



White over Green

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE 2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

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Next Meetings: Friday, 7th November: Combined Smoko
Friday, 5th December: Ladies' Night
at Royal Australian Naval House, Grosvenor Street, Sydney

LETTER FROM THE PHILIPPINES

From **Harry Sundstrom** to **Tom Provians**: "Despite all my good intentions I just don't seem to be able to find time or opportunity to contact you, however you'll be flattered to realise that this note is the result of a very determined effort. Late last year I was invited by the President of the University of the Philippines (U.P.) to accept the post of Professor in Zootchnics (Animal Husbandry plus vet. science) at the Veterinary College. The bustle of getting away, plus the wedding of Number two daughter just didn't leave me any time for anything. I have my wife with me — most of the 2/4 boys knew her whilst she was a sister at Gaza Ridge, 1st A.G.H. where she was called **Swanny** and I think most of the fellows were at our wedding which was held at the hospital at Gaza.

The first month of our stay was spent in indecent luxury at one of the super hotels and then we moved into a very nice cottage adjacent to the University. Strangely, there are very few Australians over here, and to date — apart from the Embassy staff — I know of only two others and consequently I'm regarded as an oddity. There are plenty of Americans but they do not appear to be very popular. Australia and Australians are very highly regarded and hence wherever I go I receive V.I.P. treatment. On New Year's Eve I was invited to a very posh night club, where celebrations were being held in honour of the Miss Asian contestants. Around midnight Miss Japan went to the mike and spoke in Japanese and explained this meant Happy New Year in Japanese, Miss Burma, Miss Thailand, Miss China, etc., etc., all followed and spoke in their own language. Then

everything was quiet and I noticed the people were all looking at our table; a waiter came along and something which I didn't understand — "What the hell goes on?" I said to Swanny. Just then the orchestra blared out a bar of Waltzing Matilda; the waiter then took my arm and sidled me up to the mike. I was dumbfounded, but rallying to the cause I said, "Woolloomooloo, Gundagai, Toowoomba, and that Ladies and Gentlemen means Happy New Year in Australian." Yells and cheers followed, the orchestra struck up Waltzing Matilda, and I had to sing the damn thing; however everyone joined in, much to my amazement. I found out later that this tune was all the rage in the islands. This incident received publicity from the press people who were present and as a consequence I am being continually asked to speak Australian — (I'm lucky I have a map of Australia with me otherwise I'd run out of names) — and to sing Waltzing Matilda, this latter request I decline with great professional dignity. These people are delightful folk, happy and courteous with a great sense of humour. I am enjoying working with them, and even although some of the jobs I'm tackling are pretty rough they are always willing to come along with me.

I've never in my life seen such traffic, it is just crazy, and I absolutely refuse to drive. The only traffic rule observed is "Thou shalt not hit the car in front." I really have the jitters each time I go through Manila. One wonderful thing tho' the beer is better than Australian beer — hard to believe — and only ¼ the price, cigarettes are about half Aust. price, but the beef and butter!! so costly that they

are luxuries. One thing I can't become accustomed to, is the national dress, this consists of wearing a very heavily embroidered shirt with long sleeves, open neck, and worn outside of the trousers. Although its cool and comfortable I just can't accustom myself to it. I intended to forward \$2 for W.O.G. membership, but at present it's just about impossible to send currency out of the country, and I'm in the middle of a very involved process of short circuiting my cash and having it sent to my bank in Australia, what a job, so will you accept me as a member — non financial — until I can straighten out this mess. Sure you can bring in as much cash as you like, but send it out!!! Phew! It took me two days to buy some Australian currency to send back with my youngest daughter — who was over here with us for six weeks — however I'll straighten this out soon.

Thanks for sending me your news sheet and I am looking forward to hearing news of the 2/4th".

Harry Sundstrom, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines.

THE TREASURER'S REPORT

In presenting this, my last financial statement, I feel that I should make a few suggestions regarding the Association's activities in as far as they affect our finances.

The Benevolent Fund today is in a healthy condition but to date has not been called on to any great extent. However, this will not be the continuing picture. We are all getting older and our list of departed Comrades is increasing each year and it can be anticipated that this Fund will, in the next five years, be called upon to make substantial payments to and on behalf of our members.

The task before us in this regard therefore is to devise ways and means of enticing a very large influx of money and as soon as possible. Our tangible assets at this time consist of a current Account amounting to \$373.54. Your Committee this year agreed to my recommendation to invest \$1,500 in the R.S.L. Permanent Building Society and the following Association monthly meeting endorsed their action.

I am of the opinion that every endeavour should be made to increase this investment to \$2,500 and to build up the Current Account to at least \$500 so that we will be in a position to meet reasonable calls for assistance. This amount invested would return some \$150.0. p.a. increasing each year by .09 per cent.

As for the General Account, I feel that the position here needs some close attention. At the moment we have only \$281.53 to work on as \$300.00 has been tied up at Port Macquarie since January last — in my opinion unnecessarily.

The aim should be for a working amount of \$1,000.00 to allow some expansion in our Social activities. To do this, we must raise funds by means other than subscriptions. I think that the Committee in particular, and the Association in general should give this matter their serious and early consideration.

Finally, as good as your Committee is, it would be 100 per cent more effective if this Association got

down to brass tacks and formed a Ladies' Auxiliary and I'm willing to bet that once they got going, I can see not only a strong, active, working group centred on the Metropolitan area but Country groups at such places as Cowra, Tamworth, Wagga, Lismore-Casino, Woy Woy and that possibly others would also form up at other centres and as a result of all this the targets that I have suggested for the Benevolent Fund and also our General Account would be reached within two years at the very outside.

I wish to extend my thanks to you all for having me as your Honorary Treasurer and for the help given me in my job by members generally and also by my colleagues on the Committee. To all the Country, Interstate and Metropolitan members who forwarded their fees, etc. — thanks — especially for the many kind wishes expressed by those whom I knew personally prior to my leaving the Unit.

To you, Mr. President I can only wish you and yours and to all Members and their families, health wealth and happiness and I promise that as circumstances permit, I will see you all from time to time in the future. I give up my job with a great deal of regret but I feel that this is the right thing to do for many reasons, particularly as far as my health is concerned.

Finally, I extend to my successor best wishes for his tenure of office.

Reg Angel.

HOSPITAL NEWS

We are pleased to advise that **Dick Latimer** has had a good report from the M.O. and is now back on duty. Dick reports having visited R.G.H. Concord in August and September, and contacting the following: **K. Butler** (C. Coy), **Tony Creasey**, **George Whitty**, **Cyril Abbott**, and **Bill Reid** of 2/4 Bn. Other ex 2/4 men reported in R.G.H. were **Walter Toll**, **Jeff King**, **James Peters**, **Archie Cox** and **George Wright**. Dick regrets to advise the death in R.G.H. of members **Charles Jago**, **Charles Brown** and **Henry Reid** (C. Coy.). Our sincere condolences are extended to the next of kin of the deceased members.

Members of 4 Bn. '14-'18 visited included **Ken Craig**, **Donald King**, **William Gairty**, **David Griffiths**, **Francis Malcolm**, **Morgan Welsh** and **Ronald Dunreath-Cooper** who asked that regards be passed on to **Harry Stafford**, President of 4 Bn. Association.

THE LAST POST

4 Bn. A.I.F.: 658 A. Ball; 1103 J. Carney; 4055 F. J. Heavey; 7595 H. P. Punch; 1165 C. L. C. Richards.

2/4 Bn. A.I.F.: NX5111 C. D. McBride; NX41517 W. R. O'Connell; Henry Reid; Charles Brown.

"We Will Remember Them."

LADIES' NIGHT — 1969

Ladies' Night will be held as usual on the "first Friday" of December — this year Friday, 5th December — in the ballroom at Royal Australian Naval House commencing at 8 p.m. Full details in our next issue, BUT

RESERVE THE DATE NOW — FRIDAY, 5TH DECEMBER.

REMEMBER—

FRIDAY, 7th NOVEMBER IS COMBINED SMOKO NIGHT

The "first Friday" night in November is the traditional night on which we hold our Combined Smoko with the men of 4 Bn. A.I.F. ('14-'18) as our guests. Please make a special effort to attend this year. A light supper will be served and there will be a plentiful supply of amber fluid. A charge of \$1.50 per head covers everything. Remember!! Friday, 7th November at 7.30 p.m. at Royal Australian Naval House Grosvenor Street, Sydney for the Combined Smoko of 1969.

1969 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

The President invites all members of our Association to participate in the Annual Remembrance Sunday March to the Cenotaph, solemn Wreathlaying Ceremony and Reunion on Sunday 9th November, 1969, organised by **The Association of Fourth Infantry Battalions**.

Assembly point is at the corner of Martin Place and Phillip Street at 2.30 p.m. for the march to the Cenotaph. After the Wreathlaying Ceremony the March will proceed via George St., Bridge St. and Macquarie Place to the Gallipoli Legion of Anzacs Club in Loftus Street where the Reunion will commence at 4 p.m.

The March will be headed by the magnificent band of 4 R.N.S.W.R. with a Colour Party and Uniformed Detachment also from that Battalion. Sir Ivan will be leading the marchers and **Norm Harries** will be March Marshal. There will be a Press and T.V. coverage of the march and medals and decorations should be worn.

IN THE MAIL BAG

From Ken Moses:

"Dear George, Great to hear from you and thank you all for your best wishes. I'm getting on fairly well now and have been home a fortnight from Heidelberg and dabbling in a bit of work, mainly at home but visiting the office for a few hours every day. However it was a pretty close call. I was out to it for 14 days in the intensive care ward before I was moved down to ward 9A. They reckoned I was 5/2 on for the slab for a couple of days but you can't keep a 9000 number down. My daughter flew down from Canberra for 13 days but I did not know she was here. However she is down for this week-end to have a look at me and to allow me to carry on an intelligent conversation with her.

Heaven knows how Rusty got to hear about it, but it is amazing the number that seemed to find out. I am on a walking stick as I had to learn to walk all over again. It will take some time but I can hobble around and the main thing is that I can write. The firm was great. Although I had only been with them since February I was on full pay all the time. They still won't let me work too hard, although I have been doing a lot of stories from home.

I will send you a copy of the next paper and you will see a full page account of my experiences in the Repat. Hospital with appropriate remarks about the food.

I'm not allowed to drive the car so my youngest daughter is taking driving lessons and I will have a chauffeur.

In the paper I will mark some of the other stories I wrote so that you will see that I have lost my old form altogether.

I would love to come to Sydney for a while and see all the mob, especially **Johnny Meehan**, **Tiny Blakeley**, **Rusty** and all the others, but I'm afraid that it will be some time yet as I have to have a lot more check-ups and will be under constant supervision for a while. There would be a hell of a lot to talk over although I'm strictly a soda water man now.

Do you know if there are any more of the war histories left, as I think I have a customer down here who wants a copy. I lent my copy to a chap at work who is a sergeant in the C.M.F. After reading it he is seriously thinking of resigning.

Sorry you had such a rough time with the weather at Katoomba over the school holidays. The first week down here was pretty good, we even reached a 77 but the last week looks like being a bit rough, we had a 56 today and it has been hovering around that mark for the last few days, but log fires and electric blankets don't make it too bad.

Vicki, who is 22, is up in Canberra in the National Library, and the **Houston family** have been quite good to her. Jillian who is 18 was up in Canberra for a while seeing Vicki, stopped with the **Houstons** and had quite a good time. The wonder boy **Kenneth Andrew Campbell Moses** is nine.

Again very many thanks for the well wishes and regards to **Cec**, **Cock**, **Sailor** and all the other boys. Maybe we will meet in the not too distant future. Kindest regards to you and all the family and the respectable mob at Naval House."

COCK'S COLUMN

Recently I went for a weekend to my neice **Noeline**, nephew-in-law **Tommy** and their nine children at Portland. On the way up by train, we were held up outside Bell for 1½ hours — the train ahead of us had broken down in the tunnel. A lady passenger, **Mrs. Arthur Day**, Lithgow, and I got into conversation, I mentioned R.S.L. and Units; she told me that she and Arthur were friends of **Les "Tich" Bayliss** and played tennis with him, also that Les is a very keen gardener and has had considerable success in the various shows. Pleased to have met you **Mrs. Day**. At Portland I visited the R.S.L. Club; met **Jack Pattison** (Sec. Manager) who made me welcome. He mentioned 2/4thers **George Graham**, **Jack Thomas** and **George Coles**. I also again met **Jack Curran** of 4th Bn. Tommy was kind enough to drive me to Wallerwang on Sunday, to see **George Coles** (A. Coy), Simkins St., Wallerwang, and this time I was lucky enough to catch George at home. I also had the pleasure of meeting **Mrs. Coles**, and I am sorry to report that she has been very ill in Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney. George was down on 6th August;

I told him he should have advised us as we may have been able to help in some way. Mrs. Coles is now home; we all wish you a speedy recovery to the best of health again Mrs. Coles. George drives a grader on the Blaxland Shire Council — he said he thought in future it would be much safer to go to the Anzac Day March and Reunion in Sydney than at home, as he was involved in a car accident, in which he broke his thumb. He now has a stiff thumb and no car. He has recently seen **Jack Hine**, **Les "Tich" Bayliss**, and **Percy Lane** of Angus Place. Les works at the Small Arms factory (transport). George is making every effort to be at the Port Macquarie Reunion, with Mrs. Coles, and hopes to meet all his old A. Coy. mates at the reunion.

North British News: Jim "Happy" Davis was having a drink at the Banks Hotel, Newtown with two friends recently and found out they were 2/4thers, both A. Coy. — **Bill Duffy** and **Wally "The Bream" Nicholls**; also has seen **Terry Sparks**. With Jim was **Ron Anderson**. Ron wrote this par: "Not long after the war, through my brother **Bill Anderson**, I had the privilege of meeting **Ken Moses**. At that time he was a newspaper reporter in Melbourne."

In Eileen's notebook: **Sammy "Sep" Innis**, A. Coy. Newtown called in to see **"Porky" Williams** and the boys.

Others who blew in with the cold August wind were **Ken Webb**, **Jack Heaney**, **Bill "Tiger" Hayes**, **Jerry Coughlan**, **Ted McCaffery**, **Ron Williams**, **Gordon Chrisp**, **Joe Rognini**, **"Dasher" Deacon**, **Jack "Cheeky Charlie" Keating**, **Chas. Adams**, **Frank Frizell**, **"Sailor" Keith Harvey**, and **Dick Pinson**.

4th Infanteer reports — "Something you don't see every night (although we're working on it) is two brothers out of two different 4th Battalions. Young **Harry** (4 Bn. '39-'45) and **Glen Ackerman** (2/4th) showed up a while back." We have a few father and son combinations in our 4th's, but this must be the only brother and brother set-up involving two 4th Battalions.

Meeting night—at the North British met **Harry Wright**, with **Bob Lane** and **Frank Frizell** of Ettalong. Now for the attendance at the September meeting: **Harry Gjedsted**, **Russ McWilliam**, **Alan Lindsay**, **Reg. Angel**, **Athol Heath**, **John Meehan**, **Ted de Satge**, **Peter Cook**, **Harry Wright**, **Cecil "Slim" Power**, **John Jordan**, **Fred Searle**, **Bill "Snow" MacLennan**, **Cec. Chrystal**, **Bob Lane**, **John Copland**, **Dick Pinson**, **Stan Bowen**, **Frank Frizell**, **Chas. Adams**, **Jack Dubber**, **Ron Rayment**, **Ken Webb**, **Keith "Sailor" Harvey**, **Gordon Chrisp**, **Harry "Killer" Nicholls** (our visitors, **Harry Stafford**, **Geoff Hamilton** and **Ron Thatcher**—4 R.N.S.W.R.), **Eric Wooden** (State R.S.L.), a friend of **Dick Morris**, **Bill Lonsdale**, and **Rick Morris**.

Now some of their news and views: **Harry Stafford** (1st 4 Bn.) has recently seen **Ron Barber**, who is well and still at Mosman. Harry has again been elected President of the 1st 4 Bn., the third occasion that he has held this office.

Bob Lane, down from Ettalong for the meeting met **Fred Chidgey**, who lives next door to the late **Doug Barry** and was of great assistance to Doug in his last days. Thanks, Fred.

Chas. Adams also from Ettalong brought down his friend **Bill Lonsdale**. Charlie, driving his cab, picked up a fare who turned out to be **Harry Nicholls** who was diverted to the Ettalong Hotel and left in the capable hands of **Bob Lane**.

Was pleased to see **Jack Dubber** (H.Q. Trans., at the meeting—Jack said Lou is o.k., and that he meets **John Lane** (A. Coy). Jack has also seen **Sid**, **George** and **Basil Privett** (ex Cootamundra) at the Canterbury-Hurlstone Park R.S.L. and frequently sees **Ernie "Mary" Pickford**, **Ron Rayment** said he is sorry he has not been down for the last two meetings as his wife Maude has been in hospital for the last three months, but is out now. We are very sorry to hear that you are now home. We all wish you a speedy recovery.

Athol Heath met **Bob Ferguson** in Chatswood and almost persuaded him to attend his first ever meeting. Hope to see you next meeting, Bob.

John Meehan called on **Bruce Cork** and his family at their new home on Queensland's Gold Coast. Bruce sent regards to all the boys.

Peter Cook reports that he often has a drink with **Bill "Bing" Riley** and **Lou Evans**; also had a few noggins with **"Brig" McAtamney** who promised to attend a meeting some night. Peter also plays golf with **Lou Evans** and hopes to organise these characters.

Harry "Killer" Nicholls, North Sydney, I am sorry to hear, has recently lost his wife. We offer sincere sympathy, Harry, to you and your son. Harry went up to Woy Woy to see **Doug Barry**—it was a shock to him to learn that Doug had passed on.

Greetings to 22172 W.O.1 **John Storey**, Army Intelligence Centre, Woodside, S. Aust., and thanks for sending on the photos of 4 R.A.R., John. **Harry Gjedsted** got one for his official file, and the others went to **John Jordan** for his collection. I have not seen **Jack Bell** since Anzac Day but **Bill MacLennan** is a regular attendee at our meetings.

An interesting letter to hand from **Harry** and **Emeline Russell**, Myleston, and a copy of the Bellinger Courier-Sun with an account of the official opening of the new Myleston Tourist Information Centre, which they run in conjunction with their post office store.

In opening the Centre the President of Bellinger Shire, Councillor N. Adams, congratulated the Russells on their enterprise and complimented them on the decor of the new centre which, incidentally, is newly painted in white and green.

Cec. Chrystal reports "I received a short note from **Ken Moses** in reply to a note I sent him suggesting that now that he was in hospital it would be a good time to write a book as this was previously a very effective way to get him on the job when the War History was being written.

STOP PRESS — 1969 COUNTRY REUNION AT PORT MACQUARIE AN OUTSTANDING SUCCESS WITH RECORD ATTENDANCE — CONGRATULATIONS TO **DICK** AND **RUTH BAWDEN**, AND ALL WHO PARTICIPATED. FULL DETAILS IN NEXT ISSUE OF "WHITE OVER GREEN" — AND DON'T FORGET IT'S WAGGA WAGGA IN 1970.