



# 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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**NEXT MEETING – Friday, March 27th, 1981 at 8 p.m. at the Gallipoli Memorial Club**

## REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Annual General Meeting of our Association - held on February 27th - was attended by approximately 45 members, considered to be a good roll-up. Most of the members came from Sydney but as usual a strong Newcastle contingent were in attendance, led by their Vice-President Alf Carpenter. Porky Holland, whom many will remember, was our "long-time-no-see" attender. According to Porky, this was the first meeting of the Association he had ever attended. Among those attending, whom we would like to see more often, were Jim Sadler, Jim Donnelly, Dave MacGillivray, Jim Robin, Fred Staggs, Larry Dooley, Mick Gray and Dasher Deacon. Members were in good voice, which was indicated by the voting that followed. The results of the elections were as follows:

President - Bill MacLennan

Snr. Vice-President - Ted Fox

Queensland V.P. - Laurie McCosker

Far Northern Rivers V.P. - Allan Kirk

Northern N.S.W. V.P. - Esca Riordan

Newcastle V.P. - Alf Carpenter

Southern N.S.W. V.P. - Artie Kleem

Victorian V.P. - Claude Raymond

South Australian V.P. - Peter Denver

Secretary - Laurie Waterhouse

Assistant Secretary - John Meehan

Treasurer - Allen Lindsay Editor - Peter Cade

Welfare Officers - John Copland and Bill Parry

The new Committee comprised Peter Cook, Peter Cade, Cec Chrystal, Athol Heath, Ken Kesteven, George Stack and Harry Wright. All office-bearers for 1981 were elected or re-elected unopposed.

To all members of the executive and committee I offer my congratulations, and particularly to our new Secretary, Laurie Waterhouse - a new man taking on a position for the first time. Laurie has been assured of our help until he gets into the swing of the job.

The Notice of Motion which was published in "W.O.G." last month was put to the meeting, and the result was a land-slide victory against the motion - the voting being in the vicinity of 40 to 5 against the cutting down of "W.O.G." to four issues per year. After the notice was published in February, I received no less than twenty-six letters from members near and far, some of whom had contacted their local groups and submitted their names against the motion. All those included are financial members and were most adamant that their voices be heard against the motion. Letters were from the following:-

Allen Kirk with	20 names,	Bud Graham with	4 names
Esca Riordan	6 "	Leo Lynch	4 "
Hugh Burgdorf	13 "	Laurie McCosker	4 "
Jack Huston	10 "	Ross Smith	2 "

Individual letters came from Jack Mann, Bruce Cork, Vic Hill, Vic Frances, Wally Lambourne, Leo Dunn, Dick Parry, Johnny May, Selby Dean, Bill



Shearwin, Bushy Bennett, Stan Carpenter, Ern Mackie, Perc Dalla and Ken Moses, who also wrote on behalf of all Victorian financial members. However, as the members who attended the meeting voted overwhelmingly against the motion, the mail votes proved unnecessary, but I would like to thank all those who were unable to attend the meeting for their prompt action in writing against a motion which was so obviously unpopular. I believe this motion was the most important and critical one ever put to our Association, as so many members confirmed the fact that our monthly life-line should be kept going for as long as possible. For those who may be unaware, I feel it important to say that the motion was put forward on the basis of escalating costs, so the following extracts from some of the letters will be of interest:

From Leo DUNN: "I must register my shock and amazement as a paid up life member. I regard this as a breach of trust - I paid for twelve issues a year, not four. We Interstaters are disadvantaged in that we cannot attend meetings to know what is going on with our old mates. "W.O.G." fills this gap - it is the glue that holds us together. If this is a money problem my feeling is that most members would not mind a \$5 or \$10 levy."

From Jack HUDSON: "Imagine trying to run a Country Reunion without regular monthly contact through "W.O.G.". Some of the life members down here suggested that if the cost of W.O.G. was made known to them they would be prepared to contribute further money."

From Bub GRAHAM: "It's like getting the Sunday papers every week - we've come to expect W.O.G. monthly."

From Leo LYNCH: "I realise it entails a fair amount of work for somebody to bring us the news of what's happening to our old mates in other areas, but it is something we have come to look forward to. I feel that any departure from the monthly issue will result in a lack of interest in the affairs of the Assn. and I hate to think of the effect it will have on our Country reunions. I have discussed the matter with Mick Green, Roy Kingsley and Clive Brown and they are strongly opposed to the move and like myself are prepared to put in a few dollars to keep things going."

From Bruce CORK: "I am enclosing a donation of \$10.00 to be used in the continuous publication of W.O.G. I say continuous because if I don't get W.O.G. every month I am most unhappy. It is something we Country and Interstate members really look forward to and must thank the Committee for the work they do for us."

From Perc DALLA: "W.O.G. has been and always will be the life line of the Association ... I think many others like me living away from the city would pay an extra divvy just to receive W.O.G., as it does keep us in touch."

From Allan KIRK: "I am instructed by twenty members of the Assn. from this area to write and request you to be our "voice" at the Annual Meeting against the motion to reduce the publication of W.O.G. We feel it is a retrograde step and could prove to be the "thin end of the wedge", to the complete disintegration of our Bn. Assn. Surely no fellow member of ours would wish to see this proud well-knit and happy organisation (I might add the envy of many other Bn. Assns.) fall by the

wayside. To us up here in the bush the big factor - certainly one of the most important to us - is our W.O.G. every month. Through it we keep in touch. Our resolutions are:-

1. More money if needed - YES.
2. Reduction of publications - NO, NEVER."

From Jack MANN: "I realise that a great deal of work is involved in getting W.O.G. out on its present schedule, but the importance of it to scattered members in country areas goes without saying, for it is a vital link holding them together, and its arrival is always eagerly awaited. I sincerely trust that my personal views regarding the present system do not fall on deaf ears and its continuity under the present form will continue. My personal appreciation goes without saying."

From Laurie McCOSKER: "I have spoken to some of our local members, and all are of the opinion that W.O.G. should be left as a monthly issue. Some remarks indicate that if the reason for reducing the number of issues is financial then they would gladly pay a subsidy to maintain it. Also it was thought that should the issues be reduced the people who would miss it most would be those confined to their homes."

From Noel FORD: "One of the important principles of war which we observed with every diligence and with great success was "Communication" and now we should not lessen our main strength ... if we do we will be in danger of losing many of the fundamentals which have made our Association what it is to-day. If financial considerations are the sole reason behind the present proposal then it will be only a matter of time before the 2/4th loses its communications and we will be just another group to maybe join the march on Anzac Day. This must not happen as long as we can muster a platoon or even a section. For very good personal reasons I did not contribute any physical assistance to the Assn. in the past, mainly because I could never guarantee to be in Sydney at any given time, but I do congratulate all members of present and past committees on continuing achievements. It is also some years since I made any tangible sign of my interest and as a token I enclose a cheque (\$50.00) for general funds as decided by the committee. If you need more, ask. I have the greatest respect for all the executive members who are voluntarily responsible for our finances, but I respectfully urge the committee to postpone this drastic action at least for two or three years ... raise it again in 1984?"

From Stan CARPENTER, Mentone: "Why can't some of our accumulated funds be used to subsidise W.O.G. issues or alternatively members, including life members, would I am sure be prepared to pay an annual levy to keep W.O.G. firing on its present twelve cylinders."

From Ross SMITH, Inverell: "I have spoken to Selby Dean and we both agree it would be a pity to see the cut down issue of W.O.G. Whilst we country bumpkins have so little to do with the work and time contributed to the publication we think the present set-up is most desirable and sincerely hope the Committee can see its way clear to carry on with the status quo. Perhaps we all may have to pay a bit more to assist?"

From Ern MACKEY, Montmorency. "I hope the curtailment of W.O.G. is not passed. It is to a lot



of us only evidence of the comings and goings of most of the ex 2/4s, so please convey my thoughts to the meeting."

From Dick PARRY, Croydon, Vic. "As an Inter-stater, and therefore unable to be of much use to the Assn. I suppose I shouldn't have much to say on the possible result of the motion but at least I will pass on my opinion. The monthly Journal is, in the main, to interstate and overseas members, the only way they will hear promptly who is ill and where he is, who has become a grandpa, who has retired and moved from A to B and who has died (becoming common these days). Reading of these events three months later is of little use. The Balance Sheet for 1980 doesn't look that bad, so lack of finance can't be the reason for this disturbing motion. If it is, I am sure you would only have to appeal to the members to get encouraging results."

From John MAY, Thornton. "Knowing the work and expense incurred I, as well as others, appreciate it. So far as expense goes there is a lot of money held which, if necessary, could subsidise costs. After all our time is limited and what is the use of leaving a lot of cash and not knowing what to do with it."

From John (Bush) BENNETT, Macksville. "I feel that reducing the publication of W.O.G. would be a retrograde step as I consider the monthly edition is one of the main reasons why 2/4 Bn. Assn. has been such a success. After all, there are not very many of us left and W.O.G. is our only contact and way of knowing what is happening to the blokes we know from 1939-45. Should this matter come to a vote I would like to register my vote to retain publication every month."

From Ken MOSES, East Bentleigh. "As a life member of the Association and still a regular donor (\$10 enclosed) I feel that such a move would be the start of phasing out the Assn. and all it stands for. Has the Committee considered the members in hospital and homes or confined to wheel-chairs in their own dwellings. It is beyond my comprehension how a committee of the Assn. in their right mind could come to such a decision. If the Assn. is broke, for God's sake scream. Money will be forthcoming, even if it has to come from the country and Interstate members. We have never been found wanting when it concerns the Assn. W.O.G. is our lifeline and what keeps us together. To cut off that line will mean the end of the Assn. as the most active Assn. of any unit of World War 11."

From Bob JACKSON, Wagga. Bob, who was one of the original founders of W.O.G., wrote giving a different slant, and in fairness to all, here are the main points of his letter: "I fully appreciate and admire your efforts to ensure the retention of W.O.G. on the present basis but personally feel there would be no great disadvantage in cutting W.O.G. down to either bi-monthly or even quarterly. It would be a big saving in time and effort for the Editor and all concerned with its preparation and distribution. Moreover, a bi-monthly publication would mean a saving of 50% in printing costs and postage. You have, of course, weighed this against the possible "breakdown" of communications which could be regarded as a danger to the Assn. in the long term. But I truly don't think this would be the case, and if our Treasurer feels that

this cost factor is an important one then I think we must respect his view. However this is not a matter to be decided either lightly or hastily and although we (in the "bush") have great faith in the good judgment and capability of our Executive Committee I think it would be wise to put this question to a referendum of all members, perhaps through the March issue of W.O.G."

I also acknowledge letters from some of our widows, namely Enid LATIMER, Joan CHASELING, Vera WALSH, Molly IRVINE, Vera PROVIANS and Dolores FRANKLIN, all of whom expressed their dismay at the thought of not receiving their monthly issue of W.O.G.

## 1981 COUNTRY RE-UNION, KEMPSEY.

I have been in fairly close contact with Esca RIORDAN of late and he advises having received bookings from Harry & Hilda WRIGHT, Harry & Ada WHITMAN, John COPLAND, Ted & Heather FOX, Laurie & Evelyn McCOSKER, Bruce & Nina FLUDE and Jack & Phil ORMISTON. We are now into the third month of the year and October will be upon us in no time, so it is imperative that you assist the Kempsey Committee by forwarding your booking NOW, accompanied by a \$10.00 deposit per person. For those who have booked and those who have yet to book, please advise Esca Riordan at 111 Kemp Street, West Kempsey, 2440, of the dates of your arrival and departure and the type of accommodation desired.

Whilst Esca has temporarily made block bookings in Hotels and Motels, it is imperative that these bookings be confirmed as soon as possible, because the proprietors of the establishments will not hold them indefinitely, so to avoid disappointment write to Esca now indicating your requirements and thereby assisting the "Kempsey Kids" in their endeavours to please YOU in October.

## BATTALION BLAZER POCKET.

This has been designed by our old stalwart Dick MORRIS, and on prices received last year we expect to be able to retail it at a very reasonable price and well within the range of all members. Your Committee intends getting on with this project in the immediate future and hope to have the pockets available for sale within three months. We shall also be investigating the prices of a suitable green blazer for the pocket, and many members have indicated their willingness to purchase one. Rest assured we shall keep you advised as this project progresses through 1981.

## WELFARE REPORT - As at 27th Feb. 1981.

NX 51824 BENNETT, G.C. RGH.520. When Laurie called he had just been discharged. Must have been there only a few days.

NX 17006 WILLOUGHBY, G.C. RGH.120. George is in all sorts of trouble, but always bright and cheerful.

NX 5162 DAWSON, Tom. R.G.H.12. Tom's hip joint is still bad. Now in plaster. Another cheery soul.

NX 13350 HARRIS, E.J. Ted is in Lady Davidson Hosp. Ward E. I rang. Sister told me he is having deep ray treatment and making some progress.



- NX 9868 RAYMOND, Ron. Ted Hopkins saw Ron at home and reports all well. We hope that W.O.G. is arriving now.
- NX 2055 HONNERY, A.W. W.V. Hosp. Athol is still not at all well.
- NX 7601 CHAMBERLAIN, R.H. W.V. Hosp. Not at all well.
- NX 5980 CARTER, Leo. R.G.H.120. Has had op. for haemorrhoids and is undergoing kidney tests. Is doing nicely.
- NX 5145 ROBIN, J. Still confined to quarters but sounds cheerful, as ever.
- NX 5847 POPLIN, G.W. Bill has been in Port Kembla Hospital after a heart attack. There were some complications but he is home now and Beryl reports good progress. He will be on a diet and tablets from now on.
- NX 2040 SMITH, R.H. Slim Powers saw Ross. He was in for chest tests. Was only there a couple of days.
- NX 4012 KESTEVEN, K.L. Is to enter Royal North Shore Hosp. in a few days for heart by-pass op.
- NX 5197 FERGUSON, R.D. Bob has developed a heart problem and has to give up most of his activities on doctors' orders. The latest report is better. Bob is feeling O.K. on an ON and OFF basis!

4 BN. W.W.1.

NEWHOUSE, H. R.G.H.230. Seen several times but now discharged. Harry had a melanoma removed from his back and several skin grafts. A pleasure to meet him. He belongs to Davis-town and knows several of our members there.

#### LAST POST

NX 13542 LAWSEN, Pierce Marceline, M.M. Late of St Kilda, Victoria. Died Jan. 20th, '81. The funeral took place Jan. 27th. Our sympathy goes to his wife Mollie and family. Our information from S.M.Herald.

NX 5087 PERRAM, Ronald Alfred. Died Feb. 20th, '81. Alan MANNING saw the S.M.H. notice and rang. Ron was aged 66. Our deepest sympathy goes to Ron's wife Mollie, his children Gordon and Heather and their families.

NX 5366 HENDERSON, R.W.G. (Chips). Died in Canberra on Nov. 20th, '80. Retired last year from John Fairfax publications after 46 years with them. He was 65. A funeral service was held at Wagga.

NX 6020 BRISTOL, M.T. Mat Bristol was from Junee. Laurie Waterhouse had a letter.

N.B. Mrs Ada HOPPER of 61 Varna Street, Waverley, 2024 has asked Peter Cook to have her name added to our mailing list. Tom HOPPER "A" Coy. served in W.W.1 and W.W.11, was taken prisoner in both wars. Died quite a long time ago.

For the team ..... John COPLAND.

#### NEWCASTLE NOTES.

The February get-together of the Newcastle members was held at Tattersalls Club on the night of 20/2/81. Although the weather was a little on the damp side a full roll-up of members attended.

those able to make the night a huge success were Alf & Marj CARPENTER, George & Heather MITCHELL, Cliff & Aileen CURRAN, Harry & Yvonne PEARSE, Joe & Gwen BOHLE, Bill WHITE & Doreen MANUEL, Jim & Mona SHERRITT, with daughter Roberta BURGESS.

Our big surprise of the evening was again the attendance of our good mate Bill "Bully" HAYES with friend Lorna TILBURY. Harry & Yvonne PEARSE conveyed Bill and friend to and from the club. Bill has had his other leg fitted and is coping well, although he gets quite a lot of pain. He has been discharged from Hospital but has to attend two days per week for treatment. Bill really enjoys these outings and conveys his best wishes to all his old mates.

Quite a long discussion was held regarding the proposed change in the production of W.O.G. to a three monthly basis. All Newcastle members were strongly against such a move and it was agreed that Alf CARPENTER let it be known at the Annual Meeting. Bill HAYES suggested that if finance was the problem he was prepared to hit the centre with another Life Membership fee or the equivalent, and other members were of similar mind.

Our next get-together will be held at Hamilton R.S.L. on March 20th, which will be just prior to Alf & Marj CARPENTER sailing on their slow boat to China.

Kindest regards ..... Jim Sherritt.

#### HERE & THERE.

Called on Phil SMITH recently. He informed me he is selling his home unit at Fairlight and will be moving to the Clarence River as soon as he finds a suitable parcel of land on which he intends to build a large house for all his relations and grandchildren, incorporating a 60 ft. swimming pool. Maybe we will be having an Iluka Country Reunion one year. The mind boggles! Clarence River should be so lucky!

#### STOP PRESS.

By the time you receive this issue "Pom" WALLACE will have been operated on (Tuesday March 10th) for open heart surgery at the Coas. Hospital, Sydney. Dick PINSON has been out to see him - likewise Phil SMITH. Dick reports that "Pom" has taken off weight and is now down to a mere 17 stone, but the big fellow is still cursing soundly and laughing loudly. All those intending visitors should ring the Coast Hospital and find out his whereabouts.

#### IN THE MAILBAG.

Bill SHEARWIN, Macksville, writes:

"I don't know if any of the boys have heard that Merv HODGES ("Jumbo") died around December 12, 1980. My wife had a letter from a friend at Mudgee saying he had died but she didn't know any more than that. You may be able to get more information.

Nance and I have settled into our home in Macksville and are really enjoying the quiet up here. I have met John SMITH and Bub GRAHAM. Tom (Blue) SAUNDERS and Jack DELPH and his wife hope to be able to come up here for a few days soon. They are all keeping well."