



White with 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.

Twenty-second year of continuous publication

Vol. 22, No. 7

PRICE 5c PER COPY

July, 1967

PRESIDENT: Harry Gjedsted, 2/25 Mona Road, Darling Point. 32-3977
TREASURER: Fred Searle, 31 Griffith Avenue, West Ryde 80-4905
SECRETARY: George Stack, 40 O'Keefe Crescent, Eastwood 85-5312
EDITOR: Russ McWilliam, 73 Werona Avenue, Gordon 49-3991

Next Meeting: Friday, 4th August, 1967, at 8 p.m. Royal Naval House, Grosvenor Street, Sydney

**FOURTH BATTN., ROYAL N.S.W. REGIMENT
invites**

**Members of the 2/4th Infantry Battalion Association
and their Ladies
to attend**

**A CEREMONIAL PARADE
and
MEMORIAL DEDICATION**

**At Battalion Headquarters
BURROWS ROAD, ARNCLIFFE
(Right at Arncliffe Station)**

Sunday, 13th August, 1967, at 2 p.m.

As previously reported, the 4th Battalion Royal N.S.W. Regiment has invited us all, and our wives, to attend the Ceremonial Parade to dedicate a Memorial erected by members of the Battalion to honour the 4th Battalion 1st A.I.F. and the 2/4th Battalion. The centre piece of the memorial is a Japanese gun captured at Wirriu Mission, New Guinea, and believed to be one of those taken in the action for which our Edward Kenna was awarded the Victoria Cross.

The host Battalion has arranged for Association life member Edward Kenna, V.C., to unveil the memorial. He and Mrs. Kenna will be flown from their home in Victoria on Saturday, 12th August, returning on Sunday night. G.O.C. Eastern Command, Major-General A. C. Murchison, M.C., E.D., will be attending, as will our own General Dougherty. "Doc" has been asked to make the principal address of the day.

There will be a TV and Press coverage of events, and every Association member who can possibly do so is earnestly requested to be present. A special block of seats is being provided for us, and members should wear suits, Battalion ties and decorations. Members

should be "on parade" by 1.45 p.m. and seated by 2 p.m.

The ceremony will be as follows:

1. The 4th Bn. Royal N.S.W. Regiment will march on to the parade ground and march past the official dais.
2. Lt.-Col. Gordon Maitland, E.D., will introduce the guests and address the gathering.
3. Mr. Edward Kenna, V.C., will unveil the Memorial.
4. Memorial plaques will be unveiled by the Presidents of the 4th Battalion and 2/4th Battalion Associations.
5. The Memorial will be dedicated by Chaplains representing the various denominations.
6. The memorial address will be given by Major-General Ivan N. Dougherty, C.B.E., D.S.O., E.D.
7. The ceremony will conclude with the general salute.

Afternoon tea will be provided at the conclusion of the ceremony.

EDWARD KENNA, V.C.

Edward Kenna and his wife will be arriving at Kingsford Smith Airport, Mascot, at about 12.30 p.m. on Saturday, 12th August. As you will have read on the front page, they are the guests of 4th Battalion, R.N.S.W. Regiment, at the Ceremonial Parade on Sunday, 13th August.

The Committee will be at the airport for the arrival of the Kennas and would welcome the attendance of all members.

CONGRATULATIONS, VICE-PRESIDENTS!

An Extraordinary General Meeting was called for 7th July to give effect to members' wishes to appoint additional Vice-Presidents. The Annual General Meeting earlier in the year had decided to create new offices for Country Vice-Presidents (representing Northern and Southern N.S.W. respectively) and State Vice-Presidents for Queensland, South Australia and Victoria.

We are very happy to advise the following appointments:

Northern N.S.W.: Esca Riordan, 63 Cameron Street, West Kempsey.

Southern N.S.W.: Tim West, R.M.B. 945, Cowra.

Queensland: Tom Provians, 65 Foxton Street, Morningside, Brisbane.

South Australia: Peter Denver, "Wingate", Hindmarsh Island, via Goolwa.

Victoria: Vic Francis, 46 Tudor St., South Oakleigh.

Our congratulations are extended to the above-named gentlemen on their appointment for the current term of office.

"COCK" ROBIN IN HOSPITAL

We are very sorry to have to report that our valued Columnist, contributor to W.O.G. and friend Jim "Cock" Robin has been admitted to R.G.H., Concord, for an operation. We are happy to say he is progressing satisfactorily. In Jim's absence "Cock's Column" will necessarily be curtailed. No doubt as soon as he is well enough it will be back to its usual high standard of presenting news of members far and wide. Our best wishes for a speedy recovery, Jim.

GUESSING COMPETITION

Treasurer Fred Searle advises that 126 books of ticket butts have been returned so far, and he extends his thanks to these members for their promptness. Also many thanks to the members who have made donations to the Association, including: Mrs. Doris Naphthali, Bill Black, Butch and Peg Warren, A. A. Powell, Joe McGrath and Harry Whitman.

Fred also acknowledges receipt of subs. from Tom Clarke, A. "Biscuits" Arnott, Ed. Wilson, George Parry, Lionel Ormiston, Ferd. Pegg, Mick Gray, "Bush" Bennett, "Butch" Warren, F. Pohlmann, Bob Gardner, A. H. Coughlan, A. McColl, P. S. Connor.

THE LAST POST

4th Bn. A.I.F.: 1736 P. H. Chauncy; 4478 E. J. Damen; 2818 J. T. McGrath; 1593 N. H. Mylan; Tom Tonkin.

2/4 Bn. A.I.F.: NX29781 J. M. Tracey.

"We will remember them."

IN HOSPITAL

Our regular hospital visitors, Johnny Morrison and Fred Searle, have seen the following members in R.G.H., Concord: Doug Barry (Ward 630), Jim "Cock" Robin (220), Jed Burns (22) and Kevin Spurway (17).

COCK'S COLUMN

North British News:

Bill Sandstrom, with John Hawkins, Blacktown, who had brought in Ed Wilson from Goolgowi—originally 2/4th but left us early in Palestine. It was Ed who gave me many photos of Liverpool, Ingleburn and early Palestine for the collection. As Shire Clerk of Goolgowi he was attending the Annual Conferences of the Shires Association of N.S.W.

Also attending the Conference was Nevis Farrell, President of Wade Shire Council, Griffith, who was elected Senior Vice-President of the Association.

Ed had also recently seen "Nedda" Erskine and marched with the Griffith boys on Anzac Day. He was very grateful for the help given by Griffith Ex-servicemen, led by Arthur "Smacker" Webb, who in the afternoon of Anzac Day came 32 miles out to Goolgowi and took part in the Anzac march. Local people had intended laying wreaths, but until "Smacker" brought along the boys it seemed there would be no Ex-servicemen to march. It was good to see you, Eddie, and we hope to do so more often.

David McClure's uncle, Ernie McClure, who was an original Anzac, died last month. We are very sorry to hear of this, David, and offer our sincere sympathy.

Met Clem Killeen and Jack Gaffney. Clem is O.K. again after his recent sojourn in hospital.

Jack Gaffney has recently met Johnny Ringrose, Teddy Dobbin and Harry "Killer" Nichols; also Jerry "Fangs" Coughlan called in.

Was pleased to see Alex "Biscuits" Arnott there. Alex, back from Cyprus, gave me 25 photos of the war graves in Athens, Greece, Suda Bay, Crete—scenes of Canea and Sparkia. These in addition to five large photos of the wreath-laying ceremony. If anyone would like a print, Alex has the negatives. Alex is going to write this up for me. Many thanks, "Biscuits", for the photos and the trouble you have gone to; it's greatly appreciated.

Big Jim McCauley reports that Greg Holland (Trpt.) is on the Committee of Liverpool R.S.L.

Ron Booty reported having had a yarn to Paul Tomlinson, our old M.O. Pleased to hear of you again, Doctor.

Johnny Morrison reported that he had seen Vic Francis, whose wife unfortunately had been very ill. We are extremely sorry to hear this, Vic, and offer our sincere wishes for a speedy and complete recovery.

Teddy McCaffery came in and we were all very pleased to hear the good news that Ted had won a Holden car in a raffle. Congratulations, Ted. Ted is the second of our boys to win a Holden. Ted Swadling was the other.

Was pleased to see Dick Pinson. Dick met a Bill Jackson who turned out to be a friend of Athol Heath. Dick has invited him to the next meeting, as he is anxious to meet Athol. Charlie Hansen sends regards to all.

"Soccer" Coomber reports having seen Les Berriman (Carriers) at the Bankstown R.S.L. Club.

In the Mail Bag:

"Dear Fred: Herewith \$6.00 and your raffle butts, being \$4.00 for subscription and \$2.00 for raffle.

I am now a civvy after 32 years' regular army service. I was retired with the rank of Lt.-Col. I spent most of last year in Vietnam as Provost Marshal for the force, and Civil Affairs Liaison Officer. I supposed I was the oldest serving Australian officer in the theatre. I am building a house at Mona Vale and I can assure you it will be a novelty to put my feet up on my own hearth after a lifetime of married quarters and barracks.

Please give my regards to all my old comrades of the 2/4th. See you at the meetings. — **Mick Gray**, 126a Ellimatta Road, Mona Vale."

* * *

"Dear Fred: Will you please convey for me my thanks to the "boys" of the 2/4 Battalion for their kind remembrances of me on Anac Day and for the paragraph in "W.O.G." I was very sorry to miss you all, but am afraid that Father Time is making a nuisance of himself and I have to be careful.

Am well now and hope to remain so, also to see you all next year.

With warmest regards to all, Yours sincerely, **Nellie Parkinson**."

* * *

From **Bill Black**, Port MacDonnell, S.A.: "Received the guessing competition book today. Enclosed you will find \$5.00 for the tickets and a small contribution for running expenses. I really appreciate the work that so few of you do to keep the rest of us posted with news of 2/4 Battalion members.

I had been going to the same barber in the Mount (Gambier) for 16 years before I learnt that **Ray McGregor** was in the 2/4 Battalion.

Also via 'White Over Green' I learnt that **Dennis Jackson's** daughter is attending the same Teachers' College in Adelaide as our second daughter, Anthea.

Please give my regards to any of the old gang you meet. Kindest regards."

* * *

From **Roy Moores**: "One of the old Fourth Battalion veterans and a very wonderful man of Adelong, **Tom Tonkin**, died on 6th June and was buried with military honours on 8th June. He had never—so I believe—missed an Anzac Day reunion in Sydney with the mob.

Have had a couple of visits from **Stan Blacksley**, the latest only yesterday. He is looking well and even bashed my ears; it was good to see him."

* * *

From **Bede Keary** ('14-'18): "It is a pleasure to contribute a mite to your Association funds; I wish you well, and every success in your guessing competition. I also would like you to know that the work you youngsters do for your members is well and truly noted by your seniors (i.e. members of the Old Fourth). Regards to Johnny, Cock Robin, Dick Morris, Harry Gjedsted, George Stack, Russ McWilliam, in fact the ——— lot of you kids. Cheerio."

* * *

From **Pat Lahey**, Overseas Visitors' Club, 180 Earls Court Road, London, S.W.5: "Dear Jim: Well, as promised, here's an instalment. Janet and I have had

a wonderful trip so far. On the boat a slight roughness near Melbourne and in the Bay of Siscay caught about 90 per cent of the passengers, but yours truly had a miss in so far as sick parade was concerned. Singapore is a must, especially Change Alley for bargains, and they love nothing better than a good bargainer. When I looked like getting too close to the real value, I tossed to save a couple of bob or pay the full price. I won some but also lost a few. Got a National 5 transistor for \$4.00 Aust., an electric Philishave (a.c. and d.c.) \$5.50. I would think a drive to Darwin, boat to Singapore for a holiday would be to one's advantage. Changi, near the old P.O.W. camp, is a little cheaper than Change Alley. Taxis are no problem—about 4c Aust. per mile. Six people for three of four hours about \$5.00, depending on your bargaining power. Called at Colombo for oil and water as Aden was very doubtful. From the time we got from the boat to its open motorboat to go ashore it rained "cats and dogs". It also happened to be a holiday, and a Woden's feast day—not very impressed. Still trying to work out why our democratic system is so weak that vegetables and fruits are ploughed into the ground or dumped, and people are existing on such a pittance. Although we didn't call at India I believe it is worse there. Suez, Cairo, Port Said are in similar positions to Colombo and India. We did finally call at Aden, and about ten passengers (1400 total) and 20 crew members went ashore to the main street only. Shots heard but not really close. Some chaps embarked with grenade wounds in their legs — the grenades were mostly tossed into cars. Boys in dhows were a sight climbing on board. They climb to the top of the masts—which are about 60 ft. high—and jump on board, then drag their goods up. They could be handy for the Dame Pattie by the way they handle their boats. Had a 5.15 a.m. breakfast in lieu of a 7 a.m. one, usually with tea and biscuit, to get up for an 8.15 a.m. breakfast on the boat, so as to go by coach from Suez to Cairo and pick the boat up at Port Said. About 200 miles covered altogether. Saw Nasser's tanks, transports and troops from the time we left that luvly hole called Suez. As I was only on N.G. with the Battalion this is all new to me, but a lot of the "boys" would hazard a guess at the condition, because I think it would, if possible, have been worse back in the '40s. During the period from mid-day onwards it was noticeable that the heat must have been catching up with the Army by the number of trucks, etc., requiring maintenance. Heat, sand, etc. In fact ten accidents in Cairo proper, including at least one tank or army truck. It sure looks to me like he's got to run by diplomacy or by some political stunt, even if the Union of Arab States stays together for another month. Parts of Cairo are not impressive, but it has a lot to look at. Had a ride on a camel to the Pyramids, and, although ticket paid for on coach trip, had a rare old ride for most of the way, as the holder wanted paper money; no paper money might mean a faster ride, and so on . . . ended up giving him an English 2/- as it cost him as much sweat as it cost me. Heard later on board that some girls became really frightened and paid 10/- sterling extra to get a slow walk."

(To be continued in next issue.)

"COCK ROBIN"

July, 1967

WHITE OVER GREEN

2/4 Infantry Battalion Association

1967 ANNUAL COUNTRY REUNION

TAMWORTH

Six-Hour-Day Holiday Weekend

Saturday, 30th September to Monday, 2nd October

Hon. Secretary:
BILL SMITH, 23 Denne Street, West Tamworth.
Phone: 59254

Assistant Secretary: NICKY ALDERDICE.

Hon. Treasurer: GEOFF HALL.

Committee:
D. J. 'MORNIE' PETERS and GEORGE SUGDEN.

Bill Smith and his Committee are leaving no stone unturned in their efforts to make the 1967 Country Reunion at Tamworth the best yet. The wives of the committee members have formed an auxiliary, headed by Peggy Hall, to look after the visiting ladies and to take care of the hostessing, floral arrangements, etc.

March Arrangements

Members will assemble outside the R.S.L. Club at 4.30 p.m. on Saturday, 30th September, for transport to the Memorial Gates at Anzac Park. After the wreath-laying ceremony the unit, accompanied by the Tamworth Police Boys' Band, will march to the R.S.L. Club, where the group photographs will be taken for publication.

The Reunion Dinner

Both members' and ladies' dinners will be held at the R.S.L. Club. Members will be asked to be seated by 6.20 p.m. for dinner at 6.30 p.m.

The ladies will enjoy cocktails and savouries at 6.20 p.m. At 6.50 p.m. they will move to their dining room for dinner at 7 p.m.

After the dinners, ladies and members will assemble in the main dining room for refreshments before moving to the main lounge, where a dance will be held.

Sunday Programme

Those wishing to go to church, play bowls, golf tennis, etc., will be well catered for. A barbecue has been arranged at "Mornie" Peters' farm for the late afternoon. Members will assemble at the R.S.L. Club at 4 p.m. for transport to the picnic spot, where there will be ample food and refreshment and no time limit.

SHOW YOUR APPRECIATION OF THE TAMWORTH COMMITTEE'S HARD WORK

BOOK YOUR ACCOMMODATION NOW!

As at 10th July there were 70 bookings available in town.

Bed and Breakfast Tariff: Hotels from \$4.00; Motels from \$4.15.

APPLICATION FORM

W. Smith, Esq.,
2/4 Inf. Bn. Country Reunion of 1967,
23 Denne Street, West Tamworth, N.S.W., 2340.

Please reserve accommodation (deposit \$4.00 per person) for SINGLE/DOUBLE Room at a MOTEL or HOTEL for Friday, 29th September; Saturday, 30th September; Sunday, 1st October. (Cross out where necessary.)

Attached is cheque/P.N. for \$.....

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....