



# 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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**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, 111 Kemp 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, A. Heath, K. Kesteven M.C., H. Wright.

**Secretary:** Laurie Waterhouse, 34 Milford Street, Miranda, 2228. Phone: 524-2114

**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:** Peter Cade, 19a La Boheme Ave., Caringbah, 2229. Phone: 524-3529

**NEXT MEETING:** Anzac Day at the Re-union, **MAY MEETING:** Friday 22nd May at the Gallipoli Memorial Club at 8 p.m.

## EDITORIAL – OR SOMETHING

In the past many years W.O.G. has been produced, wrapped and despatched by Bob and Noni Ferguson and by Bill and Gwen MacLennan and members have them to thank for the regular arrival of an informative W.O.G. Hopefully the standard will be maintained.

Listed in the office-bearers at the top of the page is Editor: Peter Cade who had about nine years with W.O.G. over twenty years ago. He will be to blame for the bad syntax and grammar in future issues. Not mentioned however, is Bill Parry and Bill MacLennan who will be doing the bulky work of wrapping and posting. As Henry V, or was it Shakespeare, once said, 'Once more unto the breach dear friends, once more, or close up the wall with our English dead.' Fortunately we don't have a breach in the wall, which is more than can be said for Henry V. And anyway the modern Pom would take a dim view of being incorporated into the masonry by a bunch of 'Strines', so we plugged it ourselves! P.C.

## THE MARCH MEETING

About 24 members were present including John Ringrose who we haven't seen for a few months. Visitor was John Snowdon, a cousin of, and introduced by John Copland.

Things that came out of the meeting were (a) the letter we had from Pat Heath following the flowers sent on Athol's standing down from Association Secretary. Our token of thanks does not equal your support of Athol and his efforts, but thank you Pat anyway. (b) The same Athol reports that there are only fourteen 2/4 Battalion medals remaining. Those needing application forms please include stamped addressed foolscap manilla envelopes for return of application form, etc. This from Athol who knows what he is talking about. Do what the man says!! (c) In the matter of the blazer pockets, there was some discussion about the merits of a Battalion pocket complete with pocket size green background, the same embroidered badge with no backing to be sewn onto any blazer of compatible colour and the completed job, blazer with the proper green as a final production. Dick Morris will show you the alternatives on Anzac Day at the Gallipoli Memorial Club. (d) Regarding welfare, matters should be addressed to John Copland and his team. Quick action is needed here. Ring John Copland, Harry Wright or Bill Parry, 80 3771, John is pretty much available, so is Harry in Carlingford. It's easy, ring if someone is in hospital. (e) Communicating in general was raised by Harry Gjedsted and supported by Athol and it was suggested that more use should be made of the Gallipoli Memorial Club and



our members there. With Athol and Harry on the job there is no reason why the Club cannot be used as a watering hole and communications centre as the North British was in Jonny Morrison's day. The more members that phone in and come in, the more the news gets around.

**CASH REGISTER.** The Treasurer reports having received the following subscriptions and donations.

\$6: J. Holland, W. Poplin, D. Ellicott, D. J. Jackson, M. Keshan, E. Hughes, G. Campbell, R. Rayment, R. Cole, G. Mitchell, R. W. Lane, A. Gibson, G. Willoughby, J. A. Sadler, R. Everson, W. Keast, D. Finch, H. Russell, T. Dawson, A. Manning, A.D. Arnott, W. Walker, R. Groat, B. D. Martin, K. Watt, J. M. Hicks, H. E. Williams.

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\$24 N. Howard, M. Nearney, A. J. Mooney, A. L. Webb, A. Lewington, G. Vance, A. Miller, J. Gardiner,      \$25. B. Waring

\$30 C. Byrne, M. Gray, W. G. Martin      \$36 P. Cross

\$50 **LIFE MEMBERSHIP:** F. Sadler, F. Stanwell, J. Agnew, E. McCaffrey, G. Stilwell, M. Steele, F. Apthorp, E. Richards, J. Naseby, B. D. Martin, H. Wittleton, B. Stewart, J. Dubber, J. Crowley, P. J. Webb, S. Jones, C. Pollock, W. Fogden, E. Burbidge, S. Dean, A. White, V. Quinn, J. I. Cameron, N. Ford, Mrs. Ellen Fryer (sister of the late John Keating) as a donation, and donation from two other nice ladies, Marj. McCarty and Elsie Parsons.

\$60 A. E. Cole      \$100. N. Allardice.

THANK YOU ONE AND ALL.....

## VICTORIAN SITREP

Vic Francis is having another spell in the Repat. Centre at Macleod and as usual is being ruined by the staff. However, his visit to the 'Rest Home' is to give Eileen a break. That dear lady has not been the best and has been in the Royal Melbourne Hospital where she is being treated by specialists for her arthritis. Complications set in in the nature of ulcers but she is well on the mend and is expecting to undergo surgery on her knee in June, all going well. In the meantime Vic is lapping up the attention at Mcleod and has been visited by a few of the boys. Ern Mackey is conveniently situated nearby.

Claude Raymont journeyed to Hong Kong over Christmas to purchase some new fishing tackle. He also took wife Ann and they had a very enjoyable stay with their daughter and family. The expensive tackle has recently been tried out in Victorian coastal waters. However, members of the Victorian Branch of the Association have not received any benefit from the venture and are still eating mutton.

Ken Moses has come out of his compulsory retirement after nearly five years, working on the creative side once again with a magazine publishing house. Claims that it was housework that drove him back to work. Also has wheels again, a piece of information which when leaked out, caused a flutter with the insurance companies and a rush to diversify into the wood chip field. (But the rumour that Mal. Fraser revised his dole bludgers list and Mr. Howard knocked a few thousand off the Budget deficit is without fact. Ed)

Ern Mackey after a late start with the Association is certainly making up for lost time. His latest brain-wave is to start organising a mini-bus hire for the Kempsey Reunion and fill it full of Victorians. Anyone interested in the scheme should make their intentions known to Ern with a phone call. The number is 435-8957. With everyone retiring in Victoria he should have no trouble filling it. All Victorian members are most relieved to know that they will continue to get their W.O.G. monthly. At the same time they would like the new Editor to pass on their most grateful thanks to Bob and Noni Ferguson for the job done in the 'chair' during his brief stay. He will never be forgotten for his terrific effort when the Francis family was in a lot of trouble last year. Bob was the nerve centre of the whole operation and without him the situation would have been chaotic. We sincerely thank him and wish him a rapid return to good health.

NX 9670

**1981 COUNTRY RE-UNION AT KEMPSEY.** There is a bloke we all know in Kempsey, a nice feller called Esca Riordan and he is everybody's friend. Please be a friend of his and let him know as soon as you can about your booking for the reunion. If you are busy then tell your wife, she will write and make the booking. If you are a ditherer — then 'go to the ant thou



sluggard'. The ant lives in Kempsey, name of Esca., make him busier with your booking. He will love it! But write first with the following details:—

- (a) Time of arrival,
- (b) Time of departure,
- (c) How many in party,
- (d) Type of accommodation,
- (e) Anything else to meet your needs,
- (f) (Blood group and rifle number not required)

## COCK'S COLUMN

Sunday, 15th March: Went with Slim Powers and visited Frank (Pom) Wallace at the Prince Henry Hospital. Pom had an 'open heart' operation which took place the previous Tuesday and in spite of the numerous stitches, he appeared quite bright. We stayed with Pom about an hour and a half and while we were there he also had visits from Cec Chrystal and John Copland. The only news we could get from Pom was that Jack Lister has not been well but other north coast boys are all O.K. as far as he knows. To date he has had visits from Harry and Hilda Wright, Phil and Glen Smith, Bill MacLennan, Dick Pinson and those mentioned above. I hope to visit Pom again before he is discharged.

Monday 16th March: Slim Powers got a phone call from Rene Pinson telling him that Dick had a bad turn the day before and was twice visited by the doctor. Rene did not say what was wrong with Dick as everything depended on the doctor's examination. Slim and I will visit him later on.

Saturday 21st March: Met Slim at Rockdale, had lunch at the R.S.L. then went to see Dick Pinson at home. He looked very well after his sickness and although still under the doctor for a complaint not yet diagnosed, said he felt great. The three of us then visited Pom who looked really well. All stitches were removed and he will be discharged on 24th March to be admitted to the MacLean Hospital. During his stay in hospital he had numerous telephone calls and 'Get well' cards from members of the Association. Get well quick, Pom and hope to see you again at the Kempsey Re-union.

Wednesday 25th March: Went with Slim to visit Ted Harris at the L.D.H. His discharge from L.D.H. had been arranged and was returning to Cowra to stay with his brother. He said he has had visits from Bill Parry and Ted Hopkins and said that only Jack Ormiston Tim West and he are still at Cowra. Ted Hopkins hopes to make the Kempsey Re-union.

Regards, Jim (Cock) Robin.

## 6th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Extract from Div. Doin's: 'We have started to organise the Crete week and can now tell you that the first function will be a concert style 'do' at the Sydney Town Hall on Thursday, 28th May to which you are

all invited. Next is the March and Cenotaph Service on Saturday, 30th May. Assemble at the corner of Pitt and Hunter Streets about 2 pm then march to the Cenotaph about 2.20. Next day is the Church Parade at the Garrison Church, Millers Point at 10 am. Then the picnic at Garden Island rounds off the whole deal and then we start planning for the next year.

'REPORTS: No word on further issue of the Greek medals.

'A.P.N.G.F. Trust: Dr. Selby reports that a further appeal is being made to business houses and requests support for all members in this. Approx. \$3,000 to date. No word from Federal Treas. on tax deduction Sec. to take further action.

'6th Div. Memorial in Sydney. A Kemmis and S. McDougal to be a sub-committee to approach Council and investigate fund raising, State and Federal.'

## CENTRAL COAST COMEDY CAPERS

Just before Christmas every forty years I undergo a major surgical operation. First time it was in Gaza A.G.H. I broke my collar bone playing football for 'B' Coy. against the dirtiest team in the desert — the 2/4th Bn. Officers. Lance Cutcliffe tackled me while I was sitting down at half-time. In fact, half time was the only time an ex-officer from Manly handled the ball. I saw Lance at Coogee after the war in the bank. Was going to draw my Deferred Pay, after sleeping outside the bank for two months waiting for it to come through. Said to myself, now is the time to punch him on the nose. The only thing that stopped me, Lance could fight. He would have hit me back very hard so I was lucky.

In Gaza, even if you were pregnant they still operated on you for Haemorrhoids. When I recovered from this serious operation I was so disappointed. Everyone in the Haemorrhoids Ward received a get well card from his C.O. but not one card from Colonel Dougherty. I suppose he put the Desert Campaign first instead of worrying about a young private's haemorrhoids, they are all the same!

Forty years later I was admitted to Gosford Private Hospital, for ex-privates only, although there was an ex-officer from 'A' Coy. in the Women's Ward. I could hear him singing under the shower.

When I am admitted to hospital I always get paraded before the Matron and ask for a particular ward, also the phone numbers of the nursing staff, if they are married and what their weight is. Never did like dancing with fat nurses. I always get admitted to 2/4 B, Room 2, Ward 4, bed B/b/coy. At last my hospital my luck ran out, was admitted to Ward 2/p.p. The dreadful Prostrate and Pensions Ward. There were all the familiar faces in the P.P. ward. No T.V., Prostrate Percy, Haemorrhoids Harry and worst of all, Pensions Percy. You meet Percy in every hospital, Perth, Brisbane, even in Wagga Wagga. He knows everything about pensions. I took his advice in Wauchope and fin-



ished up with a decrease which pleased Malcolm.

After recovering from this rare and complicated prostrate operation, again had no card from my Colonel (Can't remember his name!) Also no card from Cec Chrystal, my old 'B' Coy. O.C. He was too busy roaming around Vevi Pass and Northern Greece. He was lucky to get away from there in the first place. The Navy might have been on strike and he would have had to stay with the earthquakes. Did not expect a card from 'A' Coy. Jimmy Brown can only talk, he can't right. Like to see him on the football field, puffing and blowing, he was a good referee, did not need a whistle.

Spent a week in Northaven. George Sugden had to come down from Tamworth. Someone set fire to his cottages, burnt his cabin to the ground. George was busy cleaning up the mess, still giving orders. Glen Ackerman will be in Concord getting plastic knees. Harry Hamberger is poisoning the district and fish with his home brew.

Will have important news later since I heard Gordon Crisp is in the district. Must ask him do you take No. 9 pills before or after meals. Will need them when he arrives.

Snowy Moores will not be going to Prince Charlie's wedding. He fell down the stairs at the Masonic Club in Gorokan. Was only buying tobacco! Serves him right for smoking, he finished up in hospital. (A grateful Editor received the above contribution unsigned - can't imagine who the author is - but in appreciation, the same Editor intends forwarding paid up Life Membership fee, or its equivalent in paspalum seeds, to the 2/4th Bn. Privates' Associations. NX 11949 C/- Any Central Coast Club, should find the President).

**ANZAC DAY** - Same arrangements as last year.

**WREATH LAYING CEREMONY** - F.U.P. corner of York and Erskine Streets at 0730 hours. We will move off promptly at 0800 hours preceded by the old 4th. and the Parramatta Caledonian Pipe Band.

**ANZAC DAY MARCH** - F.U.P. in the vicinity of the corner of King and Elizabeth Streets. Just look for the white and green ties.

#### **ANZAC DAY REUNION**

At the Gallipoli Memorial Club 12 Loftus Street (near the Quay), commencing at 1200 hours. Choice of hot meals \$9.00

**REQUEST FROM THE PRESIDENT:** Members are asked to contribute to the good turnout of the battalion by wearing suits if possible but certainly wearing decorations and medals and Association ties. If we recall that we were once members of one of the best battalions in the A.I.F., complying with the President's request naturally follows.

## **THE 2/4th LADIES ON ANZAC DAY**

Our Ladies watch the march from outside Lowes between Market and Park Streets. After the march they have organised a luncheon at Cahills Dutch Village, 27 Park Street. A private room has been organised but the number of attenders is still open. Give Hilda Wright a ring and join the girls (Phone 871 5312). And if you don't know one single 2/4th lady they are easily found. Outside Lowes will be an assemblage of very presentable matrons approaching middle age. There will be a preponderance of white and green colour in the area. There you are home and in good company. Give Hildy a ring, join them and give yourself an enjoyable day out.

### **WELFARE REPORT as at 27th March, 1981.**

NX 5162 DAWSON, Tom, Lady Davidson Home, B. Ward. Reported to be doing well. Legs and feet improved.

NX 33868 WALLACE, F.M. (This is the one and only Pom) Had a massive op. for heart by-pass but did ver well. Transferred to McLean District Hosp.

NX 5911 BOWEN, Stan. Q.V. Hospital. Bob Lever and his wife saw Stan and reported all well.

NX 123835 McNAMARA, L.J. R.G.H. 610 Les is well and cheerful. Having tests on further warts or skin growths. Doing well.

NX 58 CHRYSTAL, Cec. R.N.S.H. Gallstones op. today.

NX 25308 PINSON, R. J. (Dick - Had another heart turn at home. After treatment and rest is now well again.

NX 5904 NEWTH, W. H. Undergoing tests for haemorrhages.

NX7601 CHAMBERLAIN, R.G. W.V.H. No change.

NX 2055 HONNERY, A.W. W.V.H. Bill Parry keeps in touch and reports no change.

NX 5847 POPLIN, G.W. Recovering at home from a heart attack and doing well. Further tests in April and May at Wollongong and Prince of Wales Hospital.

NX 13360 HARRIS E. (Ted) Discharged from L.D.H. and went by air ambulance to Cowra. He will be living with his brother.

#### **4th Bn. W.W.1**

KEARERY, Bede. Doing well at home Bede says he doesn't have to wear the spinal brace any longer.

SLANEY, Merle. An old friend and not at all well.

RAYMOND, Ron (From Ted Hopkins). Ron is back at his son's place - 63-65 Green Point St., Oyster Bay. Ted also visited Ted Harris before he went back to Cowra.

### **LAST POST**

QX 34518 DICKIE, Donald Charles. This news from Vera Provians and Laurie McCosker. We were represented by Laurie, Norm Everson and Wall MacKenzie.

NX 5215 HODGES M.E. of Mudgee Laurie Waterhouse reported his death, 14th March, 1981.