



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

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REMEMBER

Monthly Meetings are now held on the Fourth Friday of the Month

**NEXT MEETING: Friday, 26th November 1971 at Gallipoli Memorial Club,
12 Loftus Street, Sydney, at 7.30 p.m.**

OUR PATRON SPEAKS

(Text of Recorded Message played at Wagga Reunion)

I have explained to our President as I have also explained to those who were present at our Ladies' Night in August, why I cannot be with you at our Reunion in Wagga tonight.

I regret very much that I am not with you, but as I explained, almost a year ago the 2/2nd Battalion Association asked if I would be their Guest of Honour at their Reunion in Taree on this weekend. This is the first occasion on which the 2/2 have had their Reunion on the long October weekend. I felt that I did have a duty to go on occasions to the 2/2's Reunion as it was my original battalion in our old 16th Brigade.

Shortly before our Reunion last year many members of our Association had the pleasure and satisfaction of returning to Wewak and attending ceremonies to mark the 25th Anniversary of the surrender of the Japanese, who had fought against our 6th Division. In the short time that has passed since then, our Association has taken a great step forward through its establishing of

the Wewak Scholarship Scheme. This is a practical way of saying thank you to our Papuan and New Guinean friends who helped us so much during the battles we fought in New Guinea.

All members of the 2/4 Battalion can feel proud of the fact that their Association is doing something to contribute towards the friendship that we know will exist between Australia and the new country of Papua and New Guinea, when independence comes. I know that those of you who are not serving on the Committee will join with me in expressing our appreciation and thanks to our President and all members of his Committee for all that they have done during the year. As I have said on many occasions, they, and all past Presidents and members of past Committees are the ones responsible for keeping the Association the live and virile Association that it is.

My very best wishes to you all and I trust that I will be with you at our Reunion next year.

COCK'S COLUMN

I attended the Requiem Mass at the Sacred Heart Church, Randwick, for **Father Henry "Paddy" Reid**. It was indeed a shock to hear of the sad passing of Padre Reid ("Paddy") loved by all. Those I met there were **Harry Gjedsted, Russ McWilliam, Bill "Snow" MacLennan, Cec. Chrystal, Phil "Blah" Smith, John Meehan, Selby Dean** and **Cliff Curran**, who came down from Newcastle to represent the Newcastle members.

Outside the Church I met **Dave Endean** (A. Coy.) of Concord West. **Father Reid** married **Dave and Stella** (Mrs. Endean) at St. Mary's Cathedral on 28th April, 1942. Dave keeps in touch with **Laurie Waterhouse** of Miranda. Hope to meet you at our monthly meetings on the Fourth Friday of each month at Gallipoli Memorial Club, Loftus Street, at 7.30 p.m., Dave.

Selby Dean, Inverell, was down in the "Big Smoke" and rang Russ McWilliam; Russ told him about "Paddy", so he came along to the funeral also. **Selby** has met **Ross Smith, Geoff Hawke, Ron Belford, Gordon Sellars** of Goondiwindi, **Dudley Meacham, Warialda**, and **Mick Owers**, Moree. **Selby** works with **Frank "Sadie" Sadler's** brother-in-law. It is good to hear of all you boys. How about writing me?

President Harry Gjedsted had a letter from our old comrade **Monty Siems** from Essex, U.K., in which he mentioned how pleased he was to meet up again with **John Copland**. **Monty**, who has just turned 65 intends to keep on working with the B.B.C. for a while yet. Sends best wishes to all. Our best to you too, **Monty**.

Bill Duffy called in to the North British and sends regards to all his North Coast mates.

Reg Coombes at Leichhardt R.S.L. sent best wishes also.

Bill and Gwen MacLennan called on **Bruce and Angela Cork** at Palm Beach, Qld., on a recent trip to the Gold Coast. Bruce had just returned from a 4,000 mile business trip north to Mt. Isa, Atherton Tablelands and Cairns. Their eldest son **Stephen** is just completing 6th year at Tweed Heads High School where he is taking six subjects at "A" levels. Stephen has a very interesting job at week-ends — he feeds the sharks by hand at the Tweed Heads Porpoise Pool — bobs around like a Cork, I suppose!

IN THE MAIL BAG

When I realised I would not be able to make the Wagga Reunion, I wrote to **Fred Apthorpe**, Griffith, to **Arch Lewington**, Corowa and **Wal Taylor**, Cootamundra, to collect names and items, or any news for the column for me. **Fred Apthorpe** replied:

"I am not quite certain as to whether I will be able to go, due to my present state of health". Fred is looking forward to the time when we hold a Reunion in Griffith again; it is 9 years since we held our Reunion there. He thinks **Ted Swadling** will be going to Wagga and will word him or others. Fred had a visit from **Nick Allardice** during the week, and **George Martin** also looked in. Fred also mentions he would like to remind me of another member around these parts — **Gordon Denis** who now resides in Griffith. Thank you, Fred, for usual interesting letter.

Eileen Lewington answered my letter to them. **Arch** didn't get any notes for me, as his right hand isn't quite better, from having four fingers sliced with the lawn mower. Very sorry to hear of this, Arch, and I hope that by now you're o.k. again. Eileen writes:—

"**Bert Hudson and Jack Wells** ("Snow") could not make it. **Dick Bawden** said he'd do a column for you." Dick had only been out of hospital a week. Thank you, Dick, hope you enjoy the best of health soon.

Nona (Mrs. Taylor) answered Wal's letter:—"Wal had to rush off to work last night, so I am dropping this note to you for him. Received your letter to Wal regards the Wagga Reunion. Sorry you are unable to be there but we are in the same boat, we are really disappointed. The Reunion being in this area, but Wal has another commitment which he feels he should fulfil. As much as he would like to be in Wagga, just can't manage it this time." Thank you, Nona, for your letter and the nice remarks you made about the column. I am sorry that the three of us could not make the Reunion.

A very nice letter from **Roy Moores**, 57 Tumut St., Adelong. As Roy writes of the Reunion I will send the letter to the editor. Thanks Roy, for an interesting and newsy letter.

A letter from **Mick O'Regan** (No Change) with the sad news of the death of **Stan Innes**. Thanks Mick, the letter will be printed.

From Roy Moores:

Dear "Cock" Robin, Just a note to tell you that we had a bonser reunion at Wagga. Both days, weather-wise, could have been nicer; Sunday was a corker, with wind and driving rain showers during the barbecue—the cooks ought to have been decorated for a wonderful job done under trying circumstances. The March to the Memorial was very impressive and the bugler played the Last Post better than I had heard before, so slow and with such beautifully clear notes. The dinner was a great success and our guests spoke very well as did **Harry Gjedsted**, and we all enjoyed ourselves. It was great to see so many old buddies again.

The Sunday night smorgasbord at Wagga R.S.L. was very well done and I think that we all enjoyed it immensely. There were many convivial parties and much bantering and good spirits.

Bill Luck tells me that he is leaving for England for a conference at St. Dunstan's, London, celebrating the Golden Jubilee of Lord Fraser as Chairman of the organisation. He goes as President and Representative of the Blinded Ex-Servicemen's Association. Good luck, Bill.

Reg Angel, whom I was very pleased to see after many years, was present among the guests. He and I were two of the few, in fact I think the only two, to be wearing glasses when we joined 2/4 Battalion and some people used to have us mixed up, thought Reg was me and I was Reg. However, I was "chiacking" him about this and said we were not a bit alike now and anyway, I was much older than he was. Reg disputed this and I did not agree with him, so he said he had a dollar to say he was older than me. I laid on a dollar, he wanted to raise it to \$10 but I wouldn't have that. So I told him I was 65 and asked him when he was born. He said early 1906 so I told him my date of birth was 17/1/1906. To our mutual surprise, he was born on that day, too, but he claims that he is a few hours older. I cannot remember when I was born so there the matter rests but it was strange that we have known each other for 32 years and only just found this out.

I would like you to tell the boys who came to Wagga how much we enjoyed having them and hope to have

them again 'ere long. We would have liked to have had you with us, Cock, you were definitely missed for you are nearly always at 2/4 functions. Anyway, all the best to you and the boys and I hope that I shall be enabled to see you all in Sydney in the future. May I add how much we enjoyed the company of the ladies and as the years go on, we shall find them sharing more of our functions and also the younger generation rising from the older fourthers.

All the best,

Yours Waggaly,

Roy Moores.

From **Mick O'Regan**.

Dear "Cock",

It is with much regret I inform you of the death of another of the Bn., **NX72250 S. S. Innes** in R.P.A. Hospital on 12th October, 1971.

I joined up with Stan. He went with us to the Middle East, but left in Darwin for discharge. He was a member of A. Coy. and liked by everyone. There is no doubt it will be a shock to a lot of his mates; he had been a T.P.I. for some years and died of heart trouble. He is survived by his wife and two sons (both married). I went to the funeral, and represented the Bn. by wearing the White Over Green tie.

It would give me great pleasure if you could print this letter, so his mates could know — **Stan Bowen, Doug Groves, Fred Varley, "Slim" Desmond, "Brig" Macatamney** and a whole host more.

Yours sincerely,

Mick O'Regan.

From **Claude Raymond**:

Dear Allen,

Herewith cheque for \$28.00 covering subscriptions for 8 Plaques for the Cape Wom Memorial Park. The money was collected from the following Victorian 2/4thers:

"Ted" Waterstrom, Jim Ewart, "Jack" McLoughlin, "Bert" Craig, "Bill" Panter, Charles McKenna, Dick Parry, "Robbie" W. S. Robbins, Leo Dunn, "Buff" Burns, Ken Williams, Claude Raymond, Doug Millar, Vic. Hill, Jim Barrow.

It is suggested you allot the money towards the Plaques as you think fit.

Congratulations on the project and best wishes from the boys in Victoria to all up North of the Murray.

Claude Raymond.

THE GALLIPOLI MEMORIAL CLUB

The Gallipoli Memorial Club situated at 12 Loftus Street, Sydney is fast becoming the new gathering place for members of our Association and their friends. The old Anzacs who did such a magnificent job in acquiring the valuable site and building over the years are asking men of late wars to join the club and take over some of the chores of running it.

All of your executive committee have joined or made application to do so — and many members have followed their lead. We believe there is an honoured place for our Association in this Club and we suggest as many members as possible join as full voting members. If enough members join we feel we will be permitted to have a **"White Over Green"** corner or section in the club where we may display our photographs, trophies, etc. and meet each other when we have a spare half hour.

Country members are invited to call at the Club

when in the city, where they will be granted Honorary Membership for the duration of their stay — just mention 2/4th Bn.

Members joining the club now are made financial for 1972. For application forms apply to **MR. A. KNOX**, Sec./Manager, Gallipoli Memorial Club, 12 Loftus Street, Sydney; or telephone **MISS McDONALD** Sydney 27 6350.

ASSOCIATION CARDS & WAR HISTORY

Good quality general purpose cards are available from Honorary Treasurer **Allen Lindsay** at the very reasonable price of 20 for \$1.00 plus postage. Plain white with the 2/4th Battalion colour patch reproduced over the wording: "The 2/4th Australian Infantry Battalion Association" the cards will fit into an ordinary envelope. They are ideal for Xmas Greetings between fellow members and friends of the Association. Allen's address is on the front page.

Our remaining copies of "White Over Green" the History of the 2/4th Australian Infantry Battalion are now very few. The volume is an ideal Xmas present for a member (or his family). Allen or **George Stack** will send one off to any person you name for \$5.00 including packing and postage.

CANBERRA FOR THE 1972 COUNTRY REUNION

Members will be pleased to know that **John Hyles** of Tharwa, A.C.T., has consented to arrange the organising of the 1972 Country Reunion in the Federal Capital. You will be kept advised of events as soon as decisions are made. Big things are envisaged such as a senior Australian Statesman among the guests of honour, a famous Australian Service Band to lead the March to the National War Memorial etc. etc.

One word of warning — Accommodation. It is always very tight in Canberra and especially during the October holiday weekend. Members can book their own any time they like from now. The N.R.M.A. book lists all available accommodation and members of the N.R.M.A. can book through that organisation free of charge. We will keep you informed.

VALE REG ANGEL

It is with deep regret we report the sudden passing of a former Honorary Treasurer and Welfare Officer **Reg Angel**. At our last committee meeting **President Harry Gjedsted** advised that the funeral had taken place on Thursday, 21st October.

Reg was a willing worker for our Association as well as a valued servant of R.S.L. Headquarters where he was for many years a senior official in the Pensions Department in Brisbane and Sydney. Reg attended the Annual Country Reunion at Wagga just two weeks prior to his death where he appeared his usual cheery and irrespressible self.

Our deepest condolences are extended to his family.

Vale Reg.

"Lest We Forget".

XMAS GET-TOGETHER FRIDAY, 10th DECEMBER

Because the **Fourth Friday** falls on Xmas Eve there will be no monthly meeting in December, nor will

there be a committee meeting in that month. However, there will be an informal get-together on Friday, 10th December at Gallipoli Memorial Club.

All members who are interested are invited to meet in the Club Lounge on the first floor from 4.30 p.m. onwards for sandwiches, drinks and a chat. Those of you who are not members will be directed to the area by the doorman. It would be an idea if you wore your Association tie and badge.

Early starters will find company in the lounge on the 2nd Floor until 4.30 p.m. There will be no cover charge so enjoy an Xmas drink with your friends.

Incidentally, Ladies may attend all areas of the Gallipoli Club at all times.

WEWAK NEWS FROM PETER COOK

Dear Bill,

I would appreciate space in W.O.G. to thank the following in Wewak for their hospitality to Betty and me during our two weeks holiday there. You can assure any of the Battalion boys who intend visiting the old battle area of a reception beyond compare. Our thanks to Acting D.C. **Kerry Lean** and daughter **Shelley**, **Aileen** and **Ron Thomlinson**, **Jim "Wan-Tok" Crawford**, and daughter **Yvonne**, **Roma** and **Bill Lee**, **Carmel** and **Morris Whelan**, **Danny** and **Mrs. Barnard**, **Bill Heater** (President of the Sepik Club) and **Mrs. Heater**, **Dot** and **Ray Catamole**, **Police Inspector Don Rae** and **Police Officer Dave Bolton**, **Ern** and **Helen Smith**, **Lorraine** and **Lloyd Yelland**, **Terry Smith**, **Helen** and **Bronwyn**, two of the Wewak "lovelies", and many more wonderful people. A special mention to **Hazel** and **Ron Porto** and daughters **Linda** and **Bronwyn** who looked after us in their home so wonderfully.

Regards to all, Peter.

WAGGA REUNION IN RETROSPECT

"The strife is o'er, the battle done" runs the opening line of an old 17th Century anthem. And this pretty well sums up the situation of our 15th Annual Country Reunion, which has just become history!

It was the usual happy, hectic weekend. Maddening, because of the crop of silly little administrative tangles which would have made for smoother running and more efficient organisation. But pleasing in dozens of ways, because of the wonderful spirit of fellowship and camaraderie which so completely re-enacted that esprit de corps which was such a marked characteristic of the 2/4th Infantry Battalion.

Diversity of venues, functions, and weather could be regarded as features of this weekend. We could have done without the weather! And those who were able to stay over to the Monday and Tuesday were able to see just how delightful the Wagga weather can be! Added to this variety was the remarkable range of places from which our members came to be with us on this occasion.

Chairman, **Stan Blacksley**, with the help of **Gordon Chrisp**, **Perce Dalla**, etc, was kept busy at the reception point at the R.S.L. Club, and by four o'clock on the Saturday, the place was a hive of activity. The march proceeded according to plan (though there were a few "rough spots" which we hope to eliminate next time), and our Treasurer, **Perce Dalla**, tells me at this time of writing, that 163 sat down to what was a most enjoyable dinner at the Police Citizen's Boy's Club.

It was great to have had the recorded message from our Patron, **Major-General Sir Ivan Dougherty**, which **President Harry Gjedsted** kindly brought through to us.

Though (by mutual agreement between the local committee and the Association Executive) we did not have a prime speaker, the proposer of the toast of our Association, Colonel E. J. Mulholland, M.B.E., the respondent to that toast, our **President Harry Gjedsted** and the respondent to our toast to the Visitors (tendered by **Roy Moores**), **Air Commodore G. E. Prosser**, left nothing to be desired for eloquence, impact and sincerity. The Colonel reflected his deep understanding and appreciation of the history and background of our Association and the Battalion which we honour. And the Air Force Commander showed in glowing terms the capacity of one service to recognise and respect the value and merits of another.

It was all very inspiring. The Air Commodore was generous in his praise of our visiting ladies, too!

Sunday and Monday followed much the same pattern as in previous years, and we appreciated the interest and enthusiasm which our visitors displayed in their tour of Wagga, visit to Lake Albert. Some impromptu commentators on the buses were apparently better than they thought they could be! Wild weather marred the barbecue arrangements, but thanks to the good offices of the Wagga Boat Club, tasty chops and snags were enjoyed in the sheltered comfort of their panoramic lounge. **Perce Dalla**, **Bill Cosier**, **Joe Wells** and **Laurie Waterhouse** battled with the elements and reported sick torsoes at sick parade the next morning.

The Smorgasbord at the Pacific Room of the R.S.L. rounded off the planned social programme, and in a warm and congenial setting, aided by the music provided by a couple of dedicated youngsters, who were the offspring of one of our local 2/4th Pioneer Battalion ex-members, the evening floated to a happy conclusion. The raffles of assorted wines and champagnes realised good money for our Battalion Welfare Fund. Again, thanks to the generosity of our benefactor, **Bill MacLennan**.

In the meantime, and subject to the considered opinion of our local committee, whom we will call together for a "wind-up" meeting, I should like to foreshadow the following recommendations:—

1. That in future reunions, all wives or accompanying ladies be seated with the men (but is to be emphasised that this is to be in no way prejudicial to unattached men, wishing to attend such reunions).
2. A format for the ceremony at the Cenotaph to be decided by Association Executive, such to be subject to slight modification according to local circumstances.
3. Wagga would like to consider another reunion here not later than October, 1975. By this foreknowledge, we can plan accordingly, develop our local membership interest and organisation, and do much better than if left to a chance decision only twelve months beforehand.

CONCLUSION:

I think it could be said that the 1971 Reunion was successful and enjoyed by all.

It is believed to have been financially successful, and full details of accounts: expenditure and receipts, and balance of account to Association will be forwarded as soon as possible.

Bob Jackson