



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.

26th YEAR OF CONTINUOUS PUBLICATION

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**NEXT MEETING: Friday, 28th January, 1972 at Gallipoli Memorial Club,
12 Loftus Street, Sydney, at 7.30p.m.**

A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All

PATRON SIR IVAN AND LADY DOUGHERTY WITH PRESIDENT HARRY AND MARJORIE GJEDSTED and members of your Committee and their Ladies, extend to all readers and their loved ones best wishes for a Happy Xmas and a Bright, Prosperous and Peaceful 1972.

SANTA CLAUS IN CAMP

by "Banjo" Paterson.

"Halt! Who goes there?" The sentry's call
Rose on the mid-night air.
Above the noises of the camp,
The roll of guns, the horses tramp,
The challenge echoed overall:
"Halt! Who goes there?"

A quaint old figure clothed in white,
He bore a staff of pine,
An ivy-wreath was on his head,
"Advance, old friend," the sentry said,
"Advance, for this is Christmas night,
And give the counter sign."

"No sign nor counter-sign have I,
O'er many lands I roam —
The whole world over, far and wide,
To exiles all, at Christmas tide
From those who love them tenderly
I bring a thought of home."

"From Irish brook and Scottish burn,
From cold Canadian snows,
From those far lands you hold most dear
I bring you each a token here,
A frond of a New Zealand fern,
A bloom of English rose."

"From faithful wife and loving lass,
I bring a wish divine,
For Christmas blessing on your head."
"I wish you well," the sentry said,
"But here, alas, you may not pass
Without the counter-sign."

He vanished, and the sentry's tramp
Went up and down the line.
It was not till the morning light
The soldiers knew that, overnight,
Old Santa Claus had come to camp
Without the counter-sign.

WELFARE REPORT

Sorry I missed last issue, but will try to bring you up to date this trip.

Visited in Hospital — 2/4 Bn. Members.

R.G.H. CONCORD.

Harold Brown ex Coy. was back in again with ticker trouble. He looked remarkably well and is in "Good Spirits".

Cyril Stillwell ex HQ Coy., whom you will remember was the Sgt. in charge of the Officers Mess from way back, is suffering very badly from nerves. He and his wife live at Kiama and are having a bit of a struggle on Cyril's present pension rate, so we are going to see what we can do for him.

Leo Carter ex B Coy. was up from his south coast hideaway for a check up. At last sighting at the Wagga Reunion he looked as fit as one of his own Pole Herefords.

WAGGA BASE HOSPITAL

Syd Croker who had suffered a very serious coronary was in hospital over our Reunion week-end and I was fortunate in being allowed to see him on two occasions, as up to then only family had been able to visit him. Although very subdued after a pretty severe gruelling, he was pleased to hear from the boys and sent his regards to all and best wishes to the association.

R.G.H. CONCORD — 4 Bn. A.I.F.

Albert Walters — Will be 82 this month. Very pleased to have visit and appreciated W.O.G. and 4th Infanter.

William Thornton, Charles Davis, Cecil McIntyre, James Gordon (Since deceased).

Appeals.

I'm pleased to report that **Bill Leonard** was finally granted a T.P.I. pension and very rightly so. I feel our efforts were well worth while.

The appeals on behalf of **Ken Kesteven, George Halsall and Jim Cammeron** are still being investigated and we hope to lodge an appeal on behalf of **Cyril Stilwell** in the very near future.

Personal.

Dot Searle, you will be happy to hear, has almost completely recovered from her accident (Ref. Cock's Column Oct. 71). She still has some nasty bruises, but is her old cheery self again. It is also nice to be able to report that her grand daughter **Catherine Lee-Ann**, who had a pretty rough start in life, is coming along nicely after a couple of major ops. Love and best wishes from the Association, **Dot, Jacqueline & Catherine**.

The I.R.A. is very much in the news these days and our very own member **Alec (I.R.A.) Maxwell**, not to be outdone, got himself in the limelight by becoming a Grandfather. His daughter **Ann** presented him with a grand daughter a couple of weeks ago. Congratulations and love from the Association to the **Duncan-Maxwell** clan.

MAIL BAG

A very welcome letter from **Graham Jackett** expressing appreciation for the two photos we sent him of **Dick (The Colonel) Butters**, taken last Anzac Day. (Sorry **Graham**, they are the only photos we can find of **the Colonel** taken that day). **Graham** reports that **Mrs. Butters** spends a lot of time assisting at the Blind Institute of Hobart. **Caroline**, their daughter, is at University and **Doug**, who was on his way back from

Vietnam when **Dick** was lost, has been posted to R.A.E.M.E., Brisbane. You may or may not know that **Graham** is almost totally incapacitated and having a lot of time on his hands, has become a very keen philatelist and would like to hear from any Battalion member with a similar interest. **Graham's** address is 761 Sandy Bay Road, Sandy Bay, Tasmania. 7005. **Graham, Bruce Makin's** address is 1176 Taita Drive, North Taita, Lower Hutt, Wellington, New Zealand.

Personal to **Ken Moses** — **Graham**, who went to primary school with you, is interested in your betting system, not to invest, but purely for fun. He would like to know more about it. So how about dropping him one of your famous screeds.

Roslyn Bleakley, daughter of the late **Bill (Tiny) Bleakley** wrote expressing her appreciation of the moral support she had received from the Association, also for the way Legacy have taken over the Legal problems she was confronted with. She has promised to keep us posted. Thanks **Roslyn**, it was nice to hear from you. All the best wishes in the world from your Dad's "Old Mob."

Bob (Dagwood) Jackson kindly sent me a photostat copy of the letter **Padre "Paddy" Reid** wrote to him the day before he died. Thank you **Robert**.

Just like a voice from the past is an expression I have used many times, and that is what it was like when I received a letter from **William (Scotty) Gibbs** ex A Coy. **Scotty**, who now resides at 1217 Juniper Ave., Long Beach, California, 90804, U.S.A. had received some back copies of W.O.G. from **Peter Gallagher** ex 2/1 A.G.H. and decided to drop us a line. He would like a copy of the book, *White Over Green*, and from the tone of his letter I would say is just generally anxious for news of the Battalion. Enclosed in **Scotty's** letter was a \$5.00 American bill with the comment "Find enclosed 5 bucks for the Welfare Fund" — Thanks **Scotty**. He also sent kindest regards to all, with a special mention for **Hazel and Ted Gamble**. Also a message to **Roy Moores** — "I well remember your plaque in Don Coy. lines at Julius L4 and thought it was very artistic". How about the story please, **Mary?**

WELFARE PLAQUES

This project is almost complete, subscriptions received covered the cost of the 55 individual plaques, also the large plaque in honour of the Papuans and New Guineans. The large plaque is already in Wewak having been taken there by our good friends 37 Squadron R.A.A.F. and the individual plaques are being taken up towards the end of this month by our also very good friends **Gwen and Bill MacLennan**. The **MacLennans** are going up for a couple of weeks and we trust they have a great time with the wonderful people of Wewak. To all the people who subscribed to our Wewak Plaque appeal our sincere thanks. I feel sure our President will wish to elaborate on my remarks when the project reaches its final successful conclusion.

LAST POST

I was very sad to hear of the passing of my old tent mate and fellow I.T.B. Instructor, **Reg Angel**. On many occasions I called him anything but an Angel, but I shall always cherish his friendship.

The sincere wish to all members from the Welfare Group — Good Health,

DICK LATIMER.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

SUBSCRIPTIONS for 1972 are due on 1st January. Your executive committee would appreciate a prompt remittance, from those in a position to do so, to comply with rules for our Bulk Postage Rate concession.

Send \$3.00 now to **Allen Lindsay, 23 Ramsgate Road, Kogarah Bay. 2217**. This amount covers membership and postage of "White Over Green" for the next twelve months!! A good response now will be of great encouragement to the incoming executive, to be elected at the Annual General Meeting on Friday, 25th February, 1972. T.P.I. members are entitled to free membership.

EFFICIENCY DECORATION

The dogged insistence of that "old man" who spent his life in the Army, **Mick Gray**, has been responsible for the receipt and presentation of the Efficiency Decoration to one of our members. Mick is aware that, while some of our troops already wear this award, many more must be entitled to it, but do not know it. As a result, Mick has decided to find out all the rules, regulations and conditions applicable to the award. When the information comes to hand, it will be published. (Modesty prevents **Bill MacLennan** from saying who the member was but it doesn't affect me, Rusty.)

THE GALLIPOLI MEMORIAL CLUB

The Association held its Monthly Meeting at the Club on **THE FOURTH FRIDAY** in November, members being very pleased with the new venue. At the meeting a number of application forms for membership were completed. These, together with others submitted on Remembrance Sunday, and previously, have made the 2/4th Battalion the strongest Unit, numerically, in the Gallipoli Memorial Club. Other units are also joining in strength. Thirteen ex-members of 2/7th Bn. joined last month.

Membership fee is \$4.50 per year with an initial joining fee of \$4.00. The Club Badge costs 85 cents only. The Gallipoli Gazette, a 16 page magazine, is posted to members each month. Those wishing to join should ask for an application form. Contact **Mr. ALEX KNOX**, The Sec./Manager, 12 Loftus Street, Sydney, or his Secretary, **Miss McDonald**, Phone Sydney 27 6350. If the application form is filled in and posted to any member of your executive for nomination and seconding it will not be necessary to submit your discharge certificate. The Club year commences 1st January.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

The Remembrance Day March, Wreathlaying Ceremony and Reunion conducted by the Association of 4th Infantry Battalions on Sunday, November 14th provided an excellent example of the Spirit of co-operation which exists between the members and ex-members of the various Fourth Australian Infantry Battalions.

Led by **Patron Sir Ivan Dougherty** with **President Cliff Horsley** and accompanied by the magnificent band of 4 R.N.S.W.R., the marching column presented a very impressive sight at the halt at the Cenotaph for

the Wreathlaying. And later as the parade swung down George and Bridge Streets to the Gallipoli Club, with the uniformed party from 4 R.N.S.W.R. in the van, the unity and spirit of comradeship was evident.

At the Reunion at the Gallipoli Memorial Club **Sir Ivan Dougherty** in a brief but thoughtful address paid tribute to the foresight of those who originated the Association pointing out that the success of functions like this was an indication of the success of the whole concept.

President **Cliff Horsley** in thanking members for their attendance also pointed out the tremendous contribution made by those few whose work resulted in the formation of the Association. Cliff particularly singled out **Gordon Maitland** and **Harry Gjedsted** whose dedication to the ideal ensured its success.

Congratulations to the Association of 4th Infantry Battalions for a well organised day.

PLAQUES FOR CAPE WOM MEMORIAL

Members will be pleased to know that the Plaques for placement on the trees in the Cape Wom Memorial Park were on display at the last monthly meeting.

Welfare Officer **Dick Latimer** will be arranging their transport to Wewak after which we shall be advised by the Wewak R.S.L. of their placement.

It is gratifying to realise that the fund for the plaques has been fully subscribed and that each of our comrades who paid the supreme sacrifice as a result of service in the N.G. Campaign will be personally remembered in the Cape Wom Memorial.

DECEMBER DOINGS — 1944

The following extract from our War History tells its own story:

River and Ikam Creek.

On December 17, the Danmap was crossed. "A" Company less 7 Platoon was first to cross and the move was complicated by the unexpected at the very start. Captain Smith with 8 and 9 Platoons (**Lieutenants Fox and Brown**) commenced crossing at the mouth in the early hours of the morning. There the water should have been a few feet deep, but due to heavy rain further inland the river was in flood to a depth of five and a half feet and the bed had been scoured out and channels existed in what was once relatively easy wading. "**Blah**" Smith wrote of the crossing:

"As the first troops breasted through to the deeper part of the crossing it became evident that we would be in trouble. However, although a little equipment was lost, we came through practically unscathed. One or two of the better swimmers stood to seaward of the column and kept the shorter chaps on their feet helping them across the deeper part for about fifteen feet. One of the officers known for his truthfulness is prepared to swear on a stack of racebooks a foot high, that Eddie Rau (5'04" in army boots) weighed down by a Bren gun and much ammunition, did move to the deep part, take a deep breath and march doggedly across the stream. All that could be seen of him for about fifteen feet was the top of his slouch hat and the

butt of his Bren. He emerged at the other side, exhaled mightily, breathed in again and continued on. It was quite a dangerous crossing and those behind were aware of what was happening ahead but none drew back, poor swimmers and short of stature as some were."

It was remarkable that this crossing was effected with only a small loss of equipment. The current was strong and the footing unsure. Any man who went down and was not caught immediately would have been swept away drowned with the weight of his equipment. This did in fact happen to men in other units on similar river crossings.

VALE "KING" TUTTY

The death occurred last month of one of the greatest sportsmen Gundagai has ever produced — **Leo Charles ("King") Tutty**.

"'King' Tutty will be remembered as one of Gundagai's greatest footballers.

He was born at Gundagai, and besides his football prowess, in his younger days he was a noted swimmer.

An all round sportsman, he was a great football tactician and leader.

In the early 30's he was a leading Riverina swimmer, and was also a competent cricketer.

His football career spanned many seasons, during which he played and coached with Gundagai, coached at Bibbenluke and Maitland, and was skipper of Sydney club, Newtown.

After retiring from playing, he took up refereeing for some years, and in 1953 was manager of the Riverina side which visited Sydney.

During World War 2 he served with the famous 2/4 Infantry Battalion of the Sixth Division in the New Guinea campaign.

He is survived by his widow, and son Tony, daughter Beverly and grandson Michael."

Thanks to **Jim Agnew**, Tumut, for this information from "The Gundagai Independent". Our condolences are extended to Mrs. Tutty and family.

THE LADIES AT WAGGA

It was wonderful to see such a gathering of Ladies of the Association at the Wagga Reunion. Among those present were:

Marj. Gjedsted, Marjorie McCarthy, Pat Sydneham, Mary Ormiston, Bev. Moores, Doris Jordan, B. Dalla, Joyce Luck, Lily Deacon, Verna Gillespie, Mary Taylor, Delma Silver, Frances Faulder, Ruth Gissing (Lady Mayoress), Molly Irvine, Marjorie Carpenter, Margaret Carson, Estelle Hayes, Marion Carson, Ada Curran, Maria Quinn, Nan Raymond, Pearl Carter, Glad. Twist, Betty Rungie, Dawn Robertson, Jean Moore, Muriel Kleem, Eunice Dubber, Dorothy Eastley, Ada Whitman, Ethel Pateman, Hilda Wright, Edith Richardson, Edna Pegg, J. Waterhouse, Gwen Pegg, Vera Roddy, Yvonne Pearse, Kay Keast, Eileen Lewington, Bobbie Wells, Ruth Carter, Enid Jackson, Heather Mitchell, Pamela Lane, Gloria Lindsay, Gwen MacLennan, Pat Denver, Glen Smith, Ena Anderson, Eileen Whittleton, Rosalind Thatcher, Norma Gattenhof, Billie Conkey, Sue Bawden, Ruth Bawden, Lorna McGregor, Katie McCartney, Peg Warran, Heather Fox, Enid Latimer, Margaret Cade, Phyllis Chrystal,

and **Barbara McWilliam. Mrs. Blacksley** and her family were unable to attend the function because of a wedding engagement. However, they were able to come to the Club Rooms between the wedding and the reception which gracious gesture was appreciated by all.

FUTURE COUNTRY REUNIONS

The 1972 Country Reunion will be held in Canberra.

John Hyles is putting in the spadework and soon you will be advised of the details. However, there is nothing to prevent you booking accommodation if you wish. It is always pretty tight in Canberra especially on holiday weekends.

Other centres to offer venues for Country Reunions include Lismore and Wagga (in 1975), while mention has been made of Inverell, Griffith and Cowra. It is indeed gratifying to your committee to find such ready support for the activities of the Association.

THE 1972 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the 2/4th Infantry Battalion Association will be held at **The Gallipoli Memorial Club**, 12 Loftus Street, Sydney, at 7.30 p.m. on **Friday, 25th February, 1972.**

Business

1. To confirm the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting.
2. To receive and consider the Annual reports.
3. To receive and consider the Accounts and Balance Sheets for the year ending 31st December, 1971.
4. To elect Office Bearers for 1972.
5. To elect an Honorary Auditor.
6. General Business.

Members are requested to make a special effort to attend our most important administrative meeting of the year.

George Stack, Honorary Secretary.

MEMORIES OF BARDIA

152 Marston Avenue,
Dagenham,
Essex. U.K.

Dear "Cock" Robin,

Am going to try and write that little piece that I promised you, about Bardia that first night; will be relying on my memory so you must forgive if I leave out something or commit errors.

In an atmosphere of tension, and rumour upon rumour, we suddenly got orders that the Battalion would move out the following morning. How does one feel after a year's training for war, to suddenly feel that here it is, this is what it's all been about?

About the platoon. I'd no fears. They were all very fit and raring to go; and the last twelve months had weeded out the odd one or two that had not measured up physically.

N.Z. transport were to carry us to the battle area and our confidence had been further bolstered by the news of the successful attack by the British Army at Sollum and Fort Capuzzo. Along the road that led west we sped, covered by the dust of the desert. Evidence of the beginning of the eventual rout of the Italian

Army, was becoming increasingly clear — burnt out planes and trucks and hastily abandoned camps all mute testimony of a victorious advance.

Over the Hellfire Pass we soon came in sight of Fort Capuzzo. Halting awhile at the Fort we saw how much damage had been done by the Artillery, the Air Force and shells from the gunboats "Terror" and "Erebus", which had made excursions along the coast to harass Sollum and the Fort.

Corporal McFadzean was detached to go ahead as liaison with forward troops, and was to be our platoon guide, when we moved in to position that night. Unfortunately our timetable got a bit out of gear and we started rather late. Never found the actual slit trenches we were to take over and finished up in approximately the position we should have been, but above ground and not under cover.

Stew for our evening meal, that had been cooked enroute, fermented and was quite uneatable, so we fell back on that universal standby bully beef and biscuits!!

We had advanced behind a dust barrage created by trucks driving back and forth ahead of us. It was, to put it bluntly, a stinking atmosphere. Occasional bursts of gunfire could be heard but otherwise things were rather quiet — the calm before the storm. In complete darkness we settled down for the night and were sure by first light would be able to get things sorted out. I sat in the front seat of the platoon truck for some time and others were sleeping underneath the truck. Must have dozed off, because awoke to the sound of gunfire and very soon shells began to explode in our vicinity. Getting out of the truck I ordered the men away from underneath, also the couple sleeping in the back. We lay on the ground.

After each salvo of shells, I called out for assurance that all was well with each section, and was happy to hear that this was so. From one salvo that seemed to fall much closer than the others, I was struck in the leg. The blow was violent enough to toss my right leg in the air and after a few seconds I began to feel pain. I called out to Mac who was close by that I'd been hit. He said that he also had been struck in the hand. It was too dark to see anything and at first light I got a look at my leg and was thankful to see just a small puncture; but the calf muscle had begun to swell up and get very painful.

Jim "Cock" Robin, our runner, came over to me and said that they had found the slit trenches and the sections moved into them. He put a field dressing on my leg. By this time I began to feel the cold and a bit of delayed shock, and was shivering badly.

"Cock" Robin had got a fire going with desert brush, warmed up some meat loaf in a tin plate and made a hot drink. With a bit of this inside me I began to feel a bit better.

Before first light the shelling on both sides had intensified and at first light the forward elements had begun to attack. Later in the morning **Captain Harold Conkey**, round on an inspection, examined my leg and thought that I should be evacuated to the R.A.P.

I was the M.O.'s first battle casualty and was later evacuated to a field hospital and then to Sollum, later to Alexandria and thence to hospital in Sarafand in Palestine. Was operated on in Alex, the operation

taking three hours. The time was taken up in taking X-rays and probing for the piece of shrapnel which had travelled up the leg and lodged in the calf muscle. After three weeks in hospital went to a convalescent camp and afterward returned to rejoin the battalion at Mersa Matruh. It was a great disappointment for me to have left my platoon so early in the war — a disappointment that I never really overcame.

Not very happy about this Jim, am afraid that the lapse of time has dimmed the memory of many other little things that must have happened in that first 48 hours after we left Burg el Arab.

Do hope that all is well with you and please give my regards to all the boys.

With best wishes for a happy Xmas and a Peaceful New Year.

MONTY SIEMS

COCK'S COLUMN

Those who attended the November meeting: **Harry Gjedsted, Russ McWilliam, George Stack, Harry Wright, Allen Lindsay, Dick Faulder, Stan Bowen, Cecil "Slim" Power, Ken Webb, John Ringrose, Ewan Wood, Ernie Twist, Phil Smith, John Copland, Athol Heath, John Meehan, Ted Fox, Les Anderson, Dick Pinson, Charlie Hanson, Rick Morris** (Dick's son), and myself.

Their news:

John Copland had a Christmas card from 9 Royal Sussex Regiment (Harry Gjedsted's old mob). John met them at Chichester and Lewes this year, and made many firm friends.

Ted Fox sees **Bob Davies** (original pay Sgt.) frequently but can't persuade him to come to a meeting. Bob, why don't you come and see the boys?

Johnny Ringrose often sees **Ted Jackson, Matt Myers** and would like to see more of **Bob Ferguson** at Dee Why R.S.L. Club. Johnny also met **Les Fox**, it was good to see you again Johnny, hope you improve in health and to see you again at next meeting.

Phil Smith reports that **Bill Parry** called into his garage with his usual medicinal gift. Phil also has seen **Les Fox**. Good to see you at the meeting Phil, hope you're a regular now.

Dick Pinson reports he was playing at Five Dock R.S.L. and met 2/4thers **Kevin King** and **Bill Nugent**. They wished to be remembered to the 2/4. Dick was playing for the Rats of Tobruk Association. Thanks Dick, hope you're feeling much better now, Rene.

Harry and Hilda Wright had a very enjoyable afternoon with Peter and Margaret Cade at their home in Caringbah.

Ern "Ollie" Twist has recently seen **Mrs. Schofield** (Elliott's widow). Ernie had been down to Oak Flats and saw **Harry Hamburger** who looks well.

Ewan Wood, Rydalmere, has just completed 25 years service with Goodyear at Granville. He was presented with a diamond tie clip and engraved Omega watch. Congratulations, mate. Ewan attended the Remembrance Day Reunion as well as the meeting and has lodged his membership application for the Gallipoli Club.

Phil "Flip" Cross (I. Section) from Ben Bullen also

attended on Remembrance Sunday. "Flip" says everyone who met him on Anzac Day will know he is a bank manager. He has 600 acres at Ben Bullen and says he owes the bank so much that he must be a bank manager!

John Meehan and **George Stack** on Remembrance Sunday were hosts to **Sgt. Bill Steele**, the O.I.C. the Police Escort for the day. Bill said the last time he met the 2/4th was when the 30th Bn. relieved them at Mt. Tazaki, N.G. Bill was very interested to talk of old times as he sipped his squash.

Bob Dawson, the Junior Vice-President of the Gallipoli Club, was very pleased to have a yarn to **Sir Ivan**. Bob was a member of 4 Bn. A.I.F. ('14-'18).

"**Sailor**" **Harvey** marched on Remembrance Sunday but his leg was not up to carrying the Banner. **Harry Wright**, on deck as usual, capably carried out the duty with **Sid George**.

John Copland advised three of our ranks who have joined the lists of T.P.I. They were **A. D. Murphy**, **H. A. Roberts** and **R. Stapleton**. John, who is a very conscientious member of our Association, was also in attendance on Remembrance Sunday. He also has become a member of the Gallipoli Memorial Club.

Gerry Coughlan recalled playing in an orchestra with his brother **Frank Coughlan** and **Phil Harris** (drummer) at the Palais de Danse in Melbourne in 1927.

Joe Rognini despite being a P.O.W. in the two Great World Wars marched the whole distance on Remembrance Sunday and backed up for his quota at the Club. Good to see you, Joe.

North British News:

Tim Cloke called. Wished all the best to the crowd. To you too, Tim.

Best regards to all "Cock"; please note my address — **Don Ellicott, Flat 1, 30 Ashburner St., Manly**. My W.O.G. has been going to Bourke.

Jerry "Fangs" Coughlan celebrated his 70th birthday on September 10th. Still looks hale and hearty. Congrats. Jerry. We are all getting long in the tooth, mate.

Met **Jack Fitzgerald** (2/1 Bn.) — Jack occasionally sees **Siddie Zartman** at the York Hotel.

John Jordan met **Noel Woolcott** (D. Coy.) at "Scotch" **McCartney's** garage. Sorry he was not able to make Wagga; he is moving to Queensland after Christmas. We all wish you the best in your new surroundings, Noel. Please drop me a line with your news.

Regards to all 2/4thers from **Colin (Bill) Campbell**. **Joff Naseby** had a few noggins with **Bill Campbell** — met him at Repat., he also saw **Les Fing** and **Rick Carter** there. Joff now a granddad.

Tiny Eglinton called, "Did not see anyone I knew. Down from Murwillumbah on business. Contacted **Sid Young** and will be calling on him. Regards and best wishes to all, Tiny." Same to you, Tiny.

Ken Webb called in and met **Jack Heaney** and **Rex Gilliland**. Rex was very sorry to hear of the passing of **Stan Innes**, as they were good mates. Rex met **Jack "Cheeky Charlie" Keating** at Railway Square and in **Leichhardt** met **Sid Young**.

Had a "hullo - goodbye" visit from **Frank "Snow" Gattenhof** with wife **Norma** and baby **Sandra**. Frank left a very interesting and newsy letter re the Wagga Reunion and details of their 3,000 mile trip afterward.

The letter is printed elsewhere. Well, Frank, sincere thanks for calling and for this excellent letter. It was nice to see you also, Norma, and that lovely little doll-like child, with the "peaches and cream" complexion.

In the Mail Bag:—

Dear "Cock" Robin,

What a well-organised and well-attended 1971 Country Reunion it was — thanks to the Wagga boys who organised it, and the members and their lovely ladies who travelled so far to attend. As many have remarked both inside and outside the Association, we are getting stronger as the years go by.

After leaving Wagga we stayed overnight at Narrandera with **Norm "Buck" Rogers** who entertained Norma and myself at the R.S.L. Club. Also saw **Jimmy James** (H.Q. Coy.) who is off shortly to see his sister in England, and his homeland again, after 40 years. Good luck, Jim, on your trip. It was nice to see you and "Buck" again, after so long.

Corowa was our next stop where we pleased to spend the night at **Arch and Eileen Lewington's** lovely home. Then on to Melbourne where after a number of enquiries I finally managed to locate **Doug Millar** who entertained me at the Elwood R.S.L. Club. Doug looks well — hasn't changed much at all. Later I met **Major Christian**, Salvation Army Welfare Officer, who was very pleased to meet an old 2/4th man again. He asked after many of the boys and was particularly sad to learn of the passing of **Padre Reid**. He mentioned that **Padre Tom Keyte** was still going strong. **Major Christian** is very anxious to come to our next Reunion and Mrs. Christian is keen also for him to attend.

Had a good look at the Riverina District. Had a good yarn to **Nevis Farrell** at Griffith. Nevis asked after his driver **Geoff Lovelee** and was sad to hear that he had passed away a few weeks ago. He mentioned that Geoff was only a boy of 18 when we got back from Palestine, and had his 21st at Aitape. Nevis is very busy but gave me some time and came out to the car to meet Norma and "Buck" Rogers wife Nell.

After Melbourne we went to Adelaide stopping at Crafers. The old hotel, post office and the house where I was billeted were still there but the place has changed a lot with the new freeway through it. Spent a while with **Max** and **Betty Rungie** who had only returned from Wagga the day before.

We left Adelaide for home via Broken Hill, Cobar, Dubbo and Bathurst. What a lovely trip it was, even through the desert country. The roads were excellent, except for 50 miles, and my eighteen years old car went like a bird.

Best regards to all members on behalf of Norma and myself.

Frank Gattenhof.

Dear Jim,

It was terribly sad to learn of **Stan Innes'** passing on. It was kind and thoughtful of my old pal **Mick O'Regan** to let us know per "White Over Green". I first knew Stan when we were training at Tamworth prior to going overseas; **Billy Hill**, **Mick** and **Stan** formed a famous trio — life was never dull when they were about. Later on that "character" **Fred Varley** teamed up and the entertainment never ceased; in fact it grew to a larger dimension. My kindest regards to self and to all the grand chaps of the 2/4th Bn. Association.

"Brig" McAtamney.