



# 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

Patron: Major-General I. N. DOUGHERTY, C.B.E., D.S.O., E.D.

Twentieth year of continuous publication

Vol. 20, No. 10

PRICE 5c per copy

October, 1966

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**Next Meeting: Friday, 4th November — Combined Smoko**

## Resounding Success of Annual Country Reunion

### AU REVOIR! — KEMPSEY!

The shouting and the tumult dies . . . the Captains and the Kings depart. The 1966 Country Reunion is over and what a wonderful experience it was! How fortunate—indeed how privileged—we are to have served in the 2/4th Battalion and to belong to such a grand Association of men.

Surely a spine-tingling thrill of pride swept through each and everyone of us as we marched through the streets of Kempsey to the War Memorial, colours held proudly aloft, swaying softly in the breeze, the measured tread of a hundred pairs of marching feet moving in unison with those of our beloved leader

“Doc”, urged on by the stirring music of the Parramatta Pipers, disciplined only by that “Esprit de Corps” acquired more than two decades before.

Despite the incidence of light rain and the imminence of a heavy thunderstorm there was not a waver in the ranks throughout the simple but moving Ceremony of Remembrance at the War Memorial, during the Wreathlaying or afterward on the return March to the R.S.L. Club. It seemed that every man present, including some now not-so-young and others not-so-fit, was determined to put on his best “front” to honour his comrades and his Battalion.



### 2/4th BATTALION REMEMBERS

MAJOR-GENERAL I. N. DOUGHERTY, C.B.E., D.S.O., E.D., our PATRON and MAJOR H. E. C. GJEDSTED, our PRESIDENT, leading members of the 2/4th Battalion Association in procession to the Kempsey War Memorial to mark the beginning of the 1966 Country Reunion.



**REMEMBER FRIDAY, 4th NOVEMBER  
ANNUAL COMBINED SMOKO  
AT ROYAL NAVAL HOUSE**

This is the night we turn it on for the "boys" of the "old fourth". Roll up and ensure they have a happy time this year. There will be ample food and nectar. Lt.-Col. Maitland and representatives of 4th Bn. Royal N.S.W. Regiment will also be our guests.

GENERAL DOUGHERTY'S MOVING TRIBUTE TO THE LATE LT.-GENERAL SIR IVEN MACKAY RECORDED WITH THE PIPING OF THE LAMENT AT THE KEMPSEY REUNION WILL BE REPLAYED AT THE SMOKO.

**IN FLANDERS FIELDS**

Fifty years ago last month the 4th Battalion A.I.F., under the command of Lt.-Colonel I. G. Mackay (later Lt.-General Sir Iven Mackay) moved to Ypres. A year before during the second battle of Ypres Colonel John McCrae, a Canadian medical officer, pencilled the three immortal verses of "In Flanders Fields" on a page torn from a dispatch book. Colonel McCrae sent the poem to "Punch" anonymously, and the editor, recognising its beauty, printed it. As if by magic the verses reached the outer fringes of the earth in record time.

"This poem was literally born of fire and blood during the hottest phase of battle," wrote McCrae's commanding officer, Major-General E. W. B. Morrison. "My headquarters were in a trench on the top of the bank of the Ypres Canal, and John's dressing station was dug into the foot of the bank. Many times during the 16 days of battle he and I watched the chaplains burying their dead whenever there was a lull. We often heard the larks in the mornings singing high in the air, amid the crash of shells and the reports of guns in the battery just beside us. And we saw the crosses, row on row, grow into a good-sized cemetery."

Since 1915 the wooden crosses have been replaced by granite headstones, and a memorial with a few lines of the poem engraved on it stands nearby. McCrae himself is buried in Wimereux. On Armistice Day each year town officials and the British vice-consul hold a brief ceremony at his grave, and sprinkle it with red poppies.

"In Flanders fields the poppies grow  
Between the crosses, row on row  
That mark our place, and in the sky  
The larks still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The Torch: be yours to hold it high!  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields."

**VALE SIR IVEN MACKAY**

That famous Australian Warrior-Educationist Lt.-General Sir Iven Mackay, K.B.E., C.M.G., D.S.O., V.D., has gone to his well-earned rest after a prolonged illness. Aged 84 years Sir Iven passed away peacefully at his Lindfield home under the devoted care of Lady Dorothy.

Enlisting in the A.I.F. at the outbreak of the Great War in 1914 Iven Giffard Mackay served as the original adjutant of the 4th Battalion and later, in 1916, became the Battalion's Commanding Officer. At Gallipoli he was among the first to reach the enemy trenches, fighting with distinction throughout that campaign, and later in France, being awarded the D.S.O. and Bar, C.M.G. and Croix de Guerre, besides being mentioned in despatches on more than one occasion.

After the Great War Sir Iven studied Physics at Cambridge and returned to Sydney University as a Lecturer. In 1933 he became Headmaster at Cranbrook and also served as Commonwealth Film Appeal Censor.

At the outbreak of World War II Sir Iven was appointed to command the 6th Australian Division A.I.F., in which formation was our own 2/4th Battalion. In the desert Sir Iven (now Lt.-General) planned the attack on Bardia and Tobruk and history now records how the Australians under his command smashed their way through Cyrenaica engulfing an enemy Army and enveloping an enemy Empire. For Britain and her Allies this was the first taste of victory since the tragedy of Dunkirk and, due in no small way to the tactical enterprise of Mackay himself, and the fighting spirit he had engendered in his troops, Allied morale was given a great lift.

On the personal recommendation of General Sir Archibald Wavell, Commander-in-Chief of British Forces in the Middle East, King George VI knighted General Mackay and the great Churchill voiced his praise in the House of Commons.

In Greece in 1941 the General withdrew his men in a series of hard fought rearguard actions in the face of greatly superior enemy numbers and equipment. In 1942 on the return of the Sixth Division to Australia Sir Iven was appointed G.O.C. Home Command. In 1944 he was appointed High Commissioner to India in which capacity he served until 1948.

Sir Iven was buried with full Military Honours. An escort of 150 troops from 1st Battalion R.A.R. accompanied the gun carriage from the Church, and a 15-gun salute was fired at the Crematorium. Sir Iven is survived by his wife Lady Dorothy, son Iven and daughters Mrs. E. B. Millard and Mrs. D. K. Mitchell.

**LAST POST**

LIEUT.-GENERAL SIR IVEN MACKAY, K.B.E., C.M.G., D.S.O., V.D.

2/4th Bn.: NX3843 R. J. (Dick) Jupp, Kirribilli (from N. S. Anzac Club news).

NX46864 J. P. (Pat) Gleeson, Grafton (from Mick Green).

4th Bn. A.I.F.: 65949 F. Bragg; 5661 E. Brigden; 6826 J. B. Boldra; 4466 T. A. Clarke; 929 A. J. Maurer; 6252 W. G. Douglas; 3091 E. B. Fitz-



gerald; 65947 A. R. Bergeest; 1002 G. Bladin; 51174 E. F. Roberts; 7553 G. H. C. Woodley; 3035 W. Brabiner; 65993 F. J. Hansson (from Reveille).

### SICK PARADE

R.G.H. Concord: Johnny Meehan (Ward 11), Claude Pollock (5).

R.G.H. Heidelberg: Bill Irvine (Ward 7).

### THE KEMPSEY REUNION

Esca Riordan, the organising secretary of the Reunion together with Jim Brown and the local committee, deserve our wholehearted thanks for the wonderful manner in which the function was planned and executed.

The proceedings opened with the March to the War Memorial of which you will have read on another page. After a brief limbering-up period in the Club Rooms the Official Dinner commenced in the adjoining Memorial Hall with Chairman Esca Riordan welcoming and introducing the Official Guests who were:—Major-General Dougherty, Principal Guest Speaker; Mr. R. G. Melville, The Mayor of Kempsey; Mr. S. P. McIntyre, Deputy Shire President; Mr. M. P. O'Sullivan, Chairman County Council; Mr. J. H. Brown, M.L.A. for Raleigh; Mr. S. K. Saul, President Macleay Sub-Branch R.S.S. & A.I.L.A.; Mr. F. Ellis, Chairman Macleay R.S.L. Club; Mr. A. Venn, President Legacy Contact Group; Lt.-Colonel J. Abbott ex C.O. 6 Div. Cav.; Mr. Alan Mills, Manager of Radio 2KP, and Mr. L. B. Harte, Manager of Radio 2KM.

After the Loyal Toast had been proposed by the Chairman and duly honoured the Mayor extended a Civic welcome to the visitors. Mr. Melville remarked that this was the third Country Reunion of the 2/4th Bn. held in Kempsey and he complimented the members on the fashion in which the functions were carried out and expressed the hope that the flair for organising shown by Esca could be utilised in Local Government. Mr. Melville was ably supported by Mr. McIntyre on behalf of the President of the Shire of Macleay.

In giving the Occasional Address, coupled with the toast to the 2/4th Battalion, General Dougherty spoke with great feeling of his regard for the Battalion Association and of those who have kept it so active over the years. "Associations such as ours contribute greatly to good citizenship," said the General. Touching on the School Cadet movement of which he is Colonel-in-Chief in N.S.W. he said that despite the opinions of a small minority School Cadets received an excellent training which helped them greatly in the transformation to post-school life. The future of the country will be in good hands if entrusted to the type of lad passing through the School Cadet Corps.

Association President Harry Gjedsted responded very ably to the toast of the Battalion. We shall give a full report on Harry's Speech in the next month's issue.

Johnny Jordan, Association Vice-President, proposed the toast of "Our Guests" and Lt.-Col. Abbott responded suitably.

Before the proceedings were concluded General

Dougherty gave a simple but impressive Eulogy to the late Lt.-General Sir Iven Mackay, whose death had occurred the day before. A Piper from the Parramatta Pipe Band played the Lament. This was recorded and broadcast over the local and Regional radio stations. A copy of the tape was procured and will be played at the Combined Smoko on 4th November.

After the playing of the National Anthem the gathering, 131 strong, moved to the Club Room there to relax, and enjoy the company of old friends and new, to retell the stories of old times, to talk of families and the future and above all to demonstrate the pride of membership of the 2/4th Battalion.

On Sunday over 100 men and women journeyed to South West Rocks for a picnic at the old Gaol at Trial Bay. A delightful luncheon was served by the Red Cross ladies under the supervision of Isobel Nelson-Slee. Refreshments were available on the way at the South West Rocks Bowling Club and a "cargo" was also procured for lunch.

After lunch the procession moved to the Crescent Head Country Club. Here the hospitality was enjoyed to the full (and by them). Barbecued steak gave the necessary bedding for a first class "gourmet" session. There was excellent entertainment from both professional and impromptu "amateur" entertainers. As a matter of fact there will be probably an approach from the Wine & Food Society to form a branch. (We've got the office bearers selected already—and they don't eat with their meals.)

Alas! All good things must come to an end; so on Monday the great exodus for home began. By train and plane and car they came and went. Some stayed on for an extra day or two—but all agreed the 1966 Country Reunion was one of the best ever.

Roll call at the reunion was:—Roy Andrews, Peter Armstrong, Glen Ackerman, John Bennett, Jim McBrown, "Massa" Brooks, Stan Blacksley, J. H. Brown, Dick Bawden, Jerry Coghlan, M. F. Coy, Tom Clarke, Jack Chaseling, Bruce Cork, Tom Clough, George Catt, Craig Clarke, Jack Dubber, Harry Dowling, Iven Dougherty, Rex Everson, Tim Ellis, Frank Frizell, Harry Gjedsted, Doug Groves, Charlie Groves, Bub Graham, W. G. V. Graham, Russell Green, Ted Gamble, Chris Geelan, Mick Green, Bob Gardener, Athol Heath, Jack Hughes, Bill Harold, "Bully" (Bill) Hayes, Jack Humphries, Len Hellyer, Sammy Hughes, Wal Henry, Johnnie Jordan, Clem Killeen, Alan Kirk, Jack Lister, Johnnie Morrison, Russ McWilliam, Bill Mitchell, "Scotch" MacCartney, Dick Minnie, Jack Maloney, John Meehan, Norrie McGregor, Keith McCaffery, Dick Morris, Dave McGillivray, David Martin, Ken Northrop, Harry Pearse, Dick Pinson, Aub Priest, Mick Pezzutti, Tom Provians, Wal Potts, Harry Russell, Jim (Cock) Robin, Jack Reynolds, Esca Riordan, Fred Searle, Bill Stewart, Phil (Blah) Smith, Ernie Twist, Harry Wright, Bill Wall, Ian Wallwork, Hugh Whittleton, Frank (Pom) Wallace, Len Waterworth, Ewan Woods and with Tom Provians' Brisbane contingent were Laurie McCosker, Vin McCosker, Kev Lynch, L. Jackson, B. Wearne, Chas Robinson, Bill Cavanaugh, Allan Tomason, John Witelaw, J. Shingles and K. Nugent; Bill Ford and eighteen Pipers more of which we will hear in the next issue.



**LADIES' NIGHT**  
**FRIDAY, 2nd DECEMBER, 8 p.m.**  
**ROYAL NAVAL HOUSE, GROSVENOR STREET,**  
**SYDNEY**

**RESERVE THE DATE NOW**

This is the night we reserve for entertaining our  
 Ladies—Wives, Daughters and Friends.

DANCE TO DICK PINSON'S BAND

See Slides of past Country Reunions.

**THE LADIES AT KEMPSEY**

There was a very good attendance of Members' Ladies at the Annual Country Reunion and it is the general consensus of opinion that the great success of these functions is contributed to in no small way by their presence. While the men were banqueting in the Memorial Hall the ladies were enjoying a sumptuous dinner in a section of the Club reserved for the occasion. Later they joined the menfolk in the main Club Rooms to enjoy the rest of the evening.

Among the ladies present were:— Marge Gjedsted, Doris Jordan, Vera Riordan, Gladys Brown, Margaret Graham, Hilda Wright, Noreen Dowling, Dot Searle, Eunice Dubber, Ida Mitchell, Glen Smith, Vera Catt, Ruth Bawden, Joan Hughes, Carma Kirk, Dawn Gardener, Freda Clark, Edna Wallwork, Joan Chase-ling, Joyce Morris, Con Grove, Coral Nugent, Bell Shingles, Joyce Stewart, Mavis Humphries, Molly Irvine, Kathleen Waterworth, Yvonne Pearse, Marie Fitton, Emmaline Russell, Norma Everson, Eileen Hughes, Gladys Twist, Lorna McGregor, Kit McCartney, Isabel Nelson-Slee, Billie Bennett and Barbara McWilliam.

**COCK'S COLUMN — KEMPSEY REUNION**

Friday, 30th September. At 7.45 a.m. was picked up at North Sydney by Russ and Barbara McWilliam; Barbara the pilot. We headed north—Kempsey bound. It was a very pleasant and enjoyable trip and I wish to sincerely thank R. & B. for their kindness in inviting me to go with them. Near Raymond Terrace we passed the Morrison-Heaney Clan also wending their way northwards. Pulled into Taree and met Jim "Rosco" McKinnon at the Exchange; he wished to be remembered to Bruce Stewart and the boys.

Arriving safely at Kempsey in the afternoon, I booked in at Tatts. The first one I met, an interstater, Jack Reynolds from Milla Milla, Atherton Tablelands, North Queensland; 1500 miles each way, an excellent effort Jack, you have the record; the boys are proud of such a loyal member. Jack had a dual purpose in coming to Kempsey—also to see his sister, who is Sister Emanuel at the Convent of Mercy, Kempsey. Congratulations Sister, pleased to hear of you and wish you all the best. Jack said that Jim Whittaker (also at Milla Milla) would have loved to have come, but due to circumstances could not make it. However, sent regards to all the boys. Jim was in Townsville recently and met Noel Ford who is in a "good paddock". Jim and his wife Margaret are going to Brisbane at the end of November to see their only daughter Janet graduate from the Teachers' Training College. Congratulations Janet. Jack also gave me eight photos (for the collection) of our old camp at Wondecla.

There are other soldiers there now, but many parts are overgrown with bush and grass. Jack asked me about Wally Lambourne, and how he was, as Jim Whittaker would like to know.

The next I met was Clem Killeen, Tilpa, who has been at Griffith, and had met Ted Swadling, Arthur Webb, and "Nedda" Erskine. It was Clem's birthday, 21 again plus 30, which gave us the excuse to bend the elbows.

Len Waterworth's first country reunion but it will not be his last. Len and Kathleen had a most enjoyable time.

John Meehan's first country reunion, but it will be a must next year, at Tamworth.

Bruce Cork, first reunion also. Bruce showed me a photo of his new baby daughter, and a beautiful child at that. Bruce is very proud of her.

I was very pleased to see that Dick and Joyce Morris made it; had a yarn to the children.

Stan Blacksley, Humula, another long distance entry. Would say over 600 miles each way, am I right Stan? Stan said that Don Healey's father had passed away a first War Digger, 84 years old.

Frank "Pom" Wallace, Maclean—Saw and "heard" Pom, he had recently met the North Coast boys. Hope to see you at Tamworth, Pom, the boys will be disappointed if you are not.

Bill Wall, Bingara. Bill has recently seen Ross Smith and George Crockett; both are well, but could not make it. George Crockett is the Caterer at the Inverell Servicemen's Club and Ross the Secretary/Manager.

Bub and Margaret Graham, Jack Maloney, Bowra-ville, and Tom Clough, Macksville, all came together. Bub has recently seen Geoff Galvin who is O.K. Rex and Norma Everson. Rex has recently seen Stan Bowen, Bill Bickley, Norm Auberson and Ron Whalen.

Bill and Joyce Stewart, Kogarah. I was pleased to see them. Athol Heath—sorry you could not make it Pat, we missed you; see you with Athol Ladies' Night. Athol was pleased to see Glen Ackerman and Bruce Cork.

Tom Clough, Macksville. Tom is now President of Macksville R.S.L. Sub-branch. Tom met a George Grinley, brother of Ray, 2/4th (who was killed in the Derna area). George saw Tom's badge. Tom checked in the book, he then lent the book to George who said he enjoyed it very much. (To be continued)

"COCK ROBIN"

**COCK'S COLUMN**

IN THE MAIL BOX:—Letter from Monty Siems: Monty is going back to England, wrote he would be in Sydney on 28th September and would visit the North British; was travelling on the "Castel Felice". John Morrison, Jack Heaney, "Sailor" Harvey, Frank Frizell, Dick Morris, and I turned up to say "Au revoir". It was quite a pleasant gathering. Monty met Don Dimsey in Melbourne who wanted him to go along and meet Ted Resusson, the former R.S.M. of the 2/1st Field Regt., but time was against him. However, had a bit of a natter in the street and mentioned that he was Staff Manager for Ansett Airways. Monty's address will be 152 Marston Avenue, Dagenham, England. We all wish you the best, Monty, a safe trip and hope to hear from you soon. So another W.O.G. to England. Frank Mallet gets his copy regularly.