



# White Water Green

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE 2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

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**NEXT MEETING:** Friday 22nd May at the Gallipoli Memorial Club. This is the 4th Friday in May, not the last

## THE KEMPSEY RE-UNION

Hope every member takes notice that this report takes precedence over all, including the Anzac Day report. It is meant to! Firstly, Esca had a few loose ends he would like to tie up if they haven't already been done, regarding the time of stay in Kempsey. In and out times are required from Bruce and Angela Cork, Peter and Pat Denver, Phil and Glyn Smith, Bruce and Nina Flude, Laurie and Evelyn McCosker, Alan and Carma Kirk, Jack and Joan Hughes, Jim and Jean Foreman, Reta Fox and Vera Provians. Doubtless, most of these anomalies have been resolved. If not please write to Esca and clarify.

Details of accommodation are:— **PARK DRIVE MOTEL** (Pacific Highway). Single unit \$20, Double \$25, Twin \$27, Three Bedroom Unit \$30, Four Bed. Unit \$34, Five Bed \$38, and Six Bed \$42. If any group wish to share this type of accommodation, please advise early.

**COLONIAL COURT MOTOR INN**, (Pacific Highway) Single Units \$22, Double \$26, Twin \$27 plus \$6 for extra adult. These prices could be a little more over the holiday week-end. They also have eight units with a different price.

**CITY CENTRE MOTOR INN**, Their prices are \$28 Double. I would like to mention that this Motel has a first class licensed restaurant at the rear

of the unit area.

**HOTEL KEMPSEY** also has first class accommodation.

I wish to acknowledge the following bookings in W.O.G.: Alf and Marge Carpenter, Jack and Unice Dubber, Norm and Jean Everson, Tom and Sheila Gorman, Athol Heath, Jack and Joan Hughes, Molly Irvine, Ken and Fi Kesteven, Alan and Carma Kirk, Jack and Joyce Lister, Wally and Beth McKenzie, John Meehan, Vera Provians, and sister Irene Staton and Vera Walsh. **ESCA**

## WELFARE REPORT:

**NX 15424 THEOBALD, Richard, RGH 430.** Hernia Operation, Discharged.

**NX 5904 NEWTH, W. H. R.G.H. 430.** Bill had various tests. He was discharged 22 April just before Bill Parry and I called. Good luck Bill and Gwen.

**NX 123835, McNAMARA, Les. R.G.H. 610.** Les is still awaiting decisions from medicos. Now at home at Toongabbi.

**NX 5228 McALLAN, A. R.G.H. 410 of 'C' Coy.** Operation for sinews of hand.

**NX 58 CHRYSTAL, C.** recovering from gall bladder op. Now at home and fighting fit.

**NX 4012, KESTEVEN, K.L., RNSH** Ken has had a triple heart by-pass operation. Doing marvellously well. Now at home.



- NX 72861 HOATHER, H. At St. Vincents Hospital, Lismore. Fluid in the heart and lungs. Harry Whitman telephone the news.
- NX 9556, ACKERMAN, G. R.G.H. 410 of 'A' Coy. Tests of osteoarthritis. Was transferred to L.D.H.
- NX 5911, BOWEN, S. Q.V.H. Wentworth Falls. Bob Lever calls regularly. This time he took some cassettes of C.J. Dennis which Stan really did enjoy.
- NX 43353, LEIGH, Charles. In for lung tests. Joined the Battalion in Syria but was not long with us.
- NX 7601 CHAMBERLAIN, R.H.: W.V.H. Doing well. Sends greetings to all friends.
- NX 2055 HONNERY, A.: W.V.H. Athol is well and is talking of moving to the country.
- NX 6046 WHITMAN, Harry. Testing at home after a heart turn.
- NX 33868, WALLACE, Pom. Convalescing in hospital. Seen by Doug Grove and many others.

#### LAST POST

NX 13273, FRANCIS, Vic. As advertised in the Stop Press inserted in the April W.O.G., Vic died on 9th April. Eileen's sister, Dot rang Bill Poplin who rang me. Thus - the end of a brave cheerful, wonderful friend to many of us. Vic was in hospital in Melbourne, had a sudden coronary and that was the end. Eileen, too, was in hospital and not at all well.

NX 39261, GLANVILLE, Jack: Died 12 March. Unfortunately we heard about it later.

NX 6020, BRISTOL, Matt: The firing party for Matt's funeral included Joe Wells, Bill Taylor, Wem Keast and a few other 2/4thers, and about fourty local ex-servicemen.

RUSSELL, Mrs. Dorothy May. Vera Provians advised that dear May died on 26th. March after a long painful illness. May was the widow of Duncan Russell, 19th Brigade Transport Officer, although on strength of 2/4th Inf. Bn. Our sympathy to May's family. She was brave and cheerful to the end.

With best wishes from all of us... John Copland.

#### COCK'S COLUMN

##### ANZAC DAY

Arrived Erskine & York Streets at 7.30 am for the Wreath Laying Ceremony and the march.

I was quite surprised that so many old mates had assembled for the march to the Cenotaph with members of the original 4th Bn. and led by the Parramatta Caledonian Pipe Band. I was also pleasantly surprised at the number of our ladies who were there, amongst whom were VERA WALSH, MOLLY IRVINE, ENID LATIMER, GWEN MacLENNAN, HILDA WRIGHT, HEATHER FOX, JOAN HUSTON, CARMA KIRK.

At the forming up place I met some of the country boys, MAURIE PORTER (Pretty Beach), BOB LANE (Woy Woy), LEO CARTER (Kiama), DOUG MILNE (Newcastle), ALLAN KIRK (Lismore), TED SWADLING (Griffith), RON BARBER (Blackheath), JACK HUSTON (Canberra), BILL SHEAFE (Lismore) and before the march started HARRY SMITH (Woy Woy), MAX NERNEY (Urbenville), BRUCE CORK, DOUG GEORGE COLE (Wallerawang), GEOFF INGS (Nowra), JIM FORMAN (Warragamba), CRAIG CLARKE (Scone). Locals present were Sir Ivan who, met the boys prior to the march, Brig. McAtamey, Teddy Hopkins, Harry Gjedsted, Dave Follington, Bill Reid, Mick Gray, Ted Jackson, Mick (no change) O'Regan, Ron Coutts, Allan Lindsay, Vic Forbes, Peter Armstrong, Lennie Bloomfield, Ron (Porky) Williams, John (Porky) Holland, Trevor Richardson, John Meehan, Jim Graham, Cec Cameron, George Stack, Noel Ford, Lang Stronnarch, Les Anderson, Ferdy Pegg, John Copland, Peter Cade, and quite a few others. During the march and when our marchers reached Lowes in George Street our President gave the command, 'Eyes Left' to where our ladies (30 of them) and other Association members, unfit to march, always assemble: After the march our members went to the Gallipoli Memorial Club for our Anzac Day luncheon. Unfortunately I could not attend due to other commitments, so I will leave it to the Editor to give these details.

News from the boys: Harry SMITH said that there were other 2/4thers at Davistown, Max NERNEY has seen Aub PRIEST, Johnny HINETT and Ron ELLEM who has retired and reports all are well. George PARRY met George SHAW, brother of Wally SHAW. Doug GROVE has recently seen Harry WHITMAN, Herb HOATHER Raggs BUTLER, Bookie RAE, said Jim SHERRITT was not the best. George COLE has seen Perc. LANE, Geoff INGS, Jim SADLER, J FORMAN and Craig CLARKE. Teddy HOPKINS has seen Ron RAYMONT, Alan MANNING has seen Slim DESMOND and Bill LUCK. Ferdie PEGG visited Frank MALLETT in the U.K. Frank was very pleased to see him and would like to see any of the boys who visit England. Address available from Hon. Sec. Laurie Waterhouse. Any members whose names are not in this report please accept my apologies as I can only record the names of members I make contact with,

Wednesday 29th April: With Slim Powers visited Ken KESTEVEN at his home in Lane Cove. Ken is convalescing after a heart by-pass operation. He said he felt great after his ordeal and is looking forward to seeing his old mates again very soon.

Regards, Jim (Cock) ROBIN.

The Editorial Comment is, that with people like Cock on the staff of W.O.G. what editor needs to



hunt around scooping up news? However, that he didn't show at the re-union, left your editor in a state of 'journalistic disarray' (got that one from Rex Mossop and he was glad to get rid of it!). Same editor was bashing the ears of Ted SWADLING, Ron COUTTS, Mick GRAY, Morrie PORTER and particularly Wally LAMBOURNE who gave back as good as he got. All this, so much so, that not a single note was taken of the proceedings!

However at the Reunion, toasts to the Queen, Fallen and Departed Comrades, 2/4th Battalion and Visitors were proposed by John COPLAND Peter COOK, Bill MacLENNAN and Ted FOX respectively. In announcing the names of departed comrades since last Anzac Day, Peter COOK gave us something for reflection. Those who have answered their last mortal Roll Call are: Jack Kong, John (Bushy) Bennett, Ron Windeyer, D. J. Frazer, Murray Naismith, Bo Hester, Sailor Harvey, Jack Heaney, Bob Munday, H. J. Brown, Tony Karanges, Neville Hunt, F. N. Lynch, H. R. Slade, Tom Clough, Tom Alexander, Frank Hogan, Tom Bartlett, H. Craig, H. R. Stevens, J. Watmore, Peter Gygell, Merv. Stebbings, A. E. Caves., J. B. Smith, N. G. Atcheson, R. J. Wilson, Matt Bristol, Roy Wessling, Ron Perran, Merv Hodges, Vivian Maidens, John Charles Dickie, E. G. Shephard, K. H. Francis, R. W. G. 'Chips' Henderson, E. J. Releher, and Vic Francis. Fourty have gone! LEST WE FORGET!

As expected the responses from our principal speakers were listened to in silence. The cessation of chatter that allows Sir Ivan to be heard by all was also accorded to Lt. Col. Terry Smith when he responded to the toast to the visitors. The same Terry Smith, who as a Citizen Soldier volunteered, and went to Viet Nam to do the same thing that Sir Ivan was strongly advocating in our pre-war years. In the words of another famous soldier 'Be Prepared'. It was very good to see our Honorary Members, Maj. Gen. Gordon Maitland, Harold Silver, and Norm Harries with us again. Also our guests, Bill Ford and the other pipers and drummers of the band and the Colour Party members from 4th Bn. R.N.S.W.R. We hope they all enjoyed themselves.

Life Memberships were presented to Peter COOK and Bill PARRY for services rendered to the Association over the years. When one thinks of Bill's contribution in Welfare activities alone, and that, in the early 1950's Peter was prominent in Association activities including inter-association cricket matches (anybody remember that far back?) and has been a supporter or in office since. Additionally, it is something of a Bill Parry year in that as well as 2/4th Life Membership he had also been awarded Life Membership of the Gallipoli Memorial Club as well as being elected as a Director. Congratulations Peter and Bill!

Finally, due to diligence of 'Young' SCULLEY and one of ladies of the Club staff \$73.52 was collected in the Association tin hat for the Welfare Fund. Thank you gentlemen and thank you for your attendance and support. Allan Lindsay reports that we just about broke even on the day.

#### RAPID FIRE INFORMATION

Have you got your 2/4th Battalion medal yet? There are nine left! Information regarding application in last month's W.O.G. or write to Hon.Sec. or Editor.

Everyone saw the Association Blazer, complete with embroidered pocket, that Bill MacLennan wore on Anzac Day. Blazers are available at \$82, or just the pocket at \$8 in the proper 2/4th green. Both are available from Silvertex, East St., Granville, 2142. A visit for measuring will be required if you want the blazer.

#### FROM THE 2/4th BATTALION LADIES

A good and enthusiastic roll-up of 2/4 wives, widows and their friends assembled at the traditional spot in front of Lowes' George Street store on Anzac Day to wait and watch for their men coming by. Firstly, we were able to attract the attention of everyone's 'Pin Up' boy - Sir Ivan Dougherty - as he passed, leading the 6th Division. He was given a rousing reception with green and white streamers waving, and we were rewarded with the usual charming smile of recognition. Then a little later, led by the Parramatta Pipe Band in all its resplendence, came the unit we all wait for so patiently and the one we vote the best turned-out civilian unit each year. All of our hearts beat faster as we wait for our now traditional 'Eyes Left' and then they are gone, all too soon.

Following the march, this year the ladies gathered for a most enjoyable luncheon at Cahill's Dutch Village in Park Street. Those present included: Noni Bowman, Yvonne, Dooley, Heather Fox, Sal Sally Follington and daughter Olene, Nina Fergusson, Flora Harvey, Joan Huston, Joan Hart and friend Else Watson, Mollie Irvine, Carma Kirk, Pat Blyton (daughter of the late Mike Richardson), Enid Latimer and friend Hilda Merrett, Gwen MacLennan and grandson Ben Elvy, Shirley Pead, Isobel Saddler, Del Silver and friend Doreen Grant, Irene Stanton and Betty Watts (Vera Provians' sister and cousin respectively), Vera Walsh, Joy Waterhouse, Hilda Wright and Nell Wright (Harry's sister).  
Mrs. NX 931

#### VICTORIAN SITREP

It was just the way Vic Frances would have liked it. That was the general opinion of all his relatives, army mates and friends who turned up last month to pay their last respects to the old battler. Even the number plate of the hearse was green and white



and the last two numbers were '2-4'. There was practically a full muster at both the service at the Uniting Church at Cheltenham and later at Springvale and unit banner saw him right through on the final journey. After the services all were invited to Ted and Pam Frances' home at Mulgrave where all the boys met the family and paid their respects to Eileen who was in attendance in a wheel chair, on leave from hospital.

Present were: Vic Hill, Les Dunn, Ken Moses, Hugh Burgdoff, Stan Carpenter, Stan Pretty, Ken Williams, Ernie Mackey, Nan & Claude Raymond Doug Christian, Merv Hicks, Gordon Robins, Jim Barrow, Sid Valentine ('Gunga Din') and Doug Millar with apologies from Dick Parry and Bill Panter.

After a pheominal summer and late Autumn, Melbourne turned on its usual Anzac Day performance and it was only the stalwalts who brightened the day during the march and later at the Caulfield RSL. The bitter wind blew away the lasses carrying the banner but Jim Barrow and Bill Stephens took over and maintained a steady course to the Shrine. A pleasant suprise was the appearance of Dasher Deacon heading west to no fixed address and claims he was responsible for the one bit of sunshine that appeared. There were a few new faces from the bush including Keith Taylor making a debut from Allansford and claimed he can muster a few more from up that way. We would like to see them.

The BARROW family are rather proud of son Brian who has just passed all his law degrees with flying colours. Now with a built in attorney Jim is just waiting for someone to say something slanderous, like how he dropped the full two gallon demijohn of rum on the wharf at Heraklion on that night in May 40 years ago, and got grit imbedded in his tongue licking it up. Now you have to be very careful mentioning anything like that, especially if you carried the other two gallons without dropping it, to share with your mates on The Dids.

Eileen Frances had another operation on her other knee (April 28) in the Moorabbin District Hospital and is doing fine. The boys drop in regularly as the hospital is in the middle of the 2/4th country. She looks remarkably well and is most grateful to all who have written and she will get around to replying when she starts 'jogging' again in a few weeks time.

Dick PARRY has been having a bit of trouble with his left arm after a medico started doing a few tests which left him with an arm that would not work, although it is hoped satisfactory repairs are under way. However the disability did not prevent him, as treasurer of the local RSL, counting out a couple of thousand \$s worth of small change on the kitchen table for the sale of Anzac Day badges, on the Day itself. He was assisted by a bottle of Bundaberg which was very comforting as he

watched his frozen mates march on TV. He remarked the blue and florid tones came up wellin colour.

THIS MONTH'S BEAUTIFUL THOUGHT . . . . .  
'If the French are the world's best lovers, how come there are three hundred million Chinese?'

#### COMMEMORATION OF THE BATTLE OF CRETE

Breifly the programme is as follows: Sunday 24 May A Picnic at Garden Island with the opening ceremony with Cretan and other dancing groups. Thursday 28th May a Community welcome in the Sydney Town Hall. Saturday 30th May the wreath laying at the Cenotaph and the Cretan Ball. Don't miss it! and finally on Sunday 31st May the Thanksgiving Service at the Garrison Church at the Rocks. The whole programme is recommended to those of us who have an afinity for the Cretan people. Please contact Mr.S. McDougal, 797 8284 or Mr. N. Karefilakis, 55 7122. The Cretans are marvellous people!

#### ASSOCIATION OF 4th INFANTRY BTTNS

The Annual Church Parade will be held on Sunday 31st May at St. Annes, Strathfield in Homebush Rd. The march will form up at the corner of Beresford & Coventry Rds at 1445 hrs. Decorations and awards to be worn. The band of 4th Bn. RNSWR will lead the Parade to the church as a volunteer parade. Second Fourth Bttn. members come as a wife, husband and family group. Show the strength of the Assn.!

#### SITREPS FROM ALL OVER

That Prince of Good Fellows, Bruce Cork reports that he met Newton Howard playing bowls at Palm Beach. He is selling retirement units at Nerang and it seems an excellent idea. Bruce has also met up with Jack Corn (no relation) who was our P Sigs. wireless operator during the war in all of our campaigns. He has had a heart attack but is well now. He is now retired in Burleigh Heads. The same Bruce Cork reports that wife Angela fell off a mat and broke her leg! In fairness we should rationalise this a bit. Probably Bruce shifted the mat to a different part of the polished floor and set Angela up for the big skid. The ultimate result was a housebound Angela, hobbled with half a ton of plaster and a pair of crutches while dear Bruce enjoyed himself at the Reunion on Anzac Day. Had we known Angela, we would have ignored the heartless beast!

We had a letter from Marge Carpenter and some bloke called Alf. Written at sea off the China coast after an enjoyable visit to Japan, they were heading for hectic, hurried look at some of China including the Great Wall. Anzac Day at sea wasn't forgotten either. Sufficient people were aboard to attend a Service on Anzac Day afterwards.