



# 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.

28th YEAR OF CONTINUOUS PUBLICATION

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**NEXT MEETING: Friday, 25th January, 1974 at Gallipoli Memorial Club,  
12 Loftus Street, Sydney, at 7.30 p.m.**

*A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All*

**PATRON SIR IVAN AND LADY DOUGHERTY WITH PRESIDENT HARRY AND MARJORIE GJEDSTED**, 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 1974.

## THE 1974 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, 22nd February, 1974.**

### Business

1. To confirm the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting.
4. To elect Office Bearers for 1974.
3. To receive and consider the Accounts and Balance Sheets for the year ending 31st December, 1973.
4. To elect Office Bearers for 1974.
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.**

## ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

SUBSCRIPTIONS for 1974 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, 21A Mirral Road, Caringbah 2229.** 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, 22nd February, 1974. T.P.I. members are entitled to free membership.

## THANK YOU—

At our Ladies' Night last month many laudatory remarks were made about the wonderful success of the Grafton Reunion. Although we did mention our thanks in the last issue of W.O.G., we think it right to repeat the sentiments expressed.

To all concerned with the 1973 Country Reunion at Grafton we send our heartfelt thanks for their endeavours in enabling us to enjoy a really successful weekend. To the Grafton Services Club President **Hugh Miller**, to Sec. Manager **Wally Sinclair**, to the Caterers and Stewards, to **Bill Simpson** (ex 2/1st Field Regt.) the owner of the boat on which a delightful river cruise was enjoyed, our special thanks is due.

And last in order of mention but first (because there



always has to be a first) in order of merit, sincere thanks to **Leo "The Lion" Lynch** for his fantastic efforts as Secretary of the local committee in organising the whole deal.

Best wishes for a Hoppy Xmas and Prosperous New Year to you all.

### LETTERS OF APPRECIATION

4/88 Shirle yRoad  
Wollstonecraft 2065

The President,  
2/4 Infantry Battalion Association.  
Dear Harry,

It was kind of you and the members of the 2/4 Association to have me as your guest of honour last evening.

It was a delightful evening and I was honoured to be with you all. There is no doubt when ever one meets up with the 2/4th one is met with friendship that is warming and good for one's "ego", and one comes away remembering the happy past, and inspired to look forward to a future that is better for that past.

The flowers are gorgeous, and I was quite overcome to be presented with those in addition to being your guest. How right it was and how pleasant for me that Marj. made the presentation. Each bloom is a perfect one and the colours beautiful and my rooms look gay.

I was pleased to meet Marj. and so many of the others whom I had not met before. I hope I will have an opportunity to meet you all again in the not too distant future.

Blessings for Christmas and best wishes for 1974.

With affection,

JOAN

(The above letter was received from Lieut.-Col. J. B. Paige (R), A.R.R.C., who was Guest of Honour at our Ladies Night on 10th November.—Ed.)

\* \* \* \*

Fourth Battalion  
The Royal New South  
Wales Regiment  
Arncliffe.

Dear Harry,

The 2/4th Infantry Battalion Association plaque is certainly most attractive and well designed. Fourth Battalion, The Royal New South Wales Regiment is both honoured and proud to receive such a symbol of the history and tradition which has preceded us.

The plaque is now occupying pride of place amongst those displayed at the headquarters in Arncliffe. Anything associated with the forebearers of the proud name Fourth Battalion is assured of a place of honour with us.

\* \* \* \*

Thank you and your Association—may your efforts continue to be crowned with successes as exemplified by the production of your Association plaque.

Yours sincerely,

VIN HALLINAN  
(Lieut.-Col. V. E. Hallinan, E.D.)

\* \* \* \*

13 Condamine Street  
Turner, A.C.T. 2601

Dear Bill,

I was sorry to see **George Stack's** note to Harry in the last issue of W.O.G. He has been part of the Association executive for so long that it is hard to

believe that the time has come for him to give up the onerous task of Secretary. It is the "engine room" job which is not sought by many.

I'm sure that all the "bush" boys will join me in wishing George a very well-earned rest from all executive duties in the Association. We in the "bush" had the advantage of having this wonderful organization in Sydney working for us. It just can't be easy for dedicated blokes like George to keep at it year after year and still do all the other things which must be done in his own personal sphere. Yet he has made a great contribution, working hard all the time without thought of reward or acclaim.

Well done, George! We pay tribute to you in words; you have paid your tribute to us in work. May you have great satisfaction in a task for your mates well done, and live on with us for many happy years.

"Horse Doctor"

JACK HUSTON

### THE GALLIPOLI MEMORIAL CLUB

Association members are advised that they are invited to join the above Club now for the year 1974. All of you are no doubt aware that **Sir Ivan** is Patron of the Club and **Harry Gjedsted** is Secretary/Manager. Among the Directors are **Bill MacLennan, Allen Lindsay, Dick Morris, John Copland, Ted Fox** and **Rusty McWilliam**. **Allen** is Hon. Treasurer and **Dick Morris** the Minute Secretary.

All Returned from Active Service personnel are welcomed as ordinary members and others are free to join as Social Members. Ladies are entitled to join in their own right and are allowed the use of all facilities of the Club at all times.

The Gallipoli Memorial Club is destined to become one of the most desirable Clubs in the city of Sydney. Why not join now for 1974?

Application forms may be obtained from **Harry Gjedsted** at the Club, or his Secretary Miss Sloman, by telephoning 27-6350. Nomination fee is \$4.00 and subscription is \$4.50 per year.

### CASH REGISTER

Hon. Treasurer **Allen Lindsay** acknowledges receipt of the following names:

**Subscriptions**—\$3.00 each from:

**R. Finlay, L. McCosker, A. Bromilow, J. Matthews, D. Yench, V. Quinn, J. Hawkins, C. Kong, W. Hart, W. Key, E. McCaffery, N. McIntyre, F. Mallett.**

\$5.00 each from: **S. Dean, P. Cross.**

6.00 each from: **H. Cumming, B. Bradford, F. Bourke, V. Bowman, S. Blacksley, H. Batcheldor, E. F. Wilson.**

\$10.00 each from: **W. Capper, E. V. Brooks.**

\$13.00 from: **N. Ford.**

**Life Membership** of \$30.00 each from:

**S. Andrews, A. Kirk, J. Reynolds, C. Ryan.**

**Donations**—**E. V. Brooks** \$10; **Mrs. L. Wallace** \$2; **Wewak Scholarship Fund** — **J. Pearce** \$10; **M. Irvine** \$10; **19th Inf. Bde. Assn.** \$50; **D. Baxter** \$2; **The Newcastle Group** \$50.

### 6th AUSTRALIA DIVISION A.I.F. REUNION

The Entrance — Long Jetty

Friday, 15th March, 1974

Ex-members of 6th Aust. Div. now residing in the Central Coast area of N.S.W. will hold their Annual



Reunion at the Tuggerah Lakes Meroial Club, Long Jetty, on the date above. Ex-members of the 6th Division from anywhere are invited to attend.

There will be a short service at the Flame of Remembrance at 6.30 p.m. after which members will return to the Club. Dinner will be served at 8 p.m.

Guest speaker will be **Dr. C. H. (Tom) Selby**, President 6 Australian Div. N.S.W. Branch.

The charge is £2.00 per person and payment should be made to:

Mr. C. M. JOHNSON, Treasurer,  
6 Div. Reunion,  
C/- Tuggerah Lakes Memorial Club,  
6 Gallipoli Street,  
Long Jetty, N.S.W. 2262.

### INFORMATION WANTED

Will someone with a good memory help Jim Whittaker? In March, 1941 Jim was in a truck which left Tobruk on the way to Mersa Matruh. A front spring broke, the steering jammed, and the truck rolled over 2 or 3 times—finishing upside down off the road. Jim received injuries to the spine and shoulder and was treated on the spot by Bn. R.A.P. men. Jim remembers NX1982 **Bill Bowen** was one in the truck with him. Anyway, the back is now giving Jim a lot of trouble but the Repat. Dept. says there is no record of treatment for the trouble. Can anyone help with supporting evidence of the accident. If you can, please contact:

JIM WHITTAKER, P.O. Box 40, Millaa Millaa  
Q'land 4886.

### COCK'S COLUMN

**Jacqueline Guy** has made **Dorothy Pike** a very happy Nanna again. A 9 lb. 13½ oz. daughter, **Leonie Elizabeth** was born on 6th October just two years and one day after the birth of Cathy. Best wishes to the family, Jacqueline. Vic and Dorothy now live at Lower Macdonald, via Wiseman's Ferry.

**Mrs. Nellie Parkinson** has been in R.G.H. Concord with a broken femur and is now at Lady Davidson Convalescent Hospital learning to walk. From there Mrs. Parkinson will be going into a Rest Home at Eastford if possible. Our very best wishes for a complete and speedy return to good health.

**Tom Provians**, Queensland Vice-President, has been in the city again and was a welcome visitor to the Gallipoli Club. Tom was on his way home from a South Australian trip. On behalf of all Queensland members Tom extends Festive Greetings to all WOG readers and their families.

We are sorry to learn from "**Bush**" and **Billie Bennett** of Macksville that our Northern N.S.W. Vice-President **Esca Riordan** was involved in a motor accident and was admitted to Macksville Hospital. We know you are in good hands, Esca, and wish you a very quick return to good health.

**Vic Francis** called in to the Gallipoli Club for a chat and an ale. Vic and Eileen are now domiciled in Victoria from where they are leaving for an extended tour around Australia. Best of luck, Vic and Eileen.

### THE DANMAP RIVER, DECEMBER 1944

18 Platoon was in its fifth day across the river in the role of outpost-cum-independent patrol post and also on the morning of December 21 they received word that they were to be relieved by a patrol of the 2/11th Battalion. As **Corporal Vic Forbes** put it: "This was very welcome news as rations were low, bully beef and tea being the diet, and very little of that after the third day. Water had also been a great problem, filling bottles had been overcome to some extent by draining the water from lawyer canes and water vines. The platoon had not washed or shaved, though we had been wet most of the time either from rain or perspiration. Malaria and dengue fever were also beginning to make their presence felt."

And of the subsequent events, Forbes wrote:

I received orders from **Lieutenant Healey** to proceed with 8 Section to Knife Crossing and signal the "all clear" to our relief to enable them to cross the river. We were to move at 1115 hours, our relief being due at the crossing at 1300 hours. Daily clearing patrols had investigated Knife Crossing without seeing signs of the enemy so the route out was considered safe. 18 Platoon was ordered to leave the greater part of its ammunition at the patrol base in order to establish a reserve for the 2/11th patrol.

I was not happy about taking my section out, as the leading section, without my full complement of ammunition and after some discussion, Lieutenant Healey allowed me fifteen rounds per rifle, four magazines of Bren and four for the two Owen guns and one grenade each. At 1115 hours 8 Section moved from the patrol base in their usual formation and by 1215 hours we had reached a point on the spur about 30 yards from the river bank at Knife Crossing. We could view the river flat on both sides of the spur and at this point the forward scout signalled that he could see five enemy, so placing the section in a defensive position I went forward to him (**Terry Paff**) and we then saw ten Japs on the river flat, right on the spur and four on the left who were cutting poles. I could also hear timber being cut in a gully on the right. I judged that there were at least 25 Japs and as they had completed some shelters it was obvious that they had been there for some time.

My section consisted of ten men including **Private Jim McCloy**, a stretcher bearer and **Sergeant Parker Hughes**, who had been attached to the patrol as cook. Considering the enemy numbers and our shortage of ammunition, I decided against attacking but to engage the enemy from ambush. On deciding, I despatched **Private Nalder** to **Lieutenant Healey** with the information and to return with ammunition. By 1230 hours the section was in position for the ambush. The main body of the enemy was on the right of the spur on the flat back from the river bank and along the gully where they had completed some shelters. The enemy on the right appeared to be a working party, cutting timber and preparing positions. Covering these was **Terry Paff** (Owen gun), **Parker Hughes** and myself with rifles. The Bren team, **Pat O'Keefe** and **Billy Maher**, covered the gully and shelters, **Jim Walsh** (Owen gun) and **Bob Berry** with a rifle covered the enemy on the left. **Lance-Corporal Tom Hudson** and **Jim McCloy** were responsible for rear protection.

About 1245 hours I became anxious about our relief who, at this time, should have been approaching the



crossing on the opposite bank of the river, and I decided to warn them by our fire should the enemy make any suspicious movements. The signal for the section to open fire was to be my first shot. Shortly after this one of the enemy on the right saw us. I immediately shot him and the section opened fire. Some of the Japs returned the fire but to no effect as they did not have much idea of our position. We soon despatched the enemy in sight and, to conserve ammunition, I gave the cease fire. Five or six dead Japs were counted on the right, three were claimed on the left. The results of the Bren could not be seen through the shelters but they and the surrounding area were thoroughly shot up.

Leaving a standing patrol of **Tom Hudson** and **Jim Walsh** to watch the enemy movements, I withdrew the section about seventy yards along the track to a good defensive position where I decided to await Nalder's return with the ammunition and further orders. Shortly after the section settled into its new position, **Jim McCloy**, who was sentry, shot a Jap who had got behind the standing patrol. **Lieutenant Healey** arrived at 1430 hours accompanied by his batman and **Corporal Butler** with 7 Section and Nalder who was commended on the he had done. After receiving my information, Healey made a short reconnaissance and issued orders to attack with 1 Section forward on the track to deal with the left river flat to the bank and 8 Section to deal with the right gully and flat to the bank. The signal to attack was to be a grenade blast.

On the signal being given, 7 Section with **Lieutenant Healey** moved in quickly and after a short, fierce engagement, reached the river bank. The few enemy who escaped their fire fled along the bank to the left or around to the right of the spur. 7 Section accounted for five or six of the enemy, capturing a light machine gun and a number of rifles without loss to themselves. 8 Section moved down the right of the spur and the width of their front being about 40 yards found it necessary to use extended line formation which made control very hard to keep. The Owen guns were on the flanks and Brens in the centre with me. Targets were plentiful, **Tom Hudson** getting the largest bag in accounting for six (some wounded) and later, one other who was preparing to throw a grenade at him. The two attached men, **Jim McCloy** and **Parker Hughes**, did an excellent job for the section. **Terry Paff** who was on the extreme right flank, accounted single-handed for an L.M. gunner and a number of riflemen, killing four and wounding others. This L.M.G. had 8 Section under fire from the flank and but for Paff's prompt and courageous action, there is no doubt that 8 Section would have suffered severe casualties. Paff was killed while exploiting along the river bank. For his action he was recommended for the Victoria Cross and was considered very unfortunate not to have gained the award posthumously.

Owing to the size of the area and the numerous hiding places along the river bank, in the kunai grass and undergrowth, mopping up was not carried out as thoroughly as necessary and when **Lieutenant Healey** moved into the river to signal our relief to cross, he shot with his pistol three enemy who were hiding under the bank. **Don Healey's** bravery, determination and leadership of the patrol was acknowledged by the award of a well-earned Military Cross.

With the conclusion of the action our relief crossed

the river and took up defensive positions, allowing 18 Platoon to reorganise. **Terry Paff's** body was buried by the river. Result of the action was twenty-eight enemy killed, approximately six by 7 Section, four by Healey and the remainder by 8 Section. Twelve were seen by the 2/11th patrol escaping along the river. Later information from the Intelligence Section stated that included in the enemy casualties was the Area Commandant and a special branch warrant officer. As some gear and personal items belonging to "C" Company casualties were recovered, it was presumed that the enemy engaged by us was the same body who had previously ambushed "C" Company. 7 and 8 Sections by dusk had reached "A" Company of 2/11th Battalion's area.

(Ack. to "White Over Green")

### WELFARE REPORT

The following have been hospitalised during November: **Arthur McLean, John Waite, John Walsh, Keith Beaty, Rick Carter** and **Baden Payne**.

**Dick Faulder**, who was to carry out visitations during October, is himself a patient at Concord.

For the Festive Season, may I wish you all Good Health in the coming year.

JIM CAMERON, Welfare Officer

### "WHITE OVER GREEN"

Some members have not been receiving their copies of W.O.G. on time. A number of factors have contributed to this during the year. Firstly, the printing company which has been handling our work for a number of years was taken over by a large concern and we were not able to get the same prompt service. Secondly, industrial disturbances during the year have been responsible for a number of stoppages in the printing industry and last, but certainly not least in its effect, is the deplorably slow service from the P.M.G.'s Department.

Action has been taken to rectify one of these problems—Bookcraft Printing Company of St. Peters has taken over the printing of the magazine and the staff involved are doing a fine job—and on time. Industrial action for the moment is not affecting us but the Postal service leaves much to be desired. The October issue, which was posted especially early to reach members in good time with notice of Ladies' Night, took more than three times that usually accepted for 2nd class mail matter. As a result many members who rely on the WOG reminders were absent on Ladies' Night.

So, if your WOG is late, bear with the MacLennan and McWilliam families — and look up the previous month's issue for advice of meetings, etc.

Best wishes for a Happy Xmas and a Good 1974  
from THE "WOG" MOB

### GREETINGS FROM "COCK" ROBIN

**Jim "Cock" Robin** extends to his 2/4th Bn. friends everywhere very best wishes for a Happy Xmas and a Prosperous and Peaceful New Year. Thank you for your support of "Cock's Column" during the year.

May God's Blessing be with you all.

—JIM