members provide the largest contingent.

(Editor's note: The President of the Association of 4th Infantry Battalions is Brian Dooley, son of Larry Dooley. It is doubtful if 4 R.A.R. or 2/4 R.A.R. can out-number the 2/4th Aust. Inf. Bn. at such a ceremony. Doubtless we will find a watering hole as usual after we pay our respects and discuss the merits of all Fourth battalions.

S.A./W.A. WANDERINGS

(Dick Morris)

I recently travelled to West Aussie by the India Pacific, took in a few tours south-west of the state, recrossed the Nullabour by coach to Adelaide and enjoyed the company of a few of our members there before returning to Sydney.

In Perth on Anzac Day I was proud to represent the Association by joining the ranks of the 2/11 Inf. Bn. and our pocket badge was seen there for the first time albeit a sample one stuck on by a backing of elastoplast.

I had to look hard at those around me to remind myself that I was not in the ranks of the 2/4th. It was all there, the steadiness, the perfect step, good alignment, the swinging gait that carries one along with so little effort and - dare I say so - excelling in precise wheeling.

Due to a very heavy fog I did not attend the Dawn Service at the War Memorial which is in a perfect setting in King's Park overlooking the broad expanse of Perth Waters of the Swan River. What an inspiring occasion it must be in fine weather with those attending facing the east and seeing the sun rising behind

the memorial. The reunion after the march was quite informal and friendly in a plush venue high above the Swan. Secretary/Treasurer, Clem Wragg and wife Glen saw to it that I met everyone including the author of "Hitler's Isle of Doom" and that my glass was never empty. Of course a small "School" soon started and I was able to demonstrate my usual form by a series of flat tails before the gods shone on me and I managed eight straight heads.

As requested by our President, I extended greetings from our Association and was asked to convey the best wishes of the 2/11th. men to our members. Like ourselves, they have a very strong Association, lapel badge, tie, a published history and a very well produced (locally) wall Plaque, one of which I purchased.

"Legs Eleven Minor", the newsletter of the 11th. and 2/11th. Inf. Bns. Association, I found to be very similar to W.O.G. - chock full of info., memories and names. They would welcome a regular exchange of journals as in earlier years and I request that our executive allow this. Clem had given me a copy of "L.E.M." at our first (quite accidental) meeting prior to Anzac Day and has posted me two copies since one of which includes a few notes of mine on items read in the earlier copy and sent with a "thankyou" letter to Clem.

Clem is retiring from Westrail and he and Glen will be in Sydney in a few months, so I do hope we can see them amongst us at one of our functions.

(And so do the Association members! Unfortunately, Dick's article is too long to include in one issue of W.O.G. and is too informative to edit so it seems best to make the break after the West Australian visit. Through W.O.G. the 2/4 Bn. Association would like to thank Dick for being such a good ambassador and we would like to thank the "Sand-Groppers" for the welcome they gave him and particularly for letting him out alive after spinning all those heads. Clem and Glen! Welcome to the sister battalion in the east.

SITREPS FROM ALL OVER

And we are indeed fortunate this month in that as well as the regulars, a few bears have come out of hibernation and dug out their biros and sent in all sorts of news.

Top of the pile is news from Hugh Wittleton which arrived on the eve of typing and written from Kempsey just prior to the Reunion. He and Eileen have been continuing their leisurely round, meeting members wherever they are as can be seen by the following: "At Narandera, saw Norm and Sally Rodgers. Very fit and sent his regards to all. Then onto Darling Point and saw Col. Buchannan. He is still working and lives with his brother. Then we went on to Griffith. Saw Fred Driscoll and Fred Apthorp and had a couple of hours with them and then saw Arthur Webb and spent a couple of hours with him. His health is improving and spends a fair amount of time in the garden. Then onto Jack Hamilton. Still talking as hard as ever and is well. Then Denis and Eileen Jackson came around to my sister and brother-in-law's place. Both look very well and we had a hilari-

ous night. Then we went for a drive to Temora and saw Rocky and Una Denyer. What a lovely day. We would have loved more time there. Rocky keeps reasonably well. Sunday afternoon my sister and brother in law took us out to Tom (Nedda) and Joan Erskine for a bar-b-que dinner. They both look well but extremely busy on the farm. Cyril Kennendale was at home not very far from my sister's place. He is well and is retired. All these chaps send their regards and best wishes to all members of the battalion. Tom Erskine particularly wants to be remembered to Steven Venn. (Steve? - always thought his name was Slim. Ed. Thanks for the report Hughey.)

Starvation Jack Pearce, it seems has done a round the world trip including a visit to Crete which affected him much the same as anybody else who has gone back. He celebrated his 70th birthday in a Singapore disco with a lovely 55 year old grandma and has a drink bill for 70 Singapore dollars to prove it. Like Don Bundy's the letter is short and sweet but make a wild stab at the news between the lines and you won't be too far out.

A letter from Athol Honnery to Bill Parry indicates that the move back to Narrabri was a good thing for Athol. He has had no lack of visits from his relatives and friends since his return to the home town. Get well soon Athol!

Unfortunately a lot of feed-ins from the 6 Div Association arrive too late for inclusion in W.O.G. We like to publicise functions of kindred associations for the benefit of all members. However, see elsewhere in this issue for functions that will be of interest to members.

In the Great Hall of Sydney University on Tuesday, 15th September, Nancy MacGillivray was made a Fellow of The N.S.W. College of Nursing. At present Nancy is Deputy Director of Nursing of Campbelltown Hospital. Congratulations Nancy! There is no prize for guessing from which proud parent we got this information. Dave also reports that he has seen Tommy Dawson since returning from Kempsey and whose feet are still not good. He also reports that Kempsey was a top show and that the raffle of a landscape painting by a local artist was won by Vera Walsh. Couldn't happen to a nicer person. Congratulations Vera!

Which brings us to another matter. The deadline must be met to get W.O.G. out to the members before the meeting and therefore the copy must go to the printer without the report of the Re-union. However, a full report will be in the November issue. Our Obergruppenfuhrer, Bill MacLennan is going to catch Esca to write a report for W.O.G. before he winds down to his usual frantic pace. And to Mrs. Reardon may we say, "Beb! Now that Esca has simmered down we hope you are saying that you wouldn't have missed it for quids."

From Ken Kesteven: Seen at the Greek Medal Presentation at Woollahra-Paddington R.S.L. on Wednesday, 16th September was Marj. McCarthy, widow of

Bob, G.W. Poplin, A.C. Veitch and G.V. Williams. You may notice "Pluto" doesn't waste any words. Thanks Ken.

Roy Moore writes long and appreciative letter, thanking all who visited him during his spell in R.G.H. Concord and to give the visitors credit we will name some of them and this is apart from family. MacGillibray, Chrystal, Stack, Wright, Copland, Parry, Wood, Gladys Twist, Vera Walsh and so on. Roy sends his regards to all.

Doug (Blue) Milne has been walkabout in the old stamping grounds up north. He tells it well. "I have just had a few months travelling around North Queensland by caravan (should have retired years ago) and spent a nostalgic few weeks on the Tablelands. Stayed at a little caravan park at Herberton and at "Millies" van park at Atherton. The people who run Herberton Park (ex 2/8th., I think) were most helpful. Went looking for the old camp site and had difficulty. Most of that area has been logged and cleared. Eventually reckoned I was in the right spot found a beer bottle and it was empty so I knew I was right! Floundered around in the bladey grass, regrowth and stump and suddenly I knew I was right. It was Robbies Sacred Acre, still hard and flat and metalled.

The camp cinema near 16 Bde lines is still there and the D.I.D. near Wondecla but that's about all. Had a great laugh about the railway station the army built there and the time someone painted on it, "Shoot through now and avoid the Christmas rush." Apparently last year they had a Back to Herberton Week and the Committee produced a very nice bronze plaque to go up in the town commemorating the fact that the 6th. Division was there. A fellow ex 51st Bn., Bill Evans has it in his keeping and he showed it to me. The old mine plant is still at full bore with flotation work for Oakbridge. Our blokes who were in the Anti-tank Platoon would remember the old Albion townsite where we used to fire the guns. It is a hive of activity with the mining (tin and copper) in the area. I wonder if Bill (Shoofie) Sherwin knows? He probably started it! The beaut little pub at Watsonville has been burnt down. Shame! The rain forest around the Crater is still as thick as ever. I told Deidre just where it was and that the road went right past it. When I got there some cow had moved it half a mile off the road. Couldn't have been my memory! Trinity Beach, you wouldn't know it's more like Manly than the patch of scrub we knew. I was pleased to see a big sign board there saying it was now known as Vasey Beach in honour of General Vasey. I met his son in Albury a while back - a real chip off the old block. The fellows will be pleased to know we didn't eat out all the scrub turkeys, there are lots around Lake Barrine and the Barron Groge. Hope to go to the U.K. and Europe next year and will end up in Greece and Crete for sure. Not going near the desert though, that Colonel Gadaffi doesn't impress.

Thanks Doug for a good contribution it will bring back memories to a swag of members.