



White over Green

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE 2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

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Patron: Major-General I. N. Dougherty, C.B.E., D.S.O., E.D.

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MAY, 1968

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Next Meetings: Friday, 7th June, 1968

Friday, 5th July, 1968

at Royal Naval House, Grosvenor St.,

Sydney at 8 p.m.

ANZAC DAY

Another Anzac Day has passed — another Anzac Day fittingly remembered by our Association, who turned out in force for the Wreath Laying at the Cenotaph prior to the March, for the March itself and later for the Reunion at Manresa Hall. **President Harry Gjedsted** extends his thanks to the Committee and all others who attended for making this day one of our most successful Anzac Days.

Our friends of 4th Bn. ('14-18) joined with us this year, both at the pre-march Wreath Laying Ceremony and later at Manresa Hall, for the Reunion — a Reunion made so much better by their presence. A delegation led by our President made a fraternal visit also to 4 Bn. A.I.F. (1939-45) at their Reunion, and we were happy to entertain a reciprocal visit from them later in the day. Welcomed also were Lt. Colonel Gordon Maitland and representatives of 4 Bn. R.N.S.W. Regiment, with whom, as you know, we have strong bonds of comradeship.

General Dougherty marched with us for the Wreath Laying Ceremony and mingled with us before taking his position at the head of 6th Division for the Anzac March. He joined us later at the Reunion.

John Noakes and **Harry Stafford** headed a party of more than 40 old Diggers of 4th Bn. A.I.F., one of their best Anzac Day roll calls for many years — and you should have seen their faces when **President Harry Gjedsted** called for three cheers after the toast "4th Bn. A.I.F.". They will remember the occasion, as will we, for the rest of their lives. It was truly a stirring moment.

During the afternoon Phil "Blah" Smith mentioned that while marching by the Town Hall earlier his thoughts had gone back to our first march and it occurred to him that next year would be the 30th Anniversary of the Battalion's formation. Phil thought we should consider making next year's Anzac March a really monster occasion, organising visits from Interstate and Country members with assistance, where necessary, with fares and billeting, etc., and marching if possible in Company formation.

At the May meeting the Committee decided to invite Phil Smith to head a sub-committee to discuss next year's Anzac March, and implement its decision.

NOW IS THE TIME TO BOOK FOR THE 1968 COUNTRY REUNION

AT COWRA

6 HOUR DAY HOLIDAY WEEKEND

SATURDAY, 5th — SUNDAY, 6th — MONDAY, 7th OCTOBER

The Cowra Reunion Committee, headed by **Tim West**, **Hilton Batcheldor** and **Ted Harris**, is anxious to secure the best accommodation for members at the ANNUAL COUNTRY REUNION. They would appreciate an early indication of members' requirements.

Please advise date of arrival in Cowra, whether Double or Single, Hotel or Motel, and enclose \$2 deposit for each person.

WRITE NOW TO: **TED HARRIS**,
C/- Services Club, COWRA, N.S.W. 2794

AN EXTRA 'ZAC' A DAY

By Joe McGrath

Our C.O., a skinny snoozer, dark-red face, like a
whisky boozier,
Tells us on parade they're 'andin' out some
extra pay.
Each "feller" 'as to pass a test, and them that 'e
thinks is best
Will then get added to 'is pay, an extra flamin'
zac-a-day.
It ain't much extra "dough" we know, but I decides
I'll 'ave a go,
Bein' in where there's real attack, this 'ere tripe
should be a snack.
So 'orf we march to win our zac.

An N.C.O. bloke called Bill, starts us 'orf' with easy
drill.
After that things get tough, unarmed combat, all
that stuff,
Bodies flyin' thru the air, some are losin' skin and
hair,
Others fittin' knocked out cold,
Chargin' like the knights of old,
Up and down the hills we're tearin', pullin' faces,
screamin', swearin'.
Sgt. Bill goes nearly nuts, a bloke mis-judged and
stabbed 'is guts;
Another bloke has lost an ear, goes searchin' for it
lookin' queer.
Blood and mud won't make me crack,
I want to 'git' that extra zac.

There's jungle trainin' thru the night,
 'Arf' the blokes near die with fright,
 Crawlين round on 'ands and knees, others swingin' thru
 the trees,
 Flounderin' round in slush and mire, torn to pieces
 with barbed wire,
 Mines goin' 'orf like thunder-claps, gettin' caught in
 booby-traps.
 Nerves are snappin' by degrees, lots are knockin' at
 the knees,
 Some fall out, they've had enough, I **must** go on,
 although it's tough,
 Cash in 'and is what I lack, I badly need that extra
 zac.

The last assault, a whistle blows, 'orf' to a flyin'
start I goes,
Jumps a trench near ten feet wide, lobs on me guts
on the other side,
Scrambles up and bolts like 'ell, a bloke behind me
gives a yell,
I slews me 'ead to 'ave a glance, and this is where
I lost all chance—
The next I know I pass thru space, cops a whack
across the face,
Things ain't good, it's gittin' black, feels as though
I broke me back;
"Gawd" knows now when I'll git a crack at tryin' to
git that extra zac.

HOSPITAL NEWS

Hospital visiting committee "**Brick**" **Bradford** and **Fred Searle** report in R.G.H. Concord: **Kevin Spurway** (Ward 6), **Archie Ferguson** (17), **Henry Lucas** (8), **David McGregor** (14-18) Ward 10.

Home from Hospital: **Bill Keogh, Stan Wilkinson, Doug Barry, W. O'Connell, Ken Grant.**

THE LAST POST

4th Bn. A.I.F.: 7194 C. V. Ambrister; 375 J. Brennan; 352 W. Monk; 864 L. J. Olsen; 2821 W. C. Revell; 4631 H. J. Tompkins; 2155 A. F. Watson; 6973 J. A. Dewey; 207 N. Lewis; 1076 F. Roberts.

2/4 Bn. A.I.F.: NX15501 A. J. Taylor; NX42781 F. J. Blair; NX7594 J. Bull; NX6140 R. J. Sherrin.

4 Bn. R.A.R.: 1/833 T. J. Clifford.

"We will remember them."

NOTES FROM THE TREASURER

Hon. Treasurer **Fred Searle** acknowledges subscriptions and/or donations from the following: **George Coles, "Doc" Howard, "Bub" Graham, Jack Maloney (Bowraville), Ted Harris, Arthur Webb, George Moore, Alan Manning, Neil Wallace, Ron Small, Bill Mitchell, Dave Endean, "Fangs" Coghlan, Ted McCaffery, Gordon Dale, Bill Fogden, Stan Doggett, "Snow" Wells, Dr. Brodie, Jack Dubber, "Blue" Saunders, Sid Young, Bill Sherwin, Jack Pearce, Mick O'Regan, George Friend, Frank Foster, Bob Griffiths, Winston Walker, Don Bundy, Wem Keast, Leo Dunn, Craig Clark, Guy Williams, W. C. Humphreys, Max Rungie, Mick Green, Rupert Carrington (each \$2), Max Nerney, Duncan Russell (\$3), Tim Ellis, Harold Conkey (\$4), Geoff Hawke, Jim Brown, Jack Smith, Stan Blacksley, Jack Ormiston (each \$5), Mrs. Mary Solomons (donation \$5), Mrs. Dorothy Searle (\$4 from Anzac Tea), Mrs. Wellings (donation \$2).**

"SMITHS WEEKLY"

One of our Association stalwarts, **Ken Moses**, from Melbourne, has just become Editor of the new "Smiths Weekly". Ken has asked us to let you know he is anxious to obtain copy for the A.I.F. page, particularly anecdotes of happenings on Active Service. The paper pays for them, too.

Our congratulations Ken on your new appointment.
We wish you every success.

AT THE MAY MEETING

President Harry Gjedsted sent his apology for not being able to attend the meeting. Harry was accompanying his wife Marjorie on the Himalaya on the first leg of her trip to England.

In Harry's absence the meeting expressed unanimously, and by acclamation, their deep and heartfelt appreciation of his work in presiding in such an excellent fashion over the activities of the Association.

The meeting also decided to discontinue the practice of sending wreaths to funerals. It was considered that a suitable card to the next of kin and a follow-up by the Welfare Committee would be in the better interest of the bereaved.

Bob Lane brought up the matter of Aboriginals and thought it would be a good idea to endeavour to locate them and ensure they realised they were

welcome to participate in our activities. Members who know of any aboriginals who served with us are asked to contact them and/or us with a view to bringing this about.

4 Bn. RAR

The Battalion has sailed for Vietnam. We wish them Good Luck in the year ahead and will follow their progress with interest. We appreciate there are difficulties peculiar to the area but we are confident the 4 RAR will acquit themselves in the best tradition of Australian Infanteers. May God be with them!

4 Bn. R.N.S.W.R.

A most interesting and entertaining evening was spent by Association members at the new "A" Company Headquarters, Princes Highway, Sutherland, on 30th April last. The new home for "A" Coy. is a great credit to the Army and the C.M.F. — a fine roomy brick structure with every modern convenience.

Of particular interest to us was the presentation of a portrait of **Edward Kenna, V.C.**, by his old Company Commander, **Major Phillip Smith, O.B.E., M.C.** "Blah", as he is affectionately known, gave an inspiring address to the assembled company — one which the men of "A" Company, and indeed the visitors, will remember for a long, long time. Special thanks are due to committeeman **Peter Cook**, for commissioning the painting of the portrait and meeting its cost.

General Dougherty, ever-ready to devote his efforts to C.M.F. and military interests, took the salute and congratulated the Company on their fine showing. Among others of our Association who attended were **Cec. Chrystal, Ern Swain, Dick Chamberlain, Athol Heath** and your editor.

PURELY SENTIMENTAL

(Extracted by "Sailor" Harvey from Sunday paper)

Purely sentimental! . . . back in 1940 Harry Gjedsted of Mona Road, Darling Point, was a footslogger with the AIF 2/4th Infantry Battalion training in Palestine for the Libyan campaign. One day he looked over the wall of Gaza War Cemetery, picked a sprig of rosemary and sent it in a letter to his mother in Simpson Street, Bondi. She planted it and gave it all the loving care of a soldier's mother. Today, in Simpson Street the rosemary bush is robust, huge and still in the Gjedsted family.

COCK'S COLUMN

Anzac Day March and Reunion — Had just left home on my way in on Anzac Day when a chap with his wife pulled up in a car and offered me a lift over. He was **Rex Nixon** (6a Undercliffe Street, Neutral Bay), 56 Bn. late 4th Bn., is Secretary of 56 Bn. Association and a member of Legacy for 34 years. An original Anzac who was on Gallipoli. Thanks Rex and Mrs. Nixon.

Before the March the first one I met was **Cec. Cameron**, D Coy., from Chester Hill. Cec. works with **Bruce Cork**.

Phil Betts of Mudgee was the next person I saw, and he would like to contact "**Buzz**" **Bennett**. **Bill Little** of Lane Cove, late of Cootamundra, also mentioned "**Buzz**" **Bennett**.

Jack "Brick" Bradford, North Ryde, was pleased to see **Fred Driscoll** from Griffith and **Matt Bristol** from June. We also were pleased to see them. Fred marched as straight as a ramrod, as he did in '39.

Jack "Horse Doctor" Huston from Canberra has recently seen **Keith Bailey, Don Taylor** and **John Hyles**. Good to see you Jack, please remember me to Joan. **Bill "Tiny" Bleakley**, Bankstown, was hoping to see "**Bluey**" **Peek** — me too "**Blue**".

Bill Colley and his son **Maurie** — Bill has seen **Ernie Dawe** and **Bill Yow**; they could not make Anzac Day, but hope to see us at Cowra. See you next year Bill and you too **Maurie** — remember me to your sisters Bill.

Joe McGrath, Dee Why, (beside the lagoon, not far from **Mick Gray's**) — good to see you Joe. Joe had a yarn to **Rex Gilliland** about the days on the steam ship "**President Doomer**", had memories of the bombing in the Red Sea. Also brought back memories of the hospital ship "**Aba**", which Joe and I were on when she was bombed in Tobruk Harbour. Good to see you Joe.

Arthur Kleem, Young — glad to see you come along Art; a friend of Arthur's had been to Tumut, called in to see **Clem Roddy**.

George Stack had a ring from Mrs. Warren (Butch's wife) at Yass. "Butch" was sick in bed with 'flu and could not make the Reunion, but sent his regards. Best wishes "Butch".

Matt Bristol, June; his second Anzac Day Reunion, the last being 1950. Was hoping to see you at the N.B. on Friday, Matt, but I suppose you were making tracks by then.

Dick "Pop" Williams, Birrong; "Pop" is still in contact with **Graham Woodward**, who now lives in Devon, England. Send us his address "Pop", we'll send him a WOG.

Jack Smith, Petersham, was looking for **Eric Reeves, Jack Clark**, Sefton, (B. Coy) and his pretty young daughter **Linda**, who was wearing her grandfather's medals, which included the M.M.

Noel "Mick" Weir, Wahoonga, met **Darcy Reynolds**, who will probably be at the next Reunion. How about Cowra, Darcy, or the first Friday of each month at Royal Naval House.

Jim McLaughlin, North Ryde, met **Tommy Gorman** and **Charlie "Chick" Newell**, also **Charlie Gillard**.

Harry Nicholls, McMahon's Point — I am sorry to hear has been in hospital with a coronary. We all wish you a speedy recovery Harry to the best of health again.

The Faulder brothers, Dick and Jim. Jim from Ryde and Dick from Beverly Hills. Jim brought in photos for the collection. Thanks Jim, they are appreciated.

Len Hellyar, Wollongong, has recently seen **Bill Nylan**; **Les Fox**, Narrabeen, saw **Stan Harris**, who is o.k.

Charlie Adams, Ettalong, said that **Fred Bourke** (C. Coy) Long Jetty, had rung him and said he could not make the March, but is going to rejoin the Association and attend the meetings. Charlie wrote six letters to prospective members. Keep up the good work.

John "Brig" McAtamney, 18 Ferry Avenue, Kogarah, gave me a letter containing news for the column — "While holidaying in Aberdeen quite re-

cently, he called and had a chat with our old comrade **Craig Clark**". Thanks "Brig".

Dick Latimer, over from Broken Hill en route to Coffs Harbour, is opening a new motel up there; best of luck Dick.

It was good to see **Bill "Punchy" Walker** from Canley Heights. It has been years since Bill has been on an Anzac Day March and Reunion. I am sorry to say that Bill has been very ill and is not the best yet. We wish you all the best for a speedy recovery to good health Bill. Bill's son-in-law, **Ron Carroll**, of 3 R.A.R., was badly wounded in Vietnam and is now an inmate of Ingleburn Hospital. We also wish you a quick recovery to the best of health again Ron, and to see you with Bill next year at our Anzac Day Reunion.

Ron Belford, Ashford (up on the Queensland border — 30 miles from Texas; (ours not L.B.J.'s)) has recently seen **Selby "Hole-in-the-hat" Dean**, at Inverell, also **Geoff Hawke, Ross Smith** and **Ken "Spanner" Graham**. **Bert "Curly" Callaghan** was at the March but could not go to the Reunion as he had to work.

Garry Hart, Carlton, has seen **Johnny Walsh**, who lives at Bexley, and is looking forward to seeing him at the next Reunion. We are all very sorry to hear that Johnny's wife had passed away and we offer our sincere sympathy.

Bruce Cork, Turramurra, was hoping to see **Ron Perran**. Was pleased to see **Les Killeen, Clem's** brother. **Bill Reilly** has seen **"Darby" Bevan** from Narrabri; Darby had seen **"Snow" Lovelee**.

Pat Lahey, Collaroy, met **Lou Dubber**, also **Dick Morris** — we missed you Dick.

Bill Parry and brother-in-law, **Dick Martin**, French's Forest — Bill had seen **George Whitby**, who is in the War Veterans Hospital at Collaroy, and I am sorry to hear he is a very sick man. You'll hear from us, George.

John Meehan, and all the Sig. Platoon present at the Reunion, were disappointed that **Max Wilson** did not come along.

Bill Reaney, as usual, gave me \$5 for the Association Welfare Fund, which I passed on to **President Harry Gjedsted**. This is a yearly contribution from Bill. We thank you mate; it is appreciated indeed.

John Myers, who came along to the Reunion with **"Lasca" Roach**, is the son of **Wally Myers** of the 4th Bn. Wally could not make it because of illness. We hope to see you next year Wal.

A pleasant surprise was a visit from **Matt Bristol** of Junee. Matt was visiting his mother at Crows Nest, who was not enjoying the best of health, so being on the North Shore decided to pay me a visit. Matt has put on weight and looks well on it. Had recently seen **Joe Wells** and **"Wem" Keast**. Hoped to visit the North British and meet some more of the boys. We are sorry to hear of your mother's illness, Matt, and wish her a speedy return to good health.

Cecil "Slim" Powers, Kogarah, was hoping to see some of the Cootamundra boys he met at "The Party", at **Jim Crowe's** — **Wal. Taylor, Vic. Crowhurst, Jimmy Crowe**, or any of the other Coota. boys.

North British News: Met Jack Fitzgerald (2/1st Bn.), who had seen **Bill Webster** from New Guinea — was having his first visit to Sydney for four years and has lost contact with our members. Bill sailed in the Queen Mary and was wounded in Tobruk. He rejoined

the Bn. in Palestine. Bill was going to try and see some of us at the N.B.

Was pleased to see **Ted Swadling** from Griffith on a combined Bowling trip and Anzac Day visit. Ted, who never misses an Anzac Day March, has recently seen **Arthur Webb, Tom "Nedda" Erskine, Fred Driscoll**, still ramrod straight, **Fred Apthorpe, Dennis Jackson, Nevis Farrell, Eddie Wilson** and **Ron Ewbank**. Ted had come into the N.B. about the same time as **Matt Bristol**, but they did not recognise one another after all these years until Eileen, "our girl" at the N.B., reintroduced them. Matt reported having had a drink with **Gus Kyle**, at Kiama. Also mentioned that **Jack Lyons'** nephew, **Peter Lyons**, had been killed in Vietnam, and was accorded a full military funeral in June. Please extend our deepest sympathy to your brother and his family, Jack.

Others to meet Ted and Matt at the N.B. were **Ted McCaffery, "Sailor" Harvey, "Nugget" Greedy, Jack Heaney, Jack Gaffney** and **Peter Armstrong**.

"Nugget" Greedy went to the races and met **"Titch" Fordham**, who was looking for **Ron "Windy" Windeyer**, whom he occasionally meets. "Nugget" also met **Jack "Cheeky Charlie" Keating**.

Peter Armstrong's son, **Andrew**, won a scholarship to Sydney High School. Congratulations, Andrew. **Eileen** handed me a note: "**John Copland** called in, regards to all; sorry I could not wait". We're sorry too, that we missed you John. As we were about to leave **Laurie James** (B. Coy) came in — Laurie has not seen his mate **Andy Kerr** for some time.

Alex Thompson, our mate at the N.B., met big **Jack Davis** (B. Coy) — he was at Turramurra Convalescent Home, but expected to be out soon. Others to visit the N.B. included: **Jack Huston, Cecil Chrystal, Jerry "Fangs" Coghlan, "Porky" Williams, Gordon Chrisp, Tom Fitzpatrick, Bill Colley, Ken Webb, Tom Provians** and **Jack Maloney**.

Bill Hoffman, of Kyogle (6 Div. Cav.), sought me out before the Anzac March and said he was instructed to convey best wishes to all from: **Tim Lamond, Jack Chaseling, Doug Grove, Charlie Grove, Bob Gardner, Ian Wallwork, Eddie Slade, Sam Goodwin, J. Hinett, Wal. Henry, Hugh Whittleton, Jack Lester**, all of Kyogle, **Max Nerney** and **Clarrie Ryan** of Urbenville, **Aub Priest, Bonalbo, Bill Sheaffe, Bangalow**, and **Ron Ellem, Woodenbong**.

Dick Latimer reported calling on **Alf Bromilow** in Albury — he had hoped to get down for Anzac Day but apparently couldn't make it. Dick and Enid also saw Bob and Ada Griffith in Mildura, busily preparing for their daughter's 21st birthday, on Saturday, 13th April. Whilst in Bairnsdale called on George Arthur's widow and met his two beautiful daughters, Jan and Ray. Jan had been invited to be a candidate in the Miss Australia Quest, but unfortunately declined. Ray, who is now a senior Secretary at the Bairnsdale Hospital, hopes to become an air hostess with Qantas at the end of the year.

Ron and Mrs. Belford, of Ashford, were elated to see their son Jim arrive home from Vietnam on H.M.A.S. Sydney, the day after Anzac Day. Jim arrived with the main body of his Unit, 7 R.A.R., after its hard stint in the Asian War. Congratulations Jim on a job well done.

"COCK ROBIN"

20 Adderstone Avenue,
North Sydney.