



White Over Green

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE 2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

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Annual General Meeting, Friday, 2nd February, 1968, at Royal Naval House

A Merry Xmas and Happy New Year to All

PRESIDENT'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

1967 is rapidly drawing to a close, and once again we are approaching the Christmas Season and a New Year.

This year has been a most eventful one for our Association. We have seen the appointment of Country and Interstate Vice-presidents, erection and dedication of the 4th Bn. Memorial by 4 Bn. Royal New South Wales Regiment at their Arncliffe H.Q., another wonderful Country Reunion, this time at Tamworth, a combined Smoko that was attended by representatives of all 4th Australian Infantry Battalion, past and present, and the presentation to the Parramatta Pipe Band of a 2/4 Aust. Inf. Bn. Association banner which will be carried on the drone of the pipe major's bagpipes on all future ceremonial occasions.

Also in this year the foundations have been laid for the formation of "The Association of 4th Infantry Battalions" which will embrace all members of every 4th Australian Infantry Battalion in existence—past, present and future. The inaugural meeting will be held at 4 Bn. R.N.S.W.A. Drill Hall, Arncliffe, at 8 p.m., Friday, 8th March, 1968, details will be given in later issues of "W.O.G."

As in the past, the year has been very demanding on your committee, and to them I extend my sincere thanks and gratitude for the support, co-operation and valuable assistance they have given in administering our Association.

Also, my sincere thanks are extended to **Dorothy Searle, Lorrie Pollock, Marg Stack and Barbara McWilliam** for their wonderful support and help in Association activities. Dorothy not only makes our wreath for **Anzac Day** and **Country Reunions**, but also makes those beautiful "White Over Green" cakes for our Ladies' Night. In addition to the numerous other ways she assists our Association, Dorothy this year also took over the financial responsibilities of the

Association during Fred's prolonged stay in Concord Repatriation Hospital.

Lorrie Pollock, Marge Stack and Barbara McWilliam are also 'behind the scenes' workers for us, Lorrie does the folding, wrapping and posting of "W.O.G." each month, Marge Stack cuts the stencils for preparation of "W.O.G." and Barbara assists "Rusty" to compile "W.O.G." copy and types it for publication.

"W.O.G." would not be the same without "**Cock's Column**" and to you also, Jim, I extend our Association's sincere thanks for the tremendous job you do.

For all this wonderful help, we are most grateful and appreciative, and so, with Christmas, 1967, at hand, I extend on behalf of your patron, Maj.-Gen. Dougherty, myself, Marjorie, and your committee, our sincere best wishes to all our members and their families, to the next of kin of members, to our old friends of 4 Bn. A.I.F. (1914-18), to our not-so-old friends of 4 Bn. A.I.F. (1939-45), to the Commanding Officers, Officers, N.C.O.'s and men of 4 Bn. Royal Australian Regiment, and 4 Bn. Royal N.S.W. Regiment, and to our friends everywhere for a Happy and Merry Christmas and Good Health, Good Luck and Prosperity in the coming year.

HARRY GJEDSTED.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for 1968 fall due on 1st January next. The executive would appreciate an early remittance from those in a position to do so.

Send off \$2 to Fred Searle, 31 Griffith Avenue, West Ryde. This covers membership and the postage of "White Over Green" for the ensuing twelve months. A good response now will be a great encouragement to the incoming executive to be elected at the annual general meeting on Friday, 2nd February, 1968.

T.P.I. members are entitled to free membership.

VALE! JOHNNIE MORRISON

The sudden and untimely death of Jack (Johnnie) Mervyn Morrison came as a shock to us all and has cast a shadow over this Association that will remain for many years.

John was an original member of the Battalion, he enlisted in 1939 at the outbreak of the Second World War and served in the Middle East with H.Q. Company, attaining the rank of sergeant.

On Saturday, 6th November, 1943, after the Battalion had returned from overseas, John, together with Bob Cook, Elliott Schofield and George Russell, met in the Dispensary Hall, 35 Holden Street, Ashfield, and founded the 2/4th Aust. Inf. Bn. Association.

To him, and them, we shall always be indebted for creating our Association and developing the fraternity that exists within the Association today.

John dedicated and devoted his life to the progress, welfare, activities and affairs of the Association and its members. His "office", the North British Hotel, is now legendary as the meeting place of all our Battalion and Association members when visiting Sydney, and many messages are received and old friendships renewed per medium of this venue.

Together with Fred Searle, John was a regular visitor to our members in hospital, and the numerous letters and personal messages from members as a result of these visits reflects the appreciation of members of John's active participation in this voluntary welfare work.

John held the positions of Treasurer, Secretary, Vice-president and President in the Association, and was always a member of the committee. He steered the Association through the difficult days, and was intensely proud of his Battalion and the Association that he created.

At 10.30 a.m., Friday, 1st December, 1967, a large assembly of 2/4 Aust. Inf. Bn. Association members attended Rookwood Crematorium to pay our last tributes and respects to our comrade, friend and Association life member, and to extend our profound and deepest sympathy to John's sister, brother, relatives and friends.

The large gathering at the service, the many floral tributes (which included tributes from all our country and interstate vice-presidents), the numerous messages of condolence and sympathy from all over Australia reflects the high esteem and regard in which John was held.

The service was conducted by the Rev. Knight, following which your president addressed the assembled gathering.

"Last Post" and "Reveille" were beautifully played by Lincoln Blackwell (aged 9) and Kelvin Bakewell (aged 11) who are grandsons of our Gerry Coughlan.

The Association will be so much poorer for the loss of John. We will always remember him, and be grateful for the invaluable contribution he made to the continued success and strength of our Association. He has left us to join the ranks of our other comrades

who gave their lives during the war, or who have passed on since. He will be sadly missed by us all.

"They shall not grow old
As we, who are left, grow old.
Age shall not weary them—
Nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun,
And in the morning
We will remember them."

HARRY GJEDSTED, President.

RUN AROUND

By the late Johnnie Morrison

Frank Frizell, Rex Gilliland and Dick Morris assembled at my place, then on to Parramatta to pick up Ted McCaffery. Called on Craig Clarke at his furniture business in Scone. Craig was still trying to make Tamworth but, unfortunately, did not manage it. After the very successful reunion Ted, Rex and myself set off for Cairns via Toowoomba, Charters Towers then back via the coast road. Saw Jim Whittaker and Johnny Reynolds at Millaa Millaa on the Atherton Tablelands and met Johnny's charming wife and young family. Mrs. Reynolds treated us to a very nice luncheon. Jim wanted us to meet his folk, but time beat us. Met an old friend of Porky Williams on a Pioneer tour at Cairns.

Called on Noel Ford at Townsville. He took us home for a quiet noggin and a yarn, met Mrs. Ford and his youngest daughter, Susan. Noel hopes to be back in Sydney in the New Year.

We tried to contact Tom Provians in Brisbane but missed out. On to Ballina, called on Merve McGuinness, ex Lismore, who has a store there. I am sorry to report his wife passed away two weeks before our visit. Our next call was Bowraville to see Margaret and Bub Graham where we had tea. They rang "Bushy" Bennett and his wife, Billie, also Tommy Clough, and we met them at Macksville R.S.L. Club. Looked up John Smith, ex Carrier Platoon, also Macksville (another furniture store), next morning, then spent an hour or two at John Bennett's property just out of town. Billie also treated us to another one of those hospitable country luncheons.

Then to Kempsey. Rang Vera Riordan and later Esca met us at Kempsey R.S.L. Club. Spoke to Isobel Nelson-Slee on the phone. Isobel is still active with Country Women's Association at South West Rocks.

Would have liked to call on Harold Elway at Southport, Alf Schweitzer and Emilyn and Harry Russell, but could not. Saw "Bookie" Ray, Newcastle; Alf Carpenter, Warner's Bay; Doug Barry, Woy Woy, etc.; but by this time three weeks and 4,000 miles later work called, and so home.

All the folk we called on wished to be remembered to their friends in the Association.

THE LAST POST

2/4 Bn. A.I.F.: NX3962 J. M. "Johnny" Morrison;
Pat Smythe.

"We Will Remember Them."

6th DIV. ASSOCIATION

Formal advice has been received that the 1968 Reunion of 6 Div. N.S.W. Association will be held on 24th February next, **H.Q., 2 Div. Area**, Moore Park Road, Paddington. Full details in later issues.

NOTES FROM THE TREASURY

Hon. Treasurer **Fred Searle** extends his thanks to all those who helped make the Raffle a success. Some members forgot to send back their butts and others forgot the butts **and** the money. Results of the drawing, which took place at our Annual Ladies' Night on 1st December, were:—

1st Prize—\$100: **J. R. EWBANK**, Box 599, P.O., Griffith, Ticket No. 1697.

2nd Prize—Pr. double-bed blankets: **S. F. COOPER**, Commonwealth Bank, Mittagong, Ticket No. 4353.

3rd Prize—Set bed linen: **Mrs. RITA STAGGS**, Wahroonga, Ticket No. 4286.

Subs, raffle money and/or donations are acknowledged from **H. Smith, H. Dowling, E. Waterstrom, Cec Hogan, N. Woolcott, N. Alavoine, G. Hart, R. Mennie, V. McDonnell, Mrs. C. Welling, F. Frizell, F. Staggs, C. Raymond** (membership paid for life), **E. Twist, R. Ford, A. Harvey, E. Schofield, R. Ellerman, J. Robertson, Padre "Paddy" Reid**.

ASSOCIATION OF 4th INFANTRY BATTALIONS

A meeting of representatives of 4th Australian Infantry Battalions, past and present, was held on 24th November at Combined Services Club rooms. The meeting was called to discuss the formation of an association embracing all those who have served, and will serve, in any Australian Army Unit designated as Fourth Infantry Battalion. 4th Bn. 1914-1918 A.I.F. was represented by **Jack Noakes** and **Harry Stafford**; 4th Bn. 1939-45 A.I.F. by **Ken Menser** and **Tom Dolan**; 2/4th Bn. A.I.F. by **Harry Gjedsted, Cec Chrytal** and **Bill Luck**; 4th Bn. R.A.R. by **Captain Paddy Brennan** and 4th Bn. R.N.S.W.R. by **Tom Chambers** and **Peter Keeting**.

After an interesting discussion it was decided to call an inaugural meeting at a date to be announced in March, 1968, advice of which will be given in "W.O.G."

AT THE TAMWORTH REUNION

I went to the Tamworth Reunion. I have also read the report of those present subscribed by **"Cock" Robin**. I saw faces that I had not seen for many years, others that I have seen recently. I even had a bit of a chin-wag with those same faces. As a matter of fact some trifling incidents were mentioned that brought forth words of surprise that incidents had been remembered by me.

I had a fabulous time and so did all "bods", male and female, who answered the roll. I saw an ex "B" Coy. by the name of **"Tadpole" Hall** and where did I last see him? Why, on the never-to-be-forgotten Braillos Pass in Greece. So you see, no matter to which Reunion we attend there is someone we meet again, that it's "Now, where was the last time?" and that is the real meaning of these reunions. To reunite with that which up to then is a face then becomes a reality.

Some were there that were unable to "make the grade" through being unable to escape the boss, sickness, distance or financial reason, but although they were not there in body I know that they were there in spirit. Who knows as the time for the next reunion approaches these same people will be in the position to be present, and to those who have never been to these amazing functions, I say, take the opportunity while you can for you will never forget the feeling that comes upon your inner person when you extend the right hand and say, "How are you, mate? I haven't seen you for so long." A sort of lump appears in the throat as the names of many past and present are mentioned.

I will say this of the organisers—a very good show, and if the future meeting in the country is anything like the Tamworth show then it will have to be apex of all.

Have we ever passed through life and never heard the saying: "He who laughs last, laughs longest?" Although the joke is on me this time I must make mention—during the course of the Saturday afternoon a certain ex-president was heard to mention that he had had "water trouble" on the outskirts of Tamworth. He was seen heading towards the gully with his hat in hand, looking as though trees were transparent, and he had not a care in the whole wide world. The trouble was that it was not himself with the "water trouble" but the Falcon. That was where we all had a good cackle, but have you heard the rest? Believe it or not, I decided that the hour of 8 a.m. on the Sunday morn was time for me to say good-bye to my host, **Bill Smith**, and get mobile. So off I set at my usual speed and was climbing Moonbin hill when the temp. meter soared to the top, whilst large quantities of steam poured forth from under the bonnet. Naturally, I stopped and located the mishap, which proved to be a hose—it blew its sides laughing at me for laughing at the previous unfortunates. So, Cec, have a good cackle at my expense, will you?

That's all, but if I'm available for the "next" I'll be there. To **Bill Smith** thanks for your hospitality in your home and to those who assisted him, "A jolly good show, fellars!"

RICK CARTER, Urunga.

COCK'S COLUMN

Dick Pinson reports that **Monty (Basha) Boyd**, of Yass, is in Canberra Hospital, underwent a serious operation. "Basha" was a member of the band. Pleased to hear of you, Monty, but sorry to hear of you being in hospital and we all wish you a speedy recovery.

News from **Ted Gamble**: Murray Naismith, whom he had seen recently at Narrabri, had been in hospital, the result of a coronary, but pleased to report that he was home again and recovered. Also met **"Slim" Pollock** at Goondiwindi and feeling very much better for his break in the warmer climate. Another 2/4-er he met was **Mick Owers** at Moree. Mick reported that he was coming to Sydney shortly and hoped to see some of the boys at the North British.

From **John Wells**: A short note to say that he has now retired from the Army and taken up his residence in Canberra and is hoping to see everyone he can in Sydney one of these days.

From overseas **Pat and Janet Lahey** report on their tripping in a long letter—they have certainly covered some territory since leaving Australia. France and Germany, Switzerland through the Simplon Tunnel to Italy. Sweden also included in their itinerary—no time at all until they will be home again in Australia as they are leaving on 7th November.

Padre "Paddy" Reid reports having met **Ern Saunders** at Hamilton. Ern served with the unit in New Guinea in "I" Section. Thanks for the news, Padre, and also for the photos of the opening of the 19th Bde. Holiday House. Hope you have a Happy Christmas.

Thanks to **Ken Menser** for a copy of "Rise and Shine", the magazine of 4 Bn. (1939-45) A.I.F. Association. Many of us were unaware that the old 4th Militia Battalion was kept intact throughout the war and saw meritorious service as an A.I.F. Unit in New Guinea. Ken, who is vice-president of his Association, together with **Tom Dolan**, attended an exploratory meeting of "The Association of Fourth Infantry Battalions" last month.

John Robertson, Broken Hill, sends his greetings to all members and best wishes to Fred Searle for a speedy recovery.

Vice-president **Johnny Jordan** reports that the **Clan Night** of the Parramatta Pipe Band was a wonderful success. Our representatives included **John and Doris Jordan**, **Fred and Dot Searle** and **Dave and Mrs. McGillivray**. John, deputising for our president, presented the band with the 2/4th Bn. Pennant which will be for evermore part of their ceremonial equipment. Pipe Major Ken Ford thanked our Association for the pennant and remarked how the band valued the co-operation always existing between us.

Among members present at Johnny's funeral were Major-Gen. Dougerty, Harry Gjedsted, Johnny Jordan, Cec Chrystal, John Meehan, Harry Wright, Bill and Mrs. Luck, Dick and Joyce Morris, Fred and Dorothy Searle, Rex and Norma Everson, Alec Maxwell, Dick Pinson, Ron Williams, Max Brooks, Ted Gamble, Jack Heaney, John Copland, Keith Harvey, Bob Lever, John Eastham, Doug Barry, Fred Staggs, Gerry Coughlan, Ted McCaffery, Wal Lambourne, Peter Cade, Rex Gilliland, Frank Frizell, Russ and Barbara McWilliam and myself. Eileen Cooper and Kevin Moylan represented the management and staff of the North British.

North British News: Fred "Blusto" Hudson called in and had a yarn. **Laurie James** reported having met **Bruce Stewart** down for the Spring Meeting. Laurie and Bruce had not met for many years and **Jack Heaney** obliged with the re-introduction.

A pleasant surprise when **Tom Mort**, of Coola Coola, Keith, S.A., popped in. Tom is going to write some anecdotes for publication. Tom rang Phil "Blah" Smith and arranged a meeting.

Ted Jackson reports having met **Mick Gray** at Mona Vale. Mick recently moved into a new house there.

In the Mail Bag:

Garry Hart, Carlton, to Fred Searle: "Kindest regards to yourself and all committee and congratulations on the splendid job you are doing to keep things going."

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"Curly" Day, Terrigal, advising he would be in Sydney on 5th December and asking if we could arrange a meeting with **Ted McCaffery**.

Dick Mennie, Belmont: "Look forward to 'W.O.G.' each month and must compliment all for the job being done. Met up with **Lal Peek** recently and sent him a few back copies of 'W.O.G.'"

From **Tim West**, R.M.B. 945, Cowra: "The Cowra Committee of self, Ted Harris and Hylton Batcheldor have already kicked off with preparations for the 1968 reunion."

"The programme will closely follow the previous one at Cowra. The Services Club has been booked as also has the R.S.L. rooms to cater for "our" band."

"**Ted Harris**, c/o Cowra and District Services Club, is chief of the accommodation department. Ted will accept deposits of \$2 any time, and has also indicated that refunds of deposit will be made where desired, right up until the last week."

"**Jack Ormiston** appears to have gone into smoke. He hasn't been seen around since a serious bush fire on his run almost a year ago. Probably news of the reunion will start him circulating again."

"**Ted Harris** is due to go into Uralla sometime. We will let you know when. Be sure to look after him for us; remember, he is about 50 per cent of our reunion organisation. While Ted is away Hylton and myself will handle all bookings sent to him."

"I was delighted to hear **Artie Kleems'** voice on the local radio the other day. Artie had one of those 'ticker' problems so common to our age group, but has apparently 'ridden out the storm'. He is the local big wheel with one of our chain stores and goes on radio sometimes with a bit of that stuff which baffles brains. Hope you are well, Jim."

From **B. F. Turley**, Albion Park: "Saw **Ray Crannis** (M.G. Section) recently. Ray is doing fine and wishes to be remembered to all his mates. He now lives at Port Kembla."

From **Bob Jackson**, Wagga, to **Fred Searle** advising the address of **Wem Keast** and wishing Fred a speedy recovery. Bob has changed his job and is now stationery manager for Hunter Bros., Wagga.

Jack Antony, Randwick, advises he had met up with "**Dasher**" **Deacon** some time ago at Clovelly. Also sees **Denny Karanges** and "**Curly**" **Callaghan** occasionally. Jack would like to get to a meeting sometime, but does not enjoy the best of health. Recently had a couple of weeks off after collapsing at work. Thanks for the note, Jack. Our best wishes for your speedy recovery to good health."

Frank Gattenhoff, Bondi, writes: "A few weeks ago I had the pleasure of being recognised by **Dick Bawden** who I had not seen since N.G. days. He was at Paddington R.S.L. Club (where I work weekends) for an R.S.L. conference. It was nice to be remembered after so long. Unfortunately, I couldn't make Tamworth for the Reunion. However, I was there the weekend before and spent a couple of hours in '**Nicky**' **Allardice's** taxi. It is always most enjoyable to run into any of the old faces, especially after so many years."

A very Happy Christmas and a Bright and Prosperous New Year to all.

"COCK" ROBIN,

20 Adderstone Avenue, North Sydney.