



White Water 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 28th August, at the Gallipoli Memorial Club at 8 p.m.

THIS MONTH'S BEAUTIFUL THOUGHT: 'Be sincere, whether you mean it or not!'

THE KEMPSEY REUNION

If this Country Re-union was the first lift-off to the moon, Mission Control would have stopped the count-down because the 'people systems' weren't all 'go'.

It's not! Nor is it our first Country Reunion. It's our 22nd consecutive Country Re-union, the fourth in Kempsey, the success of which is undoubted.

The big rub is the tentative bookings that Esca's Committee have made will have to be secured by deposits from definite attenders or Esca will have to go out on a financial limb to secure the bookings of a guessed at number of late starters that always come in in the last weeks. Please send in bookings now! Thank you. \$10 per person deposit.

In his two letters since the last W.O.G. Esca reports all the locals in good shape and knowing Esca he is not referring to Jim Brown's figure. He also reports latest bookings since the last issue of W.O.G. and they include Vic Pike (and most welcome, Ed.), Elsie Bradford, Cyril (Horse) Barwick, Ted Hopkins, Leo and Eileen Lynch, Kel and Margaret Lavis, Harold and Noni Bowman, Bob and Nina Ferguson, Bill and Hilda Fogden, Joan Chaseling and Family, George and Edna Sugden, Ron Stennett, Herb Hoather, Syd and Florence Young, Doug Stebbing and not last and by no

means least young Fred Varley with Laureen along to keep him in order and hopefully in between times, have a good time herself.

Esca further reports that the Park Drive Motel has between 6 and 8 on site caravans and all the customers need to bring is sheets and their own pillows if they wish.

The Kempsey Committee will be meeting in August to clean up any local loose ends. Hopefully they will be inundated with bookings from Canberra, Griffith, etc. which are pretty scant so far. The boys at Kempsey, Beb and Esca send their regards to all.

THE SECRETARY'S MAILBAG

Correspondence received from members has been steady and of a varied nature. First of all I received a lengthy letter from Vic. Hill down in Victoria. This letter proved the old saying, 'You don't know how the other half lives'. Vic has had to put up with great adversity for many years with a very sick wife. What great fortitude you must have had to carry on. We only hope, Vic that your remaining years will compensate you as you try to pick up the threads of a more happier life style. I am sure members will wish you all future happiness and best of luck. Keep in touch Vic, there is always an ear tuned in.

It is good to get a long descriptive letter from that old stalwart from Bourke, Harry Smith, ex Camel Corps and 4th Bn. A.I.F. Harry has moved into the township from the farm and reckons its time he enjoyed a little civilisation. Apparently he has managed to join the Senior Citizens of the township and had tangled himself with some of the spritely widows who have designing ideas of taking Harry under their protective wings as it were. So it looks like Harry has some problems. Just the same, I think he is having a ball. He wishes to be remembered to all. May we in return, extend our good wishes for his continued good health in his new style of life.

Thank you to Keith Bailey of Yarralumla for the 'phone call and later for your letter of good wishes. Hope you find the pocket badge to your liking. Perhaps you may be instrumental in getting a few of the A.C.T. boys to get them. Best of luck to you Keith.

Received a short note from Vic Pike out Pennant Hills way saying he hoped to see everyone attending the Kempsey Re-union. Also sends his good wishes to one and all along with a donation. Jeff Naesby wrote a line or two enquiring about the Greek Medal (miniature) and the blazer pocket. Said he was very sorry he missed this year's Anzac Day. He has been very sick. He has been given a T.P.I. pension and said he has slowed down considerably. (Haven't we all!) Good Luck to you, Jeff.

Short note received from Doug Grove of Ballina requesting a Battalion tie, etc. It was very pleasing to hear from you and know you are still in the land of leisure. Thank you Doug.

Another appreciative letter from our old friend in South Australia, 'Robbie'. As most members are aware, Robbie was a very strict adherent for neatness and tidiness and as he says, will always be, being a true soldier. Two months ago he wrote to the Association urging the adoption of a standard position for the wearing of the Greek Medal as he was concerned at the haphazard way it was being worn by members. I replied to his letter with the decision of the committee and members and the letter back was to thank me for the interest shown to his request and to convey his message of well being and good wishes to all members of the Association. We appreciate the interest in the Battalion Association even though you cannot be with us. Thank you Robbie!

Laurie Waterhouse.

KEMPSEY, HERE WE COME!

WILL YOU BE WITH US?

ESCA WILL TAKE YOUR BOOKINGS NOW!

*111 Kemp Street, West Kempsey, 2440
Phone: 065 624 671*

COCKS COLUMN

Had a ring from Des Finch (B. Coy). Des said he had just left the Paddington-Wollahra R.S.L. He had just received the Greek Medal at a ceremony at which 500 Greek medals were presented. Des said that he met Sir Ivan Dougherty, Ken Kesteven, Richard MacDougal M.M., Joe Lowe (armourer), and ? Clarke (C Coy). Des's brother, Noel was also at the presentation.

Also had a ring from Ted Hopkins. Ted is O.K. He paid a visit to Concord and met Brian Waring who is there for treatment. He also visited Ron Raymont at Oyster Bay. Ron is O.K. and has had a letter from his brother Ken in Stirling, South Australia since his last visit. Ted also met Bob Ferguson at Chatswood. Bob is taking things easy.

Had a post card from Quorn, South Australia. Ken and Lily were on their way to West Australia and another from Fremantle. They are living at 9/15 Fisher St., Palm Beach, Rockingham, W.A. The card sent from South Australia was one of two engines pulling a train in Quorn and this brings back memories of when we were on our way up to Darwin. We stopped at Quorn and I went to a small store to buy some postcards. They had a few and I bought them all. The lady said that they were left-overs from the first war!

Received from Monty Siems in England eight postcards and two photos. Five of the postcards were of Claxton-on-see. I thought it would be a small seaside village but it is a city with lovely buildings, promenades, piers, parks, trees, shrubs, gardens, flowers and beaches. One card shows Monty's favourite walk along the sea-front, a two hours walk there and back. Monty wishes to be remembered to all his old mates. Thanks Monty.

COCK ROBIN

THE JULY MEETING

There wasn't a big roll up for this meeting but our number was boosted to about 20 by the appearance of Frank Ivey and Hughey Wittleton from the Sunshin State. Hughey is doing a big tour around so don't be surprised if he thumps on your front door for breakfast one morning.

Business of the meeting was varied. Perhaps the most important was the matter of the Battalion medal. Members with good memories will recall that there were only 'x' number left and they were all spoken for and we have received further applications. Now to put it in a nut-shell, we have had word from our minter that there is no further requirement for block orders of 25 or 50 or whatever and that they will handle order as they come in but the price has been upped to \$25 per medal regardless of the number of clasps. However, the over-ordering that has been received since running out and the delivery of this W.O.G. will be processed at the original cost. But gentleman, if you please, don't make a career out of deciding if you are going to apply for a medal or not. Do it now! Soon the dies will have to be reclaimed and destroyed if this medal is to remain unique and solely for 2/4th Australian Infantry Battalion members.

It was hoped to have the new Association banner completed for display at this meeting but it was not to be. The sub-committee work under the Chairmanship of Harry Gjedsted was all completed but manufacture and delivery was not. We can't complain. To be ready for the Kempsey Re-union was the target date! We'll breeze it in and something pretty much before too and as all other members of the Sub-committee will agree, thanks to the efforts of Harry and Peter Cook. As reported previously the Sub-committee's recommendations were accepted by the June Meeting and when the completed item is produced the Sub-committee will disband.

After the meeting there was the usual variety of tasty sandwiches and a few ales. A most enjoyable night in spite of the numbers being down a bit.

THE BIOGRAPHY

Copies of the biography of Sir Ivan Dougherty are still available. Contact Athol at the Gallipoli Memorial Club, 12 Loftus Street, Sydney, 2000, or Cec Chrystal at The Battlement, Castlecrag, 2068. The cost is \$7.50 posted or \$12.00 if collected. Good value! Get one while they are available.

And on the subject of books, do members realise that a copy of our history, 'White Over Green' is already a collector's item? Although it has been sold out for many years we still get letters to the Association asking for copies. These letters mainly come from military buffs (enthusiasts, historians and whatever) who study and take pride in their collections. With regard to Sir Ivan's biography and with the above in mind, perhaps there is a quid to be made in a long term investment.

WELFARE REPORT

NX 170006 WILLOUGHBY, G., R.G.H. 530. George is in and out of Concord so fast that I can't keep up with him. Good luck, George, hope for good news soon.

NX 5834 GARDINER, L.N., MM, R.G.H. 430. 'B' Coy. Sustained a leg wound in Greece and having vascular trouble in the wounded leg. By-pass operation Discharged.

NX 5911 BOWEN, Stan, Q.V. Hospital. Bob Lever keeps in constant touch.

NX 9721 STACK, G., R.G.H. 610. Hernia op. All went well. Now discharged.

NX 1989 JENNINGS, R., R.G.H. 130. Vascular leg trouble. Leg was amputated below the knee. Another op took it off above the knee. Satisfactory.

NX 1977 WARING, B. Had another bad turn and was sent to R.G.H. from Mona Vale Hospital. Now discharged.

NX 54992 BROUGHTON, S.P., R.G.H. 610. Has had an op. for nasal cancer.

LADY MACKAY, R.G.H. 520. Had a successful eye op on 30th June. Now recuperating in L.D.H. 'G' Ward. Expects to go home soon.

LAST POST

NX 31263 SANDISON, George (Sandy). Len Smith rang to advise of his death. Len was a personal friend of Sandy. He informed that he was 89 years old and had served with a Scottish regiment in W.W.1. He had been in a nursing home for years. He had no family except a step-daughter and son-in-law whom I rang. Sandy was a member of the Lidcombe R.S.L. who took charge of funeral arrangements.

Jim KIRK, Alan Kirk's brother died 26th June. We met him several times in R.G.H. Our sympathy goes to Alan and Carma. They came down for the funeral. Harry and Hilda Wright were there too.

NX 13350 HARRIS' E.J. Bill MacLennan told me that Ted died at Cowra on 13th July. Artie Kleem has sent details of the funeral to Peter Cade.

NX 4041 BUTLER, E.E. Death notice in Reveille, July issue. No further details.

NX 3976 SHERRITT, J.K. Alf Carpenter rang Laurie Waterhouse to say that Jim died 2nd July. Alf has sent details of the funeral to Peter Cade.

NX 6124 KEAST, W.C. (Wem). Died 25 July. We understand that battalion members were present at the funeral. Details next W.O.G.

Best wishes from all of us, John Copland.

Regarding the above Last Post insertions, we have from Artie Kleem, Southern N.S.W. Vice-President, the following report: *'Ted Harris passed away after a long illness (3 years) on 13 July 1981 at Cowra. Ted enlisted at Cowra on 27th April 1940 and served in Greece, Crete and the Islands. He was cremated at Arangi on 15th July, after a service at the Catholic Church at Cowra. The 2/4th Battalion was represented by: Jack Ormiston (Cowra), Frank Sadler (Dubbo) Bruce Millard (Young), Artie Kleem (Young). An apology was received from Tim West (Cowra). The Anzac Service was conducted by Doug. Jackson representing the Cowra R.S.L. I was privileged to take part in the Anzac Service representing the 2/4th Aust. Inf. Bn. Association..'*

Kind regards, Artie Kleem.'

From Alf Carpenter, Newcastle Vice President:

'VALE Jim Sherritt, NX 3976

'It is with deep regret that the Newcastle Area records the passing of one of nature's gentlemen, our friend and comrade, Jim Sherritt. Jim passed away after a massive heart attack on Thursday, 2nd July, 1981.

'The funeral service was held on Monday 6th July and was attended by our President, Bill MacLennan, Vice-President, Alf Carpenter, Cliff Curran, Harry Pearce, Bill Hayes, John Rae, Joe Bohle, George Mitchell and Bill White together with their respective wives and many friends.

Jim will be sadly missed in the Newcastle District where he was so well known in the Estate Business community. He was a tower of strength to the Newcastle association members. Alf Carpenter led part of the service at the crematorium and offered the condolences of the Association to his wife, Mona and their family. He said in part that Jim lived respected and died regretted. After reciting the Ode, Last Post and Reveille concluded a fitting tribute to a true friend and comrade.'

A letter from Joe Bohle also reports the turnout at Jim's funeral. Thanks Joe!

CASH REGISTER FOR AUGUST

\$6: W. Mitchell, \$10: W.Walker, J. Hine, O. J. Harrison, S. Young, Mrs. Alice Cook, V. Pike, C.R. Kenningale, \$12: R. Booty. \$13: J. Nasey, \$14 R. Morris \$20: H. Silver, E. Knox. \$100 Joe Wells

Thank you Alice and gentlemen for your contributions and donations.

FIVE WEEKS AFTER THE AUGUST MEETING MEMBERS AND WIVES WILL BE HEADING OFF TO KEMPSEY FOR THE COUNTRY RE-UNION

**IF YOU HAVEN'T DONE SO, MAKE YOUR
BOOKING NOW.....Before it is too late!**

SITREPS FROM ALL OVER

It is amazing that an old battalion member recently asked me what a Sitrep was! When told that he must have read dozens of them when he was in the army and that it was a 'Situation Report', he said, 'Yair, I remember now' Good lad, it's all coming back! He used to sleep with his feet in my face. Would that he had used a bit more foot powder! Anyway, on with the Sitreps: Leo LYNCH has been in Sydney recently for a Legacy conference and his second bout of major surgery in 12 months. Bill MacLENNAN called in to see him after the operation, he was still in pain then but is on the mend and sends regards to all. Gwen MacLENNAN did a bit of visiting herself, to Lady Mackay at L.D.H. after a second eye operation at Concord. Lady Mackay didn't want Gwen to leave (neither would I! Ed.), so they chatted for 2½ hours. Must have been good therapy as the good Lady is now well on the road to recovery. We understand that Bill now calls Gwen 'Mrs. Have-a-chat' (The horsey element of our avid readers will appreciate that most.)

Our beloved Treasurer is also due for major surgery, not to release his grip on the Association funds, but a heart by-pass job. By the time this issue reaches members, Allen will be sitting up in bed with his

glasses steamed over through ogling nurses. He is one of our most practiced oglers! Get well soon Allen or we'll have to move the meetings to Prince Henry so you can keep an eye on us.

Long time supporter, Alice Cook (Bob's widow) sends a change of address and a donation. Thank you Alice. Glad you still enjoy getting W.O.G.

And Sylvia Kenningale sends in Bob's subs. Bob is leading a quiet life these days. Lucky man, he was a wife and secretary all in one. Keith Bailey, Yarralumula, sends his regards to the boys and a cheque for a blazer pocket.

Jeff Naseby! Don't worry about that sloppy sod who spilt beer on your 2/4th Bn. medal ribbon, we can replace the ribbon. Perhaps there is a demand for bibs with a suitable battalion motif for sloppy drinkers! Don't slop it mate, beer is dearer than dry cleaning these days.

We hear from Johnny Hawkins who was so misguided as to be involved with Alf Carpenter and possibly, a couple of other ne'er do wells with a white and green tinge in Newcastle Tatt's Club recently. Anyway, came the time to visit Bully Hayes, they toddled out to where the wheels were parked only to find a Brown bomber in close attendance. We think that Alf asked if there was any trouble. And quote the brown-bomber, 'Saw your 2/4th sticker on the windscreen and I've been feeding this meter since it ran out and you owe me 80 cents.' We must have a good sticker and some good Brown bombers too! Anyway Bully had his visitors and they found him in good spirit, and knowing this pair, that you enjoyed their visit Bully is beyond doubt. We hear that Alf will take over from Jim Sherritt and keep us well posted on the Newcastle capers.

And while we are on young Alf, one of our spies sent the following intelligence. It happened that on his recent return from China he visited his local Surf Club (Mereweather) and was met by the President who invited him to have a look at the Honour Board. Yes, it's true! Your Newcastle Vice-President had been named Patrolman of the Year of Mereweather Surf Club. He modestly admits to having been involved in no less than 80 rescues during the season. Quite an achievement for even a young fellow, don't you think? We do, Congratulations, Alf.

Eileen Frances is now living in Balgownie and contemplates getting two Association plaques. We won't see her at the Country Re-union this year but perhaps the next one. Nice to hear from you Eileen.

A letter from Dagwood Jackson informs that he has been in touch with Roy Moores who is not very well. He was in Tumut Hospital and then Adelong Hospital where Dagwood saw him. He was expecting to be sent to Concord. Our team will see him if he shows up Robert, never fear. The debonair chap (we mean Dagwood) will probably be retired by the time we are in print, but won't be at Kempsey. He will probably be in New Zealand or even further away. Have a good time Dagwood. We presume you will be taking Enid but if you are not we just blew the gaff on you! Don't hate us, we have enough enemies already. He ends subs and a donation.