



White Over 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 Sir Ivan Dougherty, C.B.E., D.S.O., E.D., B.Ec.

24th YEAR OF CONTINUOUS PUBLICATION

Vol. 24, No. 12

PRICE 10c PER COPY

December, 1969

PRESIDENT: Harry Gjedsted, 2/25 Mona Road, Darling Point, 32-3977. SENIOR VICE-PRESIDENT: Russ McWilliam.
VICE-PRESIDENTS—Northern N.S.W.: Esca Riordan, 63 Cameron Street, West Kempsey; Southern N.S.W.: Tim West, "Yarrabundah", Cowra; Queensland: Tom Provians, 65 Foxton Street, Morningside; South Australia: Peter Denver, Hindmarsh Island, via Goolwa; Victoria: Claude Raymond, 92 Rose Street, West Coburg.
COMMITTEE: C. Adams, C. Chrystal, P. Cook, A. Heath, R. Latimer, W. MacLennan, J. Meehan, F. Searle, H. Wright.
SECRETARY: George Stack, 40 O'Keefe Crescent, Eastwood. Phone 85-5312.
TREASURER: Allen Lindsay, 104 Holt Road, Taren Point. 2229. Phone 522-8696.
EDITOR: Russ McWilliam, Box 59, P.O., Pymble. 2073. Phone 49-6462. ASSISTANT EDITOR: Dick Morris.
COLUMNIST: Jim "Cock" Robin, 20 Adderstone Avenue, North Sydney. 2060—Author of "Cock's" Column.

Next Committee Meeting: Tuesday, 27th January, 1970, at R.A.N. Club, at 6.30 p.m.

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING at Royal Australian Naval House, on Friday,
6th February, 1970, at 7.30 p.m.**

A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All

SIR IVAN AND LADY DOUGHERTY, HARRY AND MARJORIE GJEDSTED, with all members of your Executive Committee and their ladies, extend to all readers and their loved ones best wishes for a Happy Xmas and a Bright, Prosperous and Peaceful 1970.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for 1970 fall due on 1st January. Your executive committee would appreciate an early remittance from those in a position to do so, to avoid prejudicing the Bulk Postal Rate benefit.

Send \$2.00 to ALLEN LINDSAY, 104 HOLT ROAD, TAREN POINT 2229. This covers membership and the postage of "White Over Green" for the next twelve months. A good response now will be of great encouragement to the incoming executive to be elected at the Annual General Meeting on Friday, 6th February, 1970.

T.P.I. members are entitled to free membership.

A NEW EDITOR PLEASE!!

Due to pressure of business and my consequent inability to give to the job the time it requires, I am reluctantly forced to relinquish the Editorship of "White Over Green".

Having originally taken on the job temporarily in July, 1966, I have endeavoured on several occasions to recruit a successor but to no avail.

I shall if required try to carry on until the February issue. In the meantime will anyone volunteer to do the job or recommend some member to do it.

Please accept my apology for the late arrival of

this issue and for the small volume of "Cock's Column" — I just have not had the time to prepare more of "Cock's Column" for printing.

— Editor.

1970 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the 2/4 Infantry Battalion Association will be held at Royal Australian Naval House, Grosvenor Street, Sydney at 7.30 p.m. on Friday, FEBRUARY 6th, 1970.

Business

1. To confirm the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting.
2. To receive and consider the Annual reports.
3. To receive and consider the Accounts and Balance Sheets for the year ending 31st December, 1969.
4. To consider a committee recommendation to increase the number of committeemen.
5. To elect Office Bearers for 1970.
6. To elect an Honorary Auditor.
7. General Business.

Members are requested to make a special effort to attend our most important administrative meeting of the year.

George Stack, Honorary Secretary.

LADIES' NIGHT

A truly delightful evening was enjoyed by all who attended the Annual Ladies' Night and Xmas Party at Royal Naval House on Friday, 5th December.

"The Ballroom" in which the function was held was tastefully decorated with candles on the tables and suitable floral arrangements. The food was superbly prepared and the refreshments were almost overwhelming — ample supplies of beer and spirits with champagne and other wines kindly donated by the **MacLennan Clan**.

A very large Xmas Grog Hamper was also supplied by **Bill** for a raffle and realised the very good result of \$120.00. The hamper was won by **Ted de Satge**.

Among the visitors to the function were **Mrs. Venetia Hickey** of Auckland, New Zealand and her daughter **Patricia** who were en route to Canberra to attend the Graduation at R.M.C. Duntroon of **Patricia's** twin brother **Peter**.

President Harry Gjedsted welcomed members, their families and friends extending best wishes to all for a good party and a Happy Xmas, mentioning particularly **Harry Stafford**, Pres. 4Bn. 14-'18 Assoc. and **Mrs. Blanche Stafford**. He pointed out how pleased he was to see so many family groups present. Harry took the opportunity too of congratulating engaged couples **Rick Morris** and **Lynne Kesteven**, **Robert Elvy** and **Jill MacLennan**, and **Richard Fisher** and **Virginia McWilliam**.

The Executive Committee in considering the "Ladies' Night" results, at their meeting on December 16th, were of the opinion that this function should be upgraded in future years and intends to recommend to the incoming committee that a special sub-committee be entrusted with organising all future Ladies' nights on a scale and fashion fitting for the Ladies of our Association.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

The **Annual March** to the Cenotaph, Wreathlaying Ceremony and Reunion of the **Association of Fourth Infantry Battalions** was held as scheduled on Sunday, 10th November.

Accompanied by the very fine band of 4 R.N.S.W.R. and escorted by a uniformed detachment of that Unit more than 100 members of the Association led by **Sir Ivan Dougherty** and our **President Harry Gjedsted** marched from Phillip Street to the Cenotaph for the Wreathlaying Ceremony and proceeded via George and Bridge Streets to the Gallipoli Legion Club in Loftus Street where a most enjoyable smoko was held. A feature of the day's proceedings was the number of 4Bn. ('14-'18) members who were able to attend — God Bless 'Em.

The generation gap was certainly bridged at this function with happy comradeship being enjoyed by men from 18 to 80 — men who were serving or had served in one or more of six 4th Australian Infantry Battalions.

COMBINED SMOKO

The Annual Combined Smoko Night for 4Bn. A.I.F. members and our own members was poorly attended this year, not only by members of the '14-'18 Bn. which is quite understandable at their age, but also unaccountably by our own members. **Harry Stafford**, President of 4Bn. ('14-'18) and four of his stalwarts made a welcome appearance and were suitably toasted by 2/4 Bn. members.

In a discussion during the evening it was suggested that our incoming Committee consider an alternative to this function more suitable to members of 4Bn. '14-'18 for future years.

LADIES' NIGHT, XMAS PARTY, 1969

Blimey! what a roll-up, at this years ladies' night, To see our mates, their wives and kids, fills one with delight,

The ballroom decorated with streamers, white and green,

Gaily set-up tables, adding to the scene.

Christmas greetings round the hall, refreshments, all was grand,

Everybody's swingin' with **Dickie Pinson's** band.

Young and old together, they are happy as can be,

Dick Latimer keeps 'em hoppin', acting as M.C.

"**Dasher**" doin' a rhumba, he mixes it a treat,

Turns himself near inside-out, and doesn't miss a beat.

"**Blah**" **Smith** was "cuttin' rugs", a daring Charleston exhibition,

But broke down with Harry's sister, both lacking in condition.

Maybe forty years ago, when the dance was all the rage,

Not so much today fellers — remember weight for age.

Then on tap the barn-dance, all up for this 'ere whirl,

Who should lead 'em round the hall, but **Dot and Freddie Searle**.

Raffle-and the prizes from **Bill MacLennan** once again.

Corks are heard a-poppin', icy cold champagne.

Filming of the Anzac march, "Played-up" towards the ending,

Volunteers from everywhere, the machine it needed mending,

The right man then took over, he only had one look, Of course it was a plumber's job, who else but **Peter Cook**.

Also on the show, **Dick Bawden's** reunion Port Macquarie.

Then came the happy closing, I'm sure all there were sorry,

To Officials and Committee, now the ladies-night has ended,

We wish you all the very best, your effort it was splendid.

— Greetings to all from, **Joe McGrath**.

HOSPITAL NEWS

Dick and Enid Latimer are carrying on the good work visiting our members in R.G.H. Concord and other hospitals. As from next issue of W.O.G. Dick will be contributing his own hospital notes which will go direct to the printer as written. Dick reports that **John Meehan** is still in Concord (Ward 430) after an operation on the feet to try and correct an arthritic condition. **John Copland** has been discharged after a hernia operation and although now home John's wife Eileen is far from well. Our best wishes to you all for a speedy recovery.

THANK YOU LADIES

It was wonderful to see so many of our ladies attend our 1969 Country Reunion at Port Macquarie. Their presence in such numbers was the subject of much favourable comment, not only from our members but also from the local citizens. Thank you ladies for your support. The week end would not be half so good without you. Among the ladies attending were:

Lady Dougherty, Marjorie Gjedsted, Gladys Twist, Lily Deacon, Glad Brown, Marj. McCarty, Nan Smith, Margaret Forbes, D. Barber, Hazel Blanch, Phyllis Campbell, Mavis Hughes, Elsie Bradford, Mavis Humphries, Eunice Dubber, Yvonne Pearse, Norma Everson, Jean Moore, Pam Lane, Eileen Byrne, Margaret Roach, Blanche Stafford, Margaret Cade, Mary Ormiston, Doris Jordan, Heather Mitchell, Maree Fitton, Eileen Lewington, Margaret Rae, Marjorie Carpenter, Noreen Dowling, Eileen Hughes, Lorna McGregor, Ada Hopper, Frances Faulder, Shirley Faulder, Marie McMillan, Joyce Ringrose, Heather Fox, Mary Hawke, Betty Rungie, Molly Irvine, Enid Latimer, Delma Silver, Margaret Graham, Cathy Graham, Mollie Lambourne, Gwen MacLennan, Phyllis Chrystal, Glen Smith, Evelyn Cartwright, Lyn Kesteven, Billie Bennett, Ena Anderson, Hilda Wright, Gloria Lindsay, Dorothy Searle, Vera Riordan, Patricia Blyton, Edith Richardson, Joan Chaseling, Ruth Bowden, Eileen Lynch, Norma Gatenhof, Ida Mitchell, Joyce Lister, Edna Wallwork, Merna Haldane, Eileen Whittleton, Barbara McWilliam, Dawn Gardner, Gladys Boyle, Peggy Hall, Edna Sugden, Ruth Allardice, D. J. Peters, Betty Cook, Ada Whitman.

2/4th SPORTSMEN

Port Macquarie Golf Club provided an inscribed silver tray for members of the 2/4th Bn. Association attending our Country Reunion, this year.

Peter Cook came up straight after a big night out with a tremendous 33 Stableford points to win the major trophy. **Ferdie Pegg** was runner-up and also received a very nice trophy. **Noel Ford** gained third place.

Port Macquarie Bowling Club played hosts to 2/4th bowlers over the same weekend and congratulations are in order for **Gordon Crisp** (Gallipoli Legion) **R. Heaton** and **P. Joyce** (Oatley) who overcame some stiff opposition to compile 54 points in the open triples to take out a very nice trophy.

R.M.C. DUNTROON

Congratulations to **Lieut. Allen Stewart**, son of **Bill and Joyce Stewart**, Doll's Point, on his graduation from Royal Military College, Duntroon. Bill and Joyce spent a wonderful week in Canberra attending the various functions associated with this event including Father's Day on the Sunday for Bill, cocktail party on Monday, the Graduation Parade on Tuesday morning followed by morning tea at Duntroon House with the Governor-General and at night the Graduation Ball. At the Ball Allen's pips were pinned on by his Mother and his fiancée **Miss Judy Inkininstall** of Grafton. Judy and Allen are to be married at St. Finbars Church, Sans Souci on January 19th next. Congratulations Allen on all counts and our very best wishes for the future happiness of Judy and yourself. Congratulations also to Bill and Joyce.

Other guests at the R.M.C. Ceremonies included **Bill and Gwen MacLennan** and daughter **Sue**. Bill and Gwen were guests of one of the two Kiwi Graduates **Peter Hickey** of Auckland, New Zealand. Sue accompanied Staff Cadet **Ian McWilliam** to the Ball.

COCK'S COLUMN

Sir Ivan reports having met **Lang Stronach** (who is now manager of the Commonwealth Bank, Mittagong) at a testimonial dinner given in honour of the retiring Shire Clerk of Mittagong. Lang sends best wishes to all. Sir Ivan also reports meeting **Jack Carroll** who was attending a course conducted by the Department of Health at Mittagong. Thank you, Sir, for your interest in letting me have this information — and best wishes from all to Lang and Jack.

Jack Huston, 13 Condamine St., Turner, A.C.T. 2601 reports: "Just a note for the information of **Harry Whitman**, **Vic Forbes**, **Max Nerney**, **Ian Wallwork** and **Wally Potts**. These five and myself had a dollar lottery ticket on our game of bowls at Port Macquarie and it won \$20.00. I want to let them know I'm putting it in again with hopes of a much bigger win next time around.

Hope all the gang found their way home successfully. It was a very good show and **Dick Bowden** is to be congratulated. Best wishes to all from **Joan** and myself."

Peter Cook reports having met **Glen Ackerman** who was recently in R.G.H. Concord. Glen asked Peter to convey to the committee and members his very great appreciation of **Dick and Enid Latimer** for their hospital visitations.

Brigadier N. A. M. Nicholls, our "I" Officer of long ago, has recently been transferred from C.O. Western Command to D.A.G. (P.A.) A.H.Q., Canberra. We look forward to hearing something of you as soon as you are settled. **Jack "Horse Doctor" Huston** will no doubt do some liaison work for us.

Roy Fuller, 59 Ernest Street, Crows Nest, an original 2/4 Bn. man who transferred to Artillery intends to join the Association and attend our meetings. Welcome Roy. We will look forward to seeing you at a meeting whenever you can make it.

Johnny and Doris Jordan represented the Association at the recent Parramatta Caledonian Society's Dance where they were asked to judge the best

Country and Western Costume. John and Doris reported having enjoyed a wonderful evening.

On a recent visit to Penrith R.S.L. Club I met the Sec./Manager **Bill Totman** who made me very welcome. Bill mentioned that included in his members were 2/4ers **Geoff Bush** of Orchard Hills, and **Bruce Dolson** of Penrith.

A note from **Noel Ford** mentions that he met **John Hyles** and **Ferdie Pegg** at the G.P.S. Athletics where **Richard Pegg** won the long jump open and **David Ford** the under 16, 200 metres championship. You all remember Ferdie was our Empire Games long jump and discus/javelin champ prewar.

ESCAPE FROM GERMANY

(Concluding the account by the late **Bill Irvine, M.M.,** of his escape from a German P.O.W. Camp in 1944.)

We had only got clear of the barracks when we crossed a bitumen road. We were going to boil up here but we had the jitters and gave it away, decided to get along quietly and keep a good look out for we felt the place was not good for us. We had perhaps gone on another hundred yards when we heard the guttural German voices of two sentries having a conversation at the end of their beat. We pulled up dead and went for cover in the scrub. Basil had a map in his pocket which he destroyed and we realised if we were caught in this area with civvy clothes on we would be shot. How we got so far into this area without being seen is a mystery. There were big grey buildings everywhere with each one bearing a number. They had been built right in amongst the pine forest and were even very difficult to see unless you walked right into them. It must have been perfect cover from the air. We lay very quietly for what appeared to be hours, but it really could not have been more than a few minutes and then we knew that the guards had moved off for the conversation stopped. When the guards first stopped talking we thought they had discovered us as we were only about 30 yards away from them. It took us hours to get out of that area. We had to cross a railway that led into his underground factory area, before we got across to a mountainous ridge that was covered with pine and it gave us excellent cover. We could see some German barracks across on the other side of the railway line that we had crossed and there was a high wire-netting fence enclosing the factory area. We sat on the side of the mountain and watched the German soldiers going back to their posts.

It was a great relief to get clear of this place and we decided to be very careful in the near future. We had neither time nor cover in which to boil the pot and have something to eat until well on into the afternoon and were dead beat so had a good rest before we resumed our journey. We were considerably bucked up when we sighted our Air Force coming over again in strength and it gave us a new lease of life. We made camp early and bedded down on heaps of oak leaves and pine needles. We were close to a small stream and when we went down to get some water to boil we saw a decent sized fish in a small pool which we tried to catch, but had no luck. However we had a good wash while chasing it round the

pool. We were getting near an area where there was plenty of fruit and the scrounging was much easier. People working in the fields were very good to us and here we met a peasant plowing his little piece of ground, his wife had brought him his smoko and we were invited to have something to eat and a drink of coffee while his wife went back to the village to get some provisions. When she arrived back with bread and coffee she said she would go with us for a little distance and show us where we could get some apples and pears and when we got to the trees she helped us to gather them. These people were most kind and generous with anything they were to give us and did not expect anything in return. They directed us to an area controlled by the Partisans who kept us in tow till we reached the Slovak capital Banská Bystrica. By this time a Slovak uprising took place and the whole Slovak Army with their German equipment rebelled, took to the hills, joined the Partisans and played hide and seek with the Jerrys in the mountains. When we reached Banská Bystrica we met up with about 14 American Air Force chaps who had made forced landings in Slovakia and been placed in concentration camps. They were immediately released when the trouble broke out. Bratislava was the capital of Slovakia before the uprising but Jerry took command there and the Slovaks made Banská-Bystrica their capital.

We were billeted in a Slovak Air Force barracks in this town and while there a British liaison officer was dropped by parachute and we contacted him. He in turn got through by wireless to Allied H.Q. and informed them that there were some escaped British and Americans P.O.W. in Banská-Bystrica and asked if we could be assisted out. Well, after being there for quite a spell we got word that a plane would be sent in after us, but thought that was just so much hoo-ey, as those sort of things usually happen in books — but that is what eventually happened only that two Flying Fortresses with a dozen Mustang Fighters for an escort landed on a drome about 12 kilos from the town and we were whisked away to Bari in Italy. This was in September, 1944, so we were well out of it before the war was over.

Basil and I were taken first to the 26 American General Hospital at Bari where we had our civvy clothes taken from us and we were equipped with all U.S.A. Army gear. We were handed over to the British later on and spent sometime in the 8th Army Rest Camp at Bari before being shifted to Naples and Taranto where we took the boat for Alexandria and train to Maadi Camp outside Cairo. We were there for about 8 days and then went to Port Tufik where we boarded the Orontes and travelled to Bombay. We left the ship there and spent over a week at Colarbo Camp before getting an American troopship "General A. E. Anderson", for good old Aussie. We arrived home on 17th November, 1944 — just too late to see the Melbourne Cup. I was very disappointed not being able to go to England and Scotland, but we saw quite a bit of Europe although we did not have much time to admire the scenery. Basil and I received the Military Medal for our trouble — but I'd sooner have had the trip to England.