



# White over 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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**Next Meetings: Friday, 11th April, 1969**  
**Friday, 2nd May, 1969**

**at Royal Naval House, Grosvenor St., Sydney**  
**at 8 p.m.**



Major-General Sir Ivan Dougherty, C.B.E., D.S.O., E.D., B.Ec., receiving the accolade of Knighthood from His Excellency The Governor-General Lord Casey, P.C., K.C.M.G., C.H., D.S.O., M.C., Kt.St.J., at Government House, Canberra.

(Photo by courtesy of "Canberra Times")

## ANZAC DAY, 1969

Anzac Day this year falls on a Friday and WE HOPE the long week-end will enable more of our members to attend this year's **Wreathlaying Ceremony, Anzac March** and **Anzac Reunion**. Because this year marks the 30th Anniversary of the formation of our Battalion your committee hopes every member will make a very special endeavour to be present. Members of the executive have attended two special meetings to discuss and plan what they hope will be our best ever Anzac Day.

MEMBERS ARE REQUESTED TO PLAY THEIR PART BY ATTENDING ON THE DAY.

The following information should help you on Anzac Day:

### WREATHLAYING CEREMONY

Members will assemble at the **Corner of York and Erskine Streets** (opposite Wynyard Park) at 8 a.m. for the March to the Cenotaph. Our Association will be preceded by members of **4 Bn. 1914-18** who, in turn, will be led by "our" **Parramatta Pipe Band**. On arriving at the Cenotaph the column will halt and face inward. The President of each Association will then place a wreath on the Cenotaph in memory of fallen comrades and the Bugler will sound **The Last Post**.

At the conclusion of this ceremony the marchers will proceed to Phillip Street to take up their positions for the Main Anzac Day March. Incidentally, your committee made representation to the organisers of 6th Division Units in the March and we understand more room has been allocated for units forming up in Phillip Street—keep your eyes open in case we are farther away than usual from Martin Place.

### THE ANZAC DAY MARCH

The Anzac Day March will commence at 9.30 a.m. Our Association will be accompanied as usual by the Parramatta Pipe Band. A member of the Association has offered his services as R.S.M. for the march and we would be glad of your co-operation to ensure his task is made easier and our Battalion presents itself on parade in a manner befitting its reputation and traditions. At the conclusion of the march special buses hired for the occasion will be available to take members to the **Annual Anzac Reunion**. **Committeeman John Meehan** will advise anyone of the exact location of our buses on the day of the march. They will be as close as possible to our break-off point at the end of the march.

### THE ANZAC DAY REUNION

The Reunion this year will be held at **17 Bn. R.N.S.W.R. Drill Hall, Carlow Street, North Sydney** (adjacent to Manresa Hall). The doors will open at 12 noon and refreshments will be available immediately (\$3 per person).

Our Association is honoured to have with us again this year our respected friends of **4 Bn. A.I.F.** (1914-18) who will join us in the Anzac Day Reunion. Last year over 40 of the "Bow and Arrow Boys" attended and **President Jack Noakes** and **Secretary Harry Stafford** hope to repeat the performance this year.

**Sir Ivan** will be with us for some part of the afternoon while word has just been received that "**Nedda**" **Kenna** has also accepted our invitation to attend both the March and the Reunion. **Northern N.S.W. Vice-President Esca Riordan** has advised that he is attending and we have a whisper that **Queensland Vice-President Tom Provians** and **South Australian Vice-President Peter Denver** will also be along. Many other country members have signified their intention of being with us this year.

Members of the Parramatta Pipe Band will be along

as usual and we shall look forward to renewing our friendship with them.

Also in attendance at the Reunion will be the full **Brass Band of 4 Bn. R.N.S.W.R.** and, after hearing their stirring performance at the Annual Reunion of the Association of Fourth Infantry Battalions, members can be assured of a tremendous contribution from them on the 25th.

Among our guests also will be **Lt.-Col. Gordon Maitland, O.B.E., E.D.**, and **Lt.-Col. Ray Sharp, E.D.**, past and present C.O. of **4 Bn. R.N.S.W.R.**, together with six other members of that battalion. During the afternoon there will be reciprocal visits also to and from **4 Bn. 1939-45 A.I.F.**

A change has been made this year in the catering arrangements and the programme will be as follows:

- 12 noon: Doors open. Cold beer on tap, iced soft drinks available in quantity.
- 12.30 p.m.: Biscuits, cheese and greens on the tables. Cold beer from the wood. Iced soft drinks. The President will introduce the guests and the Reunion will get under way.
- 1.30 p.m.: The meal will be served, semi-buffet style. That is, one serving of **each item** on the menu **for each person** will be placed on each table for the members at that table.

### The Menu

- BISCUITS AND CHEESE
- CELERY, RADISH ESCHALOTS
- SLICED SAVOURY BREAD
- COCKTAIL FRANKFURTS
- MINIATURE STEAK PIES
- FRESH FRIED FISH PIECES, FRESH FRIED POTATO CHIPS
- CURRIED STEAK AND RICE
- SWEET AND SOUR FISH WITH FRIED RICE
- Refreshments**
- AMPLE COLD BEER STRAIGHT FROM THE WOOD
- AMPLE ASSORTED ICED SOFT DRINKS
- SCOTCH AND SODA

### ANZAC DAY GUEST—EDWARD KENNA, V.C.

We are very pleased to report that our first **Honorary Life Member, Edward Kenna, V.C.**, has accepted an invitation to be our guest on Anzac Day and will be taking part in the March and attending the Reunion. **Committeeman Peter Cook** will be meeting "**Nedda**" and **Mrs. Kenna** at the airport. Peter is anxious for all members of "A" Company to put in an appearance on Anzac Day to help make the visit a memorable one for our V.C. winner on this, his first attendance at one of our functions. We hope that **all members of our Association** will endeavour to be present for the very same reason.

## COCK'S COLUMN

**The March Meeting:** As the boys came into view from a back seat: **Harry Gjedsted, George Stack, Russ McWilliam, Reg Angel, Allan Lindsay, John Meehan, John Copland, Dick Morris, Tom "Nedda" Erskine, Athol Heath, Stan Bowen, Dick Pinson, Dick Faulder, Vic Francis, Chas. Adams, Harry Wright, Peter Cook, Bill "Snow" MacLennan, Merv Hicks, George Friend, Jack "Brick" Bradford, Keith "Sailor" Harvey, Gordon Chrisp.** Was very pleased to see **Tom "Nedda" Erskine, Griffith,** at the meeting. This was "Nedda's" first ever attendance at an Association meeting and he received a very heartwarming welcome from the gathering. "Nedda" had to take an early train, but before leaving treated the boys to a drop of "the doings". Thanks, mate.

**Harry Wright** reports seeing **Sid Buckley** at Marrickville R.S.L. Sid promised to turn up on Anzac Day. Harry also met **Jack Clark** (B Coy.). Sorry to say Jack is not enjoying the best of health, is now a T.P.I. Over in Adelaide in the New Year Harry had an enjoyable game of bowls with **Peter Denver** and his wife, Pat, at Goolwa Bowling Club where Peter is president.

**George Friend** (D Coy.) met **Merv Hicks** at the Rose Bay Hotel and decided to come along to the March meeting.

**Bill "Snow" MacLennan** spent a day with **Frank "Sadie" Sadler** from Dubbo. "Snow's" eldest daughter, **Jill,** has become engaged to **Rob Elvey,** of Whale Beach, and will be married early next year. Congratulations, Jill and Rob, we wish you every happiness.

**Charlie Adams** came down by train from Woy Woy to attend the meeting, we all appreciate it, Charles, an excellent effort. Chas, please write me a report of those names and new members in your area.

**Vic Francis** is pleased to know that **Ken Moses** is still driving a white over green car.

**Merv Hicks,** Rose Bay, reports that **Jack Johnston** is now a member of the Association and will be at the Anzac Day March and Reunion. We will all be pleased to see you, Jack.

**Keith "Sailor" Harvey** said he is going to his residential at Rainbow Bay and hopes to contact any 2/4th-ers in that area. "Sailor" will relate his information later.

**Athol Heath** reports: "During our holiday at Shell Bay, in the Christmas period, we had the pleasure of a visit from **Harry and Yvonne Pearse,** Newcastle. Harry informed me that he and Yvonne would be down for the Anzac weekend, for a dual purpose. One is the special Anzac Day March, the other involves the **Harry Wrights**—Athol hopes Harry knows what he is talking about.

**John Meehan** reports **Bruce and Angela Cork** are now well established at Palm Beach, on the Gold Coast, Queensland. Best wishes in your new venture!

**Dick Pinson** met **Les Saxby** at Marrickville. Les is captain of the Golf Club, and recently won another trophy.

**Jack "Brick" Bradford** met **Gus Kyle** and wife, **Leslie.** Also **Cyril Stillway** who is barman at Tory's Hotel, Kiamo. Also met **Leo Carter, Kiama** (late Boorawa). Then went to Mollmook and stayed with **Garnet and Jean Moore.** "Brick's" daughter, **Janice,**

graduated as a Sister at Concord Hospital. Congratulations, **Janice,** I was hoping to see you when I was in there.

**Dick Morris** apologised to me for only handing in half his report on members visited whilst returning from Brisbane, following his overnight stay with **Dick and Ruth Bawden;** Dick called on **Billy Hayes** and wife at Hamilton R.S.L. Club, first get-together since Tamworth, so a very pleasant couple of hours ear-bashing transpired. Also called on **Harry and Yvonne Pearse** (Newcastle) and received great hospitality (as usual). Dick reports that the "All Girl" family are growing up rapidly—even the baby is expert at "go-go" dancing to their little record player—a lovely family. Dick wishes to thank all those good people whose hospitality he has enjoyed and regrets having to miss so many this last trip. Particularly sorry to have missed the marvellous dinner in Kempsey by 24 hours.

Was pleased to meet **Rick Morris** (son of our **Dick Morris**) who is in D Coy., 4 R.N.S.W.R., and was just back from camp that day. Pleased to meet you, Rick, and hope to see you at future meetings.

**Jack "Brick" Bradford** reports having seen the following in hospital at Concord: **Jeff King** (Ward 610), **Archie "Beau" Rowbotham** (Ward 220), **Norm Shaylor** (Ward 610), **Geoff King, Leon Bringoff** (Ward 3). "Brick" has very generously undertaken to continue the hospital visitation work. Thanks from us all, "Brick".

## THE LAST POST

4 Bn. A.I.F.: 4437 **W. P. Brack;** 7321 **F. A. Burley;** 6376 **J. E. Daniels;** 6494 **F. H. Hobson;** 6369 **E. R. Hurst;** 2713 **R. S. Lecky;** 4629 **A. H. Timmins;** 3287 **S. A. Weller.**

2/4 Bn. A.I.F.: NX5311 **W. Ashcroft;** NX2067 **O. P. Randall;** NX41489 **F. Vaughan;** NX24 **Padre G. P. Youll;** NX81996 **G. J. Cook.**

"We Will Remember Them."

## THE FAR NORTH COASTERS

**Fred and Dorothy Searle** on safari up north have had a wonderful time meeting their friends of the Association. **Allan Kirk** reports that the Far North Coast Branch of the Association had a most successful Christmas get-together at Lismore. Among those present were: **Jack and Joan Chaseling, Dick and Molly Simmonds, Bob and Dawn Gardner, Ian and Edna Wallwork, Vince and Nancy Slade, Vic and Beryl Slade, Doug and Connie Grove, Royce and Maude McDonald, Leo and Eileen Lynch, Bill and Amy Facey, John and Mrs. Hughes, Max and Edna Nerney, Mel and Lila McInnes, Jack and Joan Hughes, Doug and Gwen Stebbing, Roy and Dorothy Andrews** (with their daughter and son-in-law), **Hugh and Eileen Whittleton, Tom and Freda Clark, Tim and Ailie Lamond, Jack and Joyce Lister, Allan and Carma Kirk, Clarrie Ryan** and friend, **Sue, Charlie Grove, Eddie Slade, Dick Slade, Wal Henry** and "Nugget" **Stewart.** Apologies were received from **Fred Varley, Tom Proviens** and **Bill Sheaffe.** Congratulations to the Far North Coasters on a wonderful show of solidarity.

**PORT MACQUARIE FOR '69**

Did you know there are many flats and motels in Port Macquarie? Why not arrange your Annual Holidays, take a flat and be there for our Country Reunion in October, 1969? Adequate notice to **Dick Bawden** at 36 Pacific Drive, Port Macquarie, will secure it.

**FILMS AT APRIL MEETING**

**Cec Chrystal** advises that **Sam Walker** has promised to attend our meeting on Friday, 11th April, to show some coloured film recently taken on a visit to the Florina Valley area in Greece. Members will find much to interest them in the showings.

**FLIGHT FROM GERMANY  
May, 1944**

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

There were two villages very close together, Tondo living in the one next to ours. At twelve o'clock at night Tondo used to get a couple of us to go down with him to his village to listen to the B.B.C. He had a secret wireless and with lights out we heard British voices over the air for the first time for many years. The news was nearly always good at this time so we felt rather optimistic. Tondo was also a very fine chap and nothing was a trouble to him. He had been studying law at the University in Prague when the Germans marched into Czechoslovakia in 1938. All the universities were closed and Tondo was left high and dry with his studies incomplete, so he went back to his village and took the job of managing a milk factory.

It must have given them a lot of trouble and scrounging to get us the civvy clothes for we had been in this place over two weeks before we were able to get them. Tondo and Tony called us one night and took us down to the milk factory where we were to receive our civvy clothes. We were taken into Tondo's office and each of us was given a suit that would fit him best. We all got changed and then Tondo took our military stuff which he was to hide or destroy. The suits were quite decent and it felt alright to be a civilian once again, but not so good as it would in Australia. After we had dressed, Tondo thought we should have some sort of celebration so he produced a bottle of Czech whisky which is just like water to look at but it's sure deceiving being the strongest spirit I have ever tasted. Tondo got quite merry and started to sing some of his national songs—he had a beautiful voice. He could sing "Tipperary" and "Rose Marie" and "Roll Out the Barrel", so we joined in. The party was getting a bit noisy for a village where they had the Gestapo and Gendarmerie, so we called it a day.

Basil was unlucky with the suits, getting the worst one and Tony made us all laugh when he looked us over and said with his funny accent, "Three English gentlemen and one Bolshevik", the latter being Basil. We were still waiting around and expecting to get a guide so we could make our way either into Russia or down through Austria into Yugoslavia. At times we thought Tondo would make the trip with us. We knew that he was in some underground movement, also

Tony. Tondo had been a lieutenant in the Czech army and Tony had been an N.C.O. They were very good friends to us and they were doing this for us out of sheer generosity without much chance of getting anything in return, unless it was a bullet from the Gestapo if they had been caught helping us. They knew the penalty and we used to remind them about it, but they still wanted to help us. (It was here that Tony Machen had got our khaki shirts dyed navy blue. We had left plenty of civilian shirts back in the camp thinking that they would not be of any use to us.) It's hard to know how much we owe these people and I feel that we will forever be in their debt.

Harvesting was starting about this time so the four of us gave a hand to cut, stook and cart the hay into barns. It helped us to fill in the time and also made us feel that we were doing something to compensate for our food and lodging. We had been in a very precarious position for sometime hiding in the loft of the barn and the fellow that actually owned the place (Tony was only working for him) had a wife, one daughter and a son, whom we never saw but heard much about from Tondo. The Germans had taken him away and he had joined the Hitler Youth much against the wishes of his parents. By all accounts he was as bad as any German Nazi, and there was always the fear that he would turn up and catch us being sheltered by his own people. Tony was quite certain he would put us away to the Germans even at the cost of perhaps the lives of his parents. He never came home while we were there. It was becoming quite obvious about this time where we were being hidden and Tondo and Tony would be the scapegoats if someone had put us away, so it was decided that we should go out in the mountains 10 or 12 kilos from the village, only coming back on the Sunday evening for some provisions which, of course, were very light but the best that Tondo and Tony could scrounge for us.

We set off one Monday morning and we had just reached the foothills when Allied planes came over in force. We had come to a grassy meadow that was being harvested by some peasant men and women and we knew they were friendly as soon as they saw the planes for they made so much noise about it. We saw one of the planes come down and found out afterwards that it was a German plane that the fighter escort had shot down. We always got a great thrill seeing them travelling in a direct line towards their target. We used to say how lucky they were being able to sit down to a good meal in a few hours' time and then have a good bunk and quarters to sleep in. We had not decided where to make our camp at this time, but we were on the edge of a thick pine forest and there was plenty of good cover so we made up a bed of pine needles where it was thickest. We had a couple of visitors that evening—a boy and a girl in their teens. The girl could speak English a little and promised to come back that night with something for us to eat. However, she did not make it and we thought her parents had advised her it was too risky. We were tired that night so turned in just after dark which did not occur till round about 10 o'clock, so we had not much darkness to sleep in and it did not pay us to sleep in the daylight.

(To be continued.)