



# 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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**NEXT MEETING: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, Friday, 23rd February, 1973  
at GALLIPOLI MEMORIAL CLUB, 12 Loftus Street, Sydney, at 7.30 p.m.**

## THE 1973 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, 23rd February, 1973.**

### 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, 1972.
4. To elect Office Bearers for 1973.
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.**

## WEWAK SCHOLARSHIP FUND — ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the 2/4th Infantry Battalion Association Wewak Scholarship Fund will be held, in accordance with the constitution, at the conclusion of the Association's Annual General Meeting. All subscribers to the Fund shall be deemed to be members of the Fund and are entitled to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Fund.

**George Stack, Honorary Secretary.**

## THE GALLIPOLI MEMORIAL CLUB

Among the latest batch of Association members to join the Gallipoli Club was **Sir Ivan Dougherty**. **Allen Lindsay** who is a Director of the Club advises that plans for the refurbishing of the 2nd floor are being processed and as soon as the State Planning Authority gives the O.K. work will begin **Ted Fox** is also on the Board of the Gallipoli Club being appointed in place of retired Director **G. F. Knox**.

The Annual General Meeting will be held in March and members intending to nominate for office must have their nominations in the hands of the Secretary/Manager by **Wednesday, 21st February, 1973**. The 2/4th Battalion, incidentally, has the largest representation of any single unit in the Club. If you intend joining do so now and have your say at the Annual General Meeting. Joining fee is \$4.00 with \$4.50 per year membership.

## ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for 1973 are now due. The committee would appreciate your remittance as soon as possible, in order to preserve the bulk postage concessions. **N.B.:** T.P.I. members are entitled to free membership and WOG is posted to them free of charge as well as to next-of-kin of deceased members.

Send \$3.00 to:

ALLEN LINDSAY  
21A Mirral Road,  
CARINGBAH. 2229.

### HOW TO BURY AN ASSOCIATION

- Don't attend the meetings!
- If you do attend, come late!
- If you ever do attend, find fault with the officers and the other members, and sit back and talk to the man next to you about the weather!
- Never accept office; it's easier to criticise than to do something!
- Get sore if you are not appointed to a committee. But if you are appointed, don't attend meetings!
- If you are asked your opinion on some matter, just tell them that you have nothing to say — then after the meeting, tell everyone how things ought to be done!
- Do nothing more than is absolutely necessary — but when other members roll up their sleeves and do it all, howl about how the Association is being run by a clique.

### THE WEWAK SCHOLARSHIPS

E. Y. SMITH,  
P.O. Box 45,  
WEWAK.  
EAST SEPIK DISTRICT, P.-N.G.  
19th December, 1972.

Dear Harry, Bill and others,

Here we are again at the end of another school year and today I have been able to get the last of the results. I am extremely pleased to be able to report that the **WHITE OVER GREEN** academic flag has been flying high for 1972 . . . all of the students have more than held their own among stiff competition, as you will see by the boys' place results at **BRANDI HIGH**. You will also see that **MICHAEL SIRIAS** (the Newcastle Branch student), has not been held back through being a **DAY** student. He is keen to go on to Medicine and his manner is as keen as his efforts.

I am enclosing the Result Sheets from each High School and trust that they can in some way be circulated throughout the 2/4 Association; I am sure that all of your members will be proud of their students.

Also enclosed are copies of the Brandi High School Magazine and, for the first time, the Magazine of **YARAPOS GIRLS' HIGH**. The name of the Magazine means "PEACEFUL PLACE", and winner of the "Find The Name Competition" for the Magazine, was your Form 1 student, **ANGELINA SIKAS**.

We have seen all the students during the past week and most of them have now gone home to their villages for the Xmas period. **ROBERT GABOUT** has again joined my staff at P.H.D. for the duration of the holidays. We frequently receive visits from the students but unfortunately have never been able to have them all together. (As you know **ST. XAVIERS** is over on **KAIRIRU ISLAND**; we only see **ROBERT** and **THOMAS** during school visits for sports, etc.). From observation during home visits we can only report that your students are well and happy and have a healthy appetite (Michael seems to know just when hot scones are coming out of the oven on Sunday mornings). **ANTONIA** was quite a handy assistant wall-paper hanger. The boys are fine lads and appear

to know where they are going and what they want to do in later life; I feel that we have at least two possible candidates for the Papua-New Guinea University.

The girls are growing up and they have gained in confidence during the year. Both **ANTONIA** and the new student, **ANGELINA SIKAS**, were elected to the Student Council at **YARAPOS** at the beginning of the year. **ANTONIA** was able to go back as a boarder again during the year and is as bright as a button. Bill's student, **PHILOMENA**, is the quiet one of the group and her results show that she is doing well. They are all looking forward to their higher Forms in 1973.

The 1973 school year will commence on **JANUARY 28th** and we have been advised that in almost all cases there will be an increase in school fees. I am still waiting for further information on this and will communicate with you further regarding fees, etc. Both the 2/4th and the MacLennan Scholarship Accounts have a credit balance and this information also will be passed to you in a following letter.

To conclude this brief Report, we do consider that the Seven (7) present students are sufficient for your Association to sponsor through to their final year, that is another 2 years for 5 of the students and another 3 years for 2 of the students. As you are well aware there will be many changes in many things during the next few years and for the Association to complete the schooling of 7 students—will be a job well done.

Kind regards from Father Ivor, Danny Barnard, and from Helen and myself. . . . Seasons Greetings to all the 2/4 and sincere thanks for their support with the Scholarships.

Ern Smith.

### IN THE MAIL BAG

#### OUR NORTHERN N.S.W. VICE-PRES. REPORTS

Dear Jim,

On a recent Safari Vera and I called on and stayed with the **Erskines** at Griffith. **Tom Erskine, M.L.C.**, invited us to sit in on the Upper House—he also entertained us to dinner.

We also had a pleasant evening with **Allan** and **Gloria Lindsay**—Allan and I perused the list of the 2/4 Boys while the girls chatted. We also had a pleasant hour with **Peter** and **Margaret Cade**, who are on holidays.

On our way North, via the New England Highway we called on **Craig** and **Edna Clark**, and enjoyed their hospitality at lunch. We nattered for a while, but time forced us to move on. By the way they are both well and all four daughters are doing very well.

We then called on **Cyril Barwick** at Willow Tree and yarned for half an hour. He is in good health, and was renovating an old family home. He said he plans to make a trip to North Queensland next year.

We travelled through Bonalbo hoping to see **Aub Priest** and **John Hynett**, but they were at work. However next day, in Kyogle, **Aub Priest** saw me in the street, and stopped for a brief natter. He said all are well at home. Also had a few words with **Ron Ellem** of Woodenbong. He is not enjoying the best of health, but is bright.

Later in the day at Kyogle Bowling Club, I had a few "lemonades" with **Jack Chaseling**, **Chas Groves**, and **Ian Wallwork**, also my brother.

Ian's wife Edna has recently lost her mother. We moved on to Lismore for the Federal Legacy Conference, and one of the first I met was **Dave Endean** and his wife Stella. He was one of Sydney's delegates and was one time president of Lismore Legacy Club.

We also had a brief yarn with "**Slim**" **Pollock**, who is in Lismore on official duties. He is reasonably well and hopes to return to Sydney in about a week.

Also called on **Alan** and **Carma Kirk** and had tea with them. Alan said **Doug Stebbing** is well and is still a Storekeeper. We missed out on seeing the Slade Twins. They are both keen bowlers. On our way home we stopped in Maclean for Petrol, and the lady at the Service Station told us that **Pom (Frank) Wallace** had lost another brother, and that Pom had lost a lot of weight.

Thanks for your letter Jim, which arrived while we were on Safari.

In conclusion, we wish to kindly thank all those whose hospitality and company we enjoyed on our trip.

P.S.: As far as I know, all local boys and their wives are in good shape.

Kind regards,  
Esca and Vera.

#### NEWS FROM INDIA

Commandant Chint Singh,  
16 Bn. C.I.S.F. H.E.C. Ltd.  
Ranchi — — BiHar,  
India.

My Dear Harry,

I hope all is well with you and the family. I said goodbye to the O.G. in February and got re-employment with the Home Ministry Central Govt. as a commandant in the Central Industrial Security Police (C.I.S.F.) to safeguard the property in the plants in Public Sector. It is a good interesting job at the last pay drawn in the Army.

You will be glad to know that my son **Diljit Singh** has been taken as a student in Hobart University by the Australian Government. Mr. Holten, Mr. Turner and a few other friends had helped me a lot in Uni. mission. He is there in Tasmania since last February and now settled down.

Please convey to all the friends of Wewak my regards and hearty Greetings at the occasion of Xmas. How is General Dougherty? Kindly convey my regards to him as well.

You will be pleased to know that the Wewak authorities have constructed two memorials—one at Angoram and the other at Warringi Creek at Wewak in memory of Indian P.O.W's. who had sacrificed their lives in Wewak-Sepik area. This was a great achievement.

Well, dear Harry, that is all for the present—with my hearty regards and best wishes.

Yours sincerely,  
**Chint.**

#### STOP PRESS

#### NOTICE TO MEMBERS OF THE GALLIPOLI CLUB

Because of the requirements of the Liquor Act, the Gallipoli Club has been formed into a Company—**The Gallipoli Memorial Club Ltd.** It will be necessary for all club members to agree in writing to become members of the new company. A form will be posted to you by the Club asking for your signature. Please sign it and return it **without any delay** to ensure your club membership continues unbroken and your voting rights are retained. Members who have joined the Club since it was formed into a company are not required to complete the assent.

#### NEWS FROM MACKSVILLE

Congratulations to **John "Bush" Bennett** on being President of the local Rotary Club at Macksville. We hope you will be able to take time off to take **Billie** to the next Country Reunion at Lismore. The Bennett's son **Rowley** has commenced his own veterinary practice at Barraba, while daughter **Libby Jones** is married to a vet in Bourke. Best wishes to all the Bennetts from all the W.O.G.'s.

#### ENGAGEMENT

Our best wishes are extended to **Amanda**, second daughter of **Cec** and **Phyl Chrystal** of Castlecrag, on the announcement of her engagement to **Ralph Cooney** of Northbridge.

#### WEWAK SPORTS REPORT

Ten minutes of extra play gave Army Wewak an eleventh hour victory in the Wewak soccer premiership recently.

The Army team, comprised mainly of 2PIR soldiers, defeated Brandi High School 4-2.

Brandi High School scored both their goals in the first half and looked favourites to take the premiership at the start of the second half, reports ARMY's UC, Maj. M. C. Morrison.

Army rallied, however, with Pte. G. Vah and Cpl. S. Kaieh penetrating the Brandi defence to score goals.

The full-time score was a 2-2 draw, so a "time on" period of two five-minute halves was granted.

Army still was functioning well and Cpl. Kaieh set the team captain, 2LT. T. Takendu, up for another goal in the first five minute half.

In the second extra half Cpl. Kaieh saw an opportunity for another goal and achieved the final winning score just before the full-time whistle.

#### ON SERVICE — 1944

#### (Excerpt from our War History)

A new type of training was experienced in January, 1944. The unit moved to Millstream, near Ravenshoe,

for training in river crossings. For a few days all companies and battalion headquarters practised vigorously in all methods of getting across a stream. They used folding boats, kapok bridging material, waterproof canopies off motor trucks and rafts made from oil drums.

On the final day at Millstream a regatta was held. Platoon teams competed against each other using folding boats with a helmsman, four rowers and four passengers. There never was another regatta quite like it. During these and other water training exercises every effort was made to teach men to swim. This was very important for the hard campaigning that lay ahead, and every man was trained to be able to at least keep afloat and cover a distance of not less than twenty-five yards.

Next move was down to the coast where the unit gained experience in beach landings. The "Kanimbla", "Manoora" and "Westralia" were all Australian ships which were temporary hosts in these beach group activities. Troops became familiar with L.C.V's (Landing Craft—Vehicles), L.C.T's (Landing Craft—Tanks) and L.S.T's (Landing Ship—Tanks). There was a lot of close work done with the Americans in this phase of battalion training. It was all good experience, and served to strengthen the ties with our allies which was all to the good for the conduct of successful landings in the islands in the not distant future.

The dreaded scrub typhus caught up with one of the battalion at about this time. Private Fyffe, of "D" Company, died from it, and others were sent to hospital.

The battalion had another good break when, in April and May, 1944, most members of the unit went south again on leave. It was a long and tiring journey all the way down to Sydney, but few complained when it meant the joy of being at home again for twenty-four days.

It was about this time that an interesting letter was received from Frank Wright, M.M., formerly of "B" Company, who was taken prisoner in Greece. Frank wanted to tell his mates about the mounting air offensive in Germany prior to the allied landings in Normandy. One paragraph of a card which eventually reached the Atherton Tableland gave this description:

The spring is here and there is great beauty in the fields, forests and streams. But it is the birds I like most of all. Some of them are just like our Wirraways, only larger, and they are here in droves.

The prison camp censor had obviously not heard of the Australian bird called a wirraway or its namesake, the "Wirraway" aeroplane. The message got through.

Leave over, the battalion got to work again, and brigade and divisional exercises took place in earnest. With a steady flow of reinforcements which had come through in recent months, the unit was up to strength well above the average of past months. In April, 1944, it was able to muster thirty-nine officers and 862 other ranks.

A full-scale battle exercise took place at Biboohra in July. It was carried out with the support of aircraft and tanks. All types of support troops took part, too, including Corps Engineers, the 2/3rd Machine Gun Battalion and the 2/4th Pioneer Battalion. Each man taking part in this exercise was issued with a modified version of the battle orders. It was the day of keeping

troops "in the picture", and these methods paid off in the campaigns which lay ahead.

Later that month a divisional gymkhana was held at Herberton Racecourse. A team from the 2/4th Battalion won the drill competition and dropped only eleven points out of a possible 600. This team was selected from the whole unit. The average height was just on six feet, and the average weight was 12 stone 7 pounds. Lieutenant Noel Ford was in charge, Sergeant Tom Erskine was 2 i/c. Many N.C.O's were reduced to the ranks "for the purpose of the exercise". This team later won two other competitions which were conducted by 19th Brigade.

Former battalion officer, Captain Brian Rolfe, served as a Liaison Officer with 17th Brigade in the early New Guinea operations. Being a loyal, and still interested ex-member of the unit, he sent a long report on the problems of New Guinea fighting to the Commanding Officer of the 2/4th, Colonel Farrell. Later, the news of his death from a Japanese sword was received with great sorrow throughout the unit.

In September there were signs that the battalion might really be on the move at last. Cholera injections were given. Equipment was checked and replaced. There were many signs that movement overseas was imminent. Finally, at a brigade parade on October 4, the G.O.C. 6th Division, Major-General J. E. S. Stevens, informed the troops that they would shortly leave for battle stations.

The following week the Commander-in-Chief of Australian Forces, General Blamey, inspected a battalion parade and later Major-General Stevens presented to Sergeant Norman MacIntyre one of only three awards made by the U.S.S.R. to Australian troops. It was the Order of the Patriotic War, 1st Class, one of which was given to the 6th Division and another to the 7th Division.

This order was instituted by the Soviet Government in May, 1942 and was awarded to those "showing great heroism and courage and good results in fighting the Fascist invader". Approval was formerly given by the Commonwealth Minister for the Army for Norm MacIntyre and others to receive and wear these awards, and so the occasion of this parade was used to make the presentation. Members of the unit who knew of Norm's sterling work in various theatres were not surprised, and in those days this honour was received with respect and enthusiasm. It was a matter of interest to find that this award carried with it a pension of 20 roubles a month for life, and free travel on all public transport in Russia, as well as certain tax concessions should he choose to live there. There is no indication that Norm has been at any pains to take advantage of these rewards. He finds the freedom of Australia's wide open spaces more than satisfying.

On October 17, 1944, the unit started on its movement towards New Guinea. By the end of the month the battalion was aboard the U.S. Army transport "City of Mexico" (not the aircraft carrier "New Mexico" which earlier rumours had hopefully suggested) steaming slowly towards Aitape.