



# White over Green

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE 2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

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**NEXT METTING:** The May meeting will be on Friday 28th May at the Gallipoli Memorial Club at 8.00 p.m.

## ANZAC DAY 1982

There were fewer marchers to the wreath laying ceremony compared to last year. This could indicate that the day is becoming a bit too long for those of us who attend the wreath laying ceremony, the Commemoration March and the re-union after. And for those who attend a Dawn Service, wherever it may be, it makes a very long day indeed. The one hour plus in the interim of the wreath laying and the main march with its standing around is being felt by quite a few. And importantly, some who won't give in.

For some inexplicable reason the march bogged down well into the progression of it. In George Street there were at least three stops and the shuffling of units should have been all sorted out before the Cenotaph was passed as it usually is. Nevertheless, on passing the 2/4th Ladies outside Lowes in George Street, the 'Eyes left' was very well received by all including the adjacent spectators and those across the road who applauded the compliment.

At the Gallipoli Memorial Club the food was fullsome and tasty and the company even better.

Formalities, as usual, were kept to a minimum. John Copland proposed the Royal Toast. The toast to Fallen and Departed Comrades was proposed by Ted Fox, Laurie Waterhouse read the list of over forty deaths

in the past twelve months and John Meehan recited the Ode.

Athol Heath proposed the toast to our visitors and Colonel Vin Hallinan suitably responded on behalf of the Parramatta Caledonian Pipe Band, the Colour Parties of 4 Bn. R.N.S.W.R., both of whom served us splendidly. Apologies were received from Lt. Col. Bryce Frazer, C.O., 4 Bn., R.N.S.W.R. and Maj. Gen Ray Sharp who managed to show up for twenty minutes or so anyway.

The toast to 2/4 Bn. was proposed by Maj. General Miatland.

The highlight of the formalities was the presentation by Sir Ivan of the Life Membership badge to Slim Powers for his long support and work in the service of the association and judging by the applause, a worthy recipient.

It must be mentioned that when Sir Ivan showed up he came in in his usual unobtrusive manner. Not good enough! He was escorted out again and piped in in due form by our pipe band.

Some of country and interstate members noticed were Rusy MacWilliam - Darwin, Bill Sheaffe-Lismore, Gordon Robinson - Victoria, Jack Pearse - The Entrance, Cliff Curran and Alf Carpenter - Newcastle, Norm Aubison - Lithgow, Ted Swadling - Griffith, Tom Watson - Port Stephens, Ross Smith - Inverell, Topsy Crispin - South Coast, Gordon Chrisp - Umina



and several others who we hope, Cock Robin caught up with.

A notable first attender was Lt. Col. Paul Tomlinson, our first M.O. Morrie Porter was the man that talked him into it.

The same Morrie Porter auctioned and crocheted spread made by Scotchie McCarthy's wife. When the bidding got to \$50 the remaining bidders backed off as they realised that Rusty would need it to keep warm in Darwin should the world tip off its axis.

A whip around for the Stan Blacksley fund realised something like \$500. A very creditable effort. A thank you to all.

A final word and a thank you to Senior V.P. Ted Fox, who in the absence of Bill MacLennan, conducted such a good day. And to Louie and his staff at the Gallipoli Memorial Club for their good and friendly service.

### OUR LADIES

As mentioned, the ladies were in force outside Lowes on Anzac Day and there was no doubt about which was their favourite unit. There was a good roll up at their luncheon too. Attending were: Hilda Wright, Elsie Bradford and daughter, Del Silver, Vera Walsh, Molly Irvine, Shirely Peedy and friend, Jane Hart, Elsie Matherson, Doreen Grant, Edith Turton, Betty Watts, Marj. Stack, Mavis Humphries, Enid Latimer, Marj Carpenter, Mrs. Polkington and two daughters and sister-in-law, Robin Hazel, Heather Fox, Beryl Poplin, Joan Hart, Phil Chrystal, Bell Sadler, Joy Waterhouse, Doreen Manuel and Hilda Mariet. An apology was received from Gwen MacLennan.

(Hope I got all that right, my shorthand is legible when written but fuzzes up a bit after a day or so. Editor).

### THE 1982 COUNTRY RE-UNION - ORANGE

Peter and Pat Denver are waiting for your bookings for the Country Re-union in Orange.

**THIS IS THE WEEK-END BEFORE THE LONG WEEK-END.** The dates are **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24th to MONDAY 27th.**

Contact them at 15 Admiral Terrace, Goolwa, South Aust. 5214. Please advise of details of accommodation, arrival and departure times, number of persons and any other details required for your comfort on this week-end.

\$10 per person will secure your bookings. Write or ring now!

### THE SECRETARY'S MAILBAG

Quite a busy month for mail both to myself and to Treasurer Allen. I think everyone must be digging deep to keep Allen happy because most of the letters have been from members sending in subs. However, I will record everyone starting with a letter from:

Roy Moores of Adelong who wrote to thank the Association for the donation made to the Stan Blacksley fund. Also let me know that he regretted that he

was unable to attend the reunion on Anzac Day. Sorry you could not make it to Wagga to see us when we were there in March.

Bill Fogden of Kurrajong Heights wrote in requesting the Battalion Medal, also sending his kindest regards to all. Thank you Bill. Trust you are feeling better.

Len Bloomfield of Hornsby Heights sent in a cheque to cover his subs and a message of good health to our Treasurer, Allen. Hope you make it for Anzac Day.

Jim Graham of Canterbury forwarded a message to say he would make it for Anzac Day plus a cheque. Thanks a lot, Jim.

Ross Elliott of Kalmunda, W.A. wrote in thanking me for the Battalion Medal which arrived much to his pleasure. Worth waiting for Ross. Hope you wore it on Anzac Day.

Mick O'Regan of Dawes Point found time for a quick line to let me know that Joe Reid, late of 'B' Coy passed away. He also sent a donation to the battalion funds. Thanks Mick for the information, duly noted and attended to.

Alan Manning of Concord sent in a cheque to our Treasurer to keep him happy for another twelve months. Good to know you are in the land of the living and wish you well for the future.

Roy Andrews of Lismore found time to drop a line wishing members of the Association kindest regards and a cheque to keep our treasurer happy.

John Storey of Padbury, W.A. writing in with regard to obtaining the Battalion Medal, also sent his subs. He is working for the army as a public servant. He is enquiring about Jack Bell and John Hunt. Unfortunately we have not any news of these members and Sid George passed away a couple of years ago. Thank you for your Anzac Day message.

Gordon Robbins of Windsor, Vic. dropped a line to let us know he was taking time away from home to join us here in Sydney for Anzac Day and sending in a donation to help swell the funds a little.

Don Bundy of Narrandera sent quite a descriptive letter on how and where to wear your medals. A few pointers on the various members residing nearby. One can see that 'Dasher' must have been around your way recruiting some time or other.

Many thanks for the subs and your good wishes to one and all.

Charles Gillard of Port Macquarie spent some time to pen a few lines to thank the Welfare people who came to visit him whilst in Concord hospital recently. He said he appreciated the work these chaps do visiting members. Thank you Charles, your message will be passed on.

Garry Hart of Carlton forwarded an application and cheque for the battalion medal also news that he had run into Gordon Chrisp some weeks ago whilst having a drink. Said that Gordon was looking well and though not selling papers anymore, he is still reading them. Thanks Garry, was wondering what happened to the application form. All is well now.

From Ellen Fryer, sister of the late John Keating, a letter of appreciation and a cheque for \$50.00 as a donation towards the production of W.O.G. I am sure



everyone will agree with me when I say that this is a most generous thought. Believe me Ellen we greatly appreciate your gesture. Rest assured you will be kept on the mailing list.

Vin Hallinan, Secretary of The Association of 4th Infantry Battalions sent in a contribution also a message of good wishes to the Association, plus he will join us Anzac Day.

Bob Lane of Woy Woy sent in a cheque to Allen with a message that he would be with us for Anzac Day and kind regards to all.

John Hawkins of Blacktown came to light with a few lines and a cheque and to say that he would see us Anzac Day. Thank you John. By the time you read this Anzac Day will have passed by till next year. My only wish is that those of you who joined us for the Re-union Dinner at the Gallipoli Memorial Club had a very enjoyable time.

Laurie Waterhouse,  
Hon. Secretary.

## WELFARE REPORT

(as at 25th April, 1982)

NX111441, COOK, Wal. R.G.H. 610 Joined 'C' Coy in PNG. Intestinal tests. Discharged.

NX16169 O,KEEFE, Reg. R.G.H. 230. Varicose veins, also artery trouble in chest.

NX42631, McNEIL, Ken. W. R.G.H. 230. Had a bad time after an operation for a ruptured ulcer. Now much improved.

NX MALONEY, Jack of Woollahra tells me that his wife was knocked down and killed by a motor cyclist early in April. Has no family but all sorts of trouble. Has been referred by Anzac House to a reliable solicitor.

NX17006 WILLOUGHBY, George. I saw in the April W.O.G. that Mrs. Sue Willoughby rang Jim Robin to say that George was in R.G.H. with pneumonia. This is the first we have heard about it. He must have been there only a few days between our weekly visits. His name has not appeared on a computer check out since 22nd February, 1982.

NX5834 GARDINER, L.N., R.G.H. 630. Vascular trouble. Right leg to be amputated below the knee. Was in 'A' Coy, 9 Platoon.

NX5162, DAWSON, Tom. R.G.H. 630. Skin graft failed so the right big toe is to be amputated.

W.W.I

3334 COLLINS' Albert, R.G.H. 8 Test on lungs.

? POPPLEWELL, William. Very cheery Due for discharge soon.

? KEAREY, Bede. I spoke to his daughter Yvonne Tierney who told me that Bede is now at Botany Gardens Nursing Home, 90 Botany Street Carlton. Bede will be 88 next July. He sends greetings to all friends

? ELFORD, Eugene, W.V.H. Hospital, Narrabeen. Bill Parry sees him regularly.

Best wishes from John Copland, Bill Parry and all our boys.

## MAJOR GENERAL GORDON MAITLAND

A luncheon for Gordon and Mrs. Maitland to mark Gordon's retirement from the army was held at Arncliffe Depot on April 4th.

Apart from the informality, the most pleasing feature of this gathering was the age span of the well-wishers who attended. To say age groups would be wrong because they overlapped from those in their twenties to the over seventies and perhaps a bit either side of that! And the informality was such that any guest that perhaps knew only a few of the others initially, knew quite a few more before very long. A spin-off was that it became a sort of 'Old home Week' for many of his army friends who hadn't seen each other since whenever. W.W.II associations were well represented also, predominantly white over green types from both battalions but there were some black and greens too. 2/4th. Bn. mustered between twenty and thirty people and of those, the ladies were not too far in the minority. And the stalwarts of the Associations of 4th Infantry Battalions, still serving or not and to which Association most of the W.W.II 'oldies' who attended have dual affinities, were also there. Bluey, behind the bar as usual, Bob Powell, Pancho Black, Paul Boland, Slim Rayner, they were all there and so were many other connections not mentioned here and all in an appreciation and salutation to Gordon and Mrs. Maitland.

Well done, Sir to you and Mrs. Maitland!

NX28964

## COCK'S COLUMN

With Ces 'Slim' Powers, again visited Concord Hospital. Met Ben Connor NX8662. Ben enlisted in Penrith and with him was Cec Calver, NX5219 and Charlie Grandquist, NX9336. Cec Calver lives at Balmoral. Ben sends regards to Wally Lambourne, Alex Veitch, Bob 'Lascar' Roach, Ernie Dawe and all the other Transport boys and 1/4thers.

Ben lives at Stewart St., North Entrance. I had also the pleasure of meeting Betty Connor and her relation and friend, Connie Behand. Hi, Cec Calver and Charlie Granquist. Long time no see or hear. How about dropping a line.

Visited Tom Dawson again. Tom hoped to be home soon.

Saw Arthur Day, 4th. Bn. W.W.I. Arthur is 90 and enlisted when 22 and went through Lone Pine and Gallipoli.

George Willoughby was home. I had had a ring from daughter Sue to say that George was in Concord.

Received a picture post card from Ken 'Dasher' Deacon in Zimbabwe, Africa, of the city of Salsbury a lovely place with many that look like jakaranda trees in flower. Ken writes:

'We have been on a weeks camping safari with our son Pete. Salsbury is a nice city, not unlike a large country town in N.S.W. Seems a long time since the 2/4th was in Africa. Regards to Slim. The weather is warm, Salsbury is 6000' above sea level. Will write a longer letter next time. Lily sends her love, regards to all. Dasher and Lily'. Thanks Ken for the lovely



card and for writing. Appreciate being remembered. The Editor also had a card from Dasher and Lily sent from Europe.

I wish to sincerely thank all those kind people who visited me and for the phone calls and letters and cards and gifts, etc. during my latest sojourn in the Mater Misericordiae Hospital. Recently had phone calls from Bill Parry, Dick Pinson, Des Finch, Slim Powers, Cec Chrystal and Harry Wright all wishing me the best.

In the Mater I met a young nurse who came from Grafton, Nurse Angela Clarke who knew the Lynch girls and had been at school with them. Angela sends regards. Also met a young nurse from Young, but sorry to write she did not know Artie Kleem or any of the young boys.

Some of the lassies and lads I had the pleasure of meeting on Anzac Day:

Jack and Joan Huston, A.C.T., Both look very well, said Frank Crutchett, Cyril McCosker, David Wren and John Hyles send regards. My best wishes to all of them and families and not forgetting Jill.

Alf Carpenter, Newcastle, reports that the boys were all very pleased to see Sir Ivan as Guest Speaker at Hamilton, R.S.L. Anzac Dinner on Friday 23rd April. And that Bully Hayes is battling on alright that Jack Mann, NX3955 is up at Albatross Caravan Park, Nambucca Heads and would be pleased to meet any 2/4thers. Hi, Jack. All the best, mate.

Bill Sheaffe, Lismore, met Alf Sweitzer. Alf lives in Mullumbimby. Also met Doug Stebbing and Horrie Cameron.

Ron Schwartz, Parramatta. I had not seen Ron for years. He enlisted with me at Lancer Barracks, Parramatta and were in the same hut in Liverpool. Ron was one of the drummers when he marched from Liverpool to Ingleburn. Ron met Ron Coutts at Castle Hill R.S.L.

Another Ron, Ron Barber, was talking to Dick Boyd.

Joe Wells, now Wagga,. Joe has seen Bruce Stewart Bob Jackson, Jack Cumming and also met Ted Swadling at Griffith.

Noel Smith, Randwick, wishes to be remembered to Jack and Lou Dubber also Allan Kirk.

Jim Forman, Warragamba is visiting Inverell. Hopes to see the boys and collect some information.

Bill Little, Lane Cove met Bill Key.

Bert Flynn, Brooklyn, first reunion for a long time, but Bert is now a regular at the monthly meetings.

Norm Johnston, Newport Beach, Norm would like to hear from Jack Pearce.

All our loyal ladies and families gathered at Lowes in George Street and waved white and green streamers when the association marched past. I had the pleasure of meeting Vera Walsh and thanking her for remembering me when I was in hospital and sending a lovely 'Get Well Card'. Thanks again Vera.

#### SIR IVAN'S BIOGRAPHY

Copies are still available from the Gallipoli Memorial Club. The cost is \$14.50 posted or collect yourself for \$12.00.

#### SITREPS

'On a recent trip to the Gold Coast I tried to see as many members as possible. I had drinks with Jack Hughes at the Southport R.S.L. He thoroughly enjoyed his trip to Tasmania. When I called on Bruce Cork he was serving drinks to John Meehan and Vince McDonnell. I phoned Bonney Hutton but as he has recently remarried he was very busy (lucky lad! Ed.) and I was unable to see him. I was unable to contact Doct Howard and Len Goodwin. I saw Norm Everson, Stan Sutherland and Gordon Bladen and had a couple of drinks with them but Wally McKenzie was unable to attend. People calling on Norm McIntyre find him still the same cheerful Norm. Regards, Laurie'.

The preceding letter from Laurie McCosker almost made last month's W.O.G. but it is still news. Sorry Laurie. We owe you an apology for the late publication and for your address being missing from the top of W.O.G. Editor's fault in both cases. Takes a bit to repair the omission regarding your address.

The Editor is also indebted to Gordon Bladen for his contributions to W.O.G. Sorry you couldn't make it for Anzac Day in Sydney, Gordon. Maybe next year.

For Anzac Day Lady Mackay sent greetings to all and said that she would be thinking of us. Thank you Lady Mackay.

Bill Parry flew to the U.K. early May and will be away for about a month.

Morrie (not Marie) Wilson and son Bruce, flew out of Sydney 20th April for Europe, also due back early June.

Which calls to mind the odd decision of Mr. & Mrs Porter to call their son Marie. No feminine charms at all! With a face like that they should have called him Morrie or Butch!. Sorry Morrie, editor's typing again!

Mrs. O'Keefe sent in a chequ for Bluey's subs. When you get out of Concord, Blue show up to a reunion we will be delighted to see you.

Good to see Len Waterworth at the Anzac Day luncheon again. He opened his purse and when all the moths stopped obscuring the vision, there was a beer for your editor. A nice chap, he gets the message if you lean hard enough. Thanks Lennie. Next Anzac Day it's on me.

The Editor.

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**1982 COUNTRY RE-UNION – O R A N G E**

**FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 24 - MONDAY 27th**

**Book now with Peter and Pat Denver,  
15 Admiral Terrace, Goolwa, South Australia 2154**

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