

WHITE OVER GREEN

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MONTHLY CIRCULAR OF THE 2/4 AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

Patron: BRIGADIER I. N. DOUGHERTY, D.S.O.

President: KEN KESTEVEN, M.C.

EDITORIAL:**-DO YOU REMEMBER ?-**

At Ingleburn, in 1939, where the Battalion had its genesis, men swarmed from all parts of the State; men of all types and from all sections of the community. Who can ever forget the march up the hill and entry into camp amidst the loud cries of "You'll be sorry!" Soon we were to be welded into a splendid living community, to prove ourselves in battle, where hardship, sacrifice and valorous deeds produced a grand spirit and love of man for his fellows which must—and will—endure.

Men learned to appreciate their mates for what they were worth, the artificial barriers of civil life being torn down in an amazingly short time. Human faults were recognised; allowances were made, and many lifetime friendships were made and cemented. We managed to find laughter despite the tears, courage despite the horrors associated with war, and we discovered the inspiring wealth of tradition.

'Tis said that it is not good to live in the past, and, generally speaking, this is true. But what is more inspiring than the re-telling of stories of yesteryear and the reflection of finer things of other days?

Through "White Over Green" we hope to re-tell the stories of our Battalion, sad or gay, and in so doing, we will build a firm foundation for our Unit History, which will, we hope, make its appearance in due course. As our show was 90 per cent. a country-man's unit, we hope to set up a series of country and interstate correspondents who will keep us posted with the news and views.

Some stalwarts saw the show right through with the 2/4 Infantry Battalion; some were in New Guinea, others in the M.E., yet others were in Darwin. Thus, we have surely an unlimited wealth of material to come!

If you can remember any incident that you consider interesting to the mob, send it to the Editor. If you can remember, yet feel that you are not a literary genius, then send the story in outline only, and we will write it up.

All A.I.F. Battalions were good battalions, and the 2/4th, of which General "Red" Robertson once said, "would outmarch any unit in the Middle East," is second to none in tradition and pride of unit.

It's in your hands, boys. Send in the goods.

THE CONSTITUTION.

Our new constitution was approved and adopted by the 75 members present at the Extraordinary General Meeting, held in Sydney on 27th June, 1946.

Two amendments were submitted, and their incorporation was also approved; the details being as under:—

After paragraph 5, sub-paragraph (f) to read:

(g) That all members of 19 Bde. H.Q., 2/8 Bn., and 2/11, be permitted to make application for membership of the Association, and if acceptable to the Committee be deemed members within the meaning of Clause 5 (a) of the Constitution except that they be void of voting powers.

After paragraph 7, sub-paragraph (e), to read:

(f) Financial members outside a radius of thirty (30) miles from Sydney, notwithstanding sub-paragraph (b) of this paragraph, may forward nominations for office and votes on same to reach the Honorary Secretary not later than forty-eight (48) hours before any Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting.

It is suggested that members holding copies of the Draft Constitution, retain this issue for reference or cut out the above-mentioned amendments and insert same in the appropriate place.

OUR LAST DANCE.

It was unfortunate that our dance at Ashfield Town Hall last night (Friday, 12th July), the proceeds of which were to go to our ill-fated cobbler, Cess Matthews, was marred by the poor attendance, due largely (we suspect) to restricted transport.

But equally unfortunate was the small attendance of our own members.

We do realise, of course, that many are at distant stations, and that of the 400-odd metropolitan members, many are busy with their own personal affairs of family, home, work and rehabilitation problems generally; but we do hope that in August, September and October, every member will do his utmost to attend the last three dances of the year.

Enough said, we think; but when you read this, you'll understand what we mean, won't you? Here's hoping, anyway!

FUTURE ACTIVITIES.

SMOKO—2/4-4 Bn. (1914-18) Association.

Yes, it's a fact! It's really "on," and here's the "good oil!"—

When: Thursday, 25th July, at 7.45 p.m.

Where: Railway Institute Hall, Devonshire Street, next to Central Railway.

Cost: 5/- each.

There'll be everything that you could wish for a good smoko. Talk about "all beer and skittles"! Well, we don't know about the skittles, but we can guarantee a right royal evening. "All good stuff—no rubbish"—remember that! That's what we say, too!

DANCES: Next one at ASHFIELD TOWN HALL, Friday, 9th August. Got your diary? Good show, that's what we like to see. Incidentally, it is a 50/50 show, and the damage—2/- each. And prizes? "Very good, very sweet, very quess-keht, George" . . .

ANNUAL BALL: Yes, the big event is getting nearer! We have the tickets in the press now, and are hoping that they will be ready for distribution by the 25th inst.

Here is the first "warning order":

F.U.P.—Grace Auditorium.

D-Day.—Saturday, 2nd November, 1946.

H-Hour.—8.30 p.m.

O.O.B.—Plans for bookings will be opened on or about the 25th July. Details not yet final.

R.A.P.—(Will probably be in attendance?)

Fined.—10/- each.

"Left turn—march out!" (Can anyone tell us why they let these mad militaristic editors out of the Army?)

Remember the first Hebron Hills "doover"?

CONTRIBUTIONS.

Contributions, letters, criticisms are all welcome, and we can take it as thick as you can send it. Please address all matter to—

Harry L. Watts, Editor, "White Over Green,"

C/o R.S.I.L. Employment Bureau,

545 George Street, SYDNEY. Phone: M 3741.

(N.B.—Drawings and sketches will be O.K., too. We hope to use them later on).

THE SECRETARY SAYS:

Thanks to those who have sent subs. and advised changes of, or new, addresses.

Subscriptions for the remainder of the year will be 5/3 only. Please send all letters and enclosures to—

R. W. Ellerman, Hon. Secretary,

2/4 Infantry Battalion Association,
39 Bent Street, SYDNEY.