



# 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. & BAR, E.D., B.Ec.

25th YEAR OF CONTINUOUS PUBLICATION

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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, R. Cole, V. Francis, A. Heath, W. MacLennan, J. Meehan.  
SECRETARY: George Stack, 40 O'Keefe Cres., Eastwood. 2122. Phone 85-5312. Assistant Sec.: Harry Wright.  
TREASURER: Allen Lindsay, 104 Holt Road, Taren Point. 2229. Phone 522-8696.  
WELFARE OFFICER: Dick Latimer, 298 Bobbin Head Rd., North Turrumurra. 2074. Phone 449-5370.  
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, 6th March, & Friday, 3rd April, at 7.30 p.m.  
at ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVAL HOUSE, Grosvenor St., Sydney**

## THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting for 1970 was held as scheduled on Friday, February 6th, 1970. Although the attendance was disappointingly small those who did put in an appearance participated in a lively and enjoyable meeting.

After the Minutes of the previous meeting had been confirmed and the Annual Report received a committee recommendation to increase the size of the executive committee was adopted. This recommendation involved an alteration to the constitution as follows:

### Alteration to the Constitution

Delete Paragraph 7(a) Page 2 and substitute the following: 7.(a) The management of the Association shall be vested in the Executive Committee consisting of President, Vice-Presidents, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Assistant Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, Welfare Officer, Editor of "White Over Green" and eight (8) other members of the Association, all of whom shall be elected each year at the

Annual General Meeting. Any five (5) members of the Committee shall form a quorum.

The following office-bearers were elected for the ensuing year.

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

Hon. Secretary: **George Stack;** Hon. Assistant Sec.: **Harry Wright;** Hon. Treasurer: **Allen Lindsay;** Welfare Officer: **Dick Latimer;** Editor of W.O.G.: **Dick Morris.**

Committee: **Chas. Adams, Cec. Chrystal, Reg. Cole, Rex Everson, Vic. Francis, Athol Heath, Bill MacLennan, John Meehan.**

Hon. Auditor: **Harry Stagord.**

### LIFE MEMBER

**Jim "Cock" Robin** was accorded the high honour of being elected an Honorary Life Member of the Association. This honour may be awarded to not more than one persons in any one year and the manner in which the committees' recommendation was unanimously acclaimed was a measure of the esteem in which Jim is held by members. Jim's life membership badge will be presented at our Anzac Day Reunion. Jim now joins the select band of members (six in number) who have been awarded Honorary Life Membership. They are **"Nedda" Kenna, V.C., Fred Staggs, the late Johnnie Morrison, Fred Searle, Cec. Chrystal** and now **Jim Robin.**

### ANZAC REUNION

At the Annual General Meeting members unanimously accepted a recommendation of the committee that the price for Anzac Day Reunion this year be \$4.00 per head. The venue will be **MANRESA HALL, CARLOW ST., NORTH SYDNEY,** as of old, and the caterers will be **Lamaro Pty. Ltd.** A catering sub-committee has been nominated to ensure members are looked after in the best possible fashion.

We shall miss our old friends of 4 Bn., A.I.F. ('14-'18) who have decided to have their Reunion at the Journalists' Club in the city close to Central Railway but we shall be exchanging fraternal visits during the afternoon. This we shall also be doing with 4 Bn. A.I.F. ('39-45). Guests will be invited from 4 R. N.S.W.R. and 4 R.A.R. Further details will be printed in March and April issues of W.O.G.



## YOUR NEW EDITOR

At the Annual General Meeting **Dick Morris** was elected as the new Editor of "White Over Green" on the retirement of yours truly. Dick, of course, is no newcomer to "White Over Green" having been Editor for two years prior to July, 1966, at which time he was forced to relinquish the task because of the sad illness and subsequent passing away of his wife Joyce.

As this is the last issue I will edit I would like to thank all members for their contributions and assistance and trust they will continue to support **Dick Morris** in the same manner.

Dick's address is: R. MORRIS, 1115 VICTORIA RD., WEST RYDE. 2114. Phone 85-1137.

Rusty McWilliam.

## ASSOCIATION OF FOURTH INFANTRY BATTALION'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Association of the Fourth Infantry Battalions will be held at H.Q., 4 R.N.S.W.R. Army Depot, Burrows Rd., Arncliffe, at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday, March 26th, 1970.

All members are eligible to belong to this Association — an Association which has drawn favourable comment from His Excellency the Governor, **Sir Roden Cutler, V.C.**, and many other civil and military dignitaries and of which **Sir Ivan** is Patron and **Harry Gjedsted** President. Get on to the mailing list of "Fourth Infanteer" now by sending \$2.00 for your 1970 membership sub. to **PETER KEATING**, Flat 4, 48 George Street, Mortdale. 2223.

## NOTES FROM THE TREASURER

My thanks to members who have paid their 1970 subscriptions promptly. The executive committee would appreciate speedy action by members who have not done so to rectify the position thus enabling us to retain our bulk postage concession.

All monies received from members are acknowledged in W.O.G. In the interest of economy — both money and time — individual receipts are not sent out. However, a receipt is written for every cent received and is duly recorded in the books and subject to audit.

Receipt is acknowledged from the following:

**Sir Ivan Dougherty, Bill Reid, Harry Beggs, Harry Gjedsted, John Meehan, Bruce Cork, Arch Lewington, C. Barwick, C. Gillard, Jack Eastham, Peter Foster, Ted Harris, Bill Shearwin, Dick Pinson, Jack Page, Athol Heath, Claude Pollock, George Stack, Ted de Satge, "Lofty" Taylor, Eric Reeves, Fred Apthorp, John Robertson, Alf Burgess, Alex Miller, Ron Miller, Keith Michel, R. Perram, Winston Walker, Max McAllon, John Pead, Don Bundy, Stuart Pinniger, Les Jones, "Brig." McAtamney, Tex Richards, Frank Gattenhoff, Terry Sparks, Joe Moss, H. Cummins, Peter Gallagher, A. Gorman, W. Fogden, Ted Fox, Reg. Cole, Charles Adams, V. McDowell, Dick Faulder, "Slim" Powers, Dennis Jackson, Jack Clark, Reg. Angel, Sid. Young, Bing Riley, Ron. Small, Wally Taylor, Max Coy, Percy Lane, Guy Willehams, H. McLaughlin, Ted Hopkins, Keith McCaffery, George Friend, Brian Turley, John Copland (donation), Bill Andrews (all \$2.00), Bert Gabriel (\$3.00), Norm Johnstone, Bill Whitehead, J. Whitelaw, Jack Ormiston, Chas. Adams, Rex Everson, Bob Lane, Jack Keyte,**

**Monty Siems (U.K.) (all \$4.00), H. Elliott (\$6.00), Alan Bohle and Howard and Del Silver (\$10.00).**

In addition to the foregoing the following members are registered as fully paid members having paid \$21.00 in a lump sum as Life subscription: **Les Adams, Don Anderson, Ron Belford, "Buzz" Bennett, G. Bohle, "Massa" Brooks, Peter Cade, Colin Campbell Alf Carpenter, "Kit" Carson, Leo Carter, Dick Chamberlain, "Happy" Davis, Peter Denver, "Tiny" Eglington, Ron Ellem, Ted Gamble, Rex Gilliland, Tom Gorman, Charlie Grove, Barry Herwig, Peter Hill, Clem Killeen, Tim Lomond, Dick Latimer, Leo Lynch, R. Miles, Dick Morris, Bill MacLennan, "Rusty" McWilliam, Mick Owers, A. Parry, D. Peters, E. Pickford, H. Poiner, A. Powell, Claude Raymond, Padre "Paddy" Reid, Esca Riordan, J. Sherritt, Phil Smith, Ross Smith, Bill Sumpter, Johnny Wells, Tim West, Mac Wilson, Ian Wallwork, Brian Waring, Harry Wright.**

## COCK'S COLUMN

While attending an Open Day at 4 Bn. R.N.S.W.R. Regt. recently I made a visit to **Bill "Bing" Riley** and had the pleasure of meeting his wife **Olive** — they made me very welcome. "Bing" gave me a photo of four 2/4th swimmers, with their trophy, in New Guinea to give to **Bill "Snow" MacLennan** who was one of them.

Congratulations to **Vic and Eileen Francis** on their 39th wedding anniversary. Our sympathies are with you, Eileen — we know him.

**John Meehan** reports meeting **Red "Lofty" Taylor** (H.Q. Coy.) at Grace Building. Fred sends his regards to the boys.

**Ivan "Slim" Pollock** has recently seen **Pat Lahey** fit as fiddle, overworked and underpaid — Ha! Ha;

**Rex Evanson** reports that **Alex McConnel**, our original O.M., has now retired as Sec./Manager of Guildford R.S.L. Club after 20 years in the position.

A note and card from **Roy Moores**, Adelong. Thanks Roy, I will publish your news when space permits. **Notes from Combined Smoko Night: Vic. Francis** was "batching" while **Eileen** was in Melbourne seeing their regiment of grandchildren.

**Stan Brown** had recently run into **Jerry Vincent** at "El Rancho" Hotel, Eastwood. Jerry is with the Water Board. Stan would like to hear of **Pat McCarrol**.

**Ernie "Ollie" Twist** has been fishing with **Harry Hamburger**, zero being the catch.

**Jack "Frog" Clarke, "B" Coy.** Sefton, surprised us with a visit. Jack, who is not able to get about too well, was brought into the function by his good wife. We were all very pleased to see you again, Jack. Jack is again a proud granddaddy (Robert).

**George Stack** advises, per **Fred Staggs**, that **Bill Brooks** (Carriers) is in the neuro-surgery ward at Prince Alfred Hospital and would welcome 2/4th visitors. Thanks, Fred and George, and best of luck to you Bill.

**Athol Heath** proudly reports that his daughter **Julia**, who is a trainee nurse at Hornsby, finished in third place in her Entrance Examinations (one and one-half points behind the leader). Congratulations **Julia** on your splendid effort. Hello, Pat!

**Ted Gamble** reports that **Bob "Lascar" Roach's** son is Transport Officer in the Dept. of Housing.



**Chas. Adams**, Ettalong, brought along his son **Barry** who seemed to enjoy himself.

"Bow & Arrow" stalwarts **Harry Stafford**, **Len Hadlow**, **Pat O'Keefe**, **Dick Swain**, **Jack Gorman** and **Bede Keary** ably represented the old Fourth. Congratulations to these ambassadors.

**Ernie Swain** brought his father, **Dick Swain** (4 Bn. '14-'18) along. We were very pleased to see you again **Dick**. **Dick**, who was a foundation member of Bundeena Sub-branch of the R.S.L., has been President for the last 12 years. He is also an Honorary Life Member and was the first President of the R.S.L. Club at Bundeena — a Trojan for work, mate!

The Association of Fourth Infantry Battalion's Annual Remembrance Day March, Wreath-laying Ceremony and Reunion was indeed a very fine and representative gathering of Fourth Infanteers and a credit to those who organised it. Among the 2/4thers attending were **Sir Ivan**, who is an Honorary Life Member and Patron of the Association, **Harry Gjedsted**, **Cec. Chrystal**, **Peter Cade** (editor of Fourth Infanteer) **Ewen Wood**, **Peter Cook**, **Vic Francis**, **Dick Faulder**, **Jim Faulder**, **Joe Rognini** **Ted de Satge**, **Dick Latimer**, **Athol Heath**, **Ern Swain**, **Bill Luck**, **Mick Steele**, **Allen Lindsay**, **Sid Thompson**, **Russ McWilliam** and myself.

Some news from the boys: **Peter Cook** played golf with **Eric Poynton** at Strathfield Golf Club Diggers' Day, where **Eric** won the visitors' trophy. **Eric** is President of Kogarah Club.

#### SICK REPORT

It has been my privilege for the past twelve months to visit our less fortunate comrades laid low by illnesses and I take it as a great honour to be allowed to carry on the work so ably done for so many years by such dedicated Association members as **Fred Searle**, **Brick Bradford** and the late **Johnnie Morrison**.

This is a most rewarding job, but not without its sad and sobering side I can assure you. During the last year I have seen the passing of such grand blokes as **Peate Moss**, **Ken Rubie**, **Charles Jago**, **Henry Reid** and **Bill Barrett**. They all answered the last Roll Call with the courage and fortitude that is so much part of our Battalion tradition.

Three members I've visited recently who would certainly qualify for a medal for sheer guts, if there was such an award, are **Bill Leonard**, **Eric Gumbleton** and **Lionel Howe**.

**Bill (Rabi) Leonard**, ex Carrier Platoon and **Sir Ivan's** personal carrier driver, recently lost a leg as a result of frost bite and tinia due to M.E. Service. When I last saw **Bill** there was no guarantee he wouldn't lose the other one, but was he down-hearted — "not bloody likely". Good luck and good health, **Bill**.

**Eric Gumbleton**, ex B Coy., who lost an arm and a leg at Vivi, and into the bargain spent four years in the bag, had fallen and broken his shoulder and remaining arm. **Eric** was as bright as a button and quite philosophical about a misfortune that would have had a lesser man in the depths of despair. Im looking forward to seeing you again **Eric** under happier circumstances.

**Lionel ("Bully") Howe**, ex A Coy., who also spent four years as a P.O.W., lost both legs in a shunting accident at Temora railhead recently. One stump healed well, but the other played up and he was admitted to the Sydney Hospital for a further series of amputations.

**Athol Heath**, who hadn't seen "Bully" since Stalag days, and I called to see him a few nights ago and had the pleasure of meeting his charming wife and two of his four children. **Mrs. Howe** was a member of the Austrian underground movement when "Bully" met her and he is justifiably proud that her services were officially recognised and she has a Certificate of Commendation from the late Field Marshal Lord Alexander of Tunis. The **Howe** kids have every reason to be proud of Mum and Dad.

The latest Sit Rep on "Bully" is that he has gone to a hospital at Ryde to learn to use his tin legs. Best wishes, "Bully", for a speedy return to Temora.

Other members visited recently include **Scotty Ferguson**, **Henry Roberts**, **Norm Shayler**, **Ron Clack**, **John Meehan**, **John Copland**, **Dick Faulder**, **Norm Pearce**, **Peel ("Bully") Duncombe**, **Vince McDonnell**, **Chris Batho**, **Ron Belford**, **Brian Anderson** and **Bill Keogh**.

Still in hospital: **Lisle Edwards**, D Coy., ex P.O.W. **Harry Dale**, D Coy.

Sick at home: **Dick Faulder**, B Coy., **Eileen Copland**.

Con. Depot: **Gordon Moray**, ex 2/11 Bn.

Just one request chaps, if you are admitted to Concord, please ask somebody to ensure your name is entered in the 2/4 Bn. book at the main gate and then you will be assured of a visit.

#### LATE NEWS

**Enid**, my wife, **Athol Heath** and self visited the indestructable old war horse yesterday afternoon at Randwick Military Hospital — yes, you guessed, **Freddie Searle**.

**Fred**, who retired recently after losing a kidney, suffered two very severe heart attacks two weeks ago, and, after spending a week in Intensive Care, is resting much more comfortably in a general ward. He is not a well boy by any means, but still looks remarkably well and is his same cheeky irrepressably self.

Looking after **Fred** are staff who have been tutored by his daughter, **Jacqueline**. She recently became the youngest sister in NSW. to be awarded the Scholarship for a Tutor Sister Course which will add another certificate to her qualifications.

**Fred**, if good wishes and prayers help, and I'm sure they do, you are home and hosed, old friend.

To all members my sincere wish, **Good health**.

**Dick Latimer**.

#### LAST POST

4 Bn. A.I.F.: '14-'18, 5988 **N. B. Copeland**, 6005 **D. Griffiths**, 7302 **L. D. Turner**.

2/4 Bn. A.I.F.: **Michael William Cowan**, D.C.M., MM.

4 Bn. A.I.F.: '39-'45: NX157065 **R. L. Robinson**.  
"We Will Remember Them"

#### QUEENSLAND VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Extracts from **Tom Provian's** letter to his troops:



"For those who know him, **Stan Bowen** is going strong and well and still able to take a little nourishment (mostly in the form of a sizely nip of rum); **Wink Walker** will be very pleased to hear that. Saw Stan at Port Macquarie, where I journeyed in company with **Laurie McCosker** for the annual country reunion organised by **Dick Bawden**, who was ably assisted by **Esca Riordan**, the local R.S.L. and various Wogs around the district. We must congratulate them on doing such a wonderful job and having a beaut weekend — everybody did I am very sure. I had such a good time I let the boys bring my car home and went on to Sydney with **Harry and Hilda Wright** and flew home the following Saturday.

We had company on the trip down to Port Mac in the shape of **Bob Werne** and **John Shingles**, two of the 6 Divvy Association boys who have been so often that they are thought to be Wogs anyway. First port of call was Kyogle, where we ran into **Bill Facey**, who, over a couple of ales, gave us a report on the starters from around that area. Was pleased to hear that **Doug Grove**, who had been having a rough trot, was much improved and back at toil again.

Second port of call was Grafton where we stayed for a short time, collected some take away supplies and found ourselves a rest area for the night. On the road again around 6 a.m. and after a short time were thoroughly convinced that the near hairless skull driving the car in front just had to be **Ian Wallwork** — Finish take-away supplies! However, we found Kempsey R.S.L. Club quite O.K. due to good navigating by **Bob Werne** and this time the vote was unanimous that the "dust" just had to be got rid of — a round of Reschs and we proceeded right there and then to Port Macquarie — we thought it prudent that we do so.

Pitched camp in the Caravan Park on the beach front (right opposite Stan and Co.), washed the bulks, had ourselves some munga at one of the local "Eat Ups" and adjourned to the Club — this time without making excuses — the only dust that flew around there never came off a road.

We were greeted by our old mate Esca and told the ropes and then it was every man for himself — by the look of some of the gang on Sunday he must have won some of them. Immediately ran into "**Bush**" **Bennett**, **Peter Foster**, **Bill Hyde**, **Max Nerney**, **Jack Chaseling**, "**Bub**" **Graham**, **Harry Wright**, **Cec Chrystal**, **Max Rungie**, mine host **Dick Bawden**, **Harry Dowling**, "**Lasca**" **Roach**, "**Dasher**" **Deacon**, **Frank Gattenhof**, **Harry Gjedsted**, **Jack Humphries**, **Leo Lynch**, **Peter Cade**, **Jack Maloney**, **Dick Morris**, **Russ McWilliam**, **Phil "Blah" Smith**, **Fred Searle**, **Rex "Goat Herder" Everson**, **Ted de Satge**, **Nick Allardyce**, **Bob Gardner**, **Jim Brown**, **Noel Ford**, **Athol Heath**, **Bill "Snow" MacLennan**, **Charlie Grove** — I would need Dicks list to name them all.

Of course "**Cock**" **Robin** was on the job and I gave him all the news I could gather for his column. "**Cock**" has not been having the best of health but is always able to rally when wanted and he certainly has done and is doing a wonderful job for the boys.

If any of you are not receiving "White Over Green" you should arrange this without delay even if only to keep track of the boys through "**Cock's Column**". Give me the go ahead and I will arrange it for you. I might also add that at the North British, Loftus St., Sydney, the **2/4th Eileen** who dispenses ale to the boys from everywhere, is also doing a very excellent job, you only have to walk around to the far corner (known as Morrison's corner) of the public bar and Eileen will be right on you — she tells me she has developed an extra sense which helps her to detect a 2/4 Wog as soon as they walk in, I can vouch for that. **Ted McCaffery** also pays regular visits to the NB to pick up information and contact any of the gang who may be hanging around. Ted has retired and reports are that he is going well.

Back to the Port Macquarie "do". After an afternoon of getting to know you all over again the Big Show was on in the evening and our **Patron**, **Sir Ivan "Doc" Dougherty**, was right on the ball as usual and was our guest of honour for the evening. Also a very interesting visitor for those who saw Tamworth Training Centre was none other than **Captain George Cartwright**, V.C., and he was given a rousing welcome by the gang. The ladies (79 in all) were guests for the latter part of the official function and then we adjourned to the facilities of the R.S.L. Club which were thrown open to us and a "terrific" time was had by all.

I should mention here that the toasts were drunk in champagne by courtesy of old mate **Bill MacLennan** as were the sparklies on the tables — you have guessed, I'm sure, what Bill does for the proverbial crust. Anyway, it was a very fine gesture on Bill's part and very much appreciated by the gang.

Sunday was taken up with bowls, boat trips, golf spine bashing and the usual occupation at these turn-outs — lug bashing. For my part I played golf to have a bit of a dry out as did Bob and John while Laurie walked around to keep us upright — would you please not make any inquiries about scores — we have conveniently forgotten. That night, after much poor navigating by Bob and a few miles of driving, we finished up a mile from where we started at a private function which Dick had organised for the boys and their wives. The gang were still in fine fettle as the owner of the premises was heard to inquire if the 2/4th trained on liquid refreshments — anyway a good night was had by all.

Monday saw only a few of the locals staying on and the rest slowly departing and at this stage I bailed out and decided to go to Sydney. Had a very quiet day and good night's sleep and a leisurely trip to Sydney on the Tuesday with **Harry and Hilda** who were kind enough to put up with me for a couple of days.

This allowed me to attend the October meeting of the Association — you are quite wrong — I did not have another reunion. However, did see **George Stack**, "**Sailor**" **Harvey**, **Bill Luck**, **Dick Pinson**, **Gordon Chrisp** and **Jack Jordan**.

Finally, my family and I wish you all the very best for 1970.

Tom Provians".