

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

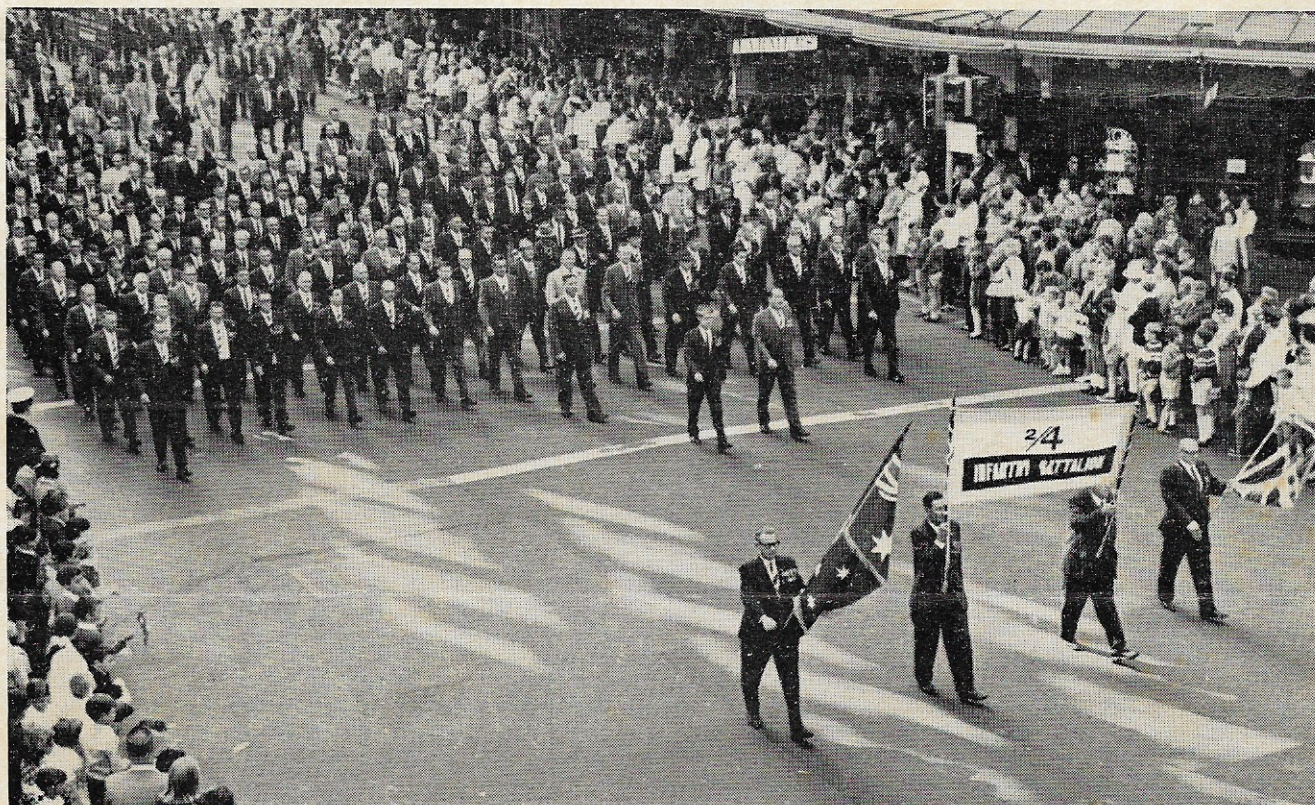
Vol. 24, No. 7

PRICE 10c PER COPY

JULY, 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. ASSISTANT SECRETARY: Alan Lindsay.
TREASURER: Reg Angel, 2/1A Barnstaple Road, Five Dock. 2046. Phone 31-3121 (business hours).
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 Meetings: Friday, 1st August, 1969 at Royal Australian Naval House, Grosvenor St.,
Friday, 5th September, 1969 Sydney, at 8p.m.**



1969 ANZAC DAY MARCH

Men of 2/4 Infantry Battalion Association, led by our President Harry Gjedsted and Edward Kenna, V.C., march proudly behind our Flags and Banner on Anzac Day.

(Photo by courtesy of Mrs. Mary Solomon. Block by courtesy of Mr. Kevin Toovey, 4 R.N.S.W.R.)

THE LAST POST

4 Bn. A.I.F.: 51093 W. L. Daniel; 1917A B. R. Handley; 4856 A. J. Manning; 3164 F. J. Schubert; 497 W. E. Upjohn; 3275 H. J. Watters; W. J. Griffin.

2/4 Bn. A.I.F.: J. N. Mitchell; Doug Barry, Jed Burns; "Johnno" Johnston.

"WE WILL REMEMBER THEM."

R.A.N. R.S.L. SUB-BRANCH CLUB

The Premier **Mr. Robin Askin** recently officiated at the opening of the new Clubhouse of the R.A.N. R.S.L. Sub-Branch at Royal Australian Naval House, Grosvenor Street, Sydney.

This Clubhouse, which was completed wholly by the voluntary labour of the members of the Sub-Branch, is indeed a credit to all concerned. Members of our Association are welcome at any time between the hours of 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. — and there are **NO POKER MACHINES.**

HOSPITAL NEWS

Dick Latimer reports having visited R.G.H. Concord on 3rd, 10th, 17th, and 24th June. On these visits Dick met members:

Claude Pollock, of Inverell; **Charlie Granquist**, Baulkham Hills; **George Sandison**, **Ron Ferguson** and our colleague **Ernie Hull** (4 Bn. '39-'45). Our thanks are extended to Dick and his good wife **Enid** for their visits.

1969 COUNTRY REUNION

Dick Bawden advises that things are moving along nicely for the 1969 Country Reunion at Port Macquarie — except that many members who have indicated they will be attending have not yet made their bookings. Please make your bookings **NOW** to enable the Honorary Organiser to complete his plannings. Remember the Reunion will be held during the October Holiday weekend — **SATURDAY, 4th, SUNDAY 5th, MONDAY 6th.** A form is enclosed to assist you in booking.

Golfers are advised that a trophy has been provided for competition at Port Macquarie on Sunday, 5th October, for members of our Association as part of the Country Reunion. Let Dick Bawden know now if you wish to compete.

Bowlers are also advised that an invitation has been extended to teams from the Association to take part in a competition at the Port Macquarie Bowling Club, on Sunday, 5th October. **Gordon Chrisp** will be handling the teams for **Dick Bawden**. If you are a Bowler and would like to represent the Association at Port Macquarie contact **Gordon Chrisp** at Sydney — Phone No. 59-0281 during business hours or at 92-4030 after hours — but please do so quickly.

STOP PRESS: **Bully Hayes**, who owns a holiday cottage in Port Macquarie has told me (Dick Bawden) that he can accommodate five people, if they bring their own blankets and linen, providing they give a lift to Port Macquarie to Bully and his wife — first in to contact Bully will be it.

"SPINNEY'S SPECIAL SNAGS"

Such classic names for bangers, and all the mystery bags,

My mind goes back to Palestine, and Spinney's Special Snags.

Remember all the animals, (those that had four feet)? They made up this sausage. (What else was there for meat?)

Camels, goats, and scrawny sheep, hungry, old and lean,

Their last days were numbered for the sausage mince machine.

Prices tops for donkeys, same again for horses, Tons and tons of Spinney's Snags, made for all the forces.

Curried, boiled or roasted; baked, stewed or fried, Cooks could not disguise 'em — no matter how they tried.

Half those snags were hoisted — the only way to treat 'em,

That was well acknowledged, for the Wogs refused to eat 'em.

They are sold along the Suez now, so the story goes; Who cops all the rake off, goodness only knows.

So, when I'm feeling seedy, after my club jags, I remember the Holy Land and those controversial snags.

"Joe McGrath."

COCK'S COLUMN

North British News:

Saw **Ken Webb** having a drink and yarn with **Charlie Reynolds** (Don. Coy.) of Narrandera, and **"Jock" Ashworth** (B. Coy.) of Cowra. I had not seen either for many years. The story is: Charlie was walking in George Street when he heard a voice say: "Hullo, Charlie, how are you going, you old so-and-so?" It was **"Jock" Ashworth**. They joined forces, ended up at the Ship Inn at Circular Quay, and there met **Ken Webb** — now there were three. Leaving the Ship Inn they bumped into **Reg. Stevens**, ex Leeton, and all ended up with me at the North British. Charlie has recently seen **"Buck" Rogers**, **Tod Hall** and **Arthur Webb**. I am sorry to hear that Tod is not enjoying the best of health. We all wish you a speedy recovery Tod. Charlie is on holidays, going to Queensland, and will enquire for 2/4ers at the R.S.L. Clubs. Pleased to have met you again Charlie.

Jack "Jock" Ashworth of Cowra met **Bill Reid** in Sydney. Bill is now working on the railway at Caragabal. Jack also met **Ken Trudgeon** who has a farm at Canowindra. Ken was Charlie's section leader. Pleased to have met you Jack. It was a very enjoyable session with reminiscences of Desert days. Charlie and Jack had difficulty in locating the North British, even the taxi driver did not know it. Well to others, the North British is in Loftus Street on the corner of Custom's Lane at the rear of Custom's House. It was Jack's and Arthur's first visit to the N.B. Come again, boys. Friday evening before the monthly meeting, met **Chas. Adams** and **Ron Anderson** (**Bill Anderson's** brother); wrote some notes from **Eileen's** notebook, and received a "Herald" **Joe Rognini** had left for me. On the front page a photo of **David Wren**, Assistant District Officer interviewing West Irian refugees at the refugee holding camp near Moorshead, in South West-

ern Papua. Joe told Eileen he would write to me. I took the paper along to the meeting and after many of the boys had perused it, I gave it to **Jack Jordan** for his excellent collection. Jack brought one of his books in with many cuttings and newspaper clippings, all appertaining to the 2/4th Bn. Thanks, Joe and Jack.

July Meeting — as I saw the boys arriving. **Harry Gjedsted**, **Russ McWilliam**, **George Stack**, **Reg. Angel**, **Alan Lindsay**, **Harry Wright**, **John Jordan**, **Dick Latimer**, **Chas. Adams**, **Cec. Chrystal**, **Athol Heath**, **Stan Bowen**, **Ted Gamble**, **Peter Cook**, **Ralph Fenton**, **John Copland**, **Fred Staggs**, **Vic. Frances**, **Bill "Snow" MacLennan**, **Jim "Happy" Davis**, **Keith "Sailor" Harvey**, **Dick Faulder**, **Mick Steel**, **Bob Jackson**, **John Meehan**, and last but not least **Bruce Mulquiney**.

Our visitors from 4 Bn. R.N.S.W.R. **Ray Hurst**, **Norm Harries**, **Peter Keating** and **Ron Thatcher**, also a naval visitor with **Alan Lindsay** — his friend **Jack Alexander** ex-H.M.A.S. Colac. (Jack was aboard the Colac when the 2/4th Bn. attacked Wewak Point in May, 1945, and his ship gave the Bn. supporting fire on that day). All welcome — come again boys.

Now some news from some of them: **Stan Bowen** called at **Col. Ferguson's** place. Col. (C. Coy.) was unable to come to this meeting, but will be at the August meeting. **Vic. Frances** to the boys in Melbourne — Eileen has progressed 80% and still thinks of them. **Mick Steele** reports that **Harry "Soccer" Coomber** leaves Sydney for New Zealand 10th July by boat. **Alan Lindsay** is also going to New Zealand, but by plane. Alan hopes to catch up with **"Soccer" Coomber**, whose son is being married to a local girl in Wellington, New Zealand.

Bruce Mulquiney has recently seen **Noel Ford** and they will both be at the Port Macquarie Reunion. Bruce has also seen **Vic. Burwell**.

I was pleased to see **Ralph Fenton** (D. Coy.) come along. This was Ralph's second meeting — he now looks like being a regular.

A workmate, **Cec. Chartel** of Croydon, and I were having a yarn about Units. He was of the 2/2nd Engineers, enlisted at Moree in '39, with him several mates; they were **Don Shearer**, **Tommy Haley**, **John Amos**, **John Goll**, **Morrie Fairburn**, **Sid Butler**, and **Bruce Monroe**. Cec. said these seven went to the 2/4th Inf. Bn. and he went to 2/2nd Engineers. Thanks for info. Cec.

In the Mail Box: An interesting letter from **Esca Riordan**, West Kempsey, re 2/4th members seen on a recent trip to the Gold Coast. Esca writes that while in Kyogle for a couple of days he met **Doug Grove**, who has returned to work after a serious illness. Also in Lismore Hotel he saw **"Rags" Butler** for a few minutes. Called on **Lloyd "Tiny" Eglinton** and his family on the Tweed River, who made them (Esca and Vera) very welcome, by serving afternoon tea on the upward journey and lunch on the way home. At the National P.O.W. Reunion held at Surfers Paradise from 4th to 8th June, we had two members of the 2/4th Bn. in attendance — **Arthur Webb** from Griffith and himself. **Tom Bartlett** and his wife **Peg** were also there.

Several months ago at Stuart's Point near Kempsey, a 4th Bn. ('14-'18) veteran passed on. He was **W. J.**

Griffin and he died on 5/4/'69. Esca thought the "Old Fourth" Boys would like to know for their records.

They were speaking to **Billie Bennett** at Macksville and they had just arrived home after assisting Rotary to give the Senior Citizens of Nambucca a picnic at Myleston. **John Bennett** was speaking to **Harry Russell** during the day. **John Smith** and **John Bennett** are both active members of Macksville Rotary. Also while they were at the Gold Coast, they made a brief call on **Chas. Ellway**, who has a chemist shop at Southport. Chas. is enjoying good health, but his wife is ill in Toowoomba Hospital. (We are very sorry to hear of this **Mrs. Ellway** and hope by now you are well on the road to recovery.) Esca was speaking to **Dick Bawden**, who said the bookings for the Country Reunion in October are very good. Esca is also very busy with Legacy and Welfare matters.

Thank you Esca and Vera for the interesting news for the boys. I am very pleased to read that **Doug Grove** is over his serious illness and able to continue his work again — chin up Doug and best wishes from us all.

Cec. Chrystal reports: "Saw **John Wells** in Sydney — was up from Canberra to have an artificial leg fitted following an amputation in February. He has had a pretty bad time but is now doing well and sends his regards to all. John had seen **George Martin** and had a yarn and a few noggins at the Imperial Service Club. **Graham** and **Jean Jackett** came up to Sydney in the 'Empress' from Hobart and had 10 days' holiday. They flew back owing to the strike. Stayed with us most of the time. Graham has made good progress following his severe operation and although he gets very tired, is looking very fit and is full of fun as usual. (Tried to get into the N.B. but didn't have time.)" — Thank you Cec. for all the news.

Angela and **Amanda Chrystal** were very thrilled ("Mum" and "Dad" very proud) to be making their debut at the Imperial Service Club Ball, on Friday, 11th July. A very spectacular and great evening for all. Congratulations, young ladies.

Father "Paddy" Reid was in Sydney recently to perform the wedding ceremony of a niece. He wrote that he would be coming over and asked me to tell the boys that he would be in the 2/4th "corner" on a certain evening. Unfortunately there was a strike that day and the N.B. was closed. He came along the following evening but only a few of the regulars were there. However, we had no difficulty in making our Padre feel at home. Phil Smith arrived just in time to escort "Paddy" to another appointment at 7 o'clock.

Since his return to South Australia I received the following note: "I was very happy to see you and the boys again Jim; it brought back a lot of happy memories. Next time I come over I will make it for a meeting night and we will have a real get-together. All the best to you and old mates. Sincerely,
"Paddy" Reid."

More News of Anzac Day: **Ivan "Slim" Pollock** brought his son Noel to the Reunion. Noel is a Petty Officer in the Navy. "Slim" mentioned that the "C"

Coy. boys missed **Wally Shaw** who was in hospital. We all wish you a speedy recovery Wal.

Jim McBrown of Weston kept his promise and brought **Dick Mennie** and **Jack Trehearne** to their first ever Anzac Day Reunion in Sydney.

Bill "Snow" MacLennan was most disappointed not to see **Frank "Sadie" Sadler** of Dubbo. However, he had a good yarn with other Sig. platooners including **Mick Owers** of Moree and **Charlie Granquist** of Baulkham Hills.

ESCAPE FROM GERMANY

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

We always felt most grateful and decided that if it were ever possible we would return the favours they had shown us with interest. We were getting very restless so the Scotsman and New Zealander decided to go off after the weekend visit to TONDO and TONY. We all went in, stayed one night and the following day went part of the way with MAC and GORDON. We felt rather depressed after saying good-bye and wishing them the best of luck. The world seemed a very empty and lonely place without them around. TONDO and TONY also were very sorry to see them depart as they were prepared to hide us up till the end of the war or till something turned up.

Basil and I went back to the forest and it was much quieter than ever it was — if that were possible. One day we were lying down having a rest when we heard something crashing through the scrub right against us and presently three or four deer almost ran over the top of us. One was a little baby deer and if we had had our wits about us we should have caught it. From the moment we reached Czechoslovakia we had the guidance of TONDO and TONY. Anything we wanted to know or anything we needed to eat came from these two great fellows and although we were nearly always hungry they made a mighty effort to get us as much and the best that was around. No one could possibly have been better under the circumstances and they both had a job to do beside look after our welfare. They were both very pleasant chaps and we felt that we had known them for years.

A week after Gordon and Mac left we said our good-bye's to TONDO and TONY. It was not easy to say good-bye to men as good and true as they were and we knew it was only by the remotest possibility that we would ever see them again. They gave us everything they could spare, Tony coming to light with a compass which proved invaluable to us when we got into some mountainous pine forests. TONDO and TONY seemed almost as depressed as we were when we finally got under way. They had given us an address in Slovakia and it was in a south-easterly direction heading for the Russian front. We could not write the address down so had to memorise it, as there was a good chance of us being picked up by the Germans.

We travelled as light as we could but hung on to our sleeping bags, for the nights were still very cold at times, although it was much warmer in the forests

than it was outside. We were not in very good condition as the food we had been getting did not satisfy that gnawing in the stomach and were both down on our weight; however, we were going to give it a go, now that we were on our own initiative. We knew that we would have to break new ground every day and keep moving for we always thought that we would have to get out before the winter and cold weather struck us. Our goal was "Home for Xmas, 1944", and we used to tell anyone who was friendly towards us that that was our ambition. We were often mistaken for Germans and we were usually asked if we were. From now on the country became much rougher, very seldom did we strike any good stretches of level country. We were sticking to the pine forests as they offered us excellent cover all the time and it was also a good place to camp at night.

We had been given instructions by TONDO as to where to find FEODOR ZAZRINA, who was to give us what assistance he could. After going towards the Russian front for a few days we did not feel very easy about the direction we had been taking so we decided to change our course and go south-west toward Vienna. We felt much easier then as though we were running away from disaster and it may have been in this turning that brought us luck. The people around here were very friendly towards us but still we had to be very cagey about anyone we approached, however, our judgment must have been very sound — most people we met were working out in the fields and if it happened to be near their morning tea or any other snack they were having we were always invited to have something to eat.

We met a peasant with his wife and daughter one day and they were having morning tea so we shared it with them. They wanted to send the daughter back to the village to get something else for us but we thought it was a bit risky for both parties so we thanked them and kept on.

The weather favoured us most of the time and we usually made for a haystack or hayrick where we could make ourselves comfortable. The forests were always our best cover and we kept close to them whenever possible. We had still not crossed the border into Slovakia and we had been told that this border was patrolled by German soldiers. The Czechs. told us how we could recognise the border but we were not sure if we understood them so we were very uncertain about it till we were lucky enough to get over.

We were moving in a south-westerly direction over some very rough mountainous country — some peaks we climbed over 6,000 ft., then we usually had to go down a 1,000 ft. and start climbing again as we could not follow the ridges and keep our direction. We did not see very many people in this area so at least we were safe. If we did not see our planes every few days we were disappointed. Often we would lie on our backs and try to count them going over but it was rather hopeless with the fighter escort flying above the bombers. We could always hear them long before we could see them. Always felt that our Air Force was well on top of the Nazis as they never appeared to deviate from their straight ahead course.

(to be continued)