



White Over Green

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE 2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

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Next Meeting, Friday, 3rd March, Royal Naval House, Sydney, at 8 p.m.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 1967 Annual General Meeting was very well attended and gives the incoming President and Committee great heart for the job ahead. A list of those attending appears in "Cock's Column". Harry Stafford represented the 4th Bn. ('14-18) while Ray Sharpe, Hugh Gordon and Ron Naughton appeared for 4th Bn. Royal N.S.W. Regiment.

General Dougherty found time to come along and Chair the meeting pending the election of the new President. "Doc" was unanimously re-elected to the office of Patron—an office he has occupied with great zeal and distinction since the inception of our Association.

Harry Gjedsted was re-elected in a ballot for President while Johnny Jordan won the ballot for Vice-president. Our worthy Secretary George Stack is carrying on again this year with the able assistance of deputy Harry Wright. Evergreen Fred Searle is carrying on with the Treasurer's job—and a mighty fine job he makes of it. The new Committee includes Ces Chrystal, Athol Heath, Bill Luck, John Meehan, John Morrison and Fred Staggs with the editor of W.O.G. and "Cock" Robin ex-officio members. Under Harry's guidance and with the combined efforts of the team we can look forward to another good year for the Association. Members can play their part by attendance at meetings whenever possible, by paying their subs promptly and by encouraging any ex-member of the 2/4th Bn. to join the Association.

FOURTH BATTALION ADOPTS VILLAGE

Kuala Lumpur: An Australian battalion in Malaysia is to guide a kampong (village) to prosperity. The troops have called the scheme Operation Self-Help. Under it, they will provide financial and material aid, as well as technical advice, while the villagers will be asked for suggestions for projects.

The battalion, based at Terendak Camp, near Malacca, is the Fourth Battalion Royal Australian Regiment. The village is Pantai Tanah Merah, of about 1,000 people, a few miles from the camp.

Lieutenant-Colonel C. H. S. East, Battalion Commander, said today the operation was conceived as a continuing civic commitment to the people of Malaysia, to match Australia's commitment to the country's defence.

COOTAMUNDRA COMMENTS

"The Christmas edition of "White Over Green" has come to hand, and has been read with a great deal of interest, for which I would like to both thank and congratulate you and the other members of the Committee who persist in producing this little bulletin.

It is to be hoped that Cock Robin lives for ever, for without his very wide coverage of so many people I doubt if the magazine could survive. I must compliment him on the very comprehensive report that he gives of the various names of which some contact has been made in the previous month or so. I remember not so long ago, I counted up the names mentioned in his column and there was something like 210 names of ex-2/4th Bn. members. This is a pretty sterling effort, even if it is made by such a sterling fellow.

I would only like to report that the Cootamundra Contingent seems to be in good health and condition. Although Jimmy Crowe has not enjoyed the best of health he seems to be back on the job and is much more confident of surviving than he was six months ago. Perhaps you know that Gordon Vesperman is manager of the local Baths and does a mighty job as one would expect.

Reg Holmes, one time Lieutenant of the 2/4th and later Lieutenant-Colonel, some years ago became interested in the local hospital where today he is Chairman and recently was appointed Vice-Chairman of the new Hospitals Regional Pilot Scheme being conducted in the Riverina.

I had a ring from Wally Capper a couple of days ago to say that he is coming to spend a few days with me, which seems to be part of his annual pilgrimage these days and naturally enough, we will be glad to see him.

Some of you may remember Fenton Braund, a Major who joined the Battalion in the latter days and had seen special duties in Burma, contacts me occasionally and I was pleased to have him call in only a few weeks ago for a quick chat.

With very best wishes,

Harold Conkey."

TAMWORTH FOR COUNTRY REUNION

Johnny Morrison with Fred Searle and your editor journeyed to Tamworth on Anniversary weekend to check on arrangements for the 1967 Country Reunion. At Tamworth, Bill Smith had things well in hand. He has a good local committee including Geoff "Tadpole" Hall, Nicky Allardice, George Sugden and Kit Carson. However, we must impress on all the necessity for early booking of accommodation. Bill was able to secure block bookings for approximately 70 people—this of course will be only about half what is required. Full details will be advised in the next issue of W.O.G.

1967 SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Executive welcome the response by members to the call for early payment of subscriptions. Keep them rolling in, men. Many members have written interesting letters with their subs. We shall try and include items of general interest in the W.O.G. as space allows.

Those coming to mind are from Bill Colley, Bathurst; Lang Stronach, Mittagong; Percy Lane, Angus Place; Norm Johnstone, Newport; Doug Barry, Woy Woy; Dennis Jackson, Griffith; Mick Weir, Wahroonga; Jack McLoughlin, Middle Park; Bert Gabriel, Londonderry; Max Coy, Taree; Hylton Batcheldor, Cowra; Frank Gattenhof, Bondi; Jack Crowley, Dubbo; A. Burgess, Five Dock; Ted Fox, Roseville; Happy Davis, Yamba; Wally Capper, Port Moresby; Keith Costello, Cooma; Bill Mitchell, Deervale; Alf Schweitzer, Billinigeli; "Pom" Cole, Padstow; Harry Russell, Mylestom; Barney Turley, Albion Park; Tom Feilder, Bourke; Fred Apthorp, Griffith; Bill Englis, Concord West; John Holland, Greenwich; R. Perram, Corrimall; W. G. Martin, S. Ross-Smith, Connells Point; Reg Murphy, Kyogle; Jack Antony, Randwick; Punchy Hood, Point Stephens; "Buck" Colin Buchanan, Wirriwah; John Robertson, Broken Hill; Ted Harris, Cowra; Max Nerney, Urbenville; Ron Small, Rockdale; Harold Conkey, Cootamundra; Ken Moses, Melbourne; Doc Howard, Port Moresby; Graham Jackett, Tasmania; Dick Butters, Tasmania; Rod Berick, Narrandera.

LAST POST

"Snowy" Morgan, Lithgow; "Curly" Harris, Dubbo.
"We will remember them."

HOSPITAL

R.G.H. Concord: Clem Killeen, Ward G20; Keith Ford and Peter Armstrong, 21; Tom Hopper, 17; Stan Innes, 210. Bruce Cork has returned home after an ear operation.

6 DIV. REUNION

There was not a very good representation of any unit at the 6 Div. Association March and Reunion. Our own Battalion probably had more than any other. Among those present were General Dougherty; Harry Gjedsted, who was Aide to General Stevens; Frank Sadler, Dubbo; Ken Kesterven, Peter Cook, John Meehan, Norrie McGregor, Tex Dalloway, Harry White, Jack Eastham, Sailor Harvey, Noel Smith, Sid Young, Tom Bartlett, Peter Cade, Keith Beattie, Pat Smythe, Botany; and Mike Richardson, Lindfield (both new members of our Association); Ernie Swain and Barney Turley.

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MAIL FROM MELBOURNE

Dear Rusty,

As one 9,000 to another, time I dropped you a line. You edit the unit magazine, I edit a News Service on ATV Channel 0. We still have something in common!

FIRSTLY—about Bill Irvine. I would like all members of the Association to know he was game to the last. I saw him for the last time about a fortnight before he died. He was out of Heidelberg waiting to go back to Orbost. I had been down on three occasions when his sister Mrs. Gowdie rang me and told me was at her place for a while. It was the same old Bill. He talked of "C" Company, all the boys and made arrangements for me to meet him at the property at Orbost before January 18. That was 11 days too late. But there is one thing I would like all of you to know. He was a real Second-fourther to the finish. We just talked the Battalion.

Monty Siems used to write to him once a fortnight from England, and even the mate Monty was stopping with dropped a few notes. Bill told me he would be in Sydney for the March next Anzac Day—but I think he knew he would never make it. The last time I saw him he told me the best thing that had ever happened to him in his life was to have been posted to the 2/4th when he enlisted. I think that a lot of us could say that the best thing that could have happened to us was to have known Bill Irvine.

As a bloke who has been away from Sydney for 22 years coming up, may I pass on my endearing thanks to all the officials of the Association who have kept the Unit together and especially those who bring out W.O.G. You have no idea what it means to us when you are so far away from base. Sincere thanks to you all. We don't do much to help you I know, but we all "luv" you for your efforts.

Read where Vic Frances had been in Sydney and appealed for all Vic.'s friends to bet in touch with him or me. I have heard from no one, but I think it essential to get a nominal roll in Victoria. For Victorians, or anyone coming down south, I can be contacted at Channel 0—232 6211, or at home—57 2662, the home address being 37 Edinburgh Street, East Bentleigh. We must get together down here again in force.

Did Jim Brown pass on the film of the 2/4th marching through Melbourne last Anzac Day? I have a fairly young team of cameramen. The only Banner they know after three years of Moses in the "Command Slot" is "White Over Green".

Again Rusty, from one of those in the outposts, my sincere thanks to all of you up there for keeping us together—Harry, Cec, The "Doc" and especially Cock Robin, George and Fred and all those who turn up at Naval House. Wish I could join you occasionally.

Most sincerely,

Ken Moses.

ADDITIONAL VICE-PRESIDENTS

At the Annual General Meeting it was decided to recommend to the incoming Committee that two Country Vice-presidents be appointed and one from each of the States of Queensland, Victoria and South Australia. The Committee meets at 7 p.m., on the first Friday of each month before the ordinary monthly meeting.

COCK'S COLUMN

Bill Luck visited the North Coast and Brisbane recently. In Brisbane he attended a meeting of 6 Div. Association with Tom Provians in the Chair. Also saw Bill Sumpter, Laurie McCosker and Bill Cavanagh. At Kempsey Bill and Mrs. Luck enjoyed a snack with Esca and Vera Riordan.

John Copland met Ross Ellerman in town recently. Ross is sorry he is unable to attend meetings as his work keeps him out of town mostly.

Geoff "Tadpole" Hall, Tamworth, would like to see Des Finch or hear from him.

Mike Richardson of Lindfield, formerly of Griffith, an original member of the Unit in Ingleburn, has joined the Association. So too has Pat Smythe of Botany. Welcome, boys!

Tom Bartlett brought along two ex-members of 2/9th Bn. to the 6 Div. Reunion—Harry Marron and Bill Porter.

Frank Gattenhof (H.Q. Coy.) of Paddington R.S.L., recently saw Peter Cook and Bluey Moss. Paddington R.S.L. would like us to send six or eight members to their march on Anzac Sunday.

Harry Gjedsted saw Freddy Hudson after 6 Div. Reunion. Sends his best wishes to all!

John Copland ran into one, Ray Neil, recently. Ray was a member of the British Long Range Desert Group and was delighted to meet someone who knew of what he was speaking when he mentioned "Giarribub". Ray is coming along to a meeting.

Johnny Morrison, when in Tamworth recently, met Greg Reynolds whose father George was an original member of 4th Bn. ('14-18) and an original Anzac.

Harry Gjedsted had an attractive card from "Biscuits" Arnott UNFICYP—United Nations Force in Cyprus. Also from Gordon Maitland, the C.O. of 4 Bn. Royal N.S.W. Regt., and all ranks.

Phil "Blah" Smith of Manly has just returned from a fishing holiday at Iluka. While away "Blah" saw Jack Hughes at Lismore who we understand is moving to Southport. Also saw Murray Naismith and Wimpy Wilmott who were swimming for Narrabri team at the A.I.F. Swimming Carnival at Lismore. "Blah" incidentally won the 50 metres Open Breaststroke Championship at the same carnival. Our congratulations, mate!

"Kit" Carson, Tamworth, would like to hear of Ken Rubie.

Sister Jacqueline Guy, only daughter of Fred and Dorothy Searle of Ryde, has taken up residence in Melbourne where her husband, Norman, has been transferred. Norman, who completed an additional University Course last year, is a Chemical Engineer with I.C.I. Jacqueline was Tutor Sister at Waverley Memorial Hospital.

Correction: Hilton "Snow" Harvison appeared in an earlier issue as "Harrison". "Snow" is Service Manager of the General Motors dealer in Lithgow and would welcome a call from any members passing through.

In the Mail Bag: From Reg Murphy, Kyogle—"Have sold my farm at Urbenville and bought one at Kyogle and am now among quite a few 2/4thers—Doug and Charlie Grove, Jack Chaseling, Ian Wallwork, Jack Lister, Tim Lamond, Hugh Whittleton, and Bob Gardner. Charlie Grove is in the process of setting

in a combustion stove—and doing a fine job. He took the day off to go to Alf Schweitzer's wedding. He said it didn't give him any ideas.

From Rex Gilliland, Leichhardt: "During a recent holiday at Yamba visited Lismore for the Annual Show and made it a must to look up Ian and Edna Wallwork. An pleased to report their success with exhibits, firstly a good award to one of Ian's cows, but not to be outshone by some lousy cow, Edna comes to light with a long list of awards in the cooking section.

On the way back home called in at Bowraville to visit Bub and Margaret Graham and after a long natter with Margaret went on to Macksville Meat Works to see Bub, but met with a rather chilly reception as Bub was working in cold storage.

On the way through Macksville stopped to see Tom Clough who wasn't looking really too bad after the Kempsey Reunion—I think he may survive.

The last bit of news may be hard to believe, but I would swear to this on a bottle of Scotch—I have not had a beer for nine months, and boy it sure gets tough at times.

The lot for now Jim. Hope to see you early in the New Year."

From Bill Mitchell, Deervale: "Don't see much of any of the boys up here but met Jim Brown at the Armidale Teachers' College graduation on December 15, when his son and my oldest, Edward, graduated as teachers. Edwards will be teaching at Bendemeer this year. My second son Kenneth, who is in his final year at Newcastle Teachers' College, announced his engagement on New Year's Day. My other son Robert passed his School Certificate and now goes into 5th Form for this year. Best of luck to all the boys."

From "Doc" Howard, Bexley: "Am going to Port Moresby to be office manager for Steamships Trading Co. at their Head Office. I am taking my wife and two sons, Bruce 15 and Steven 13—they will go to the High School there. I've two girls, Helen 21, in February, is school teaching at Beverley Hills North, and Ruth 19, has been posted to Jingellic school (near Albury)—incidentally, Ruth was engaged yesterday to another schoolteacher—Malcolm Williams, who is a B.A., Dip. Ed. My term initially is for two years but who knows—I may never be back or else back by the next ship. I know and like the life up there but my wife???"

North British News: The boys who paid a visit around the Festive Season—I met some of them but not all—Johnny Morrison, Les Fox, Ron Booty, Cec Chrystal, Jack Heaney, Ron Williams, Stan Bowen, sailor Harvey, Jerry Coughlan, Jack Moloney, Maroubra, Teddy McCaffery, Bill Sandstrom, Ken Webb.

Cards received at the North British, from Ric Carter: "To the Mob in the corner and Association." Johnny had a card from Bub and Margaret Graham, Bowraville. To my home address, very nice cards from overseas, country and local. Two from England, Monty Siems from London and Frank Mallett from Cambridge. Frank hopes to see us this year.

From our sunburnt country—Interstate, Father Reid from Adelaide, with a printed Christmas card of St. Joseph's Church, Flinders Park, written underneath: "This is my little church." Paddy writes:

"Thanks for the Christmas Greetings from the boys, it was nice to be remembered. Please give my best New Year Greetings to all, sincerely, Paddy Reid."

(Sailor brought in a nice Christmas card, we signed it and posted it to Paddy.)

From Bob and Ada Griffith, Mildura. Now N.S.W.: Jim and Marcia Crowe, Roy and Thelma Crowe, Wal and Nona Taylor; these three from Cootamundra. Local: Johnny Ringrose, Athol, Pat and Julie Heath, Harry and Marge Gjedsted, Eva, Perce and Johnny Morrison.

Had a visit from Russ and Barbara McWilliam with a Christmas cake for me with the Bn. colour patch in white and green icing. Many thanks Barbara, it was very kind of you to remember me.

I omitted to report last month that the popular and capable M.C. on Ladies' Night was our Vice-President Johnny Jordan. Sorry John!

Doug Barry has moved from the Metropolitan area to Woy Woy South. He is fortunate in having a very helpful neighbour to assist him to settle in. Imagine Doug's amazement when in casual conversation with his next door neighbour he turned out to be Frank Chidgery, ex-24 Bn.

Vic Francis (46 Tudor Street, South Oakleigh, Melbourne) called into the North British. Vic would like "Bookie" Rae of Newcastle to drop him a line.

In Haberfield met Larry Dooley of Fivedock. Larry had a beer with Alex Maxwell, also met Lang Stronach at Mittagong, also met Dick Morris.

Was pleased to see Ron Booty stroll into the N.B. Ron said that he had read that Bernie O'Mara, President of the Forbes Golf Club, officiated at the official opening of the Junior Golf Club, Forbes. Thanks, Ron.

Dick Latimer from south of the Border down Wodonga way paid a visit to the corner, and was made welcome by Johnny. I am sorry I missed you Dick, I was in the following day. Johnny tells me that you had some news and would write a résumé of your travels.

I heard "Blue" Benson called in and paid John his sub. Sorry I missed you Blue, as I can't remember your first name I hope you don't mind me calling you "Blue", Blue, but don't feel blue about it, or put on a "blue".

Was pleased to see Jack "Horsedocter" Huston, Canberra, and Clem Killeen, Tilpa, bending elbows in the corner when I went in, then Johnny joins us. Jack down for the weekend with Joan, has recently seen Don Taylor, but can't find Len Goodwin.

Clem Killeen, the "Tilpa" terror, feeling fit again after his sojourn in hospital, had long weekend leave from Lady Davidson Rest Home, returning to there on the Monday night. It was his first beer for a month.

Frank Frizell joined us, Frank looks well after his holiday at Flinder's Island. He had met Peter Hill. Peter is well but unfortunately has recently lost his wife; our sincere sympathy, Peter.

Then Jim Bernard McCauley (2/1 Field Coy. Eng. R.A.E.) joined us; he knows many of our boys, was in Stalag 383 with Maurie Naismith, Sid Zartman, Lex Michel, Tim West, Reg Napthali, Greg Holland, Joe Rognini and "Bull" Frater; is a personal friend of Dasher Deacon and Bunny Saunders.

It was a pleasant surprise to see Wall Taylor, Cootamundra, with Johnny when I arrived and another

pleasant surprise when Bill Wall, from Bingara, both came along to the meeting. I was told that Bill Keough had called in.

At the Meeting: Those in attendance as they came into view—Maj.-General Dougherty, Harry Gjedsted, Russ McWilliam, George Stack, Harry Wright, Fred Searle, John Jordan, Johnny Morrison, Cec Chrystal, Athol Heath, Dick Pinson, John Copland, Bill Luck, Fred Staggs, John Meehan, Stan Bowen, Ken Webb, Jack "Brick" Bradford, Ron Rayment (Ettalong), "Slim" Pollock, Peter Armstrong, Harry "Soccer" Coomber, Peter Cook, Sid Young, Dick Morris, Wally Lambourne, Cecil Powers, "Sailor" Harvey, Rex Everson, Bill Little (late Cootamundra, now Lane Cove), and Jack Gaffney. Our country visitors Bill Wall, Bingara, Wal Taylor, Cootamundra.

Now some news from some of them: Wal Taylor, Cootamundra—They are losing Paul Brook; Paul has been promoted to Manager, Bank of N.S.W. at Binalong. Congratulations Paul. Wal had a week's holiday at Urunga, at Rick Carter's place. Rick is relieving at Byron Bay. Gordon Vesperman has left the railway and is manager of the Baths at Cootamundra. Congrats also, Gordon.

Bill Wall, Bingara: Bill said that Ross Smith and he paid a visit to Alex Webb at Ben Lomond. Alex has a very nice homestead and very nice property. Bill is down on business and was returning to Bingara on the following Tuesday; intends to visit his old friend Harry "Soccer" Coomber on the Sunday morning.

Also as a matter of interest, on Christmas Eve night on his way through Inverell had a few beers with Geoff Hawke and Jim Tome—Jim was an original, but went over to the 2/1 M.G. at Ingleburn.

Was pleased to see the "not-so-slim-now" Cecil Powers from Manlyvale, turn up.

Harry "Soccer" Coomber, Greenacre. Harry is going on a trip to Adelaide and hopes to meet the 2/4ers over there. Harry said that Mick Steele was coming, but could not make it.

Harry Wright met Jack Hudson (Fred's brother) in town; is still living at Caringbah, but at present is professional opal miner at Lightning Ridge.

"Brick" Bradford, North Ryde—met Ernie "Dora" Dawes at the Leagues Club in Bathurst. Ernie had heard from Vince "Budda" Beaumont, who is doing quite well in Warialda. "Brick" also met Mick Geraghty (Mick is a gardener at Gladesville Hospital), wishes to be remembered. I am sorry to hear that "Brick's" son David was in a car accident and had his knee injured; is now in hospital at RAAF Base Hospital, Richmond. We wish you a speedy mending David.

Peter Cook, Arncliffe, Golf News: Peter said that "Slim" Pollock on the course, Vic Forbes, Noel Goudie who is vice-president of Campbelltown, "Brownie" Lawrence (A Coy.) at Elanora Golf Club, Dee Why. Eric Taynton is vice-captain of Kogarah Golf Club.

Bruce Cork, his first meeting ever; due to shift work, this was his first free Friday night for years. Now he has changed shifts Bruce hopes to be a regular. OK Mr. Cork we would like to see you bob along!

"COCK ROBIN"