



White Cedar 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, 26th June at 8 p.m. at the Gallipoli Memorial Club

THE KEMPSEY RE-UNION

A further list of bookings for Kempsey include Betty and Perc Dalla, Lady and Sir Ivan Dougherty, Margaret and Bub Graham, Enid Lattimer and friend, David Martin, Nancy and Dave McGillivray, Gwen and Bill Newth, Phil and Dave Peters, Gwen and Ferdy Pegg, Es Edna Pegg, Una and Bill Sheaffe, Una and Ray Summerfield, Una and Artie Kleem, Delma and Harold Silver, Edna and Ian Wallwork.

Esca reports that nominations are coming in rather slowly and that it would assist greatly if people intending to come could forward their bookings as soon as possible. Please advise choice of accommodation, time of arrival and departure from the accommodation and any other information that the local committee needs to make your stay a pleasure and something to be remembered.

WELFARE REPORT as at 22nd May '81

It has been a blissfully quiet month. On two of the weekly calls we had no one at R.G.H. at all, which is very good. Maybe there are other members at other hospitals of whom we are not informed. Those seen were:

NX 50319 FURNESS, Sydney, R.G.H. 430. Heart By-pass operation and doing very well. Discharged. Syd was "A" Coy and was put into the bag in Greece.

NX 43353 LEIGH, C.H., R.G.H. 510. In for throat tests. Discharged.

NX 9867 CARRINGTON, R.M., R.G.H. 5. "B" Coy. of Coonabarabran. In for a few days for tests. Discharged.

NX 9336 GRANDQUIST, C.R., R.G.H. 230. He is to re-enter R.G.H. soon for melanoma op. Discharged.

NX 13306 WILLOUGHBY, G., R.G.H. 530. George is back again this time for blood clots in the left arm. George keeps cheerful through all his medical troubles.

NX 13398 MALCOLM, T., R.G.H. 430. Having vascular or arterial tests.

NX 4012 KESTIVEN, K.L. At home and doing marvellously well. Ken, the good soldier that he is, has adhered strictly to the regimen set by the surgeon and has reaped the benefit.

NX 58 CHRYSTAL, C. Is making good progress at home by keeping to a strict diet.

Esteemed friend of the Association, Lady Mackay is in L.D.H. with a broken bone in her shoulder. Report just prior to going to press is that she is "coming along fine".

LAST POST

HARRY T. LUCAS, late of Wentworthville died 29th May, 1981.

AN APOLOGY

In reporting those who have passed on in the Anzac Day report, "Bushie Bennetts" name was included. We can make the quip that reports of his death are greatly exaggerated but it doesn't excuse the blunder. Sorry "Bushie" for the slip up, we have at least three John Bennetts and why we had to pick you, we don't know!

ASSOCIATION OF 4TH INFANTRY BATTALIONS ASSOCIATION CHURCH PARADE:

As customary the parade was held at St. Anne's Church, Strathfield. The weather was most unkind resulting in the march from the park to the church being cancelled to the disappointment of all, particularly the band of 4th. Battalion Royal New South Wales Regiment who were splendidly turned out. However, their playing inside the church compensated us somewhat and hopefully them also. It was good. There were many present representing the various 4th Battalions and certainly a good sprinkling from the 2/4th, amongst whom were: Sir Ivan Dougherty, Fi and Ken Kesteven, Phil and Cec Chrystal, John Copland, Heather and Ted Fox, Gloria and Allen Lindsay, Joy and Laurie Waterhouse, Morrie Porter and wife, Del and Harold Silver, Maj. Gen. Gordon Maitland, Vera Walsh, Dick Morris, Jack Hines and Bill Parry. Also attending were Mrs. and Brian Dooley and family, Brigadiers Cameron and Ray Sharpe and amongst the 4Bn RNSWR representation was Major Maitland. Quite an enjoyable hour was spent after the service during afternoon tea, meeting and talking to the representatives of associations present and the local parishioners.

Laurie Waterhouse

THE MAY MEETING

Attendance was pretty weak but the business was conducted nevertheless. Brought up in the Committee Meeting was the inadequate coverage given to the 2/4th Bn. on Anzac Day, and it was inadequate on T.V. there was no doubt about it! And so to project ourselves to the public and more particularly to the T.V. announcers who address the public from the banners they read, it was proposed, seconded and passed that the banner situation be reconsidered. Harry Gjedsted was elected to preside over a sub-committee to consider the need for a new banner, reject or accept, consider design(s), costs etc. and when all done, present to the next General Meeting a proposal as a recommendation. Harry's sub-committee comprise, Peter Cook, John Meehan, Bill Parry and Peter Cade.

ASSOCIATION BLAZERS

Due to the closing down of Silvertex, blazers are no longer available from this source. However, Lowes or Scarfes can supply the required article in the colour to match the pocket. Get your pocket from Laurie Waterhouse and either of the above firms will do the rest. Cost is about \$100.

COCK'S COLUMN

Some time back, was watching "Big Country" on T.V. and it featured the town of Billinudgel. I thought of Alf Schweitzer as that was where Alf lived. When Alf told me the name of his town, I thought he was speaking of a neighbour! Part of the show featured a dance and I looked hard for Alf but didn't see him doing the light fantastic. Then it showed the locals at the bar. This should have been it and I looked hard but did not see Alf bending the elbow. Was speaking to John Copland and he told me that Alf was now living at 19 Mullumbimby Rd., Mullumbimby, 2482. Hi, Alf!, all the best mate, please write.

"Slim" Powers was visiting a friend at Concord Hospital and while walking through a ward, a voice called out from a bed, "Don't you know me Slim?" It was Ross Smith down from Inverell, down for tests. Hi, Ross! Please write any news for the boys. Had a phone call from Bill Read, he lives at 11 Wallace St., Sefton, 2162, 645-2943 (phone). Bill wishes to be remembered to all his old mates and would like to hear from them.

"Slim" Powers and I called into Dee-Why RSL and met Ted and Mrs. Jackson. Ted said that the Warringah Shire Council recently named the road to North Curl-Curl Beach "Huston Parade" after Jack Huston's (Horse Doctor) brother, "Snowy" who had been a leading light at the surf club since WWII.

Had a visit from Ron Barber who has recently seen Bob Lever who is well and also Dick Boyd. Dick is a carpenter on the railways and lives at Blackheath.

Some time back now I was introduced to Norm Hanson who was in 12th Field Bakery. He remembered Graham (Bub), McDougal and Len Waterworth.

Two names I missed out on in the Anzac Day report, Slim Powers who did Trojan work helping me to compile the column. Thanks, Cec. and Laurie Waterhouse, our new Secretary who was also in my notes for mention for his help.

So please boys, any news, write or phone, Jim Robin, 20 Adderstone Avenue, North Sydney, 2060. Phone: 922-5303 (STD prefix is 02).

THE CASH REGISTER

- \$6 J. Ringrose, V. Hallinan, J. Graham, C. Evans, R. Smith, E. Hopkins, C. Cameron, L. Waterworth, A. Kleem, K. Venn, L. Fox, A.D. Milne, T. Richardson, G. Cole, C. Davis, L. McNamara, C. Loughnan.
- \$10 Marge McCarty, Kim Lindsay, E. Jones, J. Copland, K. Richardson, E. Graham, G. Ings, R. Williams, G.A. Milne, J. Wood, J. Rae, A. Bohle, D. Follington, W. Shaw, H. Pearse, T. Fordham, E. Toynton, P. Cade.
- \$12 M. Lane, T. Brennan, R.J. Murphy, C. Scully, K. King.
- \$15 G.L. Robins, H. Bowman.
- \$18 D. Baxter, W. Hale, D. Rodda.
- \$20 K.J. Butler, H.L. McLaughlan.
- \$24 B. Barnes.

\$36 J. Low.

\$50 Life Membership: C. Powers, H. Whitman, P. Lansley

\$50 Donation: J. Meehan, T. Gorman.

The above acknowledgements were omitted from April's WOG through lack of space and subsequently Allen has received and acknowledges the following subs and donations:

\$6 D. Crosthwaite, A.W. Sheppard.

\$10 R. Andrews, Don Bundy, T.J. Taylor.

\$20 Keith Taylor, B. Wilson, Brig McAtamney, R.M. Robberds, R.A.V. Lane.

\$25 Bill Black.

\$50 Jim Brown.

Ladies and Gentlemen, for your subscriptions and donations we thank you very much.

THE SECRETARY'S MAILBAG

Received a letter from our old South Australian stalwart, Robbie. He has seen fit to make comment about the lack of uniformity of the wearing of the Battalion medal, so he sent out the message, "Keep the lads tidy". This was the gist of the letter he wrote along with a drawing of where we should wear the medal. Wishes to be remembered to one and all. Thank you Robbie for keeping us under review.

A short note received from a former M.O. of the Battalion, Dr. Hodgkinson.

Taken unawares by a phone call on Saturday evening, 10th May. It was Bill Stephens of Geelong letting me know he and his wife were in Sydney, staying at the Cross and wanted to call in to the Gallipoli Club. Unfortunately for him it was Saturday so had to divert him to one of the other clubs available. He told me he was on tour, going to Queensland, up to the Territory and back through Central Australia, Adelaide etc. I think Bill was looking for a play with out "bandits". Hope the tour went well, Bill and that you and your wife had a good time.

One request to make. A couple of complaints have been received about members not getting the WOG. On checking, we have found that we have not received the changes of addresses. If you move your place of abode, please notify the Secretary or Editor of your new address, this is a must if you want WOG delivered.

Laurie Waterhouse.

In the other news section, Kit Carson has moved to Western Aust. after 40 years in the Tamworth district. Sends regards to all. Bruce Flude, President of 6th Div. Association in the Sunshine State sends greetings and a newspaper clipping from Wally McKenzie of the launching of the book by Dr. Leslie Le Souef, one time of 2/7th Field Amb. Got good reviews. "To War Without a Gun" is the title.

Eric Jones, Cook A.T.C. sends change of address and congratulations to the Committee.

Joe Low from Port Macquarie sends his best regards to all. The aspersion in April WOG that Jim Brown of Kempsey could only talk but not write has been

repeated by a letter from the man himself and not a grammatical error in it and some complimentary remarks about the Committee too. Letters like that are oats to the Committee workhorses. Thanks Jim!

Brig McAtamney attended the wreath laying ceremony on Anzac Day and the march but had to leave before the Re-union. Missed you Brig. Anyway he has applied for his 2/4th Medal.

Harry Roberts sends his regards to all the boys.

Bill Black (Port MacDonnell, S.A.) got us right between the eyes when he wrote: "I saw in the December '80 WOG the names of the Griffith men who served with the 2/4th. Bn. and didn't see my name, W.G. Black, amongst those who arrived at Ingleburn in November '39. Perhaps I have a vivid imagination or I have been milking cows too long but I thought I was with the 2/4th. from 3rd Nov. '39 until September '43 and later with 36th. Bn in New Guinea and New Britain." Sorry, Bill. Our Fred Apthorp rarely makes a slip up on who comes from the Griffith area! Bill sends his regards to the boys.

Left out of last month's WOG through lack of space was an interesting letter from Cec Chrystal who wrote: "Phyl and I attended the wedding in New Zealand of Graham Jackett's youngest son, Dr. Richard to Elaine Newman who is a nursing sister at Royal Hobart Hospital. The bride's father, Ted, hired a mini-bus to drive us all from Christchurch airport to Timaru. My sisters, Jean and Rio flew in from Hobart and Brisbane and Graham Jackett Jnr. came out from the U.S.A. There were children, husbands and friends and together with the bridegroom and best man also in the mini-bus and it was a hilarious trip. Daughter Angela and husband Paul converged at Timaru (Paul, from a conference in Mexico, arrived two minutes before the bride walked down the aisle — not bad timing from Mexico." As a spin-off, Cec and Phil, in their subsequent touring met Michele and Terry Pavey who know Rusty McWilliam in Darwin. Terry said that he was currently reading the 2/4th History and noticed the name "Chrystal" and could I possibly be the same person? Small world!

Members will be pleased that Ken Moses is fully operational in the journalistic field again and enjoying working at it again. His diversified output is indicative of his journalistic ability, Editor of a Conservation of Resources Newspaper, feature writer on the Battle of Crete and other things that require his knowledge in a variety of things that are reported daily, not the least of which is sports writing. Some of us have read the article he wrote on the Battle of Crete, occasioned by the 40th anniversary of same. Reg Cole has sent in an article from the front page of "Army" which could pass for a paraphrase of the one Ken did for the "Sunday Press". We should have this bloke in Sydney, getting WOG out would be a breeze to him!

The same Reg (Pommie) Cole, still doing a good job with Legacy which precludes his attendance at the 2/4th Meetings.

Jack Huston, the old Horse Doctor has seen a few of the boys. At Cowra he has seen Jack and Phyl Ormiston both of whom, he reports, are okay. He also visited Ted Harris who is staying with his brother. Ted is not very well but would like to see any 2/4ther that passes through. As we said, he is not well but as always, he is a cheerful bloke, lives at 6 Baronga St., Cowra. The Horse Doctor also saw Jack Webb who has not been sighted too many times since the war. Jack who was wounded at Braillos lives at Parkes and originally came from West Wyalong.

On his return from his oriental trip, Alf Carpenter received an Anzac Day newspaper clipping featuring the ceremony of Hamilton RSL. and it is apparent that Bully Hayes is not going to let the loss of two legs stop him doing his accustomed duty. Many of the ex-servicemen on parade were Vietnam veterans. A photo accompanied the article and there was Bully, very regimental and dignified. Good for you Bully!

Recently to hand is a donation from Vin Hallinan who reports that Brian Dooley has been elected President of Association of 4th Infantry Battalions. (see mention in Church Parade report) Vin has been elected Treasurer.

Harry Gjedsted, Secretary-Manager of Bn.H.Q. (The Gallipoli Memorial Club), denies that he is biased in having the exterior of the club painted white and green. When asked by your reporter why he chose white and green, Harry said, "I think white over green — sorry, white and green are lovely colours. As a matter of fact, some of my best friends think that white over green — sorry, white and green are the best of any colour combination"

(Editorial comment: Harry is not colour biased and he has many unbiased friends — thousands of them!

BUT hark back to the time when Harry was president of the Association of 4th Infantry Battalions and remember the various parades when the band played "Sussex By The Sea". Then remember that when he left the 2/4th Battalion and was seconded to the 14th Army in 9th. Bn. The Royal Sussex Regiment. Harry biased? Never! But the man has good colour sense!

A report from Bill Reid: On Wednesday 22nd April, 300 ex-servicemen and women met at the P-W RSL to receive the Greek Medal and scroll presented by the Greek people for service in Greece by the British and Commonwealth troops. A large gathering of friends and relatives was present to witness the ceremony. Many dignitaries and officials, both Greek and Australian were present and speeches were made including one from Sir Ivan in his usual heart-warming manner. The ceremony lasted two hours and went off very smoothly.

Bill Reid.

(Another Editorial comment — if you can stand it, is when your editor was presented with his medal at another ceremony, one of his co-workers also received his. His comment was "You were presented

with your medal by the Greek Consul but Sir Ivan gave me mine". And as he was in the Artillery, I'm still trying to think up a smart answer!)

Local news from Esca is that he, Margaret and Bub Graham attended the funeral of a daughter of Bill Burgess. Bill, who also served in W.W.I is a 2/4ther. He also reports having had a phone call from Bill Stephens of Geelong. He phoned from the "Tall Timbers" Caravan Park in Kempsey. He and Phyllis and daughter, Leone were on a coach tour to Cairns, Mt. Isa and "The Centre", back to Bourke and then home.

Due to restricted space the following news from Allan Kirk may be old news to some but newsy news to most people. Jack and Joan Hughes have purchased a motor home and after the Kempsey Re-union, the Hughes and Kirks are off to Melbourne to board the ship to Tasmania on October 14th for a couple of months, taking both vans. He also reports that Harry and Ada Whitman have settled into Lakeside Caravan Park in Ballina. Beautiful new caravan and annexe, fully carpeted and air-conditioned. Beer in the fr. and 2/4thers welcome! (You shouldn't have said that Harry!). Herb Hoather lives in the same caravan park but he is not too well and has been in hospital at Lismore.

Doug Stebbings has retired and anyone looking for him should enquire at the store as his son is running the business. He will put you straight. Mel and Lyla McInnes have also sold out and are living the life of luxury. Don't know their present address.

Saw Fred and Laureen Varley recently. Both keeping O.K.

Maurie Frankham, who works on the bombing range at Evan's Head is O.K. again after being bitten by a death adder. My son-in-law, Brian sees him, as they both work for the same department. Brian said his blood pressure was up. Would you wonder? Ca in at 32 Noble Pde., Dalmeny and had a few cans with Tommy Mort. Haven't seen him since New Guinea and it was good to see him again. We called and stayed the night with Hilda and Harry Wright. A wonderful trip! As a postscript to all this, a charming lady named Carma enjoined a few of us on Anzac Day to remark on a certain member's girth. Cowards that we were, the size of his chest was mentioned but nothing about the bulge about a foot below. Who cares? Allan is back in Lismore, or Tasmania and your Editor is safe at home protected by his wife. Thanks Allan for the news.

Bub and Margaret Grahame (Bowraville) had a visit from Ross and Nancy Smith, they see Jack and Mary Mann every couple of weeks. He also reports (Bub reports, that is) that "Leo the Lion" is progressing well and has started playing golf again.