



White over Green

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE 2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

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Next Meeting: Ladies Night, Friday, 2nd December, 8 p.m.

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL SIR IVEN MACKAY

K.B.E., C.M.G., D.S.O., V.D., B.A., LL.D. (Hon.)

By IVAN DOUGHERTY

Those of us who were privileged to serve in the 2/4th Battalion will always remember the keen interest that the late Sir Iven Mackay took in our unit.

He was devoted to his Sixth Division with all its units, but he had a special personal interest in the 2/4th, for we had inherited the traditions of the 4th Battalion of World War I and proudly wore the White over Green colour patch which Sir Iven had worn for so long during that war.

Although a brilliant leader in more senior rank in each of the two World Wars, it is perhaps for his service with the 4th Battalion in World War I and as G.O.C. Sixth Division, A.I.F., in World War II, that he will generally be best remembered.

Born at Grafton, New South Wales, in 1882, Sir Iven was educated at Grafton Public School, Newington College and the University of Sydney. When war broke out in 1914 he was a member of the staff of the University of Sydney. It was from here that he enlisted in the A.I.F. on 27th August, 1914, and became the original adjutant of the 4th Battalion. Having been injured and evacuated to hospital on 4th October, he later rejoined his unit and landed with it on the Gallipoli Peninsula. He was wounded at Lone Pine on 7th August, 1915. Crossing to France in March, 1916, Sir Iven was appointed to Command the Fourth in April, 1916, and remained its C.O. until March, 1918. In March, 1918, he was appointed to command the 1st Machine Gun Battalion, and on 6th June he was given command of the 1st Australian Infantry Brigade. Brigadier-General Mackay, as he then was, remained in command of the 1st Brigade until 4th April, 1920, after the Brigade had returned to Australia.

Between the wars Sir Iven continued to serve his country as a citizen soldier and in 1937 was appointed to command the Second Division with the rank of Major-General. In civil life during this period he was

a member of the staff of the University of Sydney until 1933 and Headmaster of Cranbrook School from 1933 onwards.

Appointed to command the Sixth Division, A.I.F., in 1940, he guided his division through the hard and realistic training that preceded our move from Palestine to North Africa later that year, and then led the Sixth through the significant and victorious first North Africa campaign in January and February, 1941. The significance of this great victory lay in the fact that at this time the British Empire stood alone against the armed might of Germany and Italy, and the general situation was grim. It was the first great victory on land in World War II, and coming when it did it brought great encouragement to the peoples of our Empire.

Knighted following this victory, Sir Iven commanded his Division in Greece in 1941, and after his return to Australia late that year he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant-General and appointed G.O.C. Home Forces. He was G.O.C. 2nd Australian Army in 1942 and 1943, and from 1944 to 1948 he was Australian High Commissioner for India. In this last post, in a new field, he added further lustre to his splendid record.

A gallant and brilliant soldier, a diplomat, and a fine Australian in every sense of the word, Ivan Mackay was a true University man always. A graduate in Arts and an Honorary Doctor of Laws, of the University of Sydney, he was a double Blue (football and rowing), and was President of the Sydney University Union in 1921 and 1922. From 1950 until the time of his death, he was the University's Esquire Bedell.

Australia will forever owe a great debt to Lieutenant-General Sir Iven Mackay. For his unmatched courage, moral as well as physical, his absolute integrity, his inspiration, and his leadership in peace and war, Australians will always be grateful. The story of his life provides a shining example for future generations.

TOAST TO 2/4th BATTALION HARRY GJEDSTED RESPONDS

At the Annual Country Reunion at Kempsey, Association President Harry Gjedsted responded in a heart-warming manner to the toast to the Battalion, proposed by General Dougherty. We thought you would be interested to read the response in full so print it verbatim:

"MR. CHAIRMAN, GENERAL DOUGHERTY, MR. MAYOR, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS and fellow members of the 2/4th Battalion Association. — On behalf of our Association, I would like you, General, to accept our congratulations for your excellent address, and our sincere thanks for proposing the Toast to the Battalion. In responding, I would like to say how stimulating it is to have you here with us today, and to have such a wonderful gathering of our Members, who have travelled from near and far to join you at this Reunion.

We all know the basic principles that make a Unit a good one — the qualities, adaptability and character of the men who serve in it — the capabilities, determination, understanding and leadership qualities of its officers and N.C.O.'s — and the constant training that welds that Unit into a team.

We had ALL this in the 2/4th Battalion and these characteristics, and the strength of our comradeship, are reflected in the strength of our Battalion Association, and the high esteem in which we are held by the 4 Bn. A.I.F. Association, and 4 Bn. Royal N.S.W. Regiment, 4 Bn. Royal Australian Regiment and our fellow A.I.F. Unit Associations.

To have served in the 2nd. A.I.F. was an HONOUR; to have served in the 6th Australian Division and to help mould its magnificent record of service was a PRIVILEGE that was confined to a comparative few.

To have worn the WHITE OVER GREEN colour patch of the 2/4th Infantry Battalion — to be one of only a very few Units to be classified "ANZACS" in the true sense of the word (during the Greek campaign), to have served under the inspiring leadership of yourself and the Battalion's other Commanding Officers — is an HONOUR AND A PRIVILEGE that has given us all a fierce pride, and deep affection, that will remain with us for the rest of our lives.

Thank you Sir.

Thank you Gentlemen."

THE PARRAMATTA PIPE BAND

The Parramatta Pipers, with the much-appreciated help of the boys from Taree, put on a wonderful performance at the Kempsey Reunion. Again at the Combined Smoko they excelled themselves — really brought the house down when they piped Gordon Maitland and his 4 Bn. Royal N.S.W. Regt. boys up the stairs and to their car. Incidentally any or all of the Parramatta Pipers are open for engagements at Social Functions; ring Bill Ford 637-5682.

"RUN - AROUND"

By JOHNNY MORRISON

Picked up Jack Heaney, Clem Killeen, "Fangs" Coughlan and Peter Armstrong on Friday, 30th September, at 8 a.m. and headed for Kempsey. Arrived Kempsey, looked up Esca Riordan and settled into the Club to wash down the dust. There have been congratulations already for Esca and the Kempsey Committee, so "Good work Esca". Clem Killeen wanted to get back to Tilpa, out Bourke way, so we decided to go that way home. Called in on Ross Smith and Geoff Hawke at Inverell, did not have time to see Bill Wall at Bingara but had seen him at the "do" in Kempsey. Looked up "Budda" Bowman at Warialda. "Budda" was having a day off for the local Council Picnic; looks pretty fit. Then on to Moree to see Mick Owers presiding over his Newsagency. Mick nearly made Kempsey but says he is a certainty for Tamworth next year.

Headed for Bourke and were greeted by Don Ellicot's homely grin. Don looks well, sends regards. Booked accommodation and repaired to the R.S.L. Club. Then on home to meet Don's wife Enid and daughters Helen and Suzanne. Stayed overnight in Bourke then Jack and I returned to Sydney. A friend of Don's travelled as far as Katoomba with us. Couldn't contact Frank Sadler at Dubbo, but saw Jim Staples busy on the green at Wellington Bowling Club.

Had a couple of days in Sydney, then I set off for Griffith. Met Ted Swadling at the Club. Rang Tom Erskine and he invited me to spend a couple of days with the family (Mrs. Joan, Judith, Reg and Ian) on the farm about 15 miles out of Griffith. I had a most enjoyable time. Tom and Reg were preparing 17 acres for surface sowing of rice and 50 acres for aerial sowing. I was sorry I was too early to see the actual operation which would have been very interesting, particularly the aerial sowing.

There was a District School Cadet Gymkhana at Leeton while I was there. Tom coaches the Griffith High School's Rifle Shooting Team, and got a great thrill when the team duly won the shooting event at the Gymkhana. General Dougherty attended the Gymkhana in his official capacity. I also met Fred Driscoll and Fred Apthorpe at Griffith; both wished to be remembered to the boys. I missed Arthur Webb at the local Co-op. but believe he keeps pretty fit.

Drove on to Wagga and called in on the R.S.L. Club. Bruce Stewart was on the bowling green playing in a charity Carnival. His team won the event. Called at Turvey's Tavern and met Joe Crawford, and he put me on to Perce Dalla at the Leagues Club. Did not see Jock Cumming who was away at Tumut.

Moved on to Cootamundra and called in on Jimmy Crowe and his wife Marcia. Jim was in the middle of the family wash-machine job of course. A good lad, Marcia. Then on to Wal Taylor's. Wal was out for the day but met Mrs. Taylor. Next stop Cowra to see Ted Harris just knocking off duty at the Club. Had quite a natter then off to bed early. Hilton Batchelor was working late and as Tim West, Leo Carter and Jack Ormiston live some miles out I was unable to see them. I returned home the next day happy with the thoughts of renewed meetings with my friends of the 2/4th Battalion.

ANNUAL LADIES' NIGHT**FRIDAY, 2nd DECEMBER. 8 P.M.****at Royal Naval House, Grosvenor Street, Sydney**

**A HAPPY PRE-XMAS PARTY
FOR WIVES, DAUGHTERS AND FRIENDS
OF THE FOURTH — DANCE TO DICK
PINSON'S BAND. BRING ALONG YOUR
SLIDES AND PHOTOS OF REUNIONS.**

MORNING TEA AT KEMPSEY

For the "late departers" after the Reunion a delightful morning tea was enjoyed at Vera and Esca's. Among those couples present were Dot and Fred Searle, Hilda and Harry Wright, Joyce and Dick Morris and children, Emmeline and Harry Russell, Joan and Jack Hughes, Carma and Allan Kirk, Norma and Rex Everson, Molly Irvine, Yvonne and Harry Pierce, Billie Bennett and Barbara McWilliam. (Rusty and "Bush" were busy "taxi-ing" plane passengers.) During the morning tea Dot Searle, on behalf of the ladies, presented Vera with a box of chocolates in appreciation of all she had done to make things go smoothly for Esca and thus the Reunion itself. All enjoyed the morning thoroughly and were especially pleased to be able to meet Vera's mother, Mrs. Phillips.

LAST POST

NX5845 F. W. ("Wimpy") LOGAN, NX31036 S. F. CARTER, NX8648 V. SMITH (Reveille). "We will remember them".

We regret to report the sudden death of our friend and comrade-at-arms "Wimpy" Logan. "Wimpy", who was gardening at home at Concord, collapsed after visiting a neighbour and died without regaining consciousness. To Mrs. Logan and family we extend our deepest sympathy. The funeral was attended by Johnny Morrison, Ron Williams, Morrie Wilson and Rusty McWilliam.

COMBINED SMOKO

Although the attendance was disappointing the Combined Smoko lacked nothing in atmosphere and conviviality. The presence of representatives of yet another 4th Battalion — 4 Bn. Royal N.S.W. Regiment — gave added interest to the function. President Harry Gjedsted gave fitting welcome to the visitors including our much appreciated Parramatta Pipe Band who entertained us in Royal style.

Harry Burrows replied on behalf of the 4th Bn. A.I.F. and Gordon Maitland spoke for 4 Bn. Royal N.S.W. Regt. Gordon, who is C.O. of his Unit, was proud to announce they had been able to get hold of the gun captured by Edward Kenna, V.C., in the action for which he was awarded the highest of all decorations. This gun will be mounted and positioned in a place of Honour at Unit Headquarters, Arncliffe. A suitable ceremony will be held to which all 2/4th members will be invited.

"COCK'S COLUMN"

IN THE MAILBAG. A nice letter from Mrs. Doris Naphthali, who writes that she read in "White Over Green" of the Bn. Photograph Collection. "I am Reg. Naphthali's widow and I have lots of photos here, which I am sure Reg. would have liked the 2/4 Bn. Associa-

tion to have. It is very kind to send "W.O.G." to me. I remember some of the names of the boys, as I met quite a few in England in 1946. I know John and Eileen Copland best because they were personal friends of Reg's family. I stayed in the same boarding house in Eastbourne, England with Athol and Pat Heath. Clive, who is now 19 years old, will be registering for Military Service next year." Our sincere thanks Mrs. Naphthali for your very kind and thoughtful gesture; the photos will be greatly appreciated. Hope to see you on Ladies Night.

* * *

A letter from Max Rungie, 15 Trinity Ave., College Park, South Aust. Max had done a favour for me, also sent some news. Looks forward to receiving his W.O.G. Has not seen much of the boys since Anzac Day. They only meet about two or three times a year. "Our holiday home at Port Wakefield is now officially open and should prove popular. See a bit of Fred Dibden and had the good fortune to meet Doug Christian (Salvation Army) the other day. Bit embarrassing — I was in the hotel having a drink and he came in and sold me a 'War Cry'. Regards to the boys." Many thanks again Max, I appreciate your favour.

* * *

From Mick Green, of Grafton, with the sad news of the sudden death of Pat Gleeson. Our deepest sympathy to Mrs. Gleeson and son Kevin. Leo Lynch, Horrie Cameron and Mick were among those who attended the funeral.

* * *

Don Bundy of Narrandera, writes that Jim James who is Station Assistant there found an overcoat on the Rail Motor which contained among other things a 2/4th colour patch, W.O.G. tie and tie clip. The owner may have same by contacting Jim James or Don at Phone Narrandera 754. Thanks, Don, for your interest.

* * *

From Joe Bohle, of New Lambton, advising that Cliff Curran was admitted to St. Vincent's after a heart attack. On enquiring we were happy to hear that Cliff had been discharged.

* * *

From Bede Keary (4th Bn.) in R.G.H. Concord, thanking the Association for visits by Johnny Morrison and Fred Searle and with best wishes. Thank you Bede; glad to hear you are now out of hospital. Sorry you couldn't make the Combined Smoko.

* * *

"Bush" Bennett of Brewarrina writes that Ron Withers (Carriers) was in a head-on collision near Richmond (Q'd.) and was very badly knocked about. Is recovering now but will not be able to carry on his trade again. Bad luck, Ron! Our best wishes to Hilda and you. Thanks for your note "Bush".

* * *

"Sailor" Harvey has written an interesting letter of his trip to Melbourne and back which will appear in the next issue.

* * *

Bill Irvine of Orbost — still in R.G.H. Heidelberg (Ward 7) and will probably be in for some time. Had letters recently from Tom Bartlett and Rusty McWilliam. All the best Bill.

October meeting: The boys who came along: Cec Chrystal, Fred Searle, Harry Gjedsted, George Stack, Harry Wright, John Morrison, John Jordan, Bill Luck, Athol Heath, Bob Jackson, Cecil "Slim" Powers, Fred Staggs, John Copland, Peter Cade, Vic Francis and John Fitzgerald 2/1 Bn.

I was pleased to see "Slim" Powers in circulation again after his sojourn at the R.G.H.; he looks well on it, and is putting on weight. "Slim's" first visit for some time, due to his work, but hopes to be more frequent in future.

Margaret and Peter Cade have a new son, Ted Andrew (adopted), five weeks old. Peter's comment: "Powerful in the lungs, strong on the munga." Congrats. Margaret and Peter.

Bob Jackson, Deniliquin, our country visitor; Vic Francis, our south of the border visitor, has recently contacted Doug Miller, Ken Moses, Dick Parry and Claude Raymond, and would like to contact Jim Barrow particularly on Anzac Day. Russ Maddern has not been on the roll call for many a day — what about a report Russ? It was good to see you Vic; Vic's address: 46 Tudor Street, South Oakleigh, Melbourne — phone 57 8873.

John Fitzgerald, 2/1 Bn. attended the meeting, seeking information on Regimental History, and gaining clues on our own history "White Over Green", for the 2/1st history entitled "First In War". John met many old mates and others not really strangers to him, because of their mutual acquaintances in both battalions.

Met Bill Key: Bill is looking well, and is now living in Boronia Ave., Turrumurra; phone 449 2280. Bill works with Gordon Kent (C. Coy.).

NORTH BRITISH NEWS:

Saw Jack Heaney and with him two boys from the bush, Jack "Horsedocor" Huston, R.M.B. 2103 Barton Highway, Canberra, also Hilton "Snow" Harrison, 17 Ordnance Ave., Lithgow. It was good to see Jack Huston. In Sydney only for the day, but called in to see the boys. I am very sorry to hear of the tragic death of Jack's daughter, Sharon, 21 years (car accident), and we extend our sincere sympathy to Jack and Joan.

It was also good to see "Snow" Harrison; it was the first visit to the North British that he has met any of the boys. "Snow" is Service Manager for General Motors Dealer, Lithgow, and would be pleased for any 2/4th-ers to call in. Said that Ron Stennett had called. Also recently saw John Hine, played golf with John Morgan, and would like to contact Harry "Killer" Nichols, Jock Naseby and Bill Bickley. Sends regards to "Slim" Pollock.

"Snow" was speaking to a chap, Peter Harvey, and mentioned the 2/4th, and learnt that Peter's brother John Harvey, 2/4 Bn., was killed at Wewak. "Snow" was one of the "juniors", is now only 47, and a 14½ stoner. Pleased to see you "Snow", hope to more often.

Saw Johnny Morrison settled in his preserve in the corner. He had been on "Run Around". At the October

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meeting he invited me to go across to Adelaide with him, but unfortunately circumstances prevented me. As Johnny will be writing an account of the trip I'll leave it to him, as he makes a better job of it than I. Years ago Johnny wrote the Column "Here & There" which was an excellent feature of the W.O.G.

I heard that Teddy McCaffery, Ron "Porky" Williams, Jerry "Fangs" Coughlan, and Doug Barry had also been in the North British.

John Copland recently had the pleasure to meet again Miss Peg Hardie, the sister of our late comrade Jim. She sends greetings to us all. Although she knows only Cec Chrystal and John, Miss Hardie reads every word of W.O.G. and enjoys reading about us and our families.

Kempsey Reunion continued: Strolling past Central Caravan Park, Kempsey, met "Ollie" and Gladys Twist, also their son, from Merrylands and Ewen Wood, Rydalmere, in their caravans and tent. I heard "Ollie's" son (sorry I can't remember your name, mate) is a painter, not a large brush, slap and dab, but an Artist; one of Dick Morris's mob.

Jack and Eunice Dubber, Campsie; on the way up Jack called in to Port Macquarie and had a couple of noggins with Dick Bawden, who was coming to the Reunion. Jack said that brother Lewis (Billy) is living at Cronulla. Jack met Sid George and Bob Morrell at Hurlstone Park R.S.L.

Allan and Carma Kirk, Lismore; Allan had a visit from Jim Staples (Mtrs). Jim lives at Wellington. Allan has also seen Vic and Vince Slade, who could not come. Sorry to hear that Vince's wife Nancy has a very badly sprained ankle; Allan also said Eddie Miller, who has a taxi at Lismore, sends regards.

George and Vera Catt, Manly; George apologised for Eric Holder, who intended to come, but could not.

Jack and Doris Jordan, Ashfield. Mick Pezzutti Lismore met Aub Priest and John Hinette, both Bonalbo, had a few noggins, also had a yarn to Doug Stebbing. Doug could not make it. Freddie Varley, Lismore, sent his apology, could not get away from work. Mick had a yarn to Vic Slade, hitting high spots, bought a new Falcon.

Len Hellyer, Wollongong (another long distance entrant) met Billy Niland and Billy Ring. Len said that Jack Holt was killed in a car accident. We are very sorry to hear of this, and offer our sincere sympathy.

Wally Graham and Roy Andrews, both Lismore, came down with Mick Pezzutti. Mick gave an apology for Mick Antonelli of Woodburn, who on account of the death of a sister, and the serious illness of another sister in Toowoomba hospital, could not attend. We are very sorry to hear of this Mick, we offer our sincere sympathy and best wishes for a speedy recovery; see you at Tamworth.

To be continued.
"COCK" ROBIN.