



White over Green

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE 2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

Registered at the G.P.O. Sydney, for transmission by Post as a Periodical, Category "A".

PATRON: Major-General Sir Ivan Dougherty, C.B.E., D.S.O. & Bar, E.D., B.Ec., LL.D (Hon.)

37th Year of continuous publication

Reg. No. NAS 1532

Vol. 37 No. 4

PRICE 50c PER COPY

April, 1982

PRESIDENT: Bill MacLennan, 2 Amaroo Avenue, Castle Cove, 2069, Phone: 407 3320

VICE-PRESIDENTS: Senior: Ted Fox, 29 Longford Street, Roseville, 2069. Phone: 46 1200

Queensland: Laurie McCosker

Far Northern Rivers: Allan Kirk, 179 Dibbs Street, Lismore, 2480. Phone: 066 21 4464

Northern N.S.W.: Esca Riordan, 111 Kemp Street, West Kempsey, 2440. Phone: 065 62 4671

Newcastle: Alf Carpenter, 66 Chatham Road, Georgetown, 2298. Phone: 049 67 1969

Southern N.S.W.: Artie Kleem, 3 Karabah Ave., Young, 2594. Phone: 063 82 2461

Victoria: Claude Raymond, 92 Rose Street, West Coburg, 3058. Phone: 03 354 1145

South Australia: Peter Denver, 'Wyndgate', Hindmarsh Island, P.O. Box 51, Goolwa, S.A. Phone: 085 55 2252

Committee: C. Chrystal, P. Cook, J. Copland, A. Heath, K. Kesteven, M.C., W. Parry, M. Porter

Secretary: Laurie Waterhouse, 34 Milford Street, Miranda, 2228. Phone: 524 2114

Assistant Secretary: John Meehan

Treasurer: Allen Lindsay, 21a Mirral Road, Caringbah, 2229. Phone: 524 1937

Welfare Officers: John Copland, 117 Charles Street, Ryde, 2112. Phone: 80 3771

Bill Parry, 5 Blackbutts Road, Frenchs Forest, 2086. Phone: 451 2790

EDITOR: Peter Cade, 19 La Boheme Avenue, Caringbah, 2229. Phone: 524 3529

NEXT MEETING: April meeting will be opened and closed at the Re-union with no business conducted.
The May meeting will be on Friday, 28th May at the Gallipoli Memorial Club at 8 p.m.

ANZAC DAY

The arrangements for Anzac Day are the same as last year.

WREATH LAYING CEREMONY: F.U.P. is the cnr. York and Erskine Streets at 0745 hours. We will move off promptly at 0800 hours for the Cenotaph preceded by the old Fourth and the Parramatta Caledonian Pipe Band.

ANZAC DAY MARCH: F.U.P. in the vicinity of the corner of King and Phillip Streets. Just look for the Association ties.

THE REUNION: At the Gallipoli Memorial Club, 12 Loftus St., near the Quay. Good company, excellent hot meal \$10 per head.

THE LADIES: During the march our ladies can be found in George St. eastern side outside Lowes between Market and Park Streets. After the march they chuff off for a luncheon, so any of you ladies who haven't been before, give Hilda Wright a ring on 871 5312 and give yourself a pleasant day out in good company.

***** STOP PRESS..... In the event of the President being A.W.L. on Anzac Day — he will be in Scotland, S.V.P. Ted Fox will lead unit. Make it a good turn out for Ted. Bill MacLennan.

THE MARCH MEETING

There were about thirty members present amongst which there were a couple of 'long time no see' faces of which your ever-alert editor forgot to take note of. Sorry chaps! most welcome anyway.

A welcome visitor was Colonel Vin Hallinan who gave us details of the informal farewell buffet luncheon for Major General Gordon and Mrs. Maitland. Naturally he stayed for the super and yak-yak after the meeting closed.

Brought up at the meeting was the matter of the wearing of the Greek Medal and particularly the reply in W.O.G. inserted into the 'Secretary's Mailbag' by Peter Cade stating the official answer from an army source was that it was not to be worn with service medals and this was the gist of the answer to the question that several members made privately. However, a para. left out of the same W.O.G. indicated that many members were wearing the medal and the Battalion in conjunction with their service medals and proud of the both of them, officially approved or not. In a nutshell, as a civilian, you may wear them where you wish. If you are a serving member or are attending mess functions etc. you are out of order wearing the Battalion and/or Greek Medals with your service decorations. Hope this is a final clarification.

Perhaps the highlight of the meeting was Fred Staggs showing up and producing our original triangular banner, much faded as may be expected, but there it was intact and still within the Association. It may be recalled that whether President or not Fred always looked after the banner. Seems the habit is ingrained. Thanks Fred! See elsewhere in this issue re. banners.

In all a successful meeting.

COCK'S COLUMN

(As a preliminary burst, an item from Cock's mentor and alter-ego Slim Powers).

Jim Robin was admitted to the Coronary Unit of the Mater Hospital with a heart attack, only near relatives allowed to see him.

I visited Cock next day, 13th March, and he appeared to be quite bright and hoped to be home soon. Two days later he was not the best and still under medication, so I only stayed ten minutes.

On Wednesday, 17th March visited him with Dick Pinson. He had been transferred to the Men's Medical Ward and he said he felt really well. As the doctor was not quite satisfied he wasn't discharged until 23rd March.

During his stay in the Mater, Cock had many battalion visitors including John Copland, Cec Chrystal, Bill Parry, Harry Wright, Dick Pinson and of course me. Many phone calls too. 'Slim' Powers.

(From Cock)

Had a ring from Bill Reid. Bill is now in Yagoona Rest Home and has had a visit from Wally Lambourne.

Had a phone call from Sue Willoughby, George's daughter, telling me that George was in Concord Hospital with pneumonia. I am sorry to hear that Mrs. Willoughby has also been in hospital. Wishing them all the best in the future.

At the General Meeting I saw the boys. Sir Ivan, Bill MacLennan, Laurie Waterhouse, Allan Lindsay, Dick Morris, Slim Pollock, Norm Harries, Frank Ivey, Slim Powers, Fred Staggs, Bill Parry, Harry Wright, John Meehan, Ted Fox, Peter Cade, Ken Kesteven, Peter Cook, Athol Heath, Barney Turley, Harold Silver, Jim Sadler, George Stack then me.

Now those who travelled some distance to get there: Bert Flynn of Brooklyn, Marie Porter of Pretty Beach, Ron Barber from Blackheath, Jim Forman from Warragamba.

Now some news. Dick Morris brought apologies from Rex Everson. Dick also met Tom McNamara. Jim Sadlery often sees Bill Bickley. Peter Cook ran into Sid Buckley outside the lottery office so they decided to buy a ticket and called in 'Buckley's Chance' and that's what it turned out to be!

Had a ring from Des Finch and he had some bad and some good news. Brother Noel is not enjoying the best of health. Sorry to hear this Noel, I sincerely hope in the near future you will be well again. The good news is that Des' daughter, Jacqueline has presented daddy with his first granddaughter, Denise. Congratulations granpa!

At the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting most members remained and enjoyed themselves, partaking in refreshments, sandwiches and social discussion.

We were all pleased that our Patron, Sir Ivan was able to stay with us for goodly time after the meeting and he had a chat to all present.

Rang Dick Pinson. Dick is O.K. but Rene, I am sorry to say, is not the best.

Joe Wells, get in touch with Bob Fergusson, 3 Summit Avenue, Dee Why, 2099. He has been trying to contact you for months.

Cock Robin

THE 1982 COUNTRY RE-UNION — ORANGE.

Peter and Pat Denver are waiting for YOUR bookings for the 1982 Country Re-union in Orange!

Contact them at 15 Admiral Terrace, Goolwa, South Australia, 5214. This is not the long week-end of early October. The dates are FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24th to MONDAY 27th. Please advise details of number of persons, type of accommodation, arrival and departure times and anything else required for your comfort on this week-end.

\$10 will secure your booking. Write or ring now! Peter's address is on the front page of this Journal.

THE 1982 RE-UNION AT ORANGE!

REPORT ON THE VISIT TO STAN BLACKSLEY

On receiving the telephone message from Dagwood Jackson re Stan Blacksley losing his home by it being burnt down, Morrie Porter and I went down to see how he was situated. We called into the small township of Humula and saw the remains of Stan's home. Just a heap of ashes.

Had the opportunity of talking to Stan's neighbour who gave us a very vivid description of the fire and the visit of Roy Moores. From Humula we drove to Wagga and saw Stan. Stan and his wife gave us a good welcome. Stan's wife had just come out of hospital!

Apparently their immediate needs have been taken care of. They have been given the use of a vacant house of a friend at Humula until other arrangements could be made.

Morrie and self encouraged Stan to come down to the Wagga R.S.L. where we met Bob Jackson, Perce Dalla, Bruce Stewart and Jock Cummings, who gave us a right royal welcome.

Members of the Association will be pleased to learn that the Association has sent down to Bob Jackson a contribution to the local fund. Bob Jackson has undertaken to keep us informed of Stan and Mrs. Blacksley and their needs.

In conclusion may we say thank you to the boys at Wagga, to the members of the Association for their spontaneous re-action to Stan's predicament.

We only hope and pray that none of us ever have to go through such a trauma as Stan and Mrs. Blacksley have.

Laurie Waterhouse (and for Morrie Porter) 18.3.82

(ADDITIONAL: Apart from the donation the Association has made to the local committee in this matter.

We, the private members are kicking the tin also. Send your cheques to Allen Lindsay endorsed, 'Stan Blacksley Fund'. Allen will ensure it gets where it belongs smartly.)

NOTICE

Do you have your Dougherty Biography Yet?

Copies are still available from the Gallipoli Memorial Club, Loftus Street, or from Cec Chrystal, 24 The Battlement, Castlecrag, N.S.W. 2068. The cost is \$14.50 posted or collect yourself for \$12.00. We have sold out the Battalion History years ago. Don't miss out on this!

THE SECRETARY'S MAILBAG

It has been quite a busy month, members have been on the ball. Getting ready for Anzac Day I think. However, one thing marred everything for the month and that was Stan Blacksley being burnt out of house and home, left only with the pants he stood in. It is on this theme that I start this column off with a letter from Roy Moores of Adelong giving a detailed account of Stan's house going up in flames and Roy's driving over after hearing the news to see what help he could offer. Appreciate your driving over to Humula, heard about it when in Wagga R.S.L. Club. Thanks for the effort, Roy.

Another letter dealing with Stan's predicament came from Dagwood Jackson who gave a brief outline of what was being done by the local boys of the 2/4th and the local people of Tarcutta and Humula in trying to assist Stan and his wife. Dagwood informed me that Stan has temporary accommodation at Humula and will be moving into a unit at 'The Haven', a retirement village run by the 2WG Women's Club. Thank you Dagwood for your hospitality to Morrie Porter and self on our recent visit to your R.S.L. Club and for your efforts on keeping us informed on Stan and his wife.

Next in the mail was a letter from Colin Campbell of Wauchope requesting a blazer pocket badge and sending greetings to all. You should have your pocket by now Col. Hope you have the blazer ready for Anzac Day, Good luck.

Bill Poplin down at Warilla wrote in requesting the Greek and Battalion Medal forms. These should be in the mail on their way to being processed. Very good to get a line from you Bill.

Alan 'Curly' Gorman of St. Marys also requesting a blazer pocket, went to some trouble to have his Greek scroll, describing the medallion, translated and photocopied and forwarded same to me. If anyone is interested they may have a loan of it. Thank you Alan Gorman.

Bert Milner, late of Hornsby, wrote in letting us know he has moved up to Nambucca Heads to live. Another one leaving the rat race of suburbia. Thank you Bert for your well wishes.

At last Hugh Wittleton has come through in answer to our 'where are you call' put out in W.O.G. two months ago. Your medal has gone back again to the same address as was in your letter. Hope you got it OK. Good wishes to Bernie Shoebridge and yourself.

Had a very newsey letter from Bub Graham of Bowraville up near Macksville. Bub was writing in for a battalion medal form and included some news of other 2/4th chaps residing in the area including Bushy Bennett who has apparently joined the area residents. Thanks a lot Bub for your letter. Your medal application has been processed and is now with the firm that does them.

Talking of Bushy Bennett brings me to his letter, just received informing me of his change of address. Bushy has purchased a small property at Bowraville, close to all the amenities of life for retired folk. Golf, bowls, squash and tennis, you name it, it's all there he says and if any 2/4th member and his wife are passing through, then there is a big welcome sign becoming the weary traveller. Maybe a good spot for anyone going north. Don't forget. You're more than welcome. Thanks for the good-will message to all Bushy. We in turn wish you a happy retirement.

Our Treasurer, Allen Lindsay gave me a letter from J M Hicks of East Brighton, Victoria. He was requesting a blazer pocket badge and paying his subs for the year, also wants to know about wearing the battalion medal. I have written a reply to your questions and your pocket should be in your possession when you read this. Many thanks for your good wishes to all our members here. Hope you have a good day for Anzac Day.

That stalwart from Lismore, Fred Varley sent down a short note to our Treasurer Allen with subs for Doug Stebbing and himself. Thanks Fred, hope we have the pleasure of your company on Anzac Day. We here reciprocate by wishing you and yours and those around good health and well being.

For the moment, that's it. Keep your letters rolling in. And in the meantime we of the committee look forward to seeing a lot of you joining us for Anzac Day 1982. Till then, my good wishes to all and good health.

Laurie Waterhouse, Hon. Sec.

WELFARE REPORT

As at 26th March, 1982

NX 5162 DAWSON, T. R.G.H. 11. A skin graft on great toe slow to heal. Surgery yet to come

NX53929 GRAHAM, J. P. Canterbury District Hospital. Was re-admitted 28th February with pneumonia. Doing well and hopes to be up and about soon. He was discharged 9th March.

NX 5911 BOWEN, Stan. Seen by Bob and Mrs. Lever. Doing well and sends kind regards to all.

NX 8662 CONNOR, Ben, R.G.H. 7. Tumour on lung and cardiac problems. Was transport and drove Sir Ivan at Benghasi.

NX 11141 COOK, Walter. In only for one day for tests.

NX 5145 ROBIN, J. Mater Hospital. Re-admitted 12 March. Jim had another heart attack. Expect discharge by 26th March (See separate report).

NX 7601 CHAMBERLAIN, R. H. R.S.L. Hospital at W.V.H. Bill Parry sees him regularly and reports all well.

1746 DAY, Arthur, R.G.H. 520. Successful operation for cataract on his only eye.

LAST POST

NX 5257 ROWELL, Rex. Of Lawson. Rex was knocked down by a motor cycle near his home and was killed instantly. He was 79 years old. The accident happened on 2nd March 1982. Our deep sympathy goes to his family.

Good health to you all,

Bill Parry, John Copland and the Gang.

THE BANNERS

The Association was formed, I believe in 1943 by members who were discharged early on account of ill health, etc. and they met and founded the Association the main aim being to keep the comradeship going after the boys were discharged.

Sometime about 1943-44 they, in their wisdom decided to strike a banner for use on Anzac Day and other special functions. The first banner was in satin and of a triangular shape and depicted the 2/4th colour patch and bore the words, 'Libya', 'Greece', 'Crete', 'New Guinea'. On the top of course was '2/4th Infantry Battalion' This banner was used for years and carried with pride.

When the war ended, Mrs. Parkinson, the mother of the first boy killed in our unit wanted to donate a banner in memory of her son. This very pleasant lady attended each Anzac Day at our forming up place for many years and always had a good cheery word for the boys. The matter of the banner was debated at several committee meetings and on advice from Christies we chose Irish linen for its long term durability and standing up to all weathers. Now came our problem. Christies could supply the white and grey but not the bottle green. In desperation we contacted Fred Catley who was then living in England and somehow, he managed with the help of others to get the green for us.

The design of the banner was next on the list. This was tossed around at quite a number of committee meetings. First we agreed to enlarge the size of the colour patch. Next problem was what we were going to design on it and after this was tossed around the committee (which changed hands a few times as it took us a few years to get the right green) we decided we would keep it as plain as possible. Hence the retired banner as it stands.

Before T.V. we were given a great mention on radio by the late Harry Watts and Eric Baume and this continued from Eric into the era of T.V. and the plainness of the banner was mentioned as the Silent Fourth. Last year we did not even get a mention, just a fleeting glimpse on T.V.

I voted against the changing of the banner but now can see things clearer. The new banner back to where we were in the very early days

'It's only an old bit of bunting.
It's only an old coloured rag
Yet thousands have died for it's honour
And shed their blood for the flag'
Fred Staggs

SITREPS

From Alf Carpenter: A short note enclosing \$20.00 for dues from Ernie Bowdige (NX 5099), 11 Rodger St., Ravenshoe, North Queensland, 4870. Ernie was down on a holiday and staying with a mutual friend and over a few ales Ernie parted with the \$20.

The Newcastle area has been fairly quiet thank goodness. Our next proposed get-together will be at the Stockton R.S.L. on 18th February.

Bully Hayes has had another spell in hospital over the Christmas period. His wheel-chair tipped over going up a small setp and he fractured his ribs down one side.

I have just about conned him into having a swim of a Sunday with the Hamilton R.S.L. Swimming Club. Marge and I take him over to the R.S.L. most Fridays for the Swimming Club raffle. He has a whale of a time.

The rest of the team are O.K. Doreen Manuals of 2 Hay St., Adamstown would like to continue to have Bill White's W.O.G. delivered to her. Bill was staying with her before his passing. She is a good supporter of the 2/4th. and a wonderful worker for Legacy.

Alf and Marge send their best to all members from them and the Novocastrians.

(Another editorial but-in. Alf's letter was written about the middle of February and the news it contains didn't show up in W.O.G. until April. The Association has been fortunate that people are writing in with news but unfortunate in the matter of space to promulgate it in W.O.G. within reasonable time. Members will note that we put out a six page issue recently to relieve this situation. This in spite of WOG being of its budget. Fortunately we are just about to date regarding incoming and outgoing information.

Another contributing factor was the deletion of the 'Buckshee Philosopher' and 'Seersucker' and his dubious prognostications. Both were invented to relieve the reading. 'Seersucker' was demanding the same salary as the President and once he received a bit of fan mail. He got the old heave-ho quick smart! Ed)

Another one a little bit late is that Ted Fox is a granpa again and presumably, so is Heather a granma. Not too sure which of the Fox's offsprings sent Ted off into orbit and raptures but anyway it's a delightful granddaughter (and Ted quoted the vital statistics which all sounded good until he said she looks just like her granpa! The poor kid. Hopefully she will grow out of it.

In the Granpa stakes, Ted reckons they are running third to the Lindsays and fourth to the Sid Youngs (that's the way the Editor got it — you work it out). Anyway Ted will finally see that quality is of first importance when he sees Heather admiring the new arrival.

When I called on Bruce Cork he was serving drinks to John Meehan and Vince MacDonnell.