



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.)

35th YEAR OF CONTINUOUS PUBLICATION

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The next meeting of The Association will be the Annual General Meeting and it will be held in the Gallipoli Memorial Club, 12-14 Loftus Street, Sydney at 8 pm on Friday 27th February, 1981.

Business:-

1. To confirm the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting.
2. To receive and consider the Annual Reports.
3. To receive and consider the Accounts and Balance Sheet for the year ended December, 31st 1980.
4. To elect Office Bearers for 1981.
5. To elect an Honorary Auditor.
6. General Business

NOTICE OF MOTION

A Notice of Motion will be put to the Annual General Meeting on February 27th, 1981 as follows:-

1. That the publication of 'White Over Green' be reduced from twelve (12) to four (4) issues per year.
2. That the price advertised on the 'White Over Green' be altered from 15c per copy to read 50c per copy.

NOTE: All persons who intend to vote at the Annual General Meeting MUST be financial.

EDITOR'S REPORT:

Phone call from Frank 'Pom' WALLACE – Pom will be in Prince Henry Hospital from the 3rd March 1981 for open heart surgery. He will be expecting old mates to

give him a stir -- no worries Pom, with all these old 2/4 penny fellows backing you. A special mention to NX 9514 William GIBBS of Long Beach California USA, thanks for \$20. My daughter, Jan mentioned she contacted you by phone whilst in Los Angeles recently – regards and best wishes from the Association....Wal TAYLOR gave us the sad news of the death of Matt BRISCOL of JUNE on Wednesday 28th January, 1981. Dudley MEECHAM, Wal TAYLOR, Joe WELLS and Wem KEAST attended his funeral.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – 1981

Looking back on the Association events and functions for 1980, I feel sure that all members and their wives will agree that we have once again had an eventful 12 months.

On Anzac Day both marches were well attended. The early wreath laying ceremony was carried out with due reverence, and – according to those who watched from the side-lines or on television – the main march of our proud Battalion was a delight to see. Our thanks and acknowledgment in the form of an 'eyes left' to those of our wives and friends who have supported us over the years (I refer to the loyal group in front of Lowes in George St) was much appreciated. Let's do it again this year! The Anzac Day Dinner a very good function, was enjoyed by all who attended. Unfortunately our Secretary Athol was unable to be present and I did miss his help and advice, which I had

come to rely on in the past.

The Church Parade at St. Anne's, Strathfield, did not include many of our lads, so I would request a better roll up this year. I often wondered why I enjoyed the service at St. Anne's — it is no doubt due to the fact that I married my beautiful wife there!

The attendance on Ladies' Night was also 'thin on top', but once again a very good night was had by those who came along. Maybe we need to alter the format!

Frank Crutchett and his merry men gave us a well organised 1980 reunion in Canberra, and whilst it has already been fully reported on in previous issues of 'W.O.G.' I would like to thank Frank and his boys again on behalf of all of us who were privileged to be there. Please don't forget to book in early for Kempsey this year, to give Esca and his team as much assistance as possible.

Late in the year a very pleasant afternoon on the harbour was provided to about fifteen members and their wives by Tom Watson and his charter vessel 'The Coaster'. This generous offer was made and accepted on Ladies' Night. See what you missed by not coming!

Unfortunately, Bob Fergusson — due to heart problems — has been advised by his medics to slow down and give up most of his activities. As a result of this we shall be seeking a new editor at the Annual General Meeting.

My sincere thanks go to all who have supported me during the past year, in particular the Executive and Committee. Special thanks from us all go to Athol Heath who is retiring as Secretary this month for reasons beyond his control. Athol has long been an untiring worker for our Association in his roles of Committee member and latterly Secretary, and as he and Pat fly out to the U.K. on February 26th, we wish them 'Happy Holiday' and a safe return.

As your retiring President, I wish you all good health and happiness in 1981.

Bill MacLennan.

The President and Committee
2/4th Btn. Association

Report from Secretary Year 1980-81

It is with regret that I write this, my last report, as Secretary of the Association. I do this, not because of unwillingness to serve, but because of failing eyesight. It is disappointing for me because I had set my sights on twenty years of service to the Association and have failed by only three years.

I thank the majority of you for your co-operation. However, there is still a percentage of members who have chosen to ignore my repeated requests for mail to be sent to the relevant office bearers. I am still receiving cheques that should go directly to the Treasurer or mail that should go to either the Editor or Welfare Officers. It will assist your new Secretary greatly if you will please co-operate in this matter. Addresses of all executive committee members and welfare officers are shown in the heading of W.O.G. I take this opportunity to thank my wife for her invaluable support over the years. Believe me, this job would be quite onerous without a 'typiste-adviser'.

I thank Bob and Nina Fergusson and Bill and Gwen MacLennan for their co-operation and commend Bob and Nina for a task extremely well done.

John Meehan as minute secretary par excellence also has my thanks.

May I wish you and your families good health and much happiness...it has been a privilege to serve.

2/4 Aust. Inf. Bn. Association. Welfare Report for Two Months as at 23rd January, 1981.

NX 5886 THORNTON, Geo. RGH 24. Has a cancer on nose and in bad nervous condition. Present address Tamworth but no fixed address. He joined us in Ingleburn but transferred to the A.A.S.C. before we sailed.

NX 9868 RAYMONT, Ron. Ted HOPKINS visited Ron at Oyster Bay. He complained he was not receiving WOG. This has been attended to. (Editor did not have his change of address)

NX 5162 DAWSON, Tom. RGH 410. Had a hip joint replacement which proved unsuccessful. Tom was originally 'A' Coy. later 'C' Coy. Belongs to Bunderra RSL but has moved to 66a Wattle Street, Caringbah.

NX 17006 WILLOUGHBY, Geo, RGH 120. More complications, chest, following coronary some time ago and vascular arm and leg. George as cheerful as ever.

NX 5911 BOWEN, Stan. Was visited by Bob LEVER 4 Jan. Reports all well. Stan was home for Christmas and sends greetings to all friends.

NX 5145 ROBIN, Jim. Slim POWER took him to repat for nerve test. Ordered complete rest.

NX 2055 HONNERY, A. WVH Hospital condition static seen by Bill PARRY. Best wishes from all of us for a happy and healthy 1981.....for all the team, John Copland.

4 Bn. (1914-1918)

424 KEARY, Bede, RGH 12. The Paget's Disease has now affected the spine. Bede was having a brace fitted when we called last Monday.

1453 NEWHOUSE, Harry, RGH 230. Skin cancer to be removed from back..Harry belongs to Davis-town RSL knows our 2/4 Bn. friends there.

Harry's brother also 4 Bn. was killed on day of the landing and Harry was wounded at Shrapnel Gully.

RUSSELL, Mrs. May (Duncan's widow) May's daughter Ann, told me May is in hospital in Brisbane and having a bad time. Contacted Vera PROVANS who took over. Dear May has been seen by her, also by Laurie McCosker and his wife, Evelyn.

LAST POST

NX 68764 SMITH, J. B., Harry WRIGHT advised of Jack's death and attended the funeral.

NX 30625 GROGAN, J. B. His sister Mrs. M. Haswell rang to say he had had a massive heart attack. Admitted to RGH 20th Dec. but died the following day, aged 71 years. Was a close friend of Sid BUCKLEY. He belonged to Marrickville RSL who conducted the service.

NX 9867 CAVES, A.E. Died 18th December and cremated 22 Dec. George STACK told me the sad news. Alf belonged to the A.A. Pin of H.Q. Coy.

Our sympathy goes to the relatives of all the deceased.
J. COPLAND

REPORT ON 6TH DIV. 2nd AIF Assoc. 40th ANNIVERSARY BATTLE OF BARDIA

The 6th Division 2nd AIF Association held its 40th Anniversary of its participation in the Battle of Bardia. The first battle in which the Allies inflicted defeat on the Nazi War Machine in which the Aust. 6th Div. played a major part.

To celebrate this occasion, a Church Parade and Commemoration service was held in the old Garrison Church at Millers Point, Sydney. Somewhere between 60 and 70 members, along with their wives and others attended, filling the old church beyond its capacity. During the service Sir Ivan Dougherty unveiled a plaque to the memory of those who paid the supreme sacrifice.

The march from Sgt. Majors Row (lower end of George St.) up Lower Fort St. was most solemn and impressive, was piped along with the stirring sound of the pipes and drums, with the colours being piped into the church. After the service, many members availed themselves of the opportunity of enjoying a picnic in ideal weather at one of the most ideal spots in Sydney Harbour — Garden Island.

Here one enjoyed a beautiful meal in true picnic style and afterwards a guided tour of the Historical landmarks and buildings along with the many and varied artifacts that are to be seen on this most historical island. This was all due to the courtesy of the General Manager of the Dockyard and Island Workshops, also to Public Relations Officer, (for the Island) Mr. Lew LINDE. A most able and efficient P.R. man. An inspection of HMAS TORRENS followed the guided tour by which time many of us had just about had it, tired and weary but it had all been worthwhile. I am sure most of us who attended Garden Island came away with a better knowledge of our naval base and the workings of it. One must also give credit to Mr. Bill JENKINS, Sec. of the 6th Div. Ass. and Mr. Steve McDUGAL who supervised the picnic arrangements. Many thanks to the two stalwarts for a lovely day. Personally, I would like to see our Association partake in such outings, perhaps once or twice a year. It is something that we can think about in the near future.

Those who attended the church parade on behalf of 2/4th Assoc. were Major General Sir Ivan and Lady DOUGHERTY, Cec CHRYSTAL, and Marj., Ken KESTEVEN, John COPLAND, Laurie and Joy WATERHOUSE, Peter COOK, Vera WALSH, Vic and Margaret FORBES, Dick MORRIS, Edan WOODS and his good wife....Laurie WATERHOUSE (on the spot reporter)

NEWCASTLE NOTES

The final get together of the Newcastle members for 1980 was held at the Shortland RSL Club on the night of the 18th December.

Those able to attend were Alf and Marj CARPENTER, Cliff and Aileen CURRAN, Harry and Yvonne PEARSE, Joe and Gwen BOHLE, George and Heather MITCHELL, Jim and Mona SHERRITT with daughter and son in law Bill and Roberta BURGESS. The big surprise of the evening was the attendance of our good mate Bill (Bully) HAYES. Alf and Marj picked Bill up from the William Lyne Hospital wheel chair and all and conveyed him to the Club. Bill enjoyed every minute of the outing classed it as one of his best nights ever, and extended Seasons Greetings to all. He is at present having fittings for his second leg, but is feeling well and looks really bright.

Apologies were received from Bill WHITE and Doreen MANUEL. Bill was in the Mater Hospital still having heart problems, but is now home and feeling much better. Jack and Mary MANN from Nambucca Heads, also John (Bookie) RAE and Margaret were unable to attend.

Alf CARPENTER has now retired and plans the easy life. He and Marj are booked on a slow boat to China and Japan leaving towards the end of March.

All Newcastle Members extend Seasons Greetings and if coming our way let someone know.

Kindest Regards,
Jim Sherritt

From our QUEENSLAND ROVING REPORTER, VERA PROVIANIS

Pleased to receive Christmas cards with notes attached from so many 2/4ers. My special Christmas present was a new grandson, Alexander John STOKES. He carries Grandma's brand (red hair). Chris WHITE (Gordonvale) sends regards to all, as does Alex Collins (Beatles) of Charleville, Selby DEAN setting out on around Australia trip this year and requests 2/4th addresses, 4 Agat St., Tingha 2369, will find him. Newsy letter from Olga and Gordon CRISP (Wingham). They have sold newsagency and hope to move to Gosford district later this year (Another one for the Central Comedy Capers bowls or is it Golf Team, Dasher!). Olga must have some inside knowledge as she remarked 'Heaven Help us' now I wonder why she would say that! Jean and Norm EVERSON visited Patty SUMPTER in Ipswich and toasted New Year over a nice luncheon. Norm MacINTYRE, Norm and Jean EVERSON, Wally and Betty McKENZIE, Laurie and Evelyn McCOSKER met for drinks at Bruce and Nina FLUDE's prior to Christmas, Sorry to hear May RUSSELL, Duncan's widow, hospitalized in Turravan Private Hospital. Laurie and Evelyn McCOSKER visited her...found her cheerful and as always making the most of things — Love and thoughts, May. The late Ken and Deloros FRANKLIN's son, Patrick is to marry on 24th January. Our good wishes are extended to the young couple.

All's well on the home front.....love and best wishes to all.

IN THE MAIL BAG

From Fred STAGGS

For Dasher DEACON's information the Bren Gun carrier did not belong to Sir Ivan as it was issued to me

just before sailing for Greece. On arriving there he pulled rank on me and made me drive him to some interesting and some nasty places. It had all mod Cons on it in the way of a speaking tube which late Bill LEONARD salvaged out of an Italian plane when he was Sir Ivan's driver on the desert. Sir Ivan sat in the back with the mouth piece and I had heard phones so he did not have to shout orders over the noise of the engine. If you want it Dasher, last seen of it was on the banks of

River where I left it as it could not swim. Take diving gear with you as distributor cap and spark plug leads are on the bottom of the river.

From William GIBBS, Long Beach Calif. USA

Dear Bob, Thank you for sending WOG each month. I appreciate it very much. I got the message about subs and have enclosed \$20 Best wishes to you and all the members.

2/4th INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION – Receipts & Payments Accounts

for the year ending 31st December, 1980.

GENERAL ACCOUNT

RECEIPTS

Bank Balance	1.1.80	5556
Subscriptions: Annual	189	
Paid Up Life	1710	
W.O.G.	<u>951</u>	2850
Functions		1547
Donations Received – Members		500
Donation – Biography Committee		500
Sales: Ties, Stickers & Badges		33
Proceeds: Battalion Medals		260
Bank Interest Received		86

\$11332

BENEVOLENT ACCOUNT

Balance: 1.1.80	4711
Bank Account	525
RSL Building Society	<u>4186</u>
Sale of Plaques	28
Interest Received: Bank	14
RSL Build. Society	<u>346</u>
Transfer from General Account	<u>3000</u>
	<u>\$8099</u>

W. F. MacLennan.....President

Auditor's Certificate

I have examined the books and supporting vouchers of the 2/4th Infantry Battalion Association for the year ended 31st December 1980. From such examination it is my opinion that the above accounts are a full and fair statement of the Association's affairs for that period.

SIGNED H. Silver – Honorary Auditor.

PAYMENTS

White Over Green – Printing	2448
ditto – Postage	611
Classified Advertisements	95
Purchase – Battalion Medals	407
Postage, Telephone & Stationery	143
Costs of Functions	1413
Subscriptions: 6th Div. Assn.	10
Assn. 4th Bn.	10
RSL Anzac Day Committee	10
Parramatta Pipe Band – Hackles	292
Purchase: Greek Medal Miniatures	80
Donation: Legacy	50
NSW Ex-POW Assn.	150
Floral Tribute	20
Transfer: Benevolent Fund	3000
Bank Balance: 31.12.80	2593

\$11332

Hospital Visitations	296
Balance: 31.12.80	7803
Bank Account	271
RSL Building Society	<u>7532</u>

\$8099

A. F. Lindsay.....Hon. Treasurer.