



White over Green

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE 2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

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Next Meetings: Friday, 6th Sept., 1968

at Royal Naval House, Grosvenor St.,

Friday, 11th Oct., 1968

Sydney, at 8 p.m.

HURRY! WITH YOUR BOOKING FOR:

The 1968 Country Reunion

AT

COWRA

GUEST SPEAKER: GENERAL SIR JACK STEVENS, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., E.D.

To be held on the holiday week-end 5th, 6th, and 7th October, the **1968 Country Reunion** is drawing nearer. Please do the right thing and advise the Cowra Committee of your intention **NOW** (See form below). Your early advice is imperative to enable catering and other arrangements to be finalised.

The ceremonies commence with a short march to the War Memorial at **5.30 P.M. on SATURDAY, 5th OCTOBER**. Join the happy gathering and enjoy the true comradeship of the 2/4 Bn. Association.

To—
TED HARRIS, ESQ.,
C/o Services Club,
COWRA, N.S.W. 2794.

Dear Ted,

I am a member of 2/4th Inf. Bn. Association and wish to attend the 1968 Country Reunion at Cowra. Please reserve for me:

SINGLE/DOUBLE ROOM AT A HOTEL/MOTEL FOR FRIDAY, 4th OCTOBER,
SATURDAY, 5th OCTOBER,
SUNDAY, 6th OCTOBER.

(Cross out where necessary.)

Enclosed is a cheque/postal order for \$..... being deposit of \$2 per person.

Looking forward to a Happy Reunion.

Yours,

NAME.....

(Block letters.)

ADDRESS.....

LETTER FROM SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Box 51, P.O., Goolwa, S.A., 5214.

Dear George,

Greetings to one and all, old clobber.

As secretary, you are the official sender and receiver of tidings, so I include good wishes to each and every one associated with the Battalion and let's hope you can recruit **Fred Searle**, "**Rusty**" and "**Cock**" **Robin** to extend these wishes.

The last time I wrote to the Association certain plans were related for Anzac Day reunion here at Adelaide as conducted by the local 19th Bde. Association. The result, from changing to a more central and better class hotel—The Earl of Zetland—was very rewarding. Some decent blokes who generally just say hullo and goodbye came in, and, even after saying they would not stay, spent the whole afternoon. It was such an enjoyable day I already look forward to next year.

The agreed success of this year gives the sought-after and desired effect of each of us being able to say, with real enthusiasm: "Come and join us".

Max Rungie, who has marched with Legacy for many years found this Anzac Day coincided with his son's wedding at Warrnambool in Victoria. I feel sure all Max's coppers will be able to see him at the March and at "The Earl" next year.

19th Bde. committee did a wonderful job over the past year. Within two months of Anzac Day, 1967, it had lost its President and Secretary, **Andy Mylan**, ex 2/4th. **Roy Harrison** stepped in as President and **Alf Turner** as Secretary. It's easy to praise both Alf and his wife. Even though their 20-year-old son was electrocuted they really worked hard. Likewise, the rest of the committee with prominent 2/4ers **Roy "Coffee" Royal**, "**Smiler**" **Loiterton**, **Paddy Reid** and **George Walton**.

"Coffee" said he'd advise "**Cock**" about the meeting—a very nice friendly affair held on Anzac eve.

During Anzac Day several members said they would like to receive W.O.G. I wonder if Fred could organise each of those listed to be sent "White Over Green", starting from the April issue if possible, because I feel it is so enhanced by the picture of the marching battalion. "White Over Green" is so good with the emphasis on personalities as created by "**Cock**" **Robin** that I feel sure each of these fellows will be glad to receive them and continue on doing so.

L. Loiterton, Lord Howe Avenue, Hillcrest, S.A. 5086; **Jim Aitkinson**, Rehabilitation Centre, 41 Payneham Road, Felixstowe, S.A. 5070; **L. A. Cavanah**, 21 Everard Avenue, Keswick, S.A. 5035; **Des Shultz**, 1 Frederick Place, North Adelaide, S.A., 5006; **Roy Harrison**, 35 Gardiner Avenue, Warradale, S.A. 5046; **G. T. Walton**, 438 Main North Road, Blair Athol, S.A. 5084.

The crane driver of Horsel and Jarman seemed familiar at their works on the 24th April. On the 26th, I collected my truck fitted with a water tank and asked him where he was during the march. He said he would have been with us only for being torpedoed by the rum bottle after the dawn service. He said he is **Noel Chapman** from our old C. Coy.

Ted Adlington, ex C. Coy, marched; also **Fred Dibden (Doc)**—he's an old regular, hail, rain or shine.

The constitution of the 19th Bde. Association permits two living life members. It's beaut to report that 2/4ers **Ken "Coffee" Royal** and **Roy Harrison** are the present incumbents.

Most stories W.O.G. tells are fairly recent and, of course, news for the readers, but there's one I'd love to tell that dates back to this month of 1945 and ends on the day of the final attack of Mt. Tazarki. There are so few who would know about it and I would like to pass on the details for the pride and pleasure of all.

At the time, 10 and 11 Platoons (B. Coy) were under half strength. Regular patrolling had whittled down numbers so both were combined to mount an outpost position between A. Coy and C. Coy. Also, there were about half a dozen lads from Btn. H.Q., Mortars, or somewhere, helping with numbers. The Japs by day were opposite, across a creek, and were supposed to stay there. But every night they came forth and nearly drove us all crazy, springing booby-traps and visiting the Y.M.C.A. or whatever was so interesting to them. Each day we patrolled, contacted A. Coy, C. Coy, B. Coy, and made sure the Nips were still guarding the creek crossing.

It was thought that Idakabul, on the Danmap, was as creepy a place as you could get, but it should be known that, in fairness to those who were there and scared stiff, this was worse. It was made so by the Japs you could hear and smell nearly all night long. The rain seemed to wash you away and only leave your ear drums. They received a million sounds but identified so few; then bang! A grenade at close range and you could hear nothing. All the fireflies would rise and seem to light your position like a search light and then after a terrible period of anxiety the cycle of events would resume again.

This was when he was first noticed—where he came from and how long he'd been with us (as a Btn.) would be nice to know.

Building the patrols was a nightmare. Not the one back for rations so much, but the fighting patrols, to contact the other Coys, and observe the Japs. All the good fellows seemed to have gone or were out on a job. But there was one thing that was certain we always had a start. The forward scout was out already.

He seemed to know what the message was and where to go before it was spoken. While the others were forming up you would know that a young tall and very dark curly haired warrior with an Owen and a ton of guts was paving the way out front.

C. and D. Coys were attacking Tazarki when we got an S.O.S. for stretcher-bearers. He was the first volunteer and hurried off across country to help in this different role.

Our War History reports SX39506 **Pte. Norm Plant** as killed in action while acting as "**Doc**" **Williams'** body-guard. He was shot by a sniper twenty-three years ago and you all should know he is one of ours we think about, when "We remember them".

I've tried to put a period of time and the impression created into a couple of pages. The period was like a lifetime and the impression mighty. So, even if only about 20 years old, Norm had a long and very successful life and would still wear a grin for certain.

During the long period since I started this letter we had a meeting at "**Smiler**" **Loiterton's** place. He

sends his personal regards to all his old cobbles. Seems to be nicely settled and is particularly proud of his daughter who is part of the State Champion Marching Girls' team, a highly successful, interesting and pretty girl of sixteen. Her 15-year-old brother is becoming quite prominent in Australian Rules footy; evidently a natural with build to suit.

At the last Reunion, a photographer shot our Bde. banner with a replica for each Btn. and the 2/7th Field Ambulance who, for the Bde., bridged a gap which, in our New Guinea years, existed between the Fuzzy-Wuzzies and the North British.

Col. Angas Maitland of 2/11 Btn. has joined us for a good number of years and his company is always enjoyed.

Our thanks to **Harry Gjedsted** for including us all when congratulating the General. We'd make his hand sore if we all squeezed it with the feeling known for our C.O.

Pat, my wife, two kids, Helen and Kym, had a wonderful evening with **Harry Whitman** and his wife, **Ada**, firstly at the **Wakool Ex-servicemen's Club** and then at Harry's home near Burraboi. This was back in May, while on a bull-buying trip. Harry would dearly love to have made Sydney for Anzac Day but local ties, President at Wakool I think, demanded his presence.

Blah Smith's idea for next year is very good. There must be hundreds even close to Sydney who may respond to a little stir, little realising how pleased their many cobbles would be to see them. Good luck to you Blah!

The main reason this letter has been so long getting finished is that I wanted to say I'd see you at **Cowra**. I want Pat to come and my mother from Sydney who will return with us to Adelaide. Should anyone end up with a spare seat from Sydney to Cowra I'll suggest to Mum she meets me at Cowra.

Cheers now, good health and happiness to you all from all 2/4ers in South Australia.

Sincerely,
Peter Denver

FROM WESTERN AUSTRALIA

73 Waratah Avenue,
Dalkeith, W.A. 6009

Dear Fred,

There I was one Monday morning in the office with the usual degree of Monday-itis hanging over me like a pall of smoke when the phone rang.

"Well, Peter, this is by way of being a voice from out of the past!" (A fine way to start a Monday morning.) "Jack Huston is the name—I don't know if you remember me?"

Well, a voice from the past was quite the understatement of the day. Twenty-six years, we worked it out later, since we'd last had contact — and to my shame I was groping there for a while but once we saw each other again all was well. Jack came out home for dinner next evening and over a couple of bottles of "Swan" we let the curtain roll back and started to run off the "Do you remember's" and "What about so-and-so; what's he doing," etc. — you know how it is Fred; you've been through it yourself time and time again.

Jack brought over a copy of "White Over Green" both the book and the journal. I must congratulate all those associated with the book—it's a wonderful record, in yarn form, if you can put it that way. Very good indeed and I'll always be grateful to Jack and proud to keep it in our little rotating bookcase. Please find a small contribution to the battalion benevolent fund in return for same.

Peter Willan

COCK'S COLUMN

August Meeting and the boys who attended:—**Harry Gjedsted, Fred Searle, Russ McWilliam, Harry Wright, Peter Cook, John Jordan, Reg Angel, Athol Heath, Dick Pinson, Frank Frizell, Bill McLennan, Charlie Adams, "Soccer" Coomber, Mick Steele, Doug Barry, Bill Luck, Ron Raymont, Ivan Pollock, Dick Morris, Sid Young, Rex Everson, John Copland, Dick Faulder, Stan Bowen, Ken Webb, Cec Chrystal, Ken Kesterven, Jerry Coghlan and Gordon Chrisp.**

Peter Cook met **Bill "Bing" Riley** and **Lou Evans** of B. Coy, both are well and also met **Sid George** at the Canterbury-Hurlstone Park R.S.L.

Ron Raymont told me he was unable to get to the last Anzac Day as he had a poisoned foot. I am sorry to report that **Maude** (Mrs. Raymont) has had a very severe attack of nerves, but is improving. I am pleased to write of Ron and Maude who wish to thank **Charlie Adams** for the mighty job he is doing on the Central Coast.

Gordon Chrisp met "**The Red Steer**" **Keith Beattie.**

Harry "Soccer" Coomber said that he will be going to the Cowra Reunion. It will be his first Country Reunion, and will be on the look out for **Bill Wall** from Bingara.

In attendance from 4 R.N.S.W.R. were **Tom Hall, Peter Keating, Ray Hurst** and **Norm Harries.** We were all very pleased to see you; all are always welcome.

Was pleased to see our old comrade **John Copland**, but was sorry to hear that John is not enjoying the best of health. Best wishes for a speedy return to the best of health again, John.

I am sorry to report that **Cec Chrystal's** youngest daughter **Amanda** is unfortunately "confined to barracks" with hepatitis. We all wish you a speedy recovery to good health again **Amanda.** (Amanda, we hear, is an avid reader of "White Over Green".)

Received a letter from **Dick "Pop" Williams**, of Birrong. I'm sorry to say that Dick has suffered a fall and fractured a bone in his back. Dick has been off work for two months and he may have to be away for another month yet. We all hope you are completely well at the earliest possible moment, Dick. On Anzac Day I commented in Dick's presence that we had two of our boys in England—**Frank Mallet** and **Monty Siems.** Dick broke in with: "I know another, **Graham Woodward**" and his letter contained Graham's address which is 13 Pinewood Close, Dawlish, Devon, England.

Ted Harris, Cowra, reports having met **Neville May** who works at Central Railway Station. Neville has promised to come to the **Cowra Reunion** making ten bookings so far from No. 1 Platoon. Glad to hear of you Neville. What about getting hold of **Gary Hart** and joining **Gordon Chrisp** at a monthly meeting as well.

A large envelope by post from South Australia, with an Army News, an article on **Ed. Kenna, V.C.** and letter from 22172 W.O.1, **C. J. Storey**, Army Intelligence Centre, Woodside, 5224, S.A. The letter: "Greetings—just a short note with the attached 'Army'; some items of interest on **Edward Kenna, V.C.** If you happen to see **Bill McLennan, Jack Bell** and any other ex Sig. Pltn., please pass on my good wishes. If any ex members are over this way would be delighted to see them. Cheers for now, regards, **John Storey.**"

NORTH BRITISH NEWS

A note left with **Eileen** to say **Esca Riordan** from West Kempsey had called in. He was down on Legacy business and met **Geoff Bush** (B. Coy) Kingswood, at the Conference. Esca was sorry he had just missed **Gordon Crisp**. He will write to me from Kempsey, as he has a few notes on a pad at home. Sorry I missed you Esca.

Keith "Sailor" Harvey met a 2/4er at the Wentworthville R.S.L. who was an original; his number is NX5555, but "Sailor" could not remember his name. I searched the nominal roll in the War History but could not find NX5555. NX5554 is **Yow, C. W.** I found NX5525, **Wardman, C. W.** and NX5525, **Warman, A. R.**, both with the same number—so can anyone help, please. (Editor's note: Yes, Cock, he is **N. Auberson.**)

Met an **Allan Brown**, NX329 (2/1st Fld. Regt.), 19 Bardwell Road, Mosman, who is just back from Ethiopia. Allan was with "X" Regt. R.A.A. up at Mount Carmel, Haifa, with the 2/4th Bn. He knows **Phil Smith, Jim Brown, Bob Ferguson, Jack Chaseling** and many others. Allan was in New Guinea at Koigin and Bazake at Wewak with 2/4th Bn.

Before the meeting met **Russ** and **Frank Frizell**, also **Jack Maloney**, Maroubra. He could not make the meeting. I am pleased to report that **John Burke** from the Chief Secretary's Department, a friend of **Ted McCaffery** and other 2/4th boys at the N.B. is the proud daddy of a bonny bouncing 8lb. 10oz. boy. Congratulations to John and Carmel-Denise.

Allen Williams, 2/2nd Bn., a friend of the 2/4ers at the North British, was that night travelling to Lismore with his cousin **David Martin**, a 2/4er, to attend his mother's 80th birthday celebrations. Congratulations, Mrs. Williams, the 2/4ers wish you a very happy birthday with many more to follow. Allen's cousin, **David Martin**, is the chap who, in the Bren shooting accident on the "Rejula" coming home from the Middle East, lost his leg.

Entering the door of the North British on Wednesday, 7th August, met a chap coming out and he hit me on the head with a newspaper. I looked up ready to do battle and saw the laughing face of **Tom "Nedda" Erskine** from Griffith. Tom looks well, has recently met **Arthur Webb, Fred Driscoll, Dennis Jackson, David McClure, Ted Swadling** and **Fred Apthorpe**, who are all well. On a trip last December, Tom looked up **Bill Whitehead** whom he had not seen for 27 years; found him delivering mail on his motor bike in Cudal. Bill went to Tom's place last Easter. While there they rang **Harold Elway** (D. Coy) at Southport, Queensland, on Easter Sunday. (Harold has a chemist shop.) It was the 27th anniversary of Tom and Harold carrying Bill out of action, after being wounded at

Florina, Greece. Bill has promised to be at the Cowra Reunion. Tom left me to meet **Bruce Mulquiney** at the Imperial Service Club.

Cec Moon (1914-18), an ex-Mayor of Parkes and a colleague of **Ted McCaffery** at "The Black Stump" reports that four of "the BIG-UNS" were in for a 'taste' viz: **Ted, Jack Heaney, Ron "Porky" Williams**, and **Jerry "Fangs" Coghlan.**

NOTES FROM THE TREASURER

Hon. Treasurer **Fred Searle** reports receipt of the following:

Subscriptions from: "**Bush**" **Bennett, C. Roddy, R. U. Jessup, H. C. Pearce, Les Anderson** each \$2.00; **John Hine** \$6.00, **G. W. Ormiston** and **A. F. Lindsay** each \$4.00; **R. Morris** \$21.00 (Life).

Donations from: **Snow McLennan** \$18.00, **Peter Willan** \$10.00, **J. Pearce** \$1.00, **G. W. Ormiston** \$1.00, **Miss Eva Morrison** \$1.00, **John Hine** \$4.00.

HOSPITAL NEWS

In R.G.H. Concord:

2/4 Bn.—**John Keyte**, Ward 430, **Barry Herwig**, Ward 7, "**Blue**" **Benson** Ward 14, "**Peat**" **Moss**, Ward 17.; 4 Bn. A.I.F.—**R. Conarty**, Ward 20, **D. McGregor**, Ward 17.

Our thanks to our regular hospital visitors, **Fred Searle** and "**Brick**" **Bradford**, who travel to Concord each Saturday to dispense smokes, etc., to our members. Also to **John Jordan**, who deputised for **Fred Searle**, whilst he was in bed with Asian flu.

THE LAST POST

4th Bn. A.I.F.: 6352 F. J. Chapman, 1199 S. McGarvie, 2677 F. G. Spain.

2/4 Bn. A.I.F.: NX66968 J. A. W. Dawson, NX46550 Neil Wallace.

"We Will Remember Them"

4 R.N.S.W.R. COLOURS CEREMONY

On Sunday, 29th September, 4 Bn. Royal New South Wales Regiment will be presented with their colours in a ceremony at **Victoria Barracks**, Sydney. Among the 1500 official guests will be some members of your executive. However, the Commanding Officer of 4 R.N.S.W.R., **Lt.-Col. Ray Sharp**, has expressed the hope that as many as possible of the ex-members of 2/4th Bn. and their families will attend. We do hope members will endeavour to be present on this day which promises to be a most impressive occasion.

COMPANY SHOOT

The inaugural shooting competition between Companies of 4 R.N.S.W.R. for the 2/4 Bn. Association Trophy was held at Anzac Rifle Range on Sunday, 18th August and resulted in a win for **B. Coy** from Support Coy with a margin of eight points with **Don Company** one point farther away. Association members who attended included **Harry Gjedsted, Peter Cook, Harry Wright, Dick Morris** (with his son **Rick**), **Reg Angel, Rex Everson** and your editor.

After the shoot there was a gathering at the new "A" Company H.Q.'s building at Sutherland where **Harry Gjedsted** presented the trophy to the captain of the winning team during the course of a very enjoyable afternoon in the **Kenna Club**, which is the official name for the Mens Mess.