



# White Over Green

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE 2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

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**Next Meeting: FRIDAY, JUNE 3, Royal Naval House, Grosvenor St., Sydney**

## Official Opening: "The Kenna Club"

Following Col. Geddes invitation, Cec. Chrystal and Harry Gjedsted as your president, attended this important function on 1st April, Harry reports:—

We arrived at Scheyville Officer Training Unit at 4 p.m. and were met by Colonel Geddes and his 2 i/c, Major Baker.

The unit is located in a beautiful setting and the headquarters buildings are built in the delightful and attractive architectural design of the Colonial 1800's.

Major Baker spent some time with us, showing us around the area and explaining the cadet training schedules and general items of interest.

We were interested to learn that the O.T.U. cadets are exclusively from the National Service Training programme, that they are extremely conscientious, fully aware of their responsibilities, and that they certainly work hard (6.30 a.m. through to 9.30 p.m.).

It was also interesting to know that the Paratroop Battalion was trained here during the last war.

At 5 p.m. we moved into the Soldier's Club. Outside the Club, at the entrance is erected a large shield type sign, with the wording: "The Kenna Club" embossed in gold letters.

On entering the Club, we were met by the Club President, Corporal Hodges, and at his invitation enjoyed the hospitality of the Club and its members, until Colonel Geddes formally introduced us and requested your President to officially open the Club.

I had previously decided that the best way to handle this would be to give a brief resume of the Battalion, from its formation, its campaigns and movements up to the New Guinea campaign and the events leading up to "Nedda" winning his V.C., following which I would read "Nedda's" citation from "White Over Green".

From the concentrated attention of the audience this appears to have created the interest that I hoped it would, and at the conclusion I presented, on behalf of the Association, a copy of "White Over Green" to Corporal Hodges.

For the official opening a large "White Over Green" type of pennant was attached to the wall and upon declaring the Kenna Club officially open I pulled this away by means of an attached tape, revealing a bronze

plaque on which was inscribed, Private E. Kenna's citation.

Although it was a relatively simple ceremony, it was a wonderful experience and a tremendous honour for me to represent "Nedda" Kenna, and the Association, on this occasion.

It was also a night of coincidence in that:

- (a) It was the official opening of the Kenna Club;
- (b) It was the night of our Association monthly meeting;
- (c) It was the 25th anniversary of the Battalion sailing for Greece on the "Pennland".
- (d) It was the first birthday of Scheyville O.T.U.

After a further period of "hospitality" in the Club, Colonel Geddes then announced that in association with the official opening of the Kenna Club, it was also the Unit's birthday, whereupon a large cake was brought in and cut in the traditional manner by means of the Colonel's sword.

Shortly after this, we were invited to the Sergeants' Mess by the R.S.M. and again became very actively engaged in "hospitality" and discussions on "Nedda" Kenna, the Battalion's activity, and personnel generally.

Speaking of coincidence, Sergeant Major (W.O. II) A. Robinson, late of the Sherwood Forresters, remarked that his interest in the Australian Army had been originally aroused by a photo he had seen when he was a boy in England. This photo showed Australians in the Western Desert raising a slouched hat on the flagpole at Tobruk.

You can imagine the look on his face when I produced "White Over Green" and showed him the photo of "Rusty" McWilliam doing that very deed . . .

Incidentally Major Baker promised that he would send the Association photos of the Kenna Club sign erected outside the Club, and of the plaque on the wall inside the Club.

I would like to ensure that copies of these are sent to "Nedda".

We joined Colonel Geddes and his officers for dinner, and eventually with the hour getting later, the hospitality overwhelming, and considerable miles to travel, we headed for home.



It was truly a wonderful evening, and I am deeply appreciative of Cec. Chrystal's company and support on this important occasion.

H. E. C. Gjedsted.

### W.O.G.'s 20th BIRTHDAY

This issue commences W.O.G.'s 21st year of continuous monthly publication.

On looking back through Vol. 1-20, one notes that the path has not always been a rosy one, mainly due to members' apathy toward providing info., but the various Editors and acting Editors have always managed to 'carry on regardless'.

Fortunately for me, as present Editor, there is now an awareness of the need to supply news, so that editing becomes a matter of pruning or saving for later use, so as to give the most interesting possible publication.

At the same time, there are many of you from whom we would truly appreciate a little family and/or local news, particularly of other W.O.G. types with whom you may be in touch. Or of mates who have paid you a visit, or whom you have visited.

Don't forget, we have an 'irregular' feature "Triplets" to record interesting trips where visits to other W.O.G.'s have been made.

Next year, for the 21st birthday issue, I'm hoping we can put out a bumper edition at not too great an additional cost. This may depend largely on the generosity of the trade—paper, blocks, printing, but I feel sure this will be forthcoming when we ask.

Perhaps the May (1967) meeting could take the form of a special W.O.G. celebration, for, after all, W.O.G. has been the vital link over the years between our widely scattered members and is unique in its own right.

Let it come of age with loud rejoicings!

### FRED STAGGS, HON. LIFE MEMBER

Fred Staggs has accepted Hon. Life membership and we sincerely congratulate him.

In accepting, Fred pointed out that he counted it a really great honour; greater even than life memberships in the R.S.L., which he declined last year.

He was deeply moved that members considered him worthy of such an honour, but was most diffident about accepting as he felt there were others, particularly Johnnie Morrison, who should take precedence over him.

It has been moved that the Committee consider Honorary Life membership for Johnnie and this should be forthcoming. I do feel personally, that Fred would have been happier about the whole business had Johnnie been honoured in a like manner on the same evening as himself. However, Fred's services over the years have been suitably recognised and I'm sure all agree with the decision.

### KEMPSEY REUNION

A rain check with Jim Brown shows that all systems are go for the reunion, with Esca up on his toes and at his organisational best, with "Bub" Graham right with him.

Doug Stebbing reports a full scale recruiting campaign in Lismore for "starters" and a large contingent is expected to front up. (Conscript the d — — lot!

Why give them a choice??) numerous members have indicated in letters their intention of attending.

Send in your firm bookings boys (and don't forget the \$2 per person deposit), to

Esca Riordan.

63 Cameron Street, West Kempsey.

"SEE YOU IN KEMPSEY"

### ANZAC DAY

Cold winds but warm hearts greeted one on Anzac morn, at the F.U.P.—plus a little warmer-upper from the "R.A.P."

A good roll-up for the wreath-laying, but your Committee would prefer to see **all** present for this is **our** real Anzac Day gesture to Fallen Comrades.

"Doc led the parade and laid our wreath, but led 6th Division in the main march.

The 2 i/c 4th N.S.W. Regt. brought greetings from his C.O. Two members of the Regt. attended the luncheon.

The familiar faces continued to arrive in Phillip Street and we stepped off about 180 strong. Our band kept us swinging along and the march went unusually smoothly. My suggestion that the right eight ranks halt before entering the Domain gates, allowing the left ranks to continue and then join on the rear, worked well and saved all the shoulder-jamming which has always impeded orderly progress in past years.

The usual group visited the "Bow and Arrow" boys, with Harry G. proposing a toast to them and they toasted our Bn. Sincere and heartening as ever.

Harry Stafford visited our show later. A grand time was had at Manresa Hall, with good mates, good tucker and ample ale. So enjoyable was the event that most stayed on until about 7 p.m.—surely a record!

I knew nought of this as I had promised to go to Ashfield R.S.L. "as and when required", and the "escort" had me on my way before I could even burp after having my meal! An excellent day!!

### MELBOURNE ANZAC DAY

*From Dick Parry, 33 Sterling Road, Croydon, Vic. who now has his business in Lower Templestowe.*

My name was drawn out of the hat on Anzac Day to let you know what went on down here on that day, so I'll quickly call the roll for you.

After the march, which I wasn't able to attend because I was on duty, most of the boys went out to Vic. Frances' home, where Mrs. Frances went to an enormous amount of trouble to look after us, as she always does.

Fellows who either marched or came to the re-union later were

Bob Richardson,	Don. Cross—2/11 Bn.
John McLoughlin	(collapsed after march but I think is OK).
Monty Siems	Doug Millar
Vic. Francis	"Steamboat" Walters
Ted Waterstrom	Stan Pretty
Vic. Hill	Claude Raymond
Bill Irvine—all the way from Orbost	Ken Moses
	Self (Dick Parry)

Apologies to any others I may have missed.

Ken Moses got on the backs of the TV cameramen from Channel 0, and the result was that the 2/4th received the full blast of the cameras as they



approached the Shrine, the only Bn. to receive such attention.

Would you give the Vic. boys' regards to any who might know us?

All the best,

DICK PARRY.

Thanks for the info, Dick. Best wishes to you and all Vic. W.O.G.'s. Would like to hear from Bob Richardson.—Ed.

**SICK PARADE**

**R.G.H. CONCORD:**

Geoff Hawke, ward 3.  
Rex Gilliland, ward 230.  
Baden Payne, ward 16.  
N. Pearce, ward 21.  
Bill Watson, ward 20.

**SICK AT HOME:**

Harry ("Soccer") Coomber.

**HOME FROM HOSPITAL:**

Dave McClure.  
Jack Pearce.  
Bill English.  
John Copland, Bernie O'Mara.

**Chin up, and best wishes, boys.**

**LAST POST**

NX 46785 M. P. ("Blue") Gillespie (Reveille).  
NX 9585 R. S. Wood (Reveille).  
NX 8663 L. S. (Les.) Mobbs (Herald).  
NX 1411 N. J. Shaylor (Barb Wire and Bamboo).  
NX 68260 L. L. G. (Tim) Holt (Road Accident).  
Our sincere sympathies to the families of these men.  
Vale, The Valiant!

**THE YEAR'S HONOUR ROLL**

W.O.II T. A. COOK  
PTE. JOHN JOCELYN  
PTE. "SPORTY" LOWE  
PTE. BOB WILLIAMS  
PTE. G. K. MUNCE  
PTE. BERT CATTLE  
PTE. L. S. (LES) MOBBS  
PTE. N. J. SHAYLOR  
PTE. CLAUDE ELLEM  
PTE. R. H. (RAY) ROBINSON  
PTE. R. S. WOOD  
PTE. LAURIE MORRIS  
PTE. DUDLEY SCHLANK  
PTE. CLAUDE HORNE  
PTE. H. M. (HARRY) DUNLOP  
PTE. PAT CUSACK  
PTE. M. P. GILLESPIE  
PTE. TIM HOLT

*At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, we will remember them.  
LEST WE FORGET.*

**SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Your Treasurer has had a deluge of subs. both by mail and on Anzac Day.

Good on you, gang! This shows the Executive and Committee they have your moral and financial membership support. That is all they ask—plus a personal appearance whenever possible at meetings and functions—AND NEWS FOR W.O.G.

Fred has sent out swags of receipts and trusts that all received them, in spite of the postal upset.

All should be well, but if W.O.G. stops arriving in YOUR letterbox—start screaming—OR send in your subscription if not already sent!

**MAY MONTHLY MEETING**

A most convivial night followed the Committee and General Meetings.

Committee dealt with reports on Anzac Day, Country Reunion and various other business for which they are "committed".

The General Meeting was happy to hear Fred. Staggs accept Hon. Life Membership. Later he moved that the Committee consider similar honour for Johnnie Morrison. This they will do, with no doubt, I feel, as to the outcome.

Bill Parry's offer of an excellent collector of colour patches was accepted and Peter Cade is to be their custodian.

There followed a discussion on collating and displaying trophies sent in over the years.

The idea of a woven "A" or metal "A" clasp to be attached to either the Africa Star or 1939-45 Star to be worn by those who were part of the second Anzac Corp. in Greece, was suggested in a letter from Monty Siems. He would like to see our association initiate and submit a proposal that the authorities go into this matter.

The Committee will consider what can be done and I'm sure the idea will be pursued—we trust to a successful conclusion.

Harry Gjedsted's sister was kind enough to send along three beautiful photos of the "marchingest mob" (namely us and "our" band!) taken on Anzac Day. They will go into Cock's collection. Thank you, ma'am!

**CALLING RUBE CARRINGTON**

Apologies from the Editor, mate. Many moons ago Rube sent in an interesting little poem, "Army Nurse", which has been pushed aside month after month, through lack of space.

I was determined to include it in April's Anzac issue, but due to the time lapse it has disappeared from the printer's reserve copy file.

Sorry Rube. If you feel inclined to trust us with another copy of the poem, please send it in about January and I will undertake to include it in next year's Anzac issue.

An apology is also due to Ray Moores, who forwarded from Bourke, Mel. Humphries' most interesting article, "Do You Remember" (April W.O.G.).

The preamble which I pinned to the article, and which must have been lost 'somewhere along the line', explained that Roy had forwarded the article. Also the fact that Mel. was an original member of 4th Bn. (A.I.F.). Pte. C. M. Humphries No. 683 and the only original Anzac in Bourke.

Apologies, Roy. Thanks for your interest and **when is the wedding?**

**MAIL BAG**

Oodles of letters, some just subs., but all writers send regards to members, congrats. to Harry G. and Committee.



Some are still ordering Histories for presentations. Some letters will, I hope, be published next month.

Thanks for your letter Padre "Paddy" Reid. It arrived too late to find info. on N.B., "H.Q.", hours. "Paddy's" plans to fly up for Anzac Day came adrift, but he had a most successful Dawn Service.

Also attended the Adelaide Anzac March and enjoyed one or two at the "Napoleon" with an old Zulu war veteran of 84 by the name of FYFE. With a name like that, you can imagine what was ordered!

I passed that dollar to Fred. S. for you Paddy, also address for History.

Final plan was for Padre Reid to arrive in Sydney on the 8th May. He was going to call in at "H.Q." (the N.B.) also contacted me.

So far, no Paddy! Not the first time a Padre has been ack-willie, I suppose, but we were all looking forward to seeing his happy face again.

Sincerely trust you had your holiday Paddy, unaffected by any further ill-health.

Good luck and best wishes for a successful career to Cathleen, daughter of Hugh Whittleton, Lynch's Creek, via Kyogle, who has commenced nursing at Concord. Thanks for the news Hugh and I trust all drought problems will be resolved long before the Reunion.

We city slickers are concerned about the effect of the drought on our country mates and sincerely do hope and pray for full relief of a quick recovery to abundant production.

Another daughter who may be on the threshold of a new career is Helen, daughter of Newton and Olive Howard. In full curvacious colour she graced the cover of Everybody's Mag. as the heat winner for Newcastle of the Helena Rubenstein's "Bikini Tan" Contest. Congratulations! At present Helen is a secretary.

**COCK'S COLUMN**

"North British" news:—

I heard these boys had called in: Alex Maxwell—I believe Alex had just been in the company of four 2/4ers, I am sorry I could not get their names.

Ian Wallwork, from Kyogle, Bill Sheaffe, Toonen-garry and a "bow and arrow" friend, also from Kyogle, dropped in from the "Show" after exhibiting their cattle, see you at Kempsey boys.

George Catt. George has recently seen Jerry Gerrard (4th Bn.) also "Black" Smith and Eric Holder, he did not stay long, would see me at Reunion, Anzac Day.

Friday before Anzac Day. A collection of the clan, interstate, country, rural and suburban visitors. Peter Denver, South Aust.; Ted Swadling, Griffith; Jim "Stumpy" Agnew, Tumut; Vince McDonnell, Campbelltown; Harry Gjedsted, Bill Keough, Rus McWilliam, Ces. Chrystal, Jack Taffney and regulars.

Vince McDonnell (7 Pltn.) has recently seen Bill Reid "Dasher" Deacon and Bill "Sluggo" Weldman. Sends regards.

After Anzac Day. Walked in and was pleased to see Johnnie Reynolds and Les Fox.

Johnny Reynolds down from Merriwa, spent the Dawn Service at Narromine, missed out this time meeting Johnny Hough. Met Frank Sadler, at the Dubbo R.S.L. Club. Johnny gave me one postcard sized photo of himself and Gus Kyle on the beach at Tel-Aviv. Thanks Johnny.

Les Fox, said that Stan Harris had gone back to Groote Eylandt, for a couple of months.

More Sisters and Nurses !  
Frank Foster's (Gosford), daughter Isla, has been a Sister for two years. Was at Ryde Hospital.

Hugh Wittleton's daughter Cathleen, now nursing at R.G.H. Concord.

Bill Black's daughter in her second year at Adelaide Royal. Congratulations to you three lassies!

Fred Searle ran into "Slim" Desmond at Repat. am sorry to write that "Slim" doesn't look too well. Wishes everyone the best.

In the Mail Box: Interesting letters from Esca Riordon, Roy Moores, and a note from Stan Carpenter, I have passed them on to Dick, depends on space. Thanks Cap.

At the Anzac Day March and Reunion. News of and from some of the boys I met. Harry Roberts (B Coy.), Wentworthville, asked after Maurice Wilson.

Bill Butcher, Revesby; would like to hear of Royce McDonald. Bill was at Lakes Entrance. Vic., met a lady who knew George Arthur and said George wishes to be remembered.

Pat Lakey met Keith McCaffey, Keith said he was going to try and make Anzac Day.

Bert "Snowy" Moores had a beer with "Lascar" Roach I am very sorry to report, that after "Snowy's" father's death, his mother passed away. Our sincere sympathy.

Don "Scothy" Anderson, met "Bully" Hayes in Parramatta, also saw Ron Schwartz.

Bill White, Newcastle; has seen Keith McIntosh at Muswellbrook and Keith Montgomery at Newcastle also Alf Carpenter, Jim Sherritt and "Bully" Hayes.

Des. French, met "Massa" Brooks and Bill Demery.

Ferd. and Mrs. Pegg stayed with the Rungee family in Adelaide, during the Festival of Arts in March. Max sends his best regards to all 2/4ers.

Charlie McBride, Leura. Gee, it's many years since I last saw Charlie. He met George Lough (A coy.) at Katoomba.

Albert "Curley" Callaghan, looking bigger than ever, "Curley" unfortunately could not make the Reunion.

"COCK ROBIN.