



*White over Green*

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE 2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

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***Next Meeting: Friday, 5th December, at 8 p.m., Ladies' Night  
at Royal Australian Naval House, Grosvenor Street, Sydney***

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## FRIDAY, 5th DECEMBER

# LADIES' NIGHT for 1969

THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE 2/4TH INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION REQUEST THE PLEASURE OF THE COMPANY OF ALL MEMBERS, THEIR LADIES AND FRIENDS AT THE ANNUAL LADIES NIGHT SOCIAL AND CHRISTMAS PARTY TO BE HELD . . . .

**IN THE BALLROOM**

**AT**

**ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVAL HOUSE**

**GROSVENOR STREET, SYDNEY**

**AT 8 P.M. ON FRIDAY, 5th DECEMBER, 1969**

**TICKETS \$3.00 DOUBLE, \$2.00 SINGLE**

**DANCE TO THE MUSIC OF DICK PINSON'S BAND**

**ENJOY AN EXCELLENT SUPPER WITH AMPLE  
REFRESHMENTS.**

**SEE FILM OF THE COUNTRY REUNION AND ANZAC MARCH.**

Your Committee is hopeful that Ladies' Night for 1969 will be among the best attended and happiest social gatherings yet sponsored. Members are asked to attend in force with all the "Grown-up" members of their families and their partners.

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## Champers for 2nd/Fourth

Toast to the illustrious 2/4th Battalion A.I.F. at a reunion dinner held in Port Macquarie on Saturday night to mark the thirtieth year of the battalion's association was honoured with champagne.

A more convivial gathering would not be possible, with 145 men of the battalion re-kindling the flame of the esprit-de-corps for which the 2/4 is as famous as it is for the fighting capabilities displayed in two world wars.

A Japanese Samurai sword was later used to cut the birthday cake, which depicted 30 years for the association — and the cake was iced in the theme of the famous colour patch, white over green.

The sword was one of "the spoils" of the battalion's islands campaign.

Many of the men, and their wives, travelled hundreds of miles to be present at the reunion.

They came to Port Macquarie from as far north as Millaa Millaa in Queensland to Adelaide in the south.

Port Macquarie was kind to the visitors — the sun shone brightly for their three-day visit; the women's auxiliary of the local R.S.L. sub-branch catered magnificently for the men and their wives, upwards of 300 people all told, and Mr. Dick Bawden, masterminded the arrangements so splendidly that not one hitch occurred in a hefty and hectic three-day programme.

Great pride exuded from Dick Bawden as he welcomed his friends of "the finest unit ever to don a haversack".

The great pride within me, he said, arises from our years together as a fighting unit, and the ties binding us grow stronger year by year as we dedicate ourselves to the welfare of others not as fortunate as ourselves.

He referred to the presence of wives, sons and daughters as the correct approach, and said the best way to perpetuate the memory of the 2/4th was "through the hearts and minds of those we love".

### Silent Toast

"This is a time for serious thought; a time for each to his own thoughts", said Sir Ivan Dougherty in a toast to "Fallen Comrades".

The occasion was the more memorable because of the presence of Major General Sir Ivan Dougherty, C.B.E., D.S.O., E.D., Patron of the 2/4th Battalion Association and its war-time leader in the Western Desert, Greece and Crete.

Lady Dougherty accompanied him.

V.C. winner George Cartwright was also at the reunion, as a guest of the Association.

### Toast of Champagne

Mr. Charles Morgan referred in glowing terms to the proud record of the 2/4th Battalion when proposing the toast that was honoured with champagne.

He praised the bravery of the men sitting before him who had been exposed to death at close quarters with the enemy in four major campaigns in different parts of the world; he said Port Macquarie shared the pride and pleasure of the battalion that Major-General Sir Ivan Dougherty, who had led them to Libya, Tobruk and Benghazi, and through the Greece

and Crete campaigns, was present among them that evening.

The men of the battalion gave Sir Ivan a standing ovation after the toast was honoured.

"Our attendance here in such numbers reflects the esprit de corp for which the battalion is famous; it also reflects the great team spirit which has carried on in our Association since its inception 30 years ago," said Mr. Harry Gjedsted, its president, when responding to the toast.

He said he couldn't think of any better toast to be honoured with champagne, and he recalled that the 6th Division attack on Bardia was the first defeat of the enemy in World War II. It was a 6th Division victory; it was a 2/4 Battalion victory, he said.

The pulling down of the flag after the capture of Tobruk signified the eventual defeat of the Axis powers; it was a 2/4th Battalion hat that was raised in its stead, and it was raised by a man of the 2/4th, he said.

Sir Ivan Dougherty, with the women present and enjoying coffee, said the spirit of the 2/4th Battalion displayed before them that evening had always been the same; it has always been reflected in everything they have done — in training, in battle, and in peacetime.

Sir Ivan said he was one always critical of those who would not allow the famous colour patch to be worn today.

A toast to the visitors was proposed by Mr. Bruce Mulquiney.

Mr. Mulquiney, with his wife Muriel, came from Sydney for the reunion; the toast was responded to by Mr. Ken Radley and Mr. C. T. Uptin.

Other guests present included Mr. Bruce Cowan, M.L.A., Ald. C. C. Adams (mayor), Mr. J. H. Steep, H. C. Butler, S. J. Condon, A. Tyndall, Ken Dick, and the members of the Parramatta Pipe Band.

### PORT MACQUARIE REUNION

The 1969 Country Reunion held at Port Macquarie over the October holiday weekend was an outstanding success. Attended by more than 250 members, their ladies and friends it was easily the best attended Country Reunion yet stage. Members attended from as far north as Millaa Millaa in Queensland and as far as Adelaide in the south.

Right on time at 4.55 p.m. the March commenced from the R.S.L. Club for the short journey to the War Memorial led by the famous Parramatta Pipe Band — the band with which we have such bonds of comradeship and which carries our colours on all ceremonial occasions. After the solemn Wreathlaying Ceremony the Parade moved a short distance to a spot overlooking the water where the **Mayor (Ald. C. C. Adams)** and **Mr. Bruce Cowan, M.L.A.** were introduced by **Dick Bawden**. After a Civic welcome by the Mayor our **President, Harry Gjedstad** responded and the Parade marched back to the R.S.L. Club to await the Reunion Dinner. From this point we take up an account of proceedings as reported by the "Port Macquarie News"—



## TREASURER'S REPORT

Hon. Treasurer **Allen Lindsay** reports subscriptions have been received from the following members: **Harry Nicholls, P. Gallagher, Joe Moss, Fred Hudson, Harry Beggs, David MacGillivray, Pat Sydenham, Ken Moses, S. Andrews, Stan Blacksley, Ken Deacon, Harry Dowling, Jack Dubber, Ron Fergusson, "Bub" Graham, Geoff Hall, Geoff Hawke, E. Hughes, Arch Lewington, Bruce Stewart, Max McAllan, Glen Ackerman, W. Reid, George Mitchell, Fred (Lofty) Taylor, all \$2.00. Vince Sparks, Nick Allardice, Harry Pearse, Lex Michel, Harry Smith, all \$4.00; and Craig Clark \$10.00; Bobby Gardener \$5.00; A. Worthley \$1.00.**

## THE LAST POST

**4 Bn. A.I.F.:** 653 G. L. Fullagar; 3100 L. W. J. Gray; 66010 R. R. Jeffs.

**2/4 Bn. A.I.F.:** NX6062 R. C. Miles; NX5121 George Lough.

**Bn. ('39-'45) A.I.F.:** R. H. Bottrell.

"We will Remember them."

## NEWS FROM QUEENSLAND

Our Queensland Vice-President **Tom Provians** was to the fore again with his contingent of Queenslanders at the Country Reunion at Port Macquarie. Before leaving Brisbane Tom had a letter from Bruce Cork saying he would not be able to accompany Tom. Bruce and Angela who recently went into a milk distributing business at Palm Beach Queensland had a run of bad luck. First their baby daughter burnt herself badly and two days later Angela fractured her skull when she slipped off the back of a milk wagon necessitating a stay of three weeks in Southport Hospital. (Sorry to hear of the bad luck Bruce and hope Angela and the youngster are soon A1 again. Ed.)

Tom also had a letter awhile back from **Mrs. Nance Smith** widow of our late comrade **Bill "Munga" Smith** of Tamworth. Nance mentioned how very good to her the Tamworth 2/4-ers were in the sad days after Bill's death, particularly mentioning **Nicky and Ruth Allardice**.

Another letter received by Tom in his official capacity was from the N.S.W. Social Welfare Officer of the R.S.L. advising that NX9513 **H. D. Thompson** ex 2/4th Bn. was in a Brisbane Hospital suffering from lung cancer and would appreciate a visit, and although Tom himself had been ill, he duly attended to the matter.

## COCK'S COLUMN

## Port Macquarie Reunion

Sat. 4th October, **Harry and Hilda Wright** were kind enough to invite me to stay at their place on the Friday night to travel with them by car instead of going by train. Sincere thanks Harry and Hilda, I certainly appreciated your kind offer. Up at 5 a.m. Sat. morning, left at 6 a.m. and were at Port Macquarie around 1 p.m. — a lovely trip.

**Max Rungie** all the way from South Australia was the first one I met and was introduced to **Betty** (Mrs. Rungie). Max looks well on it, suntanned and solid. Then I met **Ferd. Pegg** who also looked well as

always. **Ferd.** introduced me to **Mrs. Marjorie McCarty**. **Ferd.** said that **Ken Kesteven** was unable to make the Reunion and sent his apologies. Sorry you could not make it Ken.

**Jack and Mavis Humphries** were next in line — Jack met **Rick Carter** at Barraba.

**Hugh and Eileen Whittleton**, Lynch's Creek — Hugh said, that the **Slade Bros., Allan Kirk, Doug. Stebbings, Tom Clark, and Fred Varley** were sorry they could not make it.

**Roy Andrews** could not come owing to the serious illness of his father. We are sorry to hear of this Roy and we all hope that by now your father is enjoying the best of health again.

**Max Nerney**, Urbanville; I am very pleased to report that Max is a proud father again — this makes six. Congratulations **Max and Edna**. Max has recently seen **Clarrie Ryan** (Mortars) and has written a poem, (a good one too) of **Clarrie and his mortars**. It will be published when space is available Max. He has also seen **Ron Ellem**. Max rang **Col. O'Brien** in Stanthorpe, Q'land. to try and make the reunion but he could not.

The **Miller Bros.** from Gloucester, **Ron and Alex**. **Ron "Spike"** brought in his collection of photos and the Association is welcome to them to get reprints. The brothers met **Russ Green** and were disappointed he was not at the reunion.

**Ted and Heather Fox** from Roseville met **Jim Graham** who is well.

**Bill Mitchell** (Bowraville) met **John Smith**, Macks-ville.

**Les Anderson** (7th Pltn., A. Coy.) and **Ena**, Grey-stanes — Les met **Dick Fenton** (Don) at Granville R.S.L.

**Jack and Joyce Lister**, Kyogle, came down with **Hugh and Eileen Whittleton**. At Macksville a stone hit his windscreen and shattered it. Jack said **Doug Grove** is looking and feeling well and is sorry he could not make the trip; his eldest son **Kim** was married recently, lives at Ballina. **Wal Henry** has left the railway and is now a tick dodger.

**Achie Lewington**, Corowa, met **Arch Quinnell** (A. Coy.) Hold Creek; he also met **Nevis Farrell** in Corowa as well as **Bert Hudson**. It was he who told Arch of the reunion.

**Tim West**, Cowra, reports that **Jack Ormiston** was coming, but was prevented by the illness of **Phyllis'** mother. We are sorry to hear of this Jack and extend our sincere sympathy to **Phyllis**.

**Arthur Harradine**, Temora, suffered a serious accident when struck on the head by a "flying octopus" at the Temora Show. Arthur was in a critical condition at the Wagga Base Hospital. **Tim West** wrote to the hospital and was advised by the Matron that Arthur was progressing satisfactorily and to have no fears as he is being well looked after, it being only a matter of time before he is returned home.

**Ted Harris** and **Hylton Batchelder** are o.k. **Arthur Kleem** was also another one prevented from coming. Thanks Tim for a newsy report. I am very sorry to hear of **Arthur Harradine's** serious accident and sincerely hope that by now he is well on the way to recovery. Tim's daughter **Sue** is doing Obstets. at R.P.A. for her second nursing certificate; Sue intends



to follow it up with intensive care at St. Vincents. Congratulations Sue, we all wish you the best of health, luck and success.

**Frank Gattenhof**, Bondi, made efforts to get **Joe Moss**, **Peter Gallagher**, **Ken Webb**, **Fred "Blusto" Hudson**, and **"Bluey" Boyle**, to come along to the reunion.

**James "Eric" Campbell** (C. Coy.) reports that **Dave Follington** was coming to the reunion but due to the death of his nephew was unable to come. Dave please pass on our sincere sympathy to the bereaved family of your nephew and yourself.

**Ernie "Ollie" Twist** reports that **Jim Masters**, Oaks Flat died at work we were sorry to hear. **Harry Ham-burger** attended the funeral, forwarded a wreath from the 2/4 Bn. Harry contacted Legacy on their behalf.

**Peter Foster**, Tamworth, looked well; he said that **Monty Peters** could not come, sorry Monty.

**Charlie Grove**, Kyogle, has recently seen **Reg. Murphy**, also **Jack Hughes** (H.Q.) Jack was coming but failed to make it.

**Jack and Eunice Dubber**, Campsie, said Lou could not make it and **Dick Pinson** sent his apologies.

**Chris. Geelan**, Wingham, was sorry to report that **Ken Andrews' wife Joan** is very ill in Taree Hospital. We are very sorry to hear of this Ken and sincerely wish Joan a speedy recovery to the best of health, soon. **Chris.** came down with **Jack Abbott** (Jack was C.O. of the 6th Div. Cav.).

**Harry Dowling**, Kempsey, has recently seen **Tom Malcombe**. Harry's son **Phillip** played in the Rugby Final Group 2. Also met **Tom Clough** and had a beer with him at Coff's Harbour.

**Sam Hughes** wants to know why **George Kirby** did not come.

**Ross Smith**, Inverell, reports that the R.S.L. Permanent Building Society's film "2/4th Going to War" can be bought for \$50.00 — Originals boarding the Strathnaver.

**John and Joyce Ringrose** from Beacon Hill, good to see you.

**Errol Lester**, "Bub" **Graham**, **Margaret** and daughter **Catherine** from Bowraville. "Bub" said that **Fred Burke** got lost in the hills.

**Jeff "Spike" Galvin**, **Wally & Molly Lambourne** and daughter **Pat**, Yagoona. Wally met **Gordon "Darky" Williams** at Hume Hotel. He is now a T.P.I.

**George and Mary Ormiston**, Balgowlah, enjoyed meeting so many association members.

**Bill "Snow" and Gwen MacLennan** having a fantastic time — Snow was disappointed that **"Bully" Hayes** of 7 Pltn. A. Coy. was not at the reunion.

**Harry and Ada Whitman**, Wakool, said that his son **Ian** has finished his National Service and that Harry himself has just become a proud grandfather. Congrats. Ada and Harry.

**Ian and Edna Wallwork**, Kyogle; Ian meets **Reg. Murphy**, and **Tim Lamond**. Ian would like to hear from or news of **Pat Bruty** of D. Coy. We all would!

**Francis "Pom" Wallace** (A. Coy.), Maclean met **Matt Phillips** from Victoria. Matt sends his regards to all. In three years time Matt is going back to Maclean to retire.

**Geoff and Mary Hawke** — Geoff apologised for **Selby Dean** who intended to come but could not make

it. Geoff has recently seen **Ron Belford** (original Sigs) who would have liked to come but could not manage it.

**Stan Andrews**, Lismore, has recently seen the **Slade twins**, **Vic and Vince**, also **Allan Kirk**, **Eddie Miller**, who drives a taxi, **Doug Stebbings**, **Roy "Rags" Butler**, also **Lloyd Eglington**, Tumbulgum.

On the Sunday, I was looking for **Perc Lane** of Angus Place (outside Lithgow, am I right Perc?) but **Esca** told me he had to return early as he had to work. **Esca** also reports that **Tom Clough** was unable to attend through illness; sorry to hear this Tom, hope by now you're o.k. again and to see you at the N.B. sometime.

**Jim and Frances Faulder**, Beverly Hills, with brother **Dick** and **Shirley Faulder**, Ryde. Very pleased to see you all.

**Bob "Lascar" and Margaret Roach** with their cousin **Tony Baxter**, Bankstown; Bob has recently seen **Bill Demerry** of Merrylands and **Bert "Snow" Moores** at Doyalson R.S.L.

**Stan Blackley** reports that he heard from **Harry Lindsay** who was a mate of **Ian Menzies** who said that Ian had died in Victoria. Any one comment on this?

**Ken "Spanner" Graham**, (Trans.) Glen Idol, Ashford (near the Q'land. border) often sees **Ron Belford** also **Jim Tome**, an original who went to the 2/1st M.G. and **George Crockett** (H.Q.), Ken is the only 2/4'er in his area, except **Ron Belford** who owns a property.

**Garnett "George" and Jean Moore**, Mollmook, "George" has recently seen "Beau" **Rowbotham** and **Jean** plays bowls with his wife **Vera**.

**Leo "The Lion" Lynch and Eileen** tried hard to talk **Mick Green** and **Roy Kingsley** into coming to the reunion, but unfortunately they had other commitments. Leo also met **Cec. Hogan**, Grafton, Leo is the 2/1.C. of the Grafton Services Club. Leo's son **Damien** is a student at St. Patrick's Seminary, Manly in his fifth year. Congratulations and admiration of you **Damien**.

**Norrie McGregor**, Fairfield, has recently seen **Arthur "Lex" Dalloway**, **Lionel Clark**, **Tom Taber** and **Lou Dubber**.

**Harry and Yvonne Pearse**, Stockton, report that **Albert "Stumpy" Wright** has had a serious illness, but is now out of hospital and doing o.k. We all wish you the best "Stumpy", sorry to hear that you have been so ill. Harry and Yvonne said that their all female family are all the best. It was good to see you both, next reunion we have up north bring all the family.

**Frankie "Pom" Wallace** also reports that **George Kirkby** would like any 2/4'er to call in and have a beer at his hotel, the Maclean. I'll take you up on that **George**!

**Cecil "Slim" Powers** was kind enough to give me a lift home for which I was very grateful. We left early Monday morning, said goodbye to our friends and thanked them for the wonderful time we had had and hoped to come back again soon. "Slim" also was good enough to pull up at R.S.L.'s. We called at the R.S.L. at Karuah and enquired for 2/4'ers, but no luck. I left a copy of W.O.G.