



White over Green

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE 2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

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NEXT MEETING: Friday 26th March, 1982 at the Gallipoli Memorial Club --- 8 p.m.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

In the management of the Association there were no changes apart from changes in the Committee and it is particularly pleasing to see that Morrie Porter is now on the Committee and most welcome. John Copland and Bill Parry are back on the Committee. We are fortunate that there are competent people available for committee nomination. Jim Sadler and quite a few others are willing to serve the Association if called.

The retiring President welcomed our Patron, Sir Ivan and all Officer bearers vacated their chairs. Norn Harries, as Returning Officer took charge and the results of the voting are as you see above.

There must have been about 30 to 35 members present at the meeting. May we have more?

ANNUAL REPORT 2/4 BATTALION EX-PRIVATES ASSOCIATION

The Ex-Privates Association held their Annual General Meeting in the cloak room of the Gallipoli Memorial Club. Our usual venue, the gent's toilet on the second floor is no longer suitable due to increased traffic. Thank you Harry for the consideration.

Harry Wright took the Chair and the minutes. He disappeared and never came back!

Discussions were: Will L/Cpls be admitted to the ex-privates Association? The editing of W.O.G.!!! (Wotsisname). What did privates do with their false teeth at night?

Well it finally happened. L/Cpls allowed to join! Then the Military Coup, the C.C.A. took over from the Ex-Privates. 'Nifty' Cock Robin was elected president of the Clifty Corporals' Association and that nomadic wanderer Wally Lambourne, Vice-President. Rex Everson (also a I/Cpl.) counted the votes. Thirteen unfinancial members present. Cock Robin: 26 votes, Dasher Deacon: 2 votes. Harry Wright came back, thanks Harry. Grusome Gregory sends his regards to you.

I did not have any false teeth in the Desert. I lent my set to Henry Wheeler in Palestine because he was invited by the Muktar for some munga. The teeth made him look like a camel, he is still using them in America eating hamburgers. We could not put our teeth in a cup or a drawer like we do at home. If you left them on top of your sunga the kamseen would blow them away.

Because 'B' Coy was the smartest company in the battalion we led the march into Benghasi. Cec Chrystal did not have any trouble with his teeth. Ric Carter delivered them in a dixie, cleaned and polished. I don't know how we shaved, it was dark and cold and we had no razor blades. Pluto used his electric shaver. Anyhow, we all looked smart with our teeth in, clean shaven and smiling at the children in the Square in

Benghasi.

The Ex-Privates Newsletter will no longer be published. The P.O.G. was always printed in Arabic so the officers could not read it. Not one of all the Bn. B.B.'s (beautiful Bints) including Vera can type in Arabic. Lily kindly offered to do it in Dutch. The meeting objected because she would be the only one who would be able to read it. So I resigned and moved to W.A. It was a disorderly, dreadful, disastrous Pte. evacuation. Did not have the help of Norm Macintyre. You would think he would have flown down from Queensland to help me and Lily. Suppose he will join the Assn. of Ex-N.C.O.'s and then finally the likes of Jimmy Brown and the chap who was in charge of the Spitfire Fund — can't remember his name but I think he was an ex-officer.

Our evacuation to the West started from the band rotunda in Belmore Park and sailed up Cook's River. Like the Crete evacuation, I left everything behind, long johns, pork pie hat, housewife, dioxies, portable P.O.-phone and Boyes Anti-tank rifle. Selby forgot his Boyes and the wild wombats on the Nullabor frightened the hell out of him.

Last Anzac Day I marched in Melbourne. It was good to see Ross Taylor whose twin brother Keith was also in 'B' Coy. Lost your address Ross so drop us a line.

Am writing a history of Privates over Green and after months of pondering I decided the best man to supply the information would be Sir Ivan. I wanted to know how many privates went through the battalion, so at Kempsey I asked Sir Ivan. Was very surprised at his answer, he said, 'Quite a few!' I thought he would be able to rattle off all their names and numbers. Although, I suppose if we all marched past him he would recognise all our ugly faces.

Will be marching in ZIMBABWE next Anzac Day. Will be visiting son Peter who is a Science Master in Sailsby, also to arrange the printing of P.O.G. with Lily as my forward scout and batwoman. Also intend to stroll to Derna to feed John Copland's fowls.

I started the history of the P.O.G. on Christmas Day outside Bardia and will be finished Christmas Day inside Fremantle Gaol. Also the ex-privates A.G.M. will be held in Fremantle. Already Jersey Vincent, Lou Dubber and Bill Bickley will be there. Bill will be guest singer if we can get him on his feet. He is always laying on the canvas being counted out. Also Bruce Stewart will attend if he can get leave from Wagga R.S.L. So long. Dasher

(Dasher has been encouraged to get the P.O.G. in the West organised. Editor will send a 25 Drachma and a 2 Reichmark note (both of 1941 era and one of which was come by honestly) to become the first Paid-up Life member. Also \$2 New South Wales money for exchange and a beer for Dasher)

MAJOR GENERAL GORDON MAITLAND, A.O.,
O.B.E., E.D.

Our esteemed Honorary Member, Gordon Maitland will be retiring as Chief of the Reserve Army on 31st

March this year.. Hope the Army has a suitable replacement! And in this connection we have been advised by Vin Hallinan that at the Arncliffe Depot, a Farewell Buffet Luncheon has been organised and 2/4th Members and wives are most cordially invited to attend.

Date and time: Sunday 4th April at 11.30 a.m.
Cost: \$3 per head

R.S.V.P. to Maj. John Lyons, 4 Bn. Depot Burrows Rd., Arncliffe, N.S.W. 2205, by 25 March 1982. Be prompt chaps!

John Copland also advises that Maj-Gen Gordon Maitland will be the guest speaker at the Ryde District R.S.L. on Anzac Sunday, 18th at John's invitation. All 2/4th welcome!

COCK'S COLUMN

With Slim Powers, visited Concord Hospital. Again met Tommy Dawson, NX5162, 'B' Coy. Tom enlisted at the Lancer Barracks, Parramatta (one of my mob) Others who enlisted with Tom were Joff Naseby, NX5207, Bill Bickley, NX5192, and Henry Nichol NX5193.

Next we met Ken 'Spanner' Graham, NX2005 of 'Naomi', Ashford (away up north). Ken enlisted at Inverell with his brother Stan and also Ross Smith and Selby Dean. Ken was in Transport. Stan was our 'Postie' in Palestine, Egypt, Libya, Greece, Crete and Syria and in New Guinea joined the mortars. Ken in Libya collected spanners, his truck was half full of them. Anybody who needed a spanner knew where to go. Hence the nickname, 'Spanner'. Back home in a tragic boat accident, Stan was drowned in the Hunter River near Maitland.

Had a nice printed Christmas Card from Frank Mallett, 86 Waoxham Rd., Sprowston, Norwich, NR7 8EX. Frank writes, 'God bless you and all old friends.'

Also had a very nice letter from Monty Siems of 26 Penfold Rd., Claxton-on-Seq, Essex. Monty ends up with 'My very best wishes to you Jim and all my old mates'. Monty was kind enough to send a sin message to our editor.

Rang Bob Fergusson, Bob, on a visit to Tamworth two weeks ago called on Frank Frizell who is a patient in the Peel Convalescent Home. Frank has visits from George Sugden and Moiney Peters. Bob took Frank out to his son's place where they had an enjoyable couple of hours talking of by-gone years. Bob suggested that any of our boys that pass through Tamworth call in and see our old comrade.

Bob also rang 'Dasher' with whom he corresponds, may be others could do the same by dropping Frank a line at the Peel Nursing Home, Tamworth, N.S.W. 2340. Dasher told Bob that he and Lily will be visiting his son who is a teacher in Zimbabwe.

Selby Dean is back home in Inverell and sends regards to all.

Cock Robin

WELFARE REPORT
As at 26th February 1982

This must be one of the shortest reports since I took over from Jim Cameron in 1974. Very good indeed. Quite frequently there have been 'Nil' Returns. How - ever those seen have been:

- NX5162 Dawson, T., R.G.H.11. Further surgery on foot. Has been sent home and will return later.
- NX2008 Brooks, W.G., R.G.H. 230. Vascular trouble both legs. Discharged.
- NX5164 Wood, E. Now home and doing well.
- NX58 Chrystal, C. Completely cured and at present gallivanting in the Apple Isle.
- NX165865 Smith, L.G., L.D.H. Discharged 4th Feb. To attend R.G.H. as an outpatient.
- NX5309 McGillivray, D. Has had a car crash and both he and Nan had some backlash with the car a write off. Now O.K. and back to the Highland Games.
- NX53929. Graham, J.P. Canterbury District Hospital Dick Morris rang 17th February. Jim was there. Mrs. Graham told me 23rd Feb. that Jim had had a heart attack. He is now home and doing well.
- NX170006. Willoughby, G. R.G.H. 2. Was in for the usual couple of days. Reports were normal.
- NX5324 Reid, W.J. Now in Yagoona Rest Home. Wally Lambourne has visited him.

W.W.1 4th Bn.

- Alcorn, Jack, R.G.H. 430 Cataracts removed. Jack is now discharged.
- 7208 Bryant, J., R.G.H. 530. Throat surgery. Now discharged.

LAST POST

NX9829 Laing, Graham Douglas of Norfolk Island. He has lived there since 1945. Information from Ex-P.O.W. Assn. Graham died while swimming. I am told that his wife died last year, and he leaves a daughter 14 years old. Legacy and Norfolk Island R.S.L. Sub-branch are involved.

Best wishes to all from us all. John Copland.

(Harry Wright advises battalion members to ensure that on being admitted to R.G.H. that they give their army particulars that they may be computerised and so stand out when our Welfare boys make enquiries about ex 2/4th members.)

THE ORANGE COUNTRY RE-UNION
From Peter Denver

We are pleased to acknowledge bookings from our friends whose names are included and absolutely delighted to head this list with our Patron and Lady Dougherty. Thank you all for your early bookings.

Frankly it is worrying to feel that this could be my last opportunity to make a special occasion for uniting all who mean so much to each other and to join us and

know full well there will be missing friends. As we have missed Bill Smith and Tom Riboldi and the other gone before you and me. But there is great joy to suggest this place and time for a great 2/4 'be in it campaign' of the togetherness that 'Doc' created. Specially to those afar like Frank Mallett, Rusty McWilliam, Len Goodwin, Russ Maddern, Selby Dean, Ned Erskine or closer fellas like Bunny Burrows and his mate Cocky Gorham and Kanga Hill.

Listed below is your early guarantee of the company you will be in at Orange, 24-27th September, 1982:- Sir Ivan and Lady Dougherty, Mr. & Mrs. Bill MacLennan, Mr. & Mrs. Ted Fod, Mr. & Mrs. A. Lindsay, Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Ormiston, R. Fergusson, W. Fogden, B. Denver, P. Denver, Blah Smith, Jim Forman and Rita Fox, Vera Walsh, John Meehan and friend, Elsie Bradford and Vic Pike, G. Waldon, B. Cork, Gary Hart, Dasher Deacon, Esca Riordan, John Copland, Gordon Bladen, Jim Robin, C. Powers, R. Barber, D. Pinson, Eileen Frances, D. Amies, Enid Lattimer and friend.

George Walton hopes Doug Wilson will be there. I hope the 2/4th and families all have leave for Orange.

Cheers from Peter and Pat Denver.
(The President and Committee are pleased to see that Vic Pike is again attending our Country Reunion. Welcome Vic. Ed.)

THE SECRETARY'S MAILBAG

It has been quite a busy month with regard to letters from our members. And what a variety of requests sent in. I will start off with a letter from none other than:.....

FREG STAGGS who wants to be heard loud and clear in W.O.G. re wearing of the Greek Medal, also if we can stock up on ribbon and clasps for the Battalion Medal.

(A personal butt in here: This matter was aired a year or so ago regarding whether or not, unofficial medals not approved by the Queen should be worn with service medals. The answer was definitely, NO! So be it! Citizens attending Regal, Vice-Regal and military functions in conjunction with serving members will not wear unofficial medals in conjunction with those Regally approved except where designated to be worn on the person of the recipient and this means apart from medals/decorations awarded by the Sovereign and I think the right breast. — P.C.)

ROY LANE: Sending in subs for W.O.G. Very much to the point with very few words. Thank you Roy for your subscription.

CYRIL McCOSKER down in the A.C.T. applying for the unit medal with a little extra to boot. Thanks Cyril for keeping our Treasurer happy.

ROSS ELLIOTT — living in West. Aust. Served in 'C' Coy. and is quite convinced they are going win the Sheffield Shield again.

MRS JUNE CLARK wife of Lionel sending subs on his behalf and thanks to John Copland and the welfare team and Vera Walsh for their visits to Lionel while he was in Concord Hospital.

D. LOYDELL of Bathurst wrote in enquiring about joining the Association. He answered Cliff Horsley's advert in Reveille. Your's truly has sent on all relevant information and should have it by now. Hope we see you Anzac Day.

NORM EVERSON, Queensland sends in a change of address, now living in the Redlands, also sends his subs and a donation. He reckons Len Evans must have been assigned to the local council when they named the streets. Apparently they are named after popular vintage wines.

Thanks Norm.

GORDON BLADEN, Queensland. Looking forward to making the trip down for Anzac Day. Sent down a very interesting cutting relating to adverse criticism of the 6th Div. action in Greece and Crete. Cutting will be perused by Peter Cade and published in W.O.G. when space permits. Thank you Gordon.

JOHN LOW - Port Macquarie wrote in saying he was home again after being in Lady Davidson Home for a spell with his new leg. Sends his best wishes to all also change of address and subs. Hope all goes well with the new leg John.

MAL KASHEN - Blakehurst. Applying for the unit medal and notifying us that he is going into Prince Alfred for an eye operation. Welfare Officer, John has been notified, Mal. Good luck to you.

R.A.(Pommie) COLE - sending in a letter of appreciation of the Welfare Team and Vera Walsh for visits to him during his spell in Concord.

BILL ANDREWS of Lugarno sent in a very good letter thanking your's truly and good wife for entering into a conspiracy which his good wife formulated and carried out most successfully. Yes, Bill got his battalion blazer from Santa. We are glad to hear of the successful results.

JOHN ROBERTSON - Broken Hill. Applying for the battalion medal, hoping he can get it for Anzac Day. If all goes well you should, your application is with the medal manufacturer. Good wishes, Bill.

FRED APTHORP of Griffith sent down a cheque for a blazer pocket which should be in his possession now. Hope you like it, Fred. Tell the boys at Griffith We have more. Regards to Fred Driscoll and all good wishes to you

Laurie Waterhouse.

MORE 5th COLUMN IN GREECE

Unfortunately I can't elaborate on the experience of Gordon Bladen with his 'Liason Officer' of dubious allegiance. However a few of us, mainly stretcher bearers were staging outside Larissa and we were in a tent about half a mile from a river which must have been the Pinios. In the tent were Frank Forrest, Bill Anderson, Ron Barber, Dick (the Diver), Tom Barber, Les Harber and me. A few others had been sent away on guard duty somewhere. Anyway, and it must have been about 7th April and at about midday it was mine and someone else's turn to go down to the river to fill the water cans and water bottles. In the process we had a shave and a really cold bath. Both operations were something of an ordeal but rewarding when they were completed. During the final bit of the ablutions a man was seen in the river and being swept swiftly past us by the rapid current. He was swimming one-handed with a bundle held above his head. He made our side of the river a few hundred yards downstream of where we were. He dressed while we were looking at each other in amazement and went over the small ridge adjacent to the river. I can't recall if we had our rifles with us or, if indeed we had any ammunition. And having had no experience of 5th Column to this point, we thought the incident to be odd but no sinister. If he was a German or a pro-German Greek, I hope he was killed, dedicated though he must have been. In the light of what we subsequently learned of the widespread 5th Column activities in Greece I still feel ashamed after all this time that neither of us had the wit to do something about it while there was a chance.

(Regimental number only just in case Sir Ivan or Robbie reads this...)
NX 28964

A SNIPPET FROM THE PAST

SCENE: 'U S S MEXICO' (temporary H.M.T.) en route Cairns to Aitape.

TIME: Approx. 1500 hrs. 29 Oct. 1944

EQUIPMENT: Ships P.A. System.

INCIDENT: Verbal message, R.S.M. to C.S.M. C. Coy

1st Message: 'C Coy. Sgt. Major report to B.H.Q.'

2nd Message: 'C Coy. Sgt. Major report to B.H.Q.'

3rd Message: 'C Coy. Sgt. Major report to B.H.Q.'

I know where you're hidin'!

(Poker game kaput!!!)

'Gentlemen Jim'