



White Water Green

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE 2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

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Patron: Major-General Sir Ivan Dougherty, C.B.E., D.S.O., E.D., B.Ec.

24th YEAR OF CONTINUOUS PUBLICATION

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PRESIDENT: Harry Gjedsted, 2/25 Mona Road, Darling Point 32-3977

VICE-PRESIDENTS, SENIOR: Russ McWilliam.

Northern N.S.W.: Esca Riordan, 63 Cameron Street, Kempsey.

Southern N.S.W.: Tim West, "Yarramunda", Cowra.

Queensland: Tom Provians, 65 Foxton Street, Morningside.

South Australia: Peter Denver, Hindmarsh Island, via Goolwa.

Victoria: Claude Raymond, 92 Rose Street, West Coburg.

SECRETARY: George Stack, 40 O'Keefe Crescent, Eastwood 85-5312

TREASURER: Reg Angel, Flat 2, 1A Barnstable Road, Five Dock.

EDITOR: Russ McWilliam, Box 59, P.O., Pymble 49-6462

"COCK'S COLUMN": Jim Robin, 20 Adderstone Avenue, North Sydney.

Next Meeting: 8 p.m. Friday, 7th March, 1969, at Royal Naval House, Grosvenor St., Sydney

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting for 1969 was held as advertised at Royal Naval House, Sydney, on Friday, 7th February, at 8 p.m., with a very gratifying roll-up of members. A list of those attending appears in "Cock's Column".

Office bearers elected were: Patron, **Sir Ivan Dougherty**, C.B.E., D.S.O., E.D., B.Ec., President, **Harry Gjedsted**; Senior Vice-president, **Russ McWilliam**; Vice-presidents, Northern N.S.W., **Esca Riordan**; Southern N.S.W., **Tim West**; Queensland, **Tom Provians**; South Australia, **Peter Denver**; Victoria, **Claude Raymond**; Committee, **Cecil Chrystal**, **John Meehan**, **Peter Cook**, **Athol Heath**, **Fred Searle**, **Harry Wright**; Hon. Secretary, **George Stack**; Assistant Hon. Secretary, **Alan Lindsay**; Hon. Treasurer, **Reg Angel**; Hon. Auditor, **Harry Stafford** (4th Bn. A.I.F.); Editor of W.O.G., **Russ McWilliam**; Assistant Editor, **Dick Morris**.

HONORARY LIFE MEMBER

The Constitution permits the election of one **Honorary Life Member** at each Annual General Meeting, and this year this great honour was accorded **CECIL CHRYSTAL**. Proposed by **Fred Staggs** and supported by **Harry Gjedsted** the motion was carried unanimously, accompanied by a great ovation for Cecil who has worked so magnificently for the Association over many years. Congratulations, Cecil, on a well deserved honour.

ANZAC DAY, 1969

Anzac Day this year falls on a Friday and it is hoped this will enable lots of members to attend who cannot normally do so. Your executive held a special committee meeting this month to discuss arrangements for this year's celebrations.

This year the Reunion will be held in the **17/18 Bn. Drill Hall, Carlow Street, North Sydney**, which practically adjoins the old venue at Manresa Hall. A catering sub-committee has been formed to look into the food and drink arrangements—you will be advised in good time what these are.

Discussed at length by the committee was the problem encountered on occasions of some **very few members** who take in more liquid refreshment than they can carry—**before the March**. It was decided to appeal to members in this category to help uphold the solemnity and dignity of the March and the prestige of the Battalion by refraining from this practice.

The committee appeals also to each and every Association member to use his influence to assist in achieving the desired result.

SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE

Send \$2.00 — NOW — to:

REG ANGEL,

Address as above.

A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sir,

In recent years the New South Wales Leagues Club, situated at 2/4th Battalion forming-up area in Phillip Street, has opened its doors to all who care to partake of liquid refreshment prior to the commencement of our Anzac Day March.

This situation, coupled with the fact that it has become noticeably more the tendency for members of our Association to provide stimulation for themselves and for others, from hip flasks and bottles during this period of waiting, alarms me considerably.

The Anzac Day March is the first of the very special events on this "One Day of the Year". The second, of course, is our reunion gathering when we can drink to our capacity—the right thing at the right time.

Therefore let us keep the March dry so that everyone of us appears to those who watch us marching, as we should—**ex-Infantrymen, ex 2/4th Battalion men.**

JOHN MEEHAN.

SCRAP BOOK CUSTODIAN

Johnny Jordan, who last year took on the job of Custodian of the Association's Scrap Book, is anxious to receive anything in the way of newspaper cuttings or clippings about any members of the Association and their families. Johnny's address is: John Jordan, 11/109 Elizabeth Street, Ashfield. Phone: 798-6832.

OUR WELFARE OFFICER

Our **Hon. Welfare Officer** is **Reg Angel** who is attached to R.S.L. Welfare Section at Anzac House. Telephone: 31-3121. Flat 2, 1A Barnstable Road, Five Dock.

HAVE YOU MADE A WILL? In his work as a Welfare Officer our Hon. Officer, **Reg Angel**, reports that many ex members of the Forces fail to attend to this very vital matter, and this omission causes untold hardship to next-of-kin following their passing. Reg advises members who have not made a will treat the matter as **URGENT—DO IT NOW!!!**

RE FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS. Reg also suggests that, before making **ANY** arrangements about Funerals, relatives contact the local Sub-branch of the R.S.L. in the country areas. In the city, contact the Welfare Section, Anzac House, phone 31-3121, for advice and guidance in the matter.

THE LAST POST

4th Bn. A.I.F.: 7368 **W. R. Chappell**; 6617 **A. J. Dening**; 7599 **E. H. H. Jones**; 2881 **D. Macdonald**; 1997 **G. Montgomerie**; 3881 **A. Penfold**; 63144 **H. H. Phipps**; 1123A **W. H. Sands**.

2/4th Bn: NX13589 **K. Spurway**.

"We Will Remember Them."

HOSPITAL NEWS

In R.G.H., Concord: **J. E. Moss**, Ward 11; **R. Munro** ('14-'18), Ward 6.

Home from Hospital: **Mrs. Parkinson**; **Tim West**.

NOTE.—A roster of members who are prepared to undertake hospital visiting duties is being compiled. For many years the late **Johnny Morrison** and **Fred**

Searle, assisted by "**Brick**" **Bradford** and others, regularly carried out these tasks.

Your committee is of the opinion that many of you would be glad of the opportunity to assist them in carrying out the objectives of the Association by visiting the hospitals, convalescent homes, etc., to look after the interests of Association members. If enough members come forward it will mean a visit every two or three months which should not be too much to ask. Enquiries may be made or names left with any of the executive whose names appear on the front of this journal.

ANNUAL MEETING, ASSOCIATION OF FOURTH INFANTRY BATTALIONS

The Second Annual General Meeting of the above Association will be held at H.Q., 4 Bn., R.N.S.W.R., Burrows Road, Arncliffe, at 8 p.m., on Thursday, 27th March, 1969. Members, and intending members, of that Association are invited to attend and take part in the election of officers for the ensuing year.

SOCIAL EVENING AT ASHFIELD, 8th MARCH

A Social Evening (Buffet/Dance) will be held in the **Ashfield R.S.L. Club Rooms** for members of the **Association of Fourth Infantry Battalions** on Saturday, 8th March, 1969, at 8 p.m. A section of the Club has been set aside solely for the use of members for this social evening. Bookings (\$2.50 a double) may be made with the Honorary Convenor, **CLIFF HORSLEY**, Phones 524-8330 (Home), 668-9911 (Business).

HON. TREASURER RETIRES

After ten years in the office **Fred Searle** relinquished the position of Hon. Treasurer, a job he has carried out with the very able assistance of his good wife, **Dorothy**. Many were the congratulations extended to Fred at the Annual General Meeting for the wonderful job he and Dorothy had done over this long period. Although Fred did not stand as Treasurer he did contest the ballot for the committee and was duly elected among the six of eleven aspirants. Fred and Dorothy have sold their house at Ryde and have bought a smaller place at Coogee Beach to which they will retire after an extended tour of N.S.W. Good luck to the Searles from us all!

NOTES FROM THE TREASURER

Hon. Treasurer **Reg Angel** advises receipt of subs. from **B. F. Turley**, **G. R. Bush**, **F. F. Crutchett**, **R. A. Cole**, **Ron Small**, **S. A. Pinniger**, **C. W. Parsons**, **C. E. Pedler**, **P. A. Lane**, **W. Eslick**, **S. R. Smith**, **K. E. Mitchell**, **Ted Harris**, **Leo Dunn**, **R. G. Griffiths**, **R. A. Perram**, **Gordon Dale**, **Tim Cloke**, **Ted Fox**, **W. Barrett**, **W. G. Martin**, **C. L. G. Barwick**, **Geo. Friend**, **Ted McCaffery**, **Lex Michell**, **John Storey**, **John Holland**, **Guy Willcham**, **Max Coy**, **J. Ewart**, **J. Crowley**, **Peter Foster**, **A. J. Burgess**, **George Stack**, **W. A. "Joe" Wells**, **W. L. Fogden**, **Jack Eastham**, **Dave Endean**, **C. J. White**, **H. Cox**, **Geo. Sugden**, **Bub Graham**, **Jack Maloney**, **Bruce Cork**, all \$2.00; **Chas. Hood**, \$4.00; **Gordon Chrisp**, \$4.00; **John Reynolds**, \$10.00; **Gordon Chrisp**, \$10.00.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Alan Stewart**, son of **Bill** and **Joyce Stewart**, Kogarah, on being promoted to one of the four Company Colour Sergeants at the Royal Military College, Duntroon, for this his final year at the College.

COCK'S COLUMN

At the February meeting, those present as I saw them: **Major-General Sir Ivan Dougherty**, **Harry Gjedsted**, **Russ McWilliam**, **George Stack**, **Harry Wright**, **Fred Searle**, **John Jordan**, **Bill Luck**, **John Meehan**, **Cec Chrystal**, **Peter Cook**, **Reg Angel**, **Bill "Snow" McLennan**, **Vic Francis**, **Dick Morris**, **Stan Bowen**, **Bob Lane**, **Alf "Snow" Moores**, **John Copland**, **Harry Stafford** (4 Bn.), **Frank Frizell**, **Chas Adams**, **Tom Saunders**, **Fred Staggs**, **Jack Fitzgerald** (2/1 Bn.), **Athol Heath**, **Alan Lindsay**, **Merv Hicks**, **Cec "Slim" Powers**, **Dick Pinson**, **Ernie "Ollie" Twist**, **Dick Latimer**, **Ted Gamble**, **Ivan "Slim" Pollock**, **Mick Steele**. Sorry if I have missed out on any of the boys. Anyhow, a very good roll-up.

Some news from some of them: **Bill "Bing" Riley**, of Arncliffe, frequently meets **Peter Cook** and **Lou Evan** at the Arncliffe Scots' Club. An invitation from "Bing": "Any 2/4 Association members are always welcome." Thanks, Bing.

Stan Bowen, Epping, has been to see **Dick Nelson** (C Coy.) at Princess Alexandra Hospital, Picton. Dick sends his regards to all the boys. Dick met **Jock Naseby's** sister at an R.S.L. function.

Bob Lane, Ettalong, has a drink each Saturday with **Jack "King" Kong** and **Tommy "The Fox" Bryant**, but has been unsuccessful so far in bringing them along.

Vic. Francis, Newtown (ex Melbourne) would like to contact **John "Bookie" Rae**. Vic's wife, **Eileen**, we are very pleased to say, is now enjoying the best of health.

Tom "Blue" Saunders, North Sydney, sends his regards to **Tom "Nedda" Erskine** at Griffith.

Merv Hicks, Rose Bay (A Coy. and H.Q.) frequently sees **Jack Johnston**, R.S.M., E.C.P.A., Watson's Bay.

Sorry to report an accident on the kitchen front. **Michelle**, daughter of **Johnny** and **Doris Jordan**, suffered third degree burns to the stomach—sure cure for future cooking of chip potatoes. Our sincere regrets, **Michelle**, and best wishes for a speedy recovery.

North British News: Frank Sadler, Dubbo, had called and left a note with **Eileen**: "No 2/4th-ers! Where do you drink?" Next day got another note: "**Frank** and **Bill "Snow" McLennan** had been in and had enjoyed themselves." I believe that, too.

It was a pleasant surprise to find **Esca Riordan** there from Kempsey down for a snap visit for a Tribunal at the Repat. We hope you are successful, **Esca**. As usual **Esca** had his news written out as follows: **Perc Dalla** and family spent a fortnight's holiday at Port Macquarie and we had the pleasure of their company on several occasions. **Tom Erskine** and family spent a night with us on their way to Burleigh Heads. **Dick Morris** passed through Kempsey a few weeks ago and phoned **Esca** from **Dick Bawden's** at Port Macquarie. **Esca** hears from **Dick Bawden** fairly regularly re the forthcoming reunion.

One Saturday at Sawtell three 2/4th-ers attended the Annual Meeting of the North Coast District Council—**Jim Brown**, **Bub Graham** and **Esca**.

Harry Dowling's family is now living in Kempsey. **Harry** hopes to be there in the near future. **Esca** is playing night tennis with **Gordon Campbell** and enjoying it. **Lex Michel** spent a few days at Port Macquarie and was looked after by **Dick Bawden**. **Bub Graham** and **Margaret** were both at Sawtell on the Saturday. Thank you, **Esca**, for this excellent report. Oh! **Esca** said that **Sam Hughes** has a paper he thinks would be of interest to the 2/4 Bn. Association. Well, thank you, **Sam**, we would be pleased to have it any time you care to send it along. (I think that's your department, **Johnny Jordan**.)

In the Mail Bag: A letter from **Chas Adams**, of 6 Springwood Avenue, Woy Woy. An excellent report of the "doings" of the members in that area.

I had another nice letter from **Miss Eva Morrison** (**Johnny's** sister). I sent her a card and letter for Christmas which she answered from "Restwell" Convalescent Hospital, 25 Phillip Street, Strathfield. My sister, **Catherine**, and I went out to see her. She said the doctor thought she was too lonely on her own. I think **Johnny's** nephew has taken **Fang** (**John's** dog). We went again to see her on the Anniversary Holiday. **Eva** told me that **Molly Irvine** had been out, and in her last letter to me **Eva** wrote that **Alex Maxwell** called on the Tuesday night. He had only just heard and said his wife, **Jean**, was going to call. **Mrs. Nell McNab**, who lives at Lidcombe, has also been out to see her. I conveyed to her the best wishes of the Association.

A list of names of the boys who had visited the North British lately (thanks, **Eileen**, for your help): **Stan Bowen**, **Bill Sandstrom**, **Jim "Happy" Davis**, **Ken Northrop**, "**Dasher**" **Deacon**, **Ted McCaffery**, **Jack Heaney**, "**Porky**" **Williams**, **Jerry Coughlan**, **Bill Jones**, **Bob Lane**, **Ken Webb**, **Gordon Chrisp**, **Esca Riordan**, **Chas Adams**, **Frank Frizell**, **Alf "Snowy" Moores**, **Jack Fitzgerald** (2/1), **Jim Crowe**. **Jim** was in Friday mid-day, had some business commitments, and would try if possible to make the meeting. "**Sailor**" **Keith Harvey**. Sorry I missed most of these boys. Thank you, **Eileen**.

Dick Morris reported **Dick Bawden** and wife, **Ruth**, extended warm hospitality to him when he recently called into Port Macquarie to pay his deposits for the Country Reunion. After laying the dust of the track, a shower and tour of the fine R.S.L. buildings, **Dick** was treated to a tasty meal in the dining room. After a short visit to an old mate of his father's, the **Bawdens** kindly offered **Dick** a bed for the night. **Dick** was just 24 hours too late for the get-together at Kempsey, so a call was put through to **Esca Riordan** and the **Bawden's** phone account soared. **Dick M.** reports that **Dick B.** has things well in hand for the Reunion and is determined to make it the best ever. Thank you, **Dick**.

"**Snow**" **Moores** was in Ipswich for a few days recently. Called in to the R.S.L. Club and the first person he saw was the Secretary/Manager with whom he had worked in Stalags in Germany. The next person was **Bill Sumpter** who could not think of "Snow's" name, but then remembered it—the "Old Quartermaster 'STARVER'." Needless to say, everybody looked up

at this greeting. After a few beers they went to a nearby suburb—Bundamba—and pulled **Harold Cox** (B Coy.) out of bed, result: a 2 a.m. finish. On the Saturday they had a session in Brisbane with **Tom Provians** and **Ted Wearne** which proved a very, very enjoyable outing. Thanks, "Snow", for the gen.—others follow suit, please.

From **Bub Graham**, Bowraville: "Thought I had better write and let members know that our Northern Vice-president, **Esca Riordan**, arranged a dinner party at Kempsey R.S.L. Club on Saturday, January 4, 1969.

Like all shows Esca arranges, it was an outstanding success. Those who attended were: **John "Bush" Bennett** and **Billie** with their daughter, **Libby**, from Macks-ville; **Dick** and **Ruth Bawden**, Port Macquarie; **Gordon** and **Marcia Campbell**, Kempsey; **Tom** and **Alice Clough**, Macksville; **Perc** and **Betty Dalla** and son, **John**, Wagga; **Harry** and **Noreen Dowling**, Kempsey; **Tom** and **Joan Erskine**, with daughter, **Judith**, and son, **Ian**, from Griffith; **Sam** and **Eileen Hughes**, Kempsey; **Esca** and **Vera Riordan**, Kempsey; **John** and **Olive Smith**, Macksville; **Bub** and **Margaret Graham**, Bowra-ville; with apologies from **Jim** and **Gladdy Brown** and **Jack Maloney**.

The dinner was a Chinese show continuing for about three hours and accompanied by ample beer and wine. The wines were a very generous gesture by the President of the Club, **Frank Ellis**, who sent down ten bottles. (Must have known that "Nedda" Erskine comes from the plonk country.) At any rate, a very pleasant evening was had by all.

Enclosed find cheque for \$4.00 subs. from myself and **Jack Maloney**.

Margaret and I are hoping to see you all on Anzac Day.

Hoping that you all are well, regards, **Bub Graham**."

From **Chas Adams**, Woy Woy: "A little news item for your column. **Frank Frizell** stayed with us for a few days just prior to Christmas whilst looking for a cottage to buy in our beautiful district. I am happy to say he found a suitable place and will be taking up residence at Ettalong Beach as soon as the legal side is settled. The 2/4th-ers of this district extend a hearty welcome to Frank. We had a very happy few days together and a few noggins at the local with **Bob Lane**. Whilst here Frank also visited **Doug Barrie** and had quite a chinwag. Glad to report Doug is much better in health. Returning from Sydney with a group of twelve friends we called into Hornsby R.S.L. where we bumped into **Fred Staggs** and 'Snowy' Whitehouse. I wish to thank them both for their generous hospitality in shouting for all members of my group.

The painting of the 2/4th boys in jungle combat which is painted on the wall of the bar is magnificent. Thanks 'Snowy' for your influence in having our colour patch depicted. Wishing you all the best, **Chas Adams**."

From **Bernie O'Mara**, Forbes: "Have just read this month's W.O.G. and see where subs are due again. Please find enclosed my cheque for \$3.00 subs and \$1.00 donation for cakes for 4 R.A.R. which I hope you will pass on.

Noted in W.O.G. where **Tom Ousby** is in Lithgow. I pass through there often when going to Sydney so must call and see him one of these days. Also **Sid**

Thompson at Holsworthy. I have a married daughter living out there so must look him up also.

It would be nice to have a Sig. Platoon reunion, they were a great bunch of chaps—could be organised.

See very few of the old battalion in my neck of the woods, but did receive a surprise a couple of weeks ago when a visitor came up to me at Rotary and made himself known. It was **Bob Sharman** from 2/1st Aust. Field Regt. We both commanded guns at Mex just out of Alexandria in the old X and Y regiment days.

Please give my regards to all. One of these days I must pay a visit to this famous 'North British'. Sincerely, **Bernard O'Mara**."

FLIGHT FROM GERMANY

Continuing the account by the late **Bill Irvine**, M.M., of his escape from a P.O.W. camp in Germany in 1944.

The weather was becoming very warm in the day-time and we were right out in the open wheat field without any shade. We were posted and did not want to give our position away by moving around too freely. Tony advised us to keep under cover. We were short of water and our only means of getting it was to take our only water bottle down to a small stream about a quarter of a mile away, have as much as we could drink and fill the bottle. We had to crawl on our hands and knees for most of the distance as the only cover was the wheat. We had a good rest but sleep does not come very easily when your nerves are on edge. Tony and his friend Antonio (Tondo) Toella—came along as promised. We had a great talk with them and they decided they would hide us up and feed us until they could get some civvy clothes and help us on our way if we did not decide to stay with them till the war was over. We had been in our wheat field a few days when Tondo told us that we would have to move for some of the people in the village knew we were there and they would talk. Eventually it would reach the Gestapo who visited these villages. We moved to a hayrick not very far from the village and started to do a bit of work in return for our keep. We stripped off and only used our shorts and hoed the sugar beet and potatoes. This went on for some time and then we moved up to a barn in the village and slept in the loft. Sometimes staying there in the daytime and then for a period at night.

We had to be very careful not to let the villagers see us as it would be dangerous for Tony and Tondo if we were given away as it would also put them on the spot. It was rather nervewracking just waiting around, and it was during this period that a Czech girl used to come along to sing to us in the loft. She had rather a nice voice and, although she could not speak English, she was able to converse with us in broken German. We had not been long in this area before we began to contact different Russians who had escaped from prison camps in Germany, and at one time there must have been over a dozen around that area alone. They were working in the fields with the Czechs and being kept in food, etc.

(To be continued.)