



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

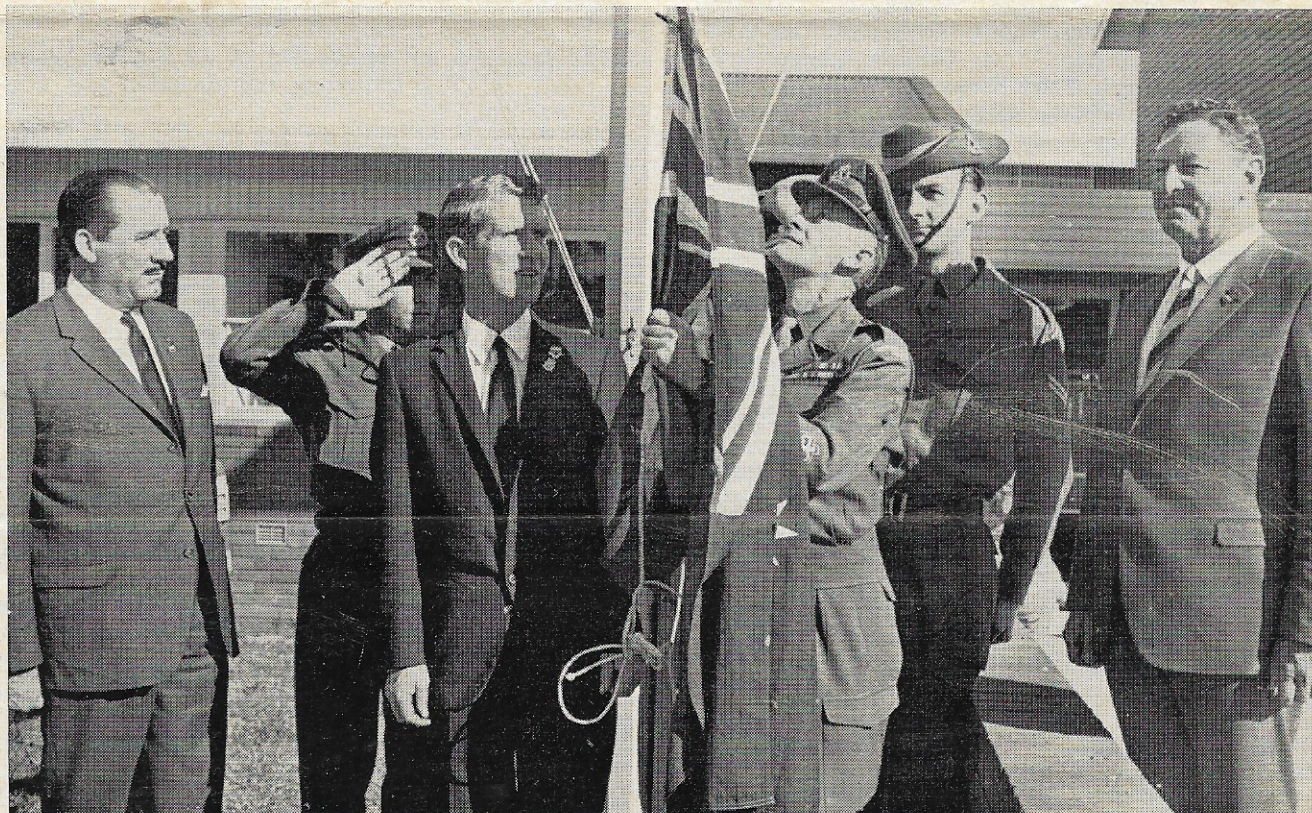
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September, 1969

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

Next Meeting: Friday, 10th October, 1969 at Royal Australian Naval House, Grosvenor St., Sydney, at 7.30 p.m.



EDWARD KENNA, V.C., beside the flagpole at the Army Training Depot, Sutherland, as Warrant Officer Norm Harries raises the Australian Flag during an Anzac ceremony arranged by "A" Coy., 4 Bn., R.N.S.W. Regiment. Also pictured are Lieut. Sinclair and Cpl. Legg of "A" Coy. with Harry Gjedsted and Phil Smith of our Association.

Photo by courtesy of "St. George and Sutherland Shire Leader".

Last Call for—

PORT MACQUARIE

and the

1969 COUNTRY REUNION

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4 to MONDAY, OCTOBER 6

Dick Bawden reports that bookings as at 28th August were a record 204 including members, their ladies and official guests. There is still time to join in what will certainly be the largest Country Reunion we have ever held. Contact **DICK BAWDEN**, now at 36 PACIFIC DRIVE, PORT MACQUARIE or Phone Port Macquarie 83 1036. Additional bookings since last month's list include "Nicky" and **Ruth Allardice**, **John "Bush"** and **Billie Bennett**, **Kit and Mrs. Carson**, **J. E. and Mrs. Campbell**, **Ted and Mrs. Fox**, **Vic and Mrs. Forbes**, **Frank and Moira Gattenhoff**, **Geoff "Tadpole"** and **Peggy Hall**, **Geoff and Mrs. Hawke**, **Sam and Eileen Hughes**, **Jack and Mavis Humphries**, **Mrs. Ada Hopper**, **Dick and Enid Latimer**, **G. and Mrs. Mitchell**, **A. and R. Miller**, **Miss Z. Ormiston**, "Mornie" **Peters** and friend, **John and Mrs. Ringrose**, **George and Mrs. Sugden**, **N. and Mrs. Silver**, **W. R. and Mrs. Smith**, **Harry and Ada Whitman**, **Tim and Edna West**, **Gordon Chrisp** (with Bowls) **Tom Clough**, **Peter Foster** and **Max Nerney**.

Sir Ivan, who will be accompanied to Port Macquarie by **Lady Dougherty**, will be the Guest Speaker. Among the official guests will be the Mayor of Port Macquarie and **Mr. B. Cowan, M.L.A.** Also in attendance will be 10 members of the Parramatta Pipe Band. **George Cartwright, V.C.** with **Mrs. Cartwright** will be there. George is looking forward to meeting as many as possible of the men he trained in the early days of the war. **Harry Stafford** ('14-'18 4 Bn.) with **Mrs. Blanche Stafford** will be welcome visitors.

Members attending should check in at **Dick Bawden's** office at the Port Macquarie R.S.L. Club as early as possible, but certainly before 4 p.m. on Saturday, 4th October, where they will receive details of their accommodation, etc.

The Wreathlaying Ceremony is scheduled for 4.55 p.m. after a short march from the R.S.L. Club. The Bugler will sound Last Post and Reveille after which the parade will move a short distance away where a Civic Reception will be accorded.

The Reunion Dinner will commence at 6 p.m. sharp at the R.S.L. Club. The ladies will dine separately but will join the main gathering for coffee and to hear the principal address by the Guest Speaker, **Sir Ivan Dougherty**.

When the official function is over members will be guests of the Club at a social evening in the main auditorium.

On Sunday morning there will be boat trips up the river as well as Bowls, Golf and Surfing. Those who would like to engage in these activities should

not forget their gear (especially the surfers!). Bowlers should liase with **Gordon Chrisp** and Golfers with **Peter Cook** (Phone 59 5843) or **Noel Ford**. At 6 p.m. on Sunday there will be a private smorgasbord social at a local motel for members and their guests only.

Monday will be get together day for reminiscing and farewelling with H.Q. at "You-Know-where". Those not travelling by car on that day will no doubt have much to keep them happy—see you there!

THE ASSOCIATION OF FOURTH INFANTRY BATTALIONS

The Association of Fourth Infantry Battalions is now in its second year and we think it timely to bring to your notice a few points regarding this very worthwhile organisation.

Objects. Among the objects are:

- To encourage loyalty to Australia.
- To maintain an Association of all Fourth Australian Infantry Battalions non-sectarian and non-political.
- To preserve the memory and records of the Units.
- To assist where possible members and dependents in distress.
- To engage in activity for the benefit of members of Units on Active Service or Service in Australia.

Membership:

Membership is open to all persons who have served at any time, in any area, in any Unit officially designated as a Fourth Australian Infantry Battalion. Honorary membership is conferred on all ex-members of 4 Bn. ('14-'18) and on T.P.I. members of any other Fourth Australian Infantry Battalion. Honorary Life Membership may be conferred on any one person in any one year. Our Honorary Life Members to day are **Edward Kenna, V.C.** and **Sir Ivan Dougherty, C.B.E., D.S.O., E.D.**

Office bearers at present are Patron: **Sir Ivan Dougherty**; President: **Harry Gjedsted**; Vice-Presidents: **Harry Stafford** ('14-'18); **Ken Menser** ('39-'45); **Athol Heath** (2/4th); **Lt.-Col. Lee Greville, D.S.O.**, (4 R.A.R.); **Lt.-Col. Ray Sharpe, E.D.** (4 R.N.S.W.R.); Hon. Secretary: **Peter Keating** (4 R.N.S.W.R.); Hon. Treasurer: **Pat Williamson** (4 R.N.S.W.R.); Public Relations Officer: **Cliff Horsley** ('39-'45); Editor of "4th Infanteer": **Peter Cade** (2/4th). The Executive comprises the above members plus three committeemen from each Unit. Meetings are held on the **FOURTH THURSDAY** of every month at H.Q. 4 R.N.S.W.R., The Army Training Depot, Burrows

Road, Arncliffe, at 8 p.m. Any member or ex-member of any affiliated unit is invited to attend where you can be sure of a well conducted and worthwhile meeting and a happy finale in the Mess afterwards.

During their absence on Active Service in Vietnam all members of 4 R.A.R. were made honorary members of the Association and five hundred copies of each issued of **4th Infanteer** the bi-monthly journal of the Association were sent to them. A fund was raised to supply a cake for each member of 4 R.A.R. in Vietnam to celebrate the Unit's birthday in February, 1969. Following this one thousand packets of coffee were forwarded in April-May. Appreciative letters were received from the battalion for these gifts. A large number of books and magazines was also collected and despatched to our Unit in Vietnam.

A social evening organised by **Vic Rogers** was held at Ashfield R.S.L. Club during the year and a happy time was had by members and their ladies. A picture party organised by **Cliff Horsley** was enjoyed by more than 50 members and their families. Profits of both functions went towards augmenting the funds of the Association. Earlier in the year a car rally was conducted from "A" Coy., 4 R.N.S.W.R. H.Q., at Sutherland Training Depot terminating at Warragamba Recreation Reserve and a really delightful day was experienced by all.

The principal event of the year for the Association of 4th Infantry Battalions is the Annual March, Wreathlaying Ceremony and Reunion held on Remembrance Sunday (the closest Sunday to Armistice Day). This year it falls on Sunday, 9th November, and details appear elsewhere in this issue.

Those of us who have been closely associated with this new Association are gratified at the genuine friendships which have developed, not only between members of the old battalions, but also with the newer and younger battalions. It is indeed a bridging of the "generation gap". If the younger men we have encountered from 4 R.A.R. and 4 R.N.S.W.R. are indicative of the ordinary young Australian the future of our country will be in good hands.

The Association, however, needs more members and your representatives on the executive—**Sir Ivan, Harry Gjedsted, Athol Heath, Peter Cook, Reg Angel, Dick Chamberlain, Bill MacLennan** and **Rusty McWilliam**—appeal to those of you who are not members to become members now. Subscriptions of \$2 for 1970 will be accepted by **Peter Keating, 240 Connells Point Road, South Hurstville**, and will be acknowledged in the following issue of 4th Infanteer, the Association's Journal.

ASSOCIATION OF 4th INFANTRY BATTALIONS ANNUAL MARCH, WREATHLAYING AND RE- UNION REMEMBRANCE DAY, 9th NOVEMBER, 1969

The 1969 Remembrance Sunday March to the Cenotaph Wreathlaying Ceremony and Reunion will be held on the afternoon of Sunday, 9th November.

Assembly point will be at the corner of Martin Place and Phillip Street at 2.15 p.m. The march will proceed via George Street, Bridge Street and Macquarie Place to the Gallipoli Legion of Anzacs' Club in Loftus Street, where the Reunion will commence at 4 p.m.

The magnificent band of the 4 R.N.S.W.R. will lead the parade and will entertain with a bracket of marches in Macquarie Place. Later members will render suitable musical items at the Gallipoli Legion Club.

An armed detachment of 50 men will be provided by 4 R.N.S.W.R., and the flags and banners of all our units will be carried on the march.

Men unable to march will be catered for by cars waiting near the Cenotaph. All members of any 4th Infantry Battalion are invited to participate. **Sir Ivan** has been invited to lead the parade and **W/O. Norm Harries**, 4 R.N.S.W.R., will be the Marshal.

Tickets may be secured for the Reunion from **Cliff Horsley**, 18 Blamey Avenue, Caringbah, 2229, or **Ron Thatcher** at 2/4 Bn. meetings. Any member of your executive committee will undertake to procure them for you. Inclusive cost of food and refreshment (and transport for those unable to march) is only \$2. To facilitate catering it would be appreciated if you could order tickets now.

RETIREMENT OF TREASURER

Hon. Treasurer **Reg Angel** has been forced by ill-health to relinquish his position in the Pensions Office at R.S.L. Headquarters. As a consequence Reg is going into retirement at Huskisson on the South Coast.

At the last committee meeting Reg announced that he would not be able to carry on as Treasurer and would hand over to his successor at the September general meeting. President **Harry Gjedsted**, in accepting Reg's resignation, spoke in eulogistic terms of the very fine contribution made by Reg in his term of office and wished him well in his retirement. Reg will be attending the Country Reunion at Port Macquarie before leaving for Huskisson.

At the September meeting **Alan Lindsay**, who has been Assistant Secretary this year, was elected to fill the vacancy created by Reg's resignation. Alan, who is a chartered accountant, will have the backing of us all in his new position. Please remember to send all moneys to:

ALLEN LINDSAY, 104 Holt Road, Taren Point. 2229.

Receipt is acknowledged of the following: \$2 each from **A. Callaghan, D. S. Crosthwaite, N. R. Rogers, E. R. Wilson, F. Pohlmann, Mrs. Jane Ormiston, D. Millar, A. M. Macarthur, A. Honnery, A. McFerguson, R. W. Ellerman, W.H. Heyes, Peter Gallagher, J. E. "Bluey" Moss**, and \$10 from **C. J. Byrne**.

"THE WHITE KNIGHTS"

At a recent screening of Anzac Day slides there was much audience reaction at the appearance and many reappearances of two gentlemen in "white" suits.

The photographer's professional skill was not able to show if the shoes in each case were green.

Those present at the screening were desirous of preserving their anonymity in 1970 and the Association is now developing as a supplier of cut price white suits and green shoes for all members. These members do not want to stand apart from the "White Knights"—**Bill "Snow" MacLennan** and **Keith "Red Steer" Beatty**.

Subsequently Bill was seen wearing another suit at the Sutherland do for "**Nedda**" **Kenna**, and everyone hopes he still had his "white" one for 1970. "C.H."

BUNDEENA BARBECUE

The Association of 4th Infantry Battalions has arranged a Barbecue and Picnic Day in the grounds of the Bundeena R.S.L. Club on Sunday, 26th October. Our old R.S.M., **Dick Chamberlain**, with the aid of **Ernie Swain** is organising the outing. All we have to do is turn up with our food. Everything else will be available on the site. A really good day is assured, so reserve the date now.

THE LAST POST

4 Bn. A.I.F.: 3531 W. J. Griffin; 6130 C. H. Hayes; 6284 L. Larkin; 7139 W. F. Wilson.

2/4 Bn. A.I.F.: Harry "Soccer" Coomber; Charles Jago.

"We Will Remember Them."

VALE HARRY COOMBER

Members were shocked to read of the sudden death of **Harry "Soccer" Coomber**. Harry, who had attended the funeral of a brother-in-law on Friday, and appeared quite well, passed away in his sleep on the Saturday night. Among those representing the Association at the funeral were **Bill MacLennan**, **Allen Lindsay**, **John Jordan**, **George Hazel**, **Bill "Tiny" Bleakley**, **Eric Wilson** and your Senior Vice-President, who expressed to **Mrs. Joan Coomber** and family our deepest sympathy.

REMEMBER—

FRIDAY, 7th NOVEMBER IS COMBINED SMOKO NIGHT

The "first Friday" in November is the traditional night on which we hold our Combined Smoko with the men of 4 Bn., '14-'18, as our guests. Join the happy gathering this year. Remember the date—**FRIDAY, 7th NOVEMBER**—at Royal Australian Naval House, Grosvenor Street, Sydney.

HOSPITAL NEWS

Our hospital's visitor, **Dick Latimer**, is himself laid up awaiting final results of X-rays. To you, Dick and Enid, we extend our best wishes for a good report and speedy return to fitness.

Dick reports having visited R.G.H., Concord, where he saw **Cyril Abbott**, **Allan Creasey**, **Arch Ferguson**, **John Guest**, **George Whitby**, **Harold "Skinny" Williams**, and at Lady Davidson Home, Turrumurra, saw **Bill Leonard** who, we regret to say, has had a leg amputated. **Monty Boyd** is in War Veterans' Home, Narrabeen, and would appreciate any visitors.

POTENTIAL MEMBERSHIP

Every man who has served in the **2/4th Australian Infantry Battalion**—even for one day—is equally entitled to be a member of our Association. There is no differentiation between originals, reinforcements, Middle Easters, Darwiners, Tablelanders, Papua-N.G.

Campaigners, or any other phase. All are welcome on an equal basis. Many have served and are serving on the Executive Committee—others are needed.

It should be the aim of all financial members to secure at least two members. Will **YOU** do something to this end? Remember, this is the year of our thirtieth birthday. Isn't it worthwhile keeping our Association strong? The time to act is now. Please advise **Secretary George Stack** or **Treasurer Allen Lindsay** of the names and addresses of any prospective new members. Their names will be put on the mailing list for "White Over Green" with the hope they will be influenced to become financial members.

COCK'S COLUMN

Dick Bawden reports having been in Lismore recently and meeting up with **Merv McInnes**, **Eddie Miller**, **Alan Kirk**, **Doug Stebbing** and **Fred Varley**.

Thanks to **Ted Harris** for his letter advising the passing of 4 Bn. '14-'18 Digger **Richard Jeffs** at Cowra. **Tim West**, our Southern N.S.W. Vice-President, attended the funeral and laid a wreath on behalf of 2/4 Bn.

Secretary **George Stack**, with **Marjorie** and **Douglas**, are spending their annual holidays on the mountains. Best wishes for a happy holiday to our hard-working Secretary and his "boss".

Judith Gjedsted, daughter of **Harry** and **Marjorie**, in a recent letter home, gave a very graphic description of a recent trip to Soviet Russia and the Baltic States. Judith, who has been in Europe for the past couple of years, has been fortunate enough to visit practically every European country.

Very sorry to hear of the illness of **Ken Moses** in R.G.H., Heidelberg. Our best wishes, Ken, for a speedy recovery.

Our Editor received a letter from a mate of Ken's, **Phil Bowen** (ex 132 Loc. Bty.), 31 Collis Street, East Brighton, Victoria, mentioning that Ken was in hospital and saying what a wonderful thing it would be if some of Ken's friends in the Association could visit him or drop a line to him or Mrs. Moses. Already some members have contacted Ken and I'm sure others would wish to do so. Ken's address is: 37 Edinburgh Street, East Bentleigh, Victoria, 3165.

Thank you, Phil, for your thought in contacting us—I'm sure **Claude Raymond**, our Victoria Vice-President, will be on the ball when he reads this.

Allen and **Gloria Lindsay's** son, **David**, recently arrived back from Vietnam on R. and R. leave. David's unit is the 161 Reconnaissance Flight of 1st Aviation Regiment, A.R.A. David said that whilst the boys in Vietnam enjoy (?) all the conveniences of modern day war (refrigerators, stereograms, clean sheets on beds, etc.) they would much prefer war our style where at least you knew at whom you were shooting. David's section commander, **2nd Lt. Phil Stevens**, was awarded an M.I.D. in the recent decorations list.

David has been in the Regular Army for the past six years. We hope he will join in one of our gatherings when he returns from Vietnam in six months' time. Our best wishes to you, David, for a safe return.

Ted de Satge has room for one or two people for the trip to Port Macquarie. You can contact Ted, c/o R.S.L. Club, Ashfield.