



# White Water 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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**November Meeting: 7.30 p.m., Friday, 23rd at Gallipoli Club, 12 Loftus Street, Sydney.**

## LADIES NIGHT

**SATURDAY, 10th NOVEMBER, 1973**

— AT —

**THE GALLIPOLI MEMORIAL CLUB**

12 LOFTUS STREET, SYDNEY, at 8 p.m

Guest of Honour — Lieutenant-Colonel Joan Paige (R) A.R.R.C. (Miss Paige served as a Sister with 2/1st A.G.H. at Gaza, Palestine, 1940-42, later becoming Deputy Director of the Australian Army Nursing Service in Queensland and Victoria).

**BUFFET SUPPER PROVIDED. REFRESHMENTS AT NORMAL CLUB PRICES**

**Tickets: \$2.50 each**

YOUR PRESENCE WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS IS REQUESTED



### THE GRAFTON REUNION

(With acknowledgments to "The Grafton Daily Examiner")

"Men of the 2/4th Battalion were involved in the major theatres of the war across the world and in each place, in each engagement, large and small, they demonstrated their gallantry serving with honour and distinction."

This was stated by the Bishop of Grafton, the Rt. Rev. Donald Shearman, in a Cenotaph address to the men of the 2/4th Australian Infantry Battalion, in Grafton over the week-end for their reunion.

Bishop Shearman praised the men of the Fighting Fourth for their courage and service to their country in World War II, when they were exposed to extreme conditions, ugliness, horror and carnage and were lucky to have one decent night's sleep in three.

He remarked that it had been said of the 2/4th Battalion that in courage—that indefinable thing men called guts—they were never defeated because they did not know the meaning of defeat.

The unit served with honour and distinction, in all its campaigns, this being exemplified by Private Edward Kenna in New Guinea in 1945 when in the best traditions of his unit he was awarded the Victoria Cross for an outstanding example of the highest degree of bravery.

"Many other decorations for valour were awarded in the battalion's six years of formation—1939 to 1946—and many many more deserved," he added.

Speaking of the comradeship Bishop Shearman said only the men of the battalion could really know the depth of mateship that grew during those six years and the sacrifice involved.

"We are not here to glorify war, but to remember with gratitude those who went and fought and especially those who died to give us the enjoyment of freedom, a freedom that we sometimes abuse and all too often take for granted.

"War is not just men in bright uniforms looking glamorous parading in city streets, it is a waste, particularly of human lives, so war has to be wrong, but it is well worth remembering that frequently the issues of the last war were not a choice between right and wrong but between two courses, both of which were wrong."

"However, if a man is confronted with two evils, one of which he must do, he will not be held guilty of personal sin doing the lesser", Bishop Shearman told veterans of the battalion.

He added that so long as there were those who lived by injustice and oppression and fear and hate with others prepared to bow to them there would always be war, with the only final solution to change the lives of men.

"So I believe there is no point in your efforts over those six years at the war, there is no point in the suffering and death of your mates unless in peacetime you strive in the quality of your own lives and by influencing others to bring about the peace for which so many died so long ago", Bishop Shearman concluded.

**A reunion dinner at the Grafton District Service Club was attended by some 250 men of the battalion and their ladies.**

Mr. Jim Brown, MLA for Raleigh, and a veteran of the 2/4th, in a toast to fallen comrades, spoke of the ultimate sacrifice they had given for the freedom they

had bought so dearly and of the gallantry they were noted for.

President of the battalion association, Mr. H. Gjedsted, in welcoming guests to the reunion, said the atmosphere in which these reunions were held reflected of deep comradeship which had built up during the years of service and had never been allowed to die or wilt.

He said it was gratifying to see so many people travel in many cases long distances to participate in the reunion celebrations.

In welcoming special guest, Major-General Sir Ivan Dougherty, one time Commanding Officer of the 2/4th Battalion, Mr. Gjedsted said he did not welcome him as a guest but as a fellow comrade who set the standard for the men of the battalion to follow.

Mayor of Grafton, Ald. Ray Fanning, in a civic welcome said the community knew the mission of war, but said some good came from it. This good, a deep affection and a healthy sense of comradeship for each other, was ever present in the people who made up the reunion. It was these people that Grafton took pride in welcoming.

In wishing them an enjoyable and pleasant memory-filled week-end, Ald. Fanning said he hoped it would not be another 16 years before the battalion decided to visit Grafton again.

### HIGH STANDARDS

Mr. Hugh Miller, in a toast to the 2/4th referred to the high standard and incentive the men of the original 4th Battalion of World War I had set.

He spoke of the battalion's colours, white over green, and said it was a colour that had always been carried proudly and represented a distinguished outfit of men.

Patron of the battalion association, Sir Ivan Dougherty, in reply thanked Mr. Miller for his toast to the battalion.

Sir Ivan said it was disheartening to hear many people say that Australia was just becoming a nation, when so many men had made the extreme sacrifice between 1939-1945 to preserve Australia as a free nation.

He said Australia had been a nation for a very long time and was the reason why so many men rose as a nation to fight an oppressor.

Speaking of the battalion, Sir Ivan said the spirit of the 2/4th was borne out in the number of "old soldiers" attending the reunion.

"For many, the journey to Grafton was not an easy one, particularly with many airline services out of operation over the week-end, but still they got here to share the memories of their service days with comrades", Sir Ivan said.

He stated the battalion was grateful for the toasts and remarks directed at them, and said Grafton could be assured that many would accept the invitation to return.

### LIFE MEMBER

Mr. E. Riordan, Northern N.S.W. Vice-President of the battalion association, was presented with a life membership badge for his work and efforts within the association.



The badge was presented to Mr. Riorden by Mr. Gjedsted, who also presented six battalion plaques to the guests at the reunion, including one to Mr. Edward Kenna, V.C. who had travelled from Hamilton, Victoria, with his wife Marjorie, for the function.

Mr. Gjedsted extended the battalion's deep appreciation to Mr. Leo Lynch, a veteran of the 2/4th for his part in organising the reunion, thanked him on behalf of the battalion for the warm hospitality extended by the club during their stay in Grafton.

#### THANK YOU, GRAFTON

The sincere thanks of members is extended to all those who made the Grafton Reunion one of the best yet held. To Club President **Hugh Miller** for graciously permitting the Club premises to be used for the function — To Club Secretary/Manager **Wally Sinclair**, without whose consistent support over many months the going would have been very tough indeed — and to the Secretary of the organising committee **Leo Lynch** (and Eileen) for the tremendous personal effort they expended and without which there would not have been a Reunion.

The President, Committee and members of the 2/4th Australian Infantry Battalion Association are truly grateful for the opportunity of enjoying a wonderful Reunion week-end at such a lovely Club in the beautiful city of Grafton.

#### RICK CARTER REPORTS

On Monday, 27th August, I was in Sydney for an examination at Grace Bldg. While there I rang **Cec Chrystal** and told him of the health of **Bill Hyde**. I was informed today that he passed away on the night of 31st August. His funeral will be on Tuesday, 3rd September and I shall attend representing the 2/4th Bn. and the Coffs Harbour T.P.I. Soc. and Welfare Club of which he was a member. I do not know whether Bill was a financial member of our Assoc. but I have ordered a wreath from the Assoc., the amount to be sent to me and I will pay for it. I also requested that the Bn. colours, White and Green ribbons, be attached to the wreath.

Bill was the father-in-law of our late member **Fred Vaughan** and the address is Pacific Highway, Raleigh 2492.

**Bill White** was up here last month and I had a chat with him on various matters that required attention. He retires in Feb. next year and we will all miss him for his devotion to the needs of all ex-servicemen. He has helped many people towards receiving a pension, some of whom did not even know that they were entitled to one. I am most grateful for his assistance in my disabilities and the granting to me of my T.P.I.

Sometime in the near future I have to again enter Concord for surgery. will let you know the date I go in. I hope that I will be able to attend Grafton Reunion. Pity I do not get the chance more often to be able to meet the old boys. All the best for a happy time and that the weather stays like it is now for then.

Remember that invitation that I gave you to come up for a holiday still stands—we will make you more than welcome. That's all Robin.

Regards to all and yourself especially.

RICK CARTER

#### GUEST OF HONOUR

Guest of Honour at the 1973 Ladies' Night on Saturday, 10th November, is a distinguished ex-member of the Australian Army Nursing Service, **NFX298 Lieut.-Colonel J. B. (Joan) Paige** (R.) of Greenwich.

Miss Paige served with 2/1st A.G.H. from 1939 to 1943, sailing in the first convoy to the Middle East on 10th January, 1940. On her return to Australia she served for a short time as Tutor to R.A.M.C. and for two years was Chief Instructor at the A.A.M.W.S. School at Darley, Victoria. She was demobilised in 1946.

Re-enlisting in 1952 Joan became Deputy Director of the Australian Army Nursing Service. In 1957 she was posted to the U.K. as an observer of British Hospitals for the A.A.N.S. Returning to Australia in 1959 she served until 1967 occupying the positions of A.D.A.N.S. (Queensland) and A.D.A.N.S. (Victoria and South Australia). During this period too, Joan was for a time Matron of the Hospital at the Royal Military College, Duntroon.

#### SECRETARY TO RETIRE

Honorary Secretary **George Stack**, who has served our Association with such devotion and distinction for the past 12 years has indicated he will not stand for re-election at the next Annual General Meeting. To enable the Association to plan for a successor George has, in his usual thoughtful way, given plenty of notice of his intention in a letter to **President Harry**. It says: "Dear Harry,

This letter is being written after much thought and consideration on my part for some considerable time, and so I respectfully and **regretfully tender my resignation as Secretary, to take effect from the next Annual General Meeting, February, 1974, and hope you will accede to my wishes.**

My request is governed by many personal reasons, and also health reasons. I have missed some nights through private reasons, which clash with either of the monthly meetings, and this will continue to prevail.

Getting into town from Ashfield at times, with the state of work as it is now, causes a rush quite often, and frankly though it may not seem to be the case at times, I am very tired, and to use an old phrase—'put on a happy face'.

I feel like a rest for a couple of years, from even the Committee; so will enjoy being a 'back bencher' and will continue to take an interest in the Association, which has given me much pleasure.

It will be twelve years next February; on on Committee, and eleven as Secretary. I am sure someone can take my place, for there is always someone to step into the breach; that is the secret of good service.

I have sincerely enjoyed being associated with you and all the other office bearers over those years, and wish success to those who will steer us through 1974 and the years to come.

With many thanks and hoping you will understand.

Yours sincerely,

**George Stack.**

Hon. Secretary".



## COCK'S COLUMN

Those in attendance at the September meeting — **Harry Gjedsted, Dick Morris, Jim Cameron, Ted Fox, John "Larry" Dooley, Russ McWilliam, John Copland, John Meehan, Peter Cade, "Mike" Richardson, Harry Wright, Dick Pinson, Ken Webb, John Ringrose, Athol Heath, Cec Chrystal, Dick Faulder, Sid Young** and myself.

**Sid Young** reports that **Rex Gilliland** is back in hospital and sorry to say that Rex is not the best; we are sorry also, Rex, to hear that you are in Concord again — here's hoping that you will soon be well.

Again met **Jack Dubber** of 5 Frederick St., Campsie, who, on Saturday, 4th went around to Davistown R.S.L. and saw **Colin "Bunny" Burrows**. Col went up there to retire and finished up Sec./Manager of Davistown R.S.L. Jack reports: "It's only a small Club, but have 12½ acres of land and 1½ million dollars to spend on a new Club, so looks like he will be there a while yet". It was so good on the Saturday that we went around on the Sunday again when they were entertaining Belmore R.S.L., who ran a raffle. The President of Davistown R.S.L., a **Mr. Fred Travers**, won it (2 flathead, 3 bream, 2 jars of oysters, lemons and tomatoes), but on account of being a friend of Bunny, gave it to me".

Jack also met **Bill Stewart** from "D" Coy., a member of Belmore R.S.L. lives at Doll's Point, who is not enjoying the best of health. Sorry to hear of this, Bill — long time no see. Hoping you're soon well again, Bill, and regards to Joyce and your family.

That chap's name whom Jack could not think of, who lives at Woy Woy, is **Bill Gaul**, an original of the Battalion. "Bunny" told Jack that **Fred Bourke** is at The Entrance, also "**Brick**" **Bradford** is at Long Jetty. Jack had a few beers with **Jack Shearer** at Sans Souci Hotel, generally of a Saturday morning. On Monday, 6th August, Jack called into Woy Woy Hotel to have a couple of drinks before leaving and finished up having a few drinks extra with "**Lofty**" **Taylor**. He is a traveller for whisky around the Central Coast, and after he left Woy Woy was going around to Davistown so would see "Bunny" also. Thanks, Jack, for the interesting news.

On 30th October last year I posted a card and letter to **Frank Mallett**, 86 Wroxham Rd., Sprowston, Norwich, Norfolk, England. On 7th August this was returned to me with the words "Not Known" written on the envelope. On Friday, 24th August I received a letter from Frank with \$3 enclosed for his subs. I am sorry, Frank, that you did not receive my letter and card—I omitted to put the number on.

**Bill MacLennan** had a note from **Ivan "Slim" Pollock** recently. "Slim" was writing from Goondiwindi and sent best wishes to all. He enclosed a cutting from a country newspaper reporting that our member **John Hyles** of Tharwa, A.C.T. had purchased a large sheep station in Queensland.

**Bruce Cook**, son of **Peter and Betty Cook** of Arncliffe has made a name for himself in the golfing field. In a large article in the Sydney Sun recently, tribute was paid to the temperament of "this big (6'2") outwardly shy, fingerprint expert at the C.I.B." Bruce defeated **Geoff Everett, Tony Gresham** and **Trevor Wood** on the way to the final of the State Championship, and although beaten 6 and 5 by **Harry Berwick** in

the final put up a tremendous show against the "old wizard" on a windy day at The Lakes.

Incidentally, Bruce's wife Pauline has played for N.S.W. at Basketball and each Tuesday ducks out for a game in the Eastern Suburbs competition, while Bruce baby-sits nine months old **David**. Congratulations to all the Cooks.

During the recent strike **Dick Morris** met **Stan Maybury** in the Custom House Hotel. Stan was originally one of the North Coast "mob" but ended up in another unit. Stan has attended several Anzac Days with **Allan Kirk** and wishes to be remembered to the gang.

**Hughie Burgdorf** of Pascoe Vale, Vic., in a note to **Bill** and **Gwen MacLennan** sent apologies for their inability to attend the Grafton Reunion. They had planned to have their holiday at this time and take in the Reunion but unforeseen business commitments prevented such. Hughie says he can guarantee he won't miss another one. **Claude Raymond** rang to say he was off to Grafton. **Norm Gillespie** and **Len Hill** are OK, but **Wally Dell** has been ill after a big op. He is improving now, though.

Hugh sent best wishes to all, particularly the Mortar mob and **Doug Grove** in which good wishes his wife **Doris** joined.

### IN THE MAIL BAG:

Grafton Lodge  
86 Wroxham Road  
Sprowston  
Norwich, Norfolk.  
17/8/73.

Dear Robin,

As you can see I am in Cornwall for a few days, after a while in Hamburg, Germany and Rotterdam, Holland. I have enjoyed my trip around, but will be pleased to get home to Norwich. As it's a while since I was there I should have a spot of mail waiting for me. I look forward to receiving my W.O.G., it keeps me up with the newsof old friends — when I read about a person I can picture him as he was in the Army days. If ever you see **Mick Owers** or **Ron Belford** give them a good will from me. Maybe when I retire in a year or two I shall make my way out to Aussie for a long holiday so that I can have a good run round. Please pass on to **Ted McCaffery** and the others I used to meet at the N.B. my respects and best wishes.

If I was at home all the time I would be able to have visiting friends from Australia staying with me but in my job I can never say what I am doing, or where I'm going.

We are having grand weather but a few gales and night fog. I don't know how I stand with my subs., but have enclosed three dollars if you will pay in for me. Well, my old friend, I give you my best wishes, in fact to you all; will write again before long.

Sincerely,

FRANK MALLETT

### A REMINDER . . .

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE  
on 31st December, 1973