



# White over Green

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE 2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

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**NEXT MEETING:** Friday, 24th July at 8 p.m. at the Gallipoli Memorial Club

This is the 4TH FRIDAY in the month, not the last.

## THE JUNE MEETING:

Perhaps the main thing to come out of this meeting was the presentation by Harry Gjedsted, Chairman of the Banner Sub-Committee, of that committee's proposed design for a new banner and the recommendation for its acceptance. Harry displayed a coloured representation of the proposed design which will be about 2'6" wider than our current banner and proportionately higher. The colour patch predominates and is set on a green background across the top of which is the battalion name in full and central on the bottom is the 6th. Division sign. At the sides are areas of action. All embellishments are on the green background, leaving the colour patch uncluttered. It is flattering to Harry and his committee that the design and recommendation to authorise the making of the banner at the quoted price of \$280 was passed unanimously by the general meeting. His committee comprised Peter Cook, John Meehan, Bill Parry and Peter Cade.

Athol Heath mentioned at the meeting that he was still getting some of the Secretary's mail and would like to refer members to Laurie Waterhouse's address above. Forwarding official correspondence on to Laurie is cutting into Athol's beer money and that shouldn't happen to a dog, much less Athol!

There was also some discussion about the Battalion

Medal. There are 14 left and we have exactly 14 applications for them and some of these applications have been with us longer than we think is right and we apologise for the delay to members that have made application and not yet received them. We are pushing this. Now, with regard to future applications for medals, we are going to be committed to another striking and how many will be required is not predictable. Therefore it has been decided that we will hang fire on ordering the number until the number of applicants is indicative of the way the committee should act. Fair? The Committee thinks so!

There will be no Ladies' Night this year. Although this function has always been a social success, numbers are getting fewer and for 1981 anyway, there will be no Ladies' Night. Representations from pressure groups within the association with guarantees of attendance will be more than welcome for a function in 1982. However the informal Christmas get-together is very much a goer and perhaps by way of compensation, it will be bigger and better than hitherto. We will occupy at least part of the first floor in the club and it will be the usual come and go as you please deal. Keep this function in mind. Reminders will be published in W.O.G. from now until the night of the function which will be advertised in due course.

Good to see Bob Lever representing the Blue Mount-

ains boys at the meeting. We missed Ron Barber.

### SEEN IN THE CLUB:

Syd Young, on his usual flying visit to the Club informed your roving reporter that he had decided to take his discharge from the 60th Work Force Battalion in August. He currently has his house on the market and has bought a house on three acres, three miles up the river from Pom Wallace. (couldn't think of a better person for a neighbour). He has bought Florence a "sittem down, drive im along" mower to cut the grass. There is a barn on the property that 2/4thers may use as sleeping accommodation but bring your own army blanket. The tariff will be one bag of pebbles per person per week. Pebbles? Sid has stated his intention of spending his retirement sitting on the river bank, tossing said pebbles into the river. (A special rate for Dasher's Privates Association are half a dozen pips.)

"Norman the FOURman Dorman"

### "NEWS FROM ESCA AND THE KEMPSEY RE-UNION:"

"A brief note to let the Association know that details and arrangements for the Re-union are well in hand, but we again appeal to members who intend to be at the Re-union to please send in the bookings as soon as possible. We feel we have secured sufficient accommodation but as time goes on, it will be more difficult to get emergency bookings. Had a game of golf at Nambucca Heads and Bushy Bennett was also playing, a very keen veteran player.

Am enclosing a further list of confirmed members who are coming." "Garry Hart and wife, Wilma and Norm Johnstone, Heather and George Mitchell, Noel Ford, Olga and Gordon Chrisp, Phyl and Cec Chrystal, Wink and Mrs. Walker, George Moore and son, Doug Grove and family, Edna and Lyn Bloomfield."

That the Kempsey Re-union will be a success there is no doubt but the Association is having a "Be Kind to Esca Month" for July, August and September. Get your bookings in and make his life easy and a pleasure to serve you.

### WELFARE REPORT:

Another quiet month. On three occasions, no customers at R.G.H. Those seen were NX170006 Willoughby, George, R.G.H. 530. George is having a rough time but cheerful as always. At present he is at home.

NX13398 MALCOLM, T. R.G.H. 430. Recovering from heart operation by-pass operation. Discharged.

NX1977 WARING, Brian. R.G.H. 3. A severe attack of asthma etc. Now back at W.V.H. at Narrabeen and we hope, being more careful.

NX2020 BROOKS, W.G. R.G.H. 610. In for stomach tests. Lives at 1/33 Henderson Ave., Dundas 2117.

NX2055 HONNERY, Athol. In hospital at W.V.H. Narrabeen. Condition stable.

NX123835 McNAMARA, Les. At present at home. Les has to report back to R.G.H. on 7th July.

Lady M. Mackay. L.D.H. Ward "C". On 25th June I spoke to the ward sister who said that Lady Mackay was doing famously.

Good health to all from the gang.

John Copland.

### LAST POST:

Lucas Harry, T. Died 29th May and was cremated 1st June. We did not hear until 1st June. Wentworthville R.S.L. saw to the funeral, they also rang Ross Smith in Inverell. Harry was a close friend of Ross Smith and Norm and Norm Auberson. We elaborate on the details of Harry's death was published in the last issue of W.O.G. just prior to printing.

NX 3976 J.K. SHERRITT. Passed away 2nd July. Details next issue.

### COCK'S COLUMN:

Wednesday, 10th June. Went with Slim Powere to Bill Parry's home in Frenchs Forest. Bill was not at home having gone to R.G.H. to visit Brian Waring and other members of our association. We then went to W. at Narrabeen and visited Dick Chamberlain. Dick seemed much brighter than the last time we visited him but unfortunately is still not very well. Next we went to see Jack Guest (Bn. blacksmith) but he was out. We were advised to try the Dee Why R.S.L. We then went and visited Athol Honnery who originally came from Narrabri. Those who enlisted with Athol at Narrabri were Jack Kong, Don Ellicot, Bill and George Frater and Jack Cross. Athol who is still in the W.V.H. hospital wishes to be remembered to all his mates. We then went to Dee Why R.S.L. to contact Jack Guest and Ted Jackson but neither were in the club when we arrived.

Thursday, 11th June. Slim Powers went to R.G.H. Concord to visit Brian Waring and other members of the 2/4th. Brian was admitted with breathing problems, has had several tests but expects to return to W.V.H. sometime within the next two weeks. He a visit from Bill Parry yesterday. Slim then visited Charles Leigh (Ward 514). Charles is in with throat troubles so only stayed about ten minutes. Charles has had visits from Vera Walsh and Bill Parry. Next visited was Ray Jennings (Ward 514). Ray enlisted at Mooree and sailed on the Strathnaver and was in "C" Coy. In Palestine, Ray transferred to 6th Div. Sigs and remained there for the duration. He was also visited by Vera Walsh and Bill Parry. Next was George Willoughby (Ward 530). George looked very well. Comes from the Bathurst area. He often sees Ernie Daws Biscuits Arnott, Cec Colley, the brother of the late Bill and Phil Cross ("I" Sec.) from Cullen Bullen. George has had visits from Vera Walsh, John Copland and Bill Parry. Slim then went to Ward 610 to visit Bill Brooks but he had been discharged earlier in the day.

Tuesday, 16th June. Went with Slim to visit our four members who were still patients. Brian Waring looked quite well. Was transferred from Ward 3 to Ward 8.

Brian enlisted at Narrabri and with him were Ron Lillyman, Lloyd Skelton and Lew Riddle. Brian expects to be discharged early next week. Next was Charles Leigh and he sounded much better than when Slim saw him before, but is still not very well. Charles was in "A" Coy and enlisted in Martin Place with George Earl, Clarrie Frost and Frank O'Brien. We then visited Ray Jennings, also Ward 514. Ray enlisted at Mooree, with him was Clarrie Henderson, Wally Shaw, Toby Clarke and his brother from Warialda. Ray's home address is 1 Jean St., Wellington. Then to see George Willoughby who also looked well. George lives at 9 Henry St., Bathurst. Often sees Sam Ridley who still lives at Clandulla.

Regards, Jim (Cock) Robin.

#### SITREPS FROM ALL OVER:

And it is situation reports from all over indeed, from Queensland to the Golden West. From north of the border, a letter from Laurie McCosker and another from a beautiful doll named Vera Provians. News from both and other sources too are all shuffled up together. La met Norm Everson, Stan Sutherland and Wally McKenzie on Anzac Day and quaffed a few XXXX's. Laurie is having eye trouble again which he didn't bother to mention. Word is that Norm MacIntyre is very well. (NX4050 used to write a few things for W.O.G. way back. Maybe he will do it again some day -- Thanks Norm.) Wally McKenzie has been rehabilitating some old family photographs for Norm in connection with the family history he is compiling. (Norm! A little advice from your favourite Editor, if I may. Started the same thing myself once. Had to smother it quick-smart. All my antecedents were successful! Would have got me a bad name amongst my friends! Just thought I'd tell you.) To resume: Wally and Betty McKenzie are off on another jaunt in the Burdekin River area. Betty is doing illustrations for a book on poisonous plants and Wally doing some photography for the Queensland Museum. Other people that Vera has been in contact with have been the O'Connors, Robinsons and the Fludes. Particularly, she gives news of Delores and the Franklin family. Young Mathew won the Pine Rivers "Youth Speaks For Australia" Award and now goes into the Greater Brisbane Area debate. Elder brother, Denis is doing an Officer Training Course at H.M.A.S. Creswell, Jervis Bay and as Vera rightly wrote, "Proud Mum deserves a pat on the back, they are worthy sons of their late father." While in South Australia for his son's wedding, Harry Whitman called in on Sar-Major Robbie and reports that he and Millie are well. (Message to Robbie -- "I still have your egg cup but the golden goose with the egg must be egg-bound or lost in the salty marshes at Goolwa.") Well! Very cryptic! Hope we don't get sued by the Egg Marketing Board or the Society for Constipated Chooks! Finally from Vera is the news of a visit from Allan Davies, son of the late Matt. He is thinking of going up to the Sunshine State with the family. A happy thought! His mother, Joan is well.

From the other side of this great country comes a

letter from a bloke called "Dasher". We seem to recollect his name in connection with some splinter group of the lower denizens of the battalion. Dasher and Lily now live in Rockingham W.A. He reckons that if he moves any further west he will wind up in Bardia again. Lily is well and both send their regards. Dasher will be writing in more detail later. Hopefully we will get the Annual Report of the 2/4th Bn. Privates' Association.

We hear from Ray Ebzery for the first time in a coon's age. He has been travelling around various states on construction jobs but has now retired and living in Woollahra. Hope to see you at a meeting in the near future Ray.

Alf Carpenter had a good time on his Japan and China tour. Good ship, excellent food, good company and beer at 40 cents a can and as he said, "What more could you want?" He sends news that the Newcastle boys and their good ladies met at Tatts Club and as usual, had a great night with about 15 in attendance. Notably absent were Jim and Mona Sherritt. Jim rang to say he had not been too well and offered their apologies. Bully Hats was also absent because of flu. George Mitchell has been admitted to hospital. Alf went to see him and he was in traction on both legs but in good spirits. Alf sends regards to all.

From Cowra, Phyllis Harris informs us that Ted is having his ups and downs and will keep us informed.

On the way back from Queensland, Cec Loughran called in at Scone and looked up Ron (Pop) Lillyman. He reckons he is the same old Pop we all knew and getting about seeing his grandchildren now and again. Pop must have known who was thumping on the front door when he was told to get out of bed his best man had arrived. What is not generally known is that Cec was his best man in 1939 and that he and Pop and Brian Waring were all jackeroos together and enlisted together.

At a recent meeting of the Association of 4th. Infantry Battalions, John Copland met Graham Moss. Graham is the son of the late Peter Moss of our battalion. An interesting coincidence was that he and Brian Dooley both joined 4th Bn. R.A.R. and went in the same flight to Viet Nam. Brian of course being the son of Larry Dooley of 2/4th Bn. and the new president of the Association of 4th Infantry Battalions.

#### RETRACTION:

MAY ISSUE W.O.G.

DO NOT send money for pockets to Silvertex (now out of business). Pockets only available from Association Secretary -- \$8.00 plus postage.

## THE FAMOUS 25 POUNDER:

In the early 1930's a decision was made at the British War Office to replace two field artillery equipments, the QF 18 pounder and QF 4.5-inch howitzer.

The CIGS's Specifications Committee finally came up with the idea of replacing the other two equipments with one equipment embodying the features of both, hence a combined gun and howitzer capable of firing a shell weighing 25 pounds a distance of 15,000 yards was evolved.

As there existed in the service a large number of fine old 18-pounders (Mk. IV) the treasury officials suggested that money could be saved if some of the old 18-pounders could be bored out to take the new shell and if the old carriages could be modified to accommodate the new gun. Despite opposition from the gunners the treasury officials won the day, with the result that the planned performance of the new 25-pounder was scaled down and the first mark of gun which the BEF used in France in 1940 was known as the 18/25 pounder gun. The later Mark of this gun in its final form had a range of 13,400 yards as opposed to the original 15,000 yards.

The expert gunners sighed for the lost 1,600 yards, for tactically it would have been enormously important, for, taking 120 degrees as a typical arc for a battery, each would have commanded another 13 square miles of enemy territory and with its higher muzzle velocity its armour piercing shot could have killed any German tank in Africa.

In 1934 HRH the Duke of Gloucester representing His Majesty King George V visited Australia principally for the purpose of declaring open the Melbourne Centenary celebrations.

To honour the arrival of the Duke in Canberra, the permanent field battery (1st Field Cadre RAA) had been sent to Canberra in order to fire the necessary royal salutes.

At that time I was a gun bombardier in the Field Cadre but in addition had to act as battery clerk whilst in Canberra. We were bivouacked just outside "Yarralumla" the official residence of the then Governor General (Sir Isaac Isaacs). Each day I took to "Yarralumla" a copy of the daily routine orders which I handed over to the G-Gs aide, Lt Finlay, who five years later as NX73 was appointed Adjutant of 6 Div Cav Regt. and afterwards as a Major General Commandant of the RMC at Duntroon.

One day when in the grounds of "Yarralumla" approaching me, walking in the gardens was a rather distinguished looking gentleman, dressed in civilian attire. After paying my respects to this gentleman he stopped me, asking what duty I was on, the title of my unit and other questions of a general nature including the type of gun being used to fire the salutes, I told him that it was the QF 18-pounder Mk.IV. This

gentleman then said, "You know (I didn't) that steps were being taken in the British army to replace the 18-pounder and 4.5-inch howitzer with a new equipment to be known as a gun/howitzer capable of firing a 25-lb shell a distance of 15,000 yards". After a few more questions this gentleman resumed his walk and I went my way to the office of the G-Gs aide.

After handing over the orders to Lt. Finlay he mentioned that he had seen me in conversation with a gentleman who was walking in the gardens. After telling him of parts of the conversation I enquired as to the identity of this gentleman. With a twinkle in his eye he replied, "Travis, that gentleman is in residence here as a guest of the Governor-General and is a most distinguished gunner, and during the war was a CRA divisional and corps commander, and is now "The Master Gunner St. James Park, and is Field Marshal the Lord Milne, Baron of Salonika and Rubislav and recently retired as Chief of the Imperial General Staff."

Naturally I was most impressed at having been spoken to by such a high ranking and distinguished gunner and had much pleasure in relating to my OC, "Jan" Sewell details of the conversation.

Since that October day 47 years ago I had on numerous occasions recalled my meeting the Master Gunner but never ever seemed to recall his remarks about the developing gun/howitzer, until last year after having read the book "Gunners at War"; in this book is described the evolution of the gun and details of Lrd Milne's career, then very slowly there came back to me his words relating to the new gun.

On looking back, I reckon that Bdr. Fred Travis must have just about been the first NCO in the army to hear — and from a most authoritative source — that the "famous 25-pounder" was on the way.

(We thank Mr. Travis for this informative article on our main supporting weapon. Sometimes, we thought, our only supporting weapon. Ed.)

## THIS MONTH'S BEAUTIFUL THOUGHT:

If at first you don't succeed, forget it —

You're only making a fool of yourself