



White over Green

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE 2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

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NEXT MEETING: Friday 27th November at the Gallipoli Memorial Club at 8 p.m.

THE KEMPSEY RE-UNION. A GREAT SUCCESS

Several members have sent in reports and snippets of the Kempsey Reunion, for which, thanks to all. How about the Sitrep from the Operational H.Q. for openers: "We think the criteria of corner stone for the success of a re-union or function is the people who attend such functions. Without them all the organisation in the world would be wasted. Our Committee feel that the "Do" went off very well and from comments and letters of appreciation which we have received, it must have been successful.

"On the Saturday night at the official Dinner two hundred and seventy were present. A local entertainment group of ladies put on two sketches during our dinner, which we are sure everyone enjoyed. Our Chairman, John (Bushy) Bennett did a splendid job and really kept the proceedings rolling. He tempered the evening with some very good stories.

"On Sunday a Bar-B-Que was held in a bush setting on Beb's property, only a few kilometres from Crescent Head. We were able to obtain keg beer from the Crescent Head Country Club which was voted more popular than cans. The local unit of the C.M.F., 41st Battalion, loaned us a tent which was

very useful for members to dine in as a very cold wind sprang up during the morning. Beb's family were active at the luncheon, pulling beer, operating the Bar-B-Ques, selling tickets in a raffle and attending to all the little chores that arise on such occasions. Two hundred attended the Sunday luncheon.

"On Sunday night we adjourned to the Crescent Head Country Club where we partook of a smorgasbord. The management of the club screened off part of the premises especially for 2/4th. members. One hundred and eighty-nine attended the smorgasbord. A very pleasing thing of the re-union was the number of family groups - the Coles, the Groves, the Chaselings, the Taylors and if I have missed any please accept my apologies. Another point of interest was the number of members attending their first re-union. By show of hands I would guess at least ten.

"Apologies were received from Ruth Bawden, Gordon and Olga Chrisp, Frank and Enid Crutchett, Henry and Masie Elliott (Darwin) 'Best wishes for a successful re-union and regards to all.', Mr. & Mrs. Frank Miles (Club President), Rex and Olga Everson, Ted and Heather Fox, Frank and Norma Gattenhof, Harry and Marj Gjedsted, Russell and Beverly Grove, Jack and Joan Huston, Marj McCarty, Vera Provians,

Bill and Una Sheaffe, John and Belle Shingles, Wally and Betty McKenzie, Bill Newth, Irene Stanton, Sid Valentine (Victoria - 'Gunga Din'), Harry and Ada Whitman, Bob and Enid Jackson, Laurie and Joy Waterhouse, and a personal letter of apology from Yvonne Pearse.

"In conclusion I wish to acknowledge the assistance of the local police and the local band which performed magnificently, also all those on the local committee and in particular the visitors who assisted in decorating the auditorium.

"Kind regards,
Esca and Beb."

Dick Morris reports that at the wreath laying over 60 members marched to the Cenotaph with many others watching from the roadside due to incapacities, with the families. The march was led by Sir Ivan with the Kempsey band in force from which three young lasses played the Last Post and Reveille in beautiful unison at the wreath laying ceremony. That night at a truly splendid dinner, Bushy Bennett did a fine job as Chairman. There was a lively dance band and an amateur group of ladies from South-West Rocks who provided some unusual and humorous entertainment. One of the most energetic dancers was "Walkie-Talkie", Jim Brown. Although Sunday started as a most chilly day, the sun finally shone on the barbeque which was another gourmet's delight. It was held on Beb's family property - a tranquil setting near Crescent Head. Beb's family did yeoman service throughout the day and deserve the highest praise. Happy, charming folk. The smorgasbord Sunday evening was at the Crescent Head Country Club and again all were treated to excellent food, drinks and service. Vera Walsh carried off the first prize in the raffle - a framed oil painting. It was a most popular win indeed. The magnum of wine was won by Bill Chaseling's wife Debbie. On the Monday most stayed over and there was quite a large unofficial gathering at the R.S.L. Club. Tuesday saw the exodus of all but the few footloose wanderers but even these finally folded their tents and silently??? stole away.

There was a problem in who complained that the showers at the caravan park were a menace as it took from 6 am to 10.30 a.m. to carry out his ablutions and he was stone cold sober too (he reckons). Could it have been because he went via the camps of Hugh and Eileen Whittleton and Allan and Carma Kirk and Jack and Joan Hughes? Ask Dick Morris, he will tell you all about it without dobbling anybody in particularly himself.

It was good to see so many family groups attending the re-union and the keenness of our new generation augers well for the continuity of the W.O.G.

traditions. Already Steve Cole, son of George (King) Cole is suggesting closer liaison between our sons and daughters with a view to carrying on when we dads are transferred to the Olds and Bolds. Reaction was good among the other younger people present. Who of us would not rest content in our later years, safe in the knowledge that our new generation had a firm grip on the reins.

A couple of "Wandering Wogs" took it unto themselves to say thank you on behalf of all those who attended, to Beb and Esca by way of having them as guests at a dinner at the Tower Restaurant. The happy group comprised Beb and Esca, Eileen and High Whittleton, Dick Morris and Gwen and Bill Neath. Bill, fresh from Kempsey Hospital after a heart attack at South-West Rocks. Esca and Beb kindly took Gwen under their wing as a house guest where she proved a great help in preparing for the re-union. It is pleasing to know that Harry Whitman has also recovered from the heart attack which precluded Ada and him attending the re-union.

Finally, just received from Kay Marchment: "... and are all pleased that you enjoyed yourselves. We'd just like to say that we had a ball as well. It was great to meet all the folks we hear so much about from Esca and Mum. We think Esca and Mum did a great job with the organising and we wanted to help out in any way we could to make the day a success."

Well, success it was! Thank you to the local committee, the Marchments and the Riordans!

WELFARE REPORT (as at 23rd. October 1981)

A quiet month my friends, may the wave of good health keep on rolling. We have another addition to our visitors. Cecil Chrystal will supplement calls at L.D.H. The more callers the better. In "Salute" for September/October there appeared the name of NX9934, Bush, F.W.H. as being T & PI. He does not appear to belong to the Association but is in our War History nominal roll. NX5162, DAWSON, T: Was transferred to L.D.H. mid October and expects to go home soon.

NX170006, WILLOUGHBY, G: R.G.H. 120. Going home 30th. September.

NX4002, BAXTER, D.: R.G.H. 310 of Transport Platoon. Sends regards to Harry Sundstrom. Discharged.

NX4013, LOW, J.: L.D.H. "B". Doing well and having physiotherapy prior to fitting of a new leg. Amputation below the knee, right leg.

NX5911, BOWEN, Stan. : Q.V. Hospital. Bob Lever saw Stan 27th. September and reports that he is well.

NX160169, O'KEEFE, Reg.: R.G.H. 630. Vascular trouble in the leg. Lives at Panania and sends greetings to Peter Cook, Peter Cade and Slim Desmond.

NX1183, CAMERON, Don.: R.G.H. 110. Vascular trouble in the legs.

LEFORT, Eugene. W.V.H. Hospital. Eugene served with the 4th. Bn in France at the age of 15, now 80. He would like to be added to the mailing list of W.O.G.

Regards from us all. John Copland.

ASSOCIATION BLAZER POCKETS MAY BE HAD FROM LAURIE WATERHOUSE

\$8 each. Laurie's address is on the front of this W.O.G.

THIS MONTH'S BEAUTIFUL THOUGHT.

"The only golden opportunities some blocks can latch onto are blondes." "The Buckshee Philosopher."

"THE BOTTLE STOPPER OPERATION"

One Cork is a good stopper but when two Corks get together they will stop almost anything, including W.W.11.

This is a story that has emerged 37 years after the cessation of hostilities in New Guinea by two Morse operators. Jack Cork of 19th. Bde Sigs and Bruce Cork of 2/4th Bn. Sigs who, over a few beers and a yarn or two about wartime days, produced identical Message Forms which they had both taken 37 years ago and had kept for souvenirs and each read: "0649 SECRET. Following received from C in C S.W.P.A. Quote. 'Negotiations are in progress with the Japanese Government for the cessation of hostilities. While preserving the safety of your commands you will discontinue further offensive action against the Japanese forces in your respective areas of responsibility. This order will NOT be construed to prohibit all necessary security measures including recce by aircraft.' Unquote. All informed."

Naturally we got this story from Bruce Cork and he forwarded the two C1236's (message forms) and the messages are identical. As Bruce says, "The neat message is Jack Cork's, the untidy one is mine".

Don't worry about it Bruce, yours was neatly folded according to orders. Will return both originals as soon as they have been copied for the editorial archives.

Additionally, Bruce and Angela enjoyed the Kempsey re-union and were pleased to see Bernie O'Mara and Rita. He informs that Gary and Joan Hart were holidaying at Coolangatta at the time of writing. Thanks Bruce for the article and the news.

FROM VICE—PRESIDENT, NEWCASTLE DISTRICT.

VALE: NX3984 , William Henry WHITE

NX47036, Henry Charles PEARSE.

Again it is with deep regret that the Newcastle area records the passing of another two of nature's gentlemen, true comrades and loyal friends to us all.

Bill White passed away on 7th September. He was suffering from a heart condition and was admitted to Newcastle Hospital for an urgent operation and died during the operation. Bill was one of our originals and one of the first to march into Ingleburn. He was Repatriation Officer in Newcastle for many years and his assistance and guidance was given freely to all, especially his 2/4th. mates. Retiring from this position in 1975, he actively took over duties in Legacy, holding the position of Senior Vice—President when ill health forced his retirement from office last year.

Harry Pearse joined the Bn in 1940 and was Orderly Room Sgt. on his discharge, having seen service in the Middle East, Darwin and New Guinea. He was employed in the Postal Department until his early retirement some twelve months ago on the grounds of ill health.

Both these members accorded R.S.L. Services by their respective R.S.L.'s Shortland for Bill and Stockton for Harry.

All of the Newcastle 2/4th. and wives attended Bill's funeral and the same attended that of Harry's with a Sydney representation of Bill MacLennan, Hilda and Harry Wright and Dick Morris.

To Doreen and Yvonne, their families and relatives, our deepest sympathy.

THE NEWCASTLE CHRISTMAS DINNER WILL BE HELD AT THE HEXAM BOWLING CLUB AT 6p.m. 22nd. DECEMBER. ALL MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION IN THE AREA WILL BE WELCOME.

COUNTRY RE-UNION - 1982 (From Peter and Pat Denver)

As our Association has accepted Orange for our next Country Re-union, herewith some information about arrangements made and information about this lovely part of N.S.W.

Our Re-union will be held on the period, Friday, September 24th to Monday, September 27th, 1982. It is the week-end prior to the long week-end and therefore avoids the usual traffic and tourist congestion and accommodation surcharge we experience on holiday weekends. Those who are inconvenienced by the change like our younger friends and families, it is our hope that you can arrange for the Friday and the Monday with this much notice.,

Orange can boast many outstanding attractions. Its parks and gardens, the Sports Centres and general country-side offer so much to be enjoyed. We hope many can make their visit part of a holiday. Therefore for those who can stay Monday will be planned as part of the 25th Re-union.

The City of Orange is four hours drive west of Sydney. The many Conventions as the Orange Field Days equip Orange well to receive us.

Our Accommodation has been arranged at two central places. Their location makes cars unnecessary for the shopping centre, Ex-Servicemen's Club and both face directly towards the War Memorial. The Canobalas Hotel Motel has 29 singles and 47 double or Twin Units and Suites. Today's costs per day range from \$13.50 to \$33.00, large suite (4 people). Most units have full facilities. It is a "Grand" style hotel and is complete from lifts to ballroom.

The Civic Gardens Motor Inn in Lords Place is a two-storied motor inn of 46 units. It is well above average and costs up to \$32.00 large unit on today's prices.

Both places have granted at 10% discount because YOU are booking early (PLEASE). Pat and I have decided to handle the bookings and advise the Orange people and White Over Green accordingly. Blokes like Bill MacLennan, Blah Smith and Titch Fordham are already booked. We have tremendous local support at Orange and will look forward to the strong shoulders of our Artie Kleem and the near members when next September comes.

Must wind this up with a mention of Kempsey. It was just super! God Bless Bebe and Esca and their super family and all the good folk who attended. From Peter and Pat Denver.

YOUR HORROR-SCOPE.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 23rd - December 22nd.) The origin of Sagittarius is lost in antiquity and so it should be with a name like that! The sign is a man with a bow and arrow who has a horse's backside. See what I mean? With that sort of parentage Sagittarians have to be tough.

Sagittarian officers were skillful and as inflexible as iron. Sagittarian N.C.O.'s were determined and overcame all obstacles including stupid orders from above.

All Sagittarians are cheesed off because their birthday is not included in the Christmas break.

There is no special Birthday Boy for this group. They are all Curry-combed with the one brush. Your Seer's advice is that if you weren't an officer you are in for trouble. Get a degree in psychology and re-join the army as an officer. Declare all competent officers insane and run the show yourself. The Psychology Corps runs the army these days anyway." "Seer-Sucker"

THE SECRETARY'S MAILBAG.

Mail coming in has been constant this month with the Country Re-union at Kempsey and re the "Gallipoli" film night and the usual ones writing in with subs etc.

First off the list is Gordon Crisp who has sent in a cheque to cover his subs also those of Chas Geelan of Wingham. Thank you Gordon from all of us here and with it goes our good wishes to you.

Next comes a letter from Bill Burton, M.M. of Oakley, Q. who was replying to my request to fill in his declaration form for the Battalion medal. Bill's letter was written in a jocular vein and gave me a laugh reading it. He was also concerned regarding our Treasurer's health. I can assure you Bill that Allen is hale and hearty and is still very able to look after our treasury. Thank you for your good wishes. Be assured we reciprocate same.

Les Milne wrote in a couple of times requesting various items such as pocket badge and Bn. medal, also to notify us that he is moving closer to the city for a while, leaving that lovely place Noosaville, Q. Hope to see you at a meeting, Alex.

A letter from Gwen Newth with a cheque for Bill's subs but the main topic was the news that Gwen wished to be conveyed to the many members who, whilst enjoying Kempsey re-union found time to visit Bill in hospital there after a heart attack. Gwen said that Bill made the trip back to Moss Vale after many overnight stops and to say he was in Bowral Hospital and looking forward to going home in a couple of weeks.

Very nice to hear from Lance Cutcliffe away down Yarra country. Thank you for the good wishes and the knowledge that W.O.G. is very much looked for each month. Also thank you for the compliment paid to the committee, we do appreciate such compliments coming from interstate. We wish you all good health and well-being Lance.

Ted Burbidge of Henty writes of the wonderful time he and his wife had at Kempsey and the meeting of many old friends he had not seen since the end of the war. Mentioned the fact that he had called in to see Rocky Denyer at Temora. Ted wishes it to be known to all in the Association that he has a few spare beds plus a few bottles on hand and a very good welcome. Don't forget if you are ever passing through Temora. Thanks, Ted, I enjoyed your letter and your request for the Bn. medal will be processed.

Kev Peacock of Mt. Isa, Q. forwarded a letter along with a cheque to update his life membership saying how eagerly he looks forward to receiving W.O.G. each month. Thanks Kev for the bouquet and best wishes to you.

Finally, Esca dropped a line enclosing a donation of \$50 from "Pom" Wallace, plus an accounting of the monies from the re-union. Yes, Esca, the reports I have had, both by letter and phone, have nothing but the highest praise for the lovely and enjoyable re-union. A good job well done.

Laurie Waterhouse, Hon. Sec.

NOTICES:

It is further advised, that regarding the re-union at Orange in 1982 that there is also an excellent Caravan Park available. Contact Peter and Pat for details and bookings.

THE CHRISTMAS GET TOGETHER WILL BE THE USUAL INFORMAL "COME AND GO AS YOU WISH" AT THE GALLIPOLI MEMORIAL CLUB ON FRIDAY 4th DECEMBER' SHOW UP! LOTS OF PEOPLE FROM EVERYWHERE DO.