



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. 8

PRICE 10c PER COPY

AUGUST, 1969

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COLUMNIST: Jim "Cock" Robin, 20 Adderstone Avenue, North Sydney. 2060—Author of "Cock's" Column.

Next Meetings: Friday, 5th September, 1969 at Royal Australian Naval House, Grosvenor St., Sydney, at 8p.m.

There is still time to book for our—

1969 ANNUAL COUNTRY REUNION

at

PORT MACQUARIE

on

6-HOUR HOLIDAY WEEKEND, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4th to MONDAY, OCTOBER 6

Dick Bawden advises that he already has a record number of bookings for the Country Reunion. Over 170 so far are to be seated, so it really looks like reaching the 200 mark (including the guests). Our Patron, Sir Ivan, will be the Guest Speaker, and for the first time we will have two V.C. winners in attendance. **George Cartwright, V.C.**, and **Mrs. Cartwright** have booked and "**Nedda**" **Kenna, V.C.**, and **Marjorie** have been invited to attend. Our thanks are extended to Ansett Airlines for their generous provision of air transport from Melbourne to Sydney return for the Kennas, and to East-West Airlines for a similar courtesy from Sydney to Port Macquarie and return. Jim Brown, M.L.A., arranged the Ansett trip and Dick Bawden the P.M. trip.

The Parramatta Pipe Band will be attending in force and we can look forward to a great march and reunion with their participation.

The Saturday programme provides for the March and Wreathlaying Ceremony, Reunion Dinner, Ladies' Buffet and Social. On Sunday there will be a Golf Tournament with special trophy for 2/4th-ers and a

Golf match with a special provision for 2/4 Bn. teams. Anyone who is interested in the Bowls should contact **Gordon Chrisp** at phone No. Sydney 59-0281 (business hours) or 92-4030 (home). Gordon is anxious to form a winning team so come on Alan Kirk and other keen bowlers.

Monday will be farewell day for some and "bat-on" day for those not travelling by car. Among the bookings are:

Sir Ivan and Lady Dougherty, "Brick" and Elsie Bradford, Tom and Mrs. Barber, Jim and Gladys Brown, George and Mrs. Cartwright, Peter and Betty Cook, "Dasher" Deacon and Miss Lily Rose, Peter and Margaret Cade with "Pigeon Pair", Bob and Mrs. Gardner, N. and Mrs. Guy, Jack and Joan Huston, Bob and Mrs. Jackson, A. and Mrs. Lewington, Jack and Mrs. Lister, John Meehan, "Snow" and Gwen MacLennan, Bruce and Mrs. Mulquinney, Jack and Phyl Ormiston, Mike and Mrs. Richardson, Max and Betty Rungie, Harold and Del Silver, Ron Thatcher (Official Photographer), Noel and Mrs. Woolcott, Tom Provians and contingent from Queensland.

Harry and Marjorie Gjedsted, Reg Angel, S. Blanch, George and Mrs. Campbell, Jack and Joan Chaseling, John and Mrs. Copland, Harry and Doreen Dowling, Rex and Norma Everson, Dick and Mrs. Faulder, Noel and Mrs. Ford, "Bub" and Margaret Graham, Athol Heath, Mrs. Molly Irvine, John and Doris Jordan, Eric Lilliebridge, Jack Maloney, Norrie and Mrs. McGregor, Dick Morris and Sons, Rusty and Barbara McWilliam, Wal Potts, Jim "Cock" Robin, Ted de Satge, Phil and Glen Smith, Ian and Edna Wallwork, Harry and Hilda Wright, George Sugden and contingent from Tamworth.

Les and Mrs. Anderson, S. W. Andrews, Dick and Ruth Bawden, Alf and Marj Carpenter, Cec and Phyl Chrystal, Bruce Cork, Jack and Eunice Dubber, Nevis Farrell, Bob Ferguson, Frank Frizell, Charlie Grove, Merv Hicks, Ted Jackson, Percy and Mrs. Lane, Alan and Gloria Lindsay, Mrs. Marjorie McCarty, Lex and Mrs. Michell, George and Mrs. Moore, George and Mrs. Ormiston, "Slim" Powers, Esca and Vera Rioridan, Fred and Dorothy Searle, Harry and Blanche Stafford, Hugh and Mrs. Whittleton, "Bunny" Burrows and contingent from Auburn.

Add your name to the list NOW!! Book with Dick Bawden, 36 Pacific Drive, Port Macquarie, enclosing \$4.00 per person.

THE LAST POST

4 Bn. A.I.F.: J. C. Noakes, D.C.M., M.I.D., 5102 J. T. L. Gearside; 7326 F. A. Marlow; 1830 W. J. Miller; 3584 W. A. Newton; 66010 R. R. Jeffs.

2/4 Bn. A.I.F.: NX68260 L. L. G. Holt, W. Barrett.
"We Will Remember Them."

HOSPITAL NEWS

Dick Latimer reports having visited R.G.H., Concord, and meeting and dispensing comforts to **George Sandison** (Ward 11), **Leon Bringolf** (Ward 6), **Athol Honnery** (Ward 2), **Cyril Abbott** (Ward 31), **Ernie Hull** (39-45), **Allan Creasey** (Ward 23).

Dick arranged for **Leon Bringolf** to get some advice from our Treasurer, **Reg Angel**, on repatriation matters. Similar arrangements were made for **Athol Honnery** and **Cyril Abbott**.

Allan Creasey, ex "A" Coy., wished to be remembered to **Peter Cook**. Allan was "in the bag" with the late **Bill Irvine**.

VALE LES HOLT

An ex member of our battalion **Leslie Llewellyn Holt**, of Healesville, Victoria, suffered a heart attack during the March at Healesville last Anzac Day. He was dead when his mates marching beside him rushed to his aid. Les was on the staff of the Healesville Hospital and was an energetic church worker being on the Board of Management of the Presbyterian Church. He is survived by his wife, Nell, to whom our condolences are extended.

VALE JACK NOAKES, D.C.M., M.I.D.

The President of the 4th Bn. A.I.F. Association, **John Campbell Noakes** passed away peacefully at his home as a result of a heart attack. Aged 73 years Jack was one of the younger veterans of the 14-'18 War. A tireless worker for his battalion Association and

the R.S.L., Jack was, up to the time of his death, actively carrying out the honorary work of Pensions Officer for the Oatley Sub-branch of the R.S.L., in which capacity he also acted for the Association of Fourth Infantry Battalions. He was also a committee-man of that Association.

Your President, Senior Vice-President and other members attended the funeral service at Oatley and the cremation at Woronora and extended to Mrs. Noakes and family the sympathy and condolences of us all.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

The monthly committee meetings are now held in the week before the monthly general meeting and, as a result, it has been suggested that the time for starting that meeting could be brought forward to 7 p.m. or 7.30 p.m. It was decided to discuss the position at the meeting on September 5. Anyone who would like a say in the decision should attend this meeting.

SOUVENIRS FOR THE QUARTER BAR

President **Harry Gjedsted** and **Marjorie, Bill Stewart** and **Joyce**, your Editor, and **Barbara McWilliam** were guests at the Trooping of the Colours at R.M.C., Duntroon, on the Queen's Birthday weekend. Bill's son, Alan, is in the senior class this year and will graduate in December.

During the afternoon the menfolk were guests in the Quarter Bar—the senior classmen's refreshment room at R.M.C., where we learned that the Cadets would appreciate a 4 Bn. War Souvenir for the Quarter Bar. Who has a captured sword, helmet, map, or some such thing they would like to donate for the purpose? Advise any of our executive and we shall see that suitable presentation is arranged. For your information our executive includes all office bearers and the committee.

NOTES FROM THE TREASURER

Hon. Treasurer, **Reg Angel**, reports receipt of subscriptions and/or donations from the following members: **K. Northrop, R. Williams, A. Carrington, R. Fenlon, D. F. Baxter, C. F. Loughnan, N. R. Coles, F. Gattenhoff, C. L. Pollock, E. V. Sparke, T. R. Sparke, C. J. Curtain, F. Varley, R. J. Davies, W. Potts, A. Miller, R. C. Miller, D. B. Martin, W. N. Weir, K. Costello, A. W. Wright, W. Black, J. Rognini, V. Crowhurst, K. Franklin, H. Cumming, R. Reynolds, M. J. O'Regan, Mrs. Laura Wallace, Mrs. Kathleen Webb.**

Life Subscription: M. C. Lamond.

Colour Party Appeal: W. Parry, F. Apthorp, A. and R. C. Miller.

Members please note: Owing to the cost of postage, etc., no receipts are sent out. All amounts received are, as far as possible, acknowledged by having names published in W.O.G. from time to time.

COCK'S COLUMN

North British News:

From **Eileen's** notebook: **Alf Schweitzer**, Billinudgel, called. Was in Sydney for his neice's wedding. Met **Jack Heaney** and "**Brick**" **Bradford**.

Dick Pinson and his brother-in-law, **Bob Clifford**

(2/13th Bn.) from Wagga called. Box was anxious to meet **Jack Heaney** who, however, did not appear.

Norm Lane called in and left best wishes for all.

Leo "The Lion" Lynch, Grafton, paid a brief visit and extended his greetings to all. Leo was down on a bowls trip.

Ken Northrop, Glen Innes, popped in. Ken said he has been at Glen Innes four years now and the only one of the unit he has seen was **Ron Stennet**. Ken would be glad to meet any members passing through—just ask for him at the Great Central Hotel.

Charles Eyre, a friend of ours at the North British, was on Gallipoli with 29th Div. (British Army). Chas is a member of Bondi Diggers' and Long Bay Rifle Range. Can arrange a shoot if anyone is interested.

Harry Gjedsted, **Athol Heath** and our Editor called in before the last meeting—just came in for a quickie before getting down to business.

Ron Anderson (**Bill's** brother) brought tidings of the Newtown trio—**Jim "Happy" Davis**, **Vic Francis** and **Terry Sparks**.

Russell Grove (Doug's and Con's son) brought along a mate, **Ray Smith**. **John Fitzgerald** (2/1st Bn.) and **Dick Pinson** joined the group and we all moved round to Royal Naval House for the meeting.

Others to visit the North British during the month included **Joe Rognini**, **Chas Adams**, "**Dasher**" **Deacon**, **Vince McDonald**, **Charlie Reynolds**, **Jack Ashworth**, **Ken Webb**, **Hylton Batchelder**, **Jim Barrow**, **Jerry Coughlan**, **Bill Heyes**, **Ron Williams**, **Dick Latimer**, **Phil Smith**, **Alf Carpenter**, "**Bookie**" **Rae**, **Gordon Chrisp**, **Ted McCaffery**, **John Copland**, **Jim Agnew**, "**Snow**" **McLennan**.

At the August Meeting: Those attending included **Harry Gjedsted**, **Alan Lindsay**, **Athol Heath**, **Dick Latimer**, **John Meehan**, **Harry Wright**, **Fred Searle**, **Chas Adams**, "**Snow**" **MacLennan**, **Stan Bowen**, **Dick Faulder**, **Dick Pinson**, **Ted de Satge**, **Ralph Fenton**, **Allan Macarthur** (Mortars), **Dick Morris**, **Gordon Chrisp**, **Ron Thatcher** (4 R.N.S.W.R.), **Russell Grove** and his friend, **Ray Smith**, your Editor and myself.

Harry welcomed **Russell Grove** to the meeting together with his friend, **Ray Smith**. **Russell**, who is doing an Arts/Law course at University, said he deemed it an honour to meet his father's wartime mates. We hope you will come again, boys. We enjoyed your company.

Julia Heath, daughter of **Athol** and **Pat**, begins her nursing career at Hornsby District Hospital on 21st of this month. Congratulations, Julia. We wish you every happiness and success in your most worthy vocation.

Dick Pinson reports that **Monty Boyd** is now at War Veterans' at Narrabeen. All the best, Monty. Dick also has seen **Stan Walkerden** and hopes to bring him to a meeting shortly.

Dick Faulder met **John Copland** at the Ryde R.S.L. Club.

Dick Latimer, who is doing a trojan job on hospital visitations, mentioned getting on to a 501 bus at Top Ryde to be greeted by the driver with: "You're a 2/4th Bn., matie, and you're looking old and seedy". It was **Tex Richards** (H.Q. Coy.) and he asked about **Joe Taylor** and "**Porky**" **Williams**.

Ted de Satge (B Coy.), Ashfield, has recently re-

turned from Queensland. Rang **Tom Provian's** when in Brisbane only to find Tom had gone to Rockhampton.

Called in on **Dick Bawden** at Port Macquarie to check up on his booking for the Reunion in October.

Ralph Fenton, now looking like a regular, brought along a copy of "Salute", the T.P.I. journal, with references to the passing of our late colleague, "**Peat**" **Moss**.

Allan Macarthur (H.Q.), originally from Taree, attended his first meeting at Royal Naval House. Allan has been in R.G.H., Concord, and at Lady Davidson Convalescent Home, met **Athol Honnery** (A Coy.), of Newcastle, who has a couple of good gallopers. Athol was original Transport (Horse) under **Harry Sundstrom**.

Wally Potts, of Morts Mortars, is at the County Council in Taree. Both **Wally** and **Allan** will be attending the Port Macquarie Reunion and hope to meet many of their old Mortar mates there.

Dick Morris reports that **George Cartwright**, V.C., who trained many 2/4th men from Ingleburn onward, will be attending the Country Reunion with his wife. George is looking forward to meeting all those who passed through his hands during the war, particularly the North Coast boys.

Stan Bowen (the ladies' man) would like to know of the whereabouts of **Archie Mitchell** (C Coy.) who enlisted in Moree in '39 and was last heard of at Ashfield.

Allan Lindsay (Sigs.) reports that in New Zealand last month he contacted **Bruce Makin** who wishes to be remembered to everyone. Bruce is not enjoying the best of health and would appreciate hearing from some of his old mates. His address: 1176 Taita Drive, North Taita, Lower Hutt, New Zealand.

John Meehan (Sigs.) is off to Brisbane for a few weeks on business. Expects to spend a weekend with **Bruce Cork** (Sigs.) at his new home on the Gold Coast.

Harry Wright reports that **Ted "Boof" Wilson** just missed in a semi-final of the Ryde Bowls Singles. Sounds like a good recruit for **Gordon Chrisp** for the Bowls match at Port Macquarie. What about it, men?

Don Baxter (Transport) attended his first ever meeting at Royal Naval House recently. Don had run into **Reg Angel** at R.S.L. Headquarters.

Bob Lane, Ettalong, reports having run into **Jack King** recently.

Dick Pinson reports that **Bob Morell** (I Sec.) was seriously ill in Prince Alfred Hospital. Dick heard the news from his club, Canterbury-Hurlstone Park R.S.L. From the same club came the whisper that one of our members (not Dick) won the \$100 lucky ticket raffle. Who is our lucky comrade?

Recently Mrs. Wylde, of Haberfield, informed me that her nephew, **Bob Halloran**, had passed away as a result of a heart attack. Bob, who was ex 2/4th Bn., left a wife and two children. Our sincere condolences are extended to Mrs. Halloran and children.

Peter Hill, North Sydney, is anxious to meet up with **Ted Burbridge** and **Pat "Skinny" Carroll**.

Bill Fogden, Crows Nest, is hoping to see or hear of **Wal Shaw** and **Jack Delph**.

Glad to hear that **Bill "Sluggo" Wildman's** ankle is on the mend again after being fractured.

Harry Gjedsted and **Rusty McWilliam** were surprised to run into **Bill Goodall** after the match of the day recently. Bill was asking after **Mick Gray** and others and will be attending meetings at Royal Naval House in future.

"**Scotty**" **McGillivray** gave me a photograph showing **Roy McAdam**, "**Snow**" **Morrow**, **Owen Harrison**, "**Ollie**" **Twist**, **Jim Donaldson**, "**Snow**" **Wells** and **Ron Pike**.

Dick Bawden reports having received a letter from ex-R.S.M. "**Robbie**" **Robbins** from Victoria advising he will be unable to make the Reunion, this year but saying he will be seeing us next year. His letter reads: "I left Sydney for Victoria in 1951 and have been back to Sydney once in 18 years. I am retiring to South Australia in 1972, due to my wife having her brothers and sisters there. My people in N.S.W. have long since passed on, hence my move to S.A. I attended on Anzac Day and with **Vic Hill** helped carry the flag. I will be in Sydney for three weeks April-May, 1970, so will be in the March with you all. I am greatly looking forward to it and have made arrangements to live that long and, come what may, I shall be making a special visit to Port Macquarie to see you. Please give my regards to all those with whom I had the honour to serve."

Cec Chrystal, we are pleased to report, is on his feet again after a short stay in R.G.H., Concord. Cec has suffered a respiratory ailment for some years and had to go to "Yaralla" for specialist examination. We hope things turn out well, Cec.

Another on the sick list, **Johnny Jordan**, has been discharged from hospital after being treated for a clot in the leg, but is progressing only slowly. Our thoughts are with you, John, and all hope you are soon quite fit and well again. We missed you at our meetings and have saved up some items for the scrapbook.

In the Mail Bag: Thanks to **John Storey**, Army Intelligence Centre, Woodside, South Australia, for sending us three photographs of the plaque set by 4 Bn. R.A.R. commemorating the Inauguration Parade of the unit on 1st February, 1964.

From **Brig. McAtamney**, Centennial Park: "At the Rugby League at Henson Park recently I had the pleasure of running into energetic committeeman **Peter Cook**. Peter was kind enough to give me a lift back to Kogarah in his car (no T model, either). On the way put a couple down the gullet for old times' sake!! Best wishes to you all."

North British News:

From **Eileen's** notebook: **Hylton Batcheldor** and son, **Robert**, called in reported: "All well in Cowra—regards to all. Ming."

Jerry "Fangs" Coughlan and **Ken Webb** put in a brief appearance.

Jim Barrow, Melbourne, met **Jack Heaney** and kept the fires burning. Jim says the only time he sees any of the Melbourne boys now is at a funeral—the last time was for "**Doc**" **Hayden** which was attended by **Ken Moses**, **Russ Maddern**, **Vic Hill** and himself.

Bill Heyes gave **Ron "Porky" Williams** a cheque for

subs. which has been passed on (thanks to **Alex Campbell**).

Jim "Stumpy" Agnew, down from Tumut, ran into **Rex Gilliland** and **Lew Hope** at Repat. Jim extends best wishes to all members. Sorry I missed you, mate, and best wishes to you from us all.

Ken "Dasher" Deacon noticed **Russell Grove's** name in **Eileen's** notebook and sent his regards to Russ and also his father, **Doug**, of Kyogle. With "Dasher" was **Vince McDonald**, also of Campbelltown, who sends regards to all.

From **Joe Rognini** a note and a par from the "Webster Advocate", of Bathurst, with an account of the death of **Dr. Brooke Moore** who was camp leader in Stalag 383 where quite a number of 2/4th-ers were. The late Dr. Moore was a legend amongst those with whom he came in contact and will be sadly missed and mourned by all.

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.)

Whenever we saw our Air Force we used to think it was the right time to ask some of the peasants for a handout. It was not very often that we saw any farm houses away from the villages, however we ran into one not very far from the edge of a pine forest so we decided to try for something to eat. Usually we got some little thing but on this occasion we were knocked back and we suspected that he was a pro-German at least. He was rather a nasty type but I guess he was half afraid to do anything to the pair of us. We had left our gear inside the forest before going over to the house so we went back and packed it up. We had just got into the forest and on looking back found that he had left the house and was following us. It was just about dusk so we moved further back into the forest and we had him out in the clear. We were going to camp where we had first left our gear but decided it was not a very healthy spot and moved on for a mile or so before bedding down for the night. We had decided that we would get moving as soon as it was light enough for we did not feel too easy about the locality but we were due for a very unpleasant day. We did not have time to boil the pot and make a drink of ersatz coffee before getting underway, deciding we would travel for a couple of hours and then have smoko. This area was strangely deserted of humans and we never suspected that we were walking right into trouble. We had passed over a road into another forest when we saw three notices spaced about 50 yards apart saying that no one was permitted to pass into that area and if caught they were likely to be shot. The notices looked old and had been shot at with stones and a couple appeared to have stopped a charge of shot so we did not take too much notice of them and kept going in the forbidden direction until we ran up against three army barracks rooms that also appeared to be deserted and after getting within fifty yards of them we decided to take a wide circle around them without investigating what they contained. There was not a sound or a soul about and it was rather uncanny.

(to be continued)