



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.E.

28th YEAR OF CONTINUOUS PUBLICATION

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, FEBRUARY 22, 1974

at Gallipoli Memorial Club, 12 Loftus Street, Sydney, at 7.30 p.m.

VALE BARBARA McWILLIAM

The sudden and unexpected death of Barbara, beloved wife of Russ, on Monday, 17th December, 1973, came as a terrible and unbelievable shock to us all and in extending our condolences and deepest sympathy to Russ and family, and to Barbara's family, we share with them the sorrow and grief that comes with the loss of Barbara from our midst. Barbara was born on the family property "Gratti".

Following the outbreak of war in 1939, Barbara joined the WAAAF's and served in various locations throughout Australia. At the end of the war she met and married Flight Lieut. Russell McWilliam on his return from Active Service overseas. Russ was one of many 2/4th Bn. men who transferred to the R.A.A.F. when the Battalion returned to Australia from the Middle East in 1942.

Barbara and Russell raised a wonderful family—Captain Ian (R.A.R. and Duntroon Graduate), Virginia and Robin, Phillip and David—a family of great strength and character and loyalty and held in high esteem and respect by all who know them.

Barbara had a great concern for the welfare of others and with Russ was untiring in the work she did for our Association and its commitments and activities both within and outside the Association. It was a pleasure and delight to be in her company, her friendliness was infectious and she was a wonderful person in every respect and was loved by all who knew her.

Barbara will always be with us—in our thoughts and memories. Let us be grateful and thankful that we knew her and were her friends, that we had the honour and pleasure of sharing part of her life, and that she has given us all so much to remember her by.

—HARRY GJEDSTED

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.
2. 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.

EDITORIAL

Over five years ago Russ McWilliam unhesitatingly took the helm of W.O.G. when I, Dick Morris, sustained the sad loss of Joyce.

Russ, aided by Barbara and old mates such as Bill MacLennan and their family, has unfailingly carried on the editing, publishing and distribution of our wonderful little publication since that time.

He, unfortunately, has suffered a similar experience

to my own with the passing of Barbara, wife, mother and helpmate par excellence.

We all share—and are the poorer—for this loss.

We know that Russ and his family are facing their loss with fortitude and courage, and that the resilience of a valiant heart will in time allow him to again take up those "duties" which have put him in the vanguard of our activities.

However, for the moment, let us lift the burden from his shoulders by all doing what we can to carry on his good work.

Please help maintain the standard of W.O.G. by contributing timely news and articles — particularly info. on old mates and their families.

Thank you.

DICK MORRIS

(Phone: 9-5) 20922 Ext. 2296. Post: 1115
Victoria Road, West Ryde 2114.)

A SAD OCCASION

Pymble Presbyterian Church was filled to overflowing when people from all walks of life attended the Service by the Rev. Bob Macarthur to pay their last respects to Barbara McWilliam.

The church was also filled with sadness, sympathy and compassion — one could sense the pervading atmosphere—but finally, as the wonderful message of the gifted Minister unfolded, Hope emerged to mingle with and temper other feelings and fill the church and those therein with an uplifting of the spirit.

Hope for the future—for family and friends; Association and Australia. Hope engendered by the thought that people of the calibre of Barbara have lived; are living; and those yet to be born, who guide, serve and sacrifice for the way of life in which they believe.

At the Northern Suburbs Crematorium, our President, Harry Gjedsted, found words far more adequate than perhaps you or I could have spoken to express the feelings of us all in this sad loss and which must have been of comfort to Russ and all close to Barbara.

However — if I may quote Harry — "Barbara has given us all so much to remember her by".

The presence of our Patron, Sir Ivan Dougherty, President Harry, Committee and many, many members and their wives showed the esteem in which Barbara was held within our Association and some indication of the Association's in-depth strength can be gleaned from the number of sons and daughters present. Special mention is made of the presence of Russell Grove, son of Doug and Connie, representing our North Coast Group.

But the loss of a person such as Barbara is felt so much farther afield than the bounds of our little group.

Apart from people representing the many "neighbourhood" activities, it was pleasing to note and to here thank them for their presence—

Ft./Lt. Don Brook and wife **Kerry**, representing the Royal Aust. Air Force—Barbara's Service—and Russ's, following his return from the M.E.; **Cliff Horsley**, President, Assn. of Fourth Inf. Bns. and **Bob Dawson**, President Gallipoli Memorial Club.

Whilst all were on hand to pay final tribute to a great and lovely lady, they were also present to support, comfort and reassure Russ, Ian, Virginia, Robin, Philip and David that, as part of 'our family' they are not alone nor ever will be so long as two or three

W.O.G.'s can get together for the benefit of another; whilst ever "Anzac" remains in our thoughts and in the Australian vocabulary.

Many, including the Rev. Bob Macarthur, Sir Ivan, Pres. Harry and Marge, at Russ's wish, gathered at the saddened home and one hopes that the warmth of genuine friendship momentarily, at least, softened the blow for our dear friend and his children; Barbara's brothers, Peter and John; Russ's brothers, Peter and Dick, and other relatives present.

Softened the hurt as the lengthening shadows softened the beauty of the lovely setting of the home where sadness reigned; a home embracing a family which will ever remain a living monument to Barbara.

DICK MORRIS

From Shakespeare — "Moderate lamentation is the right of the dead; excessive grief the enemy of the living."

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!! Give the Association the full support it deserves—and remember—you must be financial to be entitled to vote at the Annual General Meeting.

T.P.I. Members are entitled to Free Membership.

CASH REGISTER

Hon. Treasurer Allen Lindsay acknowledges receipt of the following:

Subscriptions—\$3.00 each from:

C. Stilwell, S. H. Valentine, R. Everson, P. Sydenham, R. Maczkowiack, F. Wright, M. Lane, M. Siems, F. Crutchett.

\$9.00 from: **H. Royal.**

Paid-up Life Membership of \$30.00 each from:

J. Ewart, H. H. Elliott, A. A. Gorman.

Donations—**H. & D. Silver** \$20; **H. H. Elliott** \$5; **M. Lane** \$2; **M. Siems** \$2; **Mrs. K. Ruby** (per Rick Carter) \$2.

Thank you, ladies and gents, for your support and generosity.

THE GALLIPOLI MEMORIAL CLUB

All Association members who are also members of the above club are reminded that subscriptions for 1974 are due. Please continue your membership. Remember that the Annual General Meeting will be held in the near future. Those who are striving to build the Club into a fitting memorial to the name ANZAC will be looking for your support at that time, but to help, you must be financial.

If not already a member of the Club, please add your weight to the effort by joining now. Even if living in the country, membership is worthwhile, for the Gallipoli Gazette is a fine publication, edited by Russ McWilliam (relieved by Dick Morris for the present) in which you will find much of interest and literary contributions from any member would always be appreciated. When you do visit the 'Big Smoke' you will have

a fine Club right at the Quay where you can be assured of a hearty welcome by Harry Gjedsted.

Send subs (\$4.50) to:

H. GJEDSTED, Secretary-Manager
Gallipoli Memorial Club
12 Loftus Street, Sydney 2000.

COCK'S COLUMN

Nel McNab was recently sighted at Repat by Dick Morris, where she was receiving eye treatment. She has sold the old home in Lidcombe where so many functions were held way back in the early days of the Assn. Nel wishes to be remembered to all particularly the "old gang", and was asking after **Rex Everson, Harry Russell, Fred and Rita Staggs, Harry and Hilda Wright, Ken Kesteven and Dick Pinson**, etc. She always gets a Xmas card from Molly Irvine. Nel has a home unit in Berala nowadays and passed on her new address for W.O.G. to Dick—also an order for a Unit History. Nel can be contacted by phone — 649-6439.

Stephen Ashley, son of Dick Morris's is to marry **Rhonda King**, of Ermington, in St. Mark's Church of England, Ermington on 26th January. Best wishes to you both from us all.

November Meeting. In the chair, Ces Chrystal; George Stack, Dick Morris, Harry Wright, Jim Cameron, Stan Bowen, Ken Webb, John Meehan, Dick Pinson, Jack Gaffney, Athol Heath, Don Baxter, Mike Richardson, John Copland, "Slim" Venn, Johnny Jordan, Harry Silver; our visitor Dennis Barnard (ex New Guinea) and myself.

Was pleased to see Jack Gaffney at the meeting and hope to see him more often.

John "Larry" Dooley reports that he had occasion to go to Cowra and met Ted Harris. Hi, Ted!

IN THE MAILBAG

A letter from **Frank Mallett**, Grafton Lodge 86, Wroxham Road, Sprowston, Norwich, England. A couple of pars from his letter.

"I have just been reading the January copy of W.O.G. and am very pleased to see so many H.Q. Coy. men on the Committee. Also the last copy I received was that with the picture of our esteemed Patron Sir Ivan, and was very pleased indeed to receive that copy.

"I have often wished to write to Fred Apthorpe to tell him I still have his gold tooth, and I think I am correct in saying his rifle number was 21216, just why this has stuck in my mind I can't say. If you should see him, ask him."

Frank, Fred Apthorpe's address is 80 Koohora St., Griffith 2680, N.S.W. Drop him a line.

Frank also wants the address of Mick Saunders.

On a Guest Memo of a motel—"Cock Robin, have been over Adelaide way. Had lunch with Max Rangie and a few hours with S/Major Robbins. Both going well. Saw Peter Denver, who was in hospital but OK, and due for discharge. Was told Ken Royal is OK, and met Alf Turner, Sec. 19th Brigade Assn. over there. All send best wishes, All Brisbane W.O.G.s doing fine. Regards to all.

Tom Provians"

Thanks, Tom. Hi to Max—"Robbie", Ken Royal and you Peter Denver. Sorry to read that you were in

hospital, Peter, but pleased to know that you are well again. Good luck, South Australians.

On a trip to Kandos, called in at Clandulla and saw **Sam "Hombre" Ridley**. Sam has not been the best. He sends regards to the boys; he asked after his B Coy. mates.

At the Kandos R.S.L. was again made very welcome by **John Blakeney**, Sec.-Man. as soon as I walked in Jack shouted. Again invites any 2/4ers passing through to call in and announce themselves and they will be made very welcome. Thanks, Jack.

At Portland, my niece Noeline drove me around to **George Creasy's** place. George is the brother of **Tony Creasy**, one of our boys. Tony was taken prisoner in Libya by the Italians and escaped to Switzerland. I am sorry to say George is not enjoying the best of health and like Tony is a T.P.I. Ian McKenzie, ex-Major in 2/2 Bn., is Mrs. Creasy's uncle. Tony is at present in "Abbeymere" Convalescent Home, 4 Jersey Rd., Strathfield. I heard that Tony rode a push bike from Portland to Bathurst to be one of the first enlistments.

On the train going up, met **Ted Simons**. During conversation, found out he was a friend of the late **"Jerry" Coughlan**, also my nephew-in-law, **Tom Nicholson**. Ted was going up to "judge" a band; he has been connected with brass bands all his life. Has been teacher and conductor since 18 years, which reminds us that "Jerry" was an excellent musician in earlier years.

It was good to meet **Jack Gaffney** at the Gallipoli Club. Jack was really pleased that he now has a grandson—Matthew. He has five granddaughters.

Ken Webb met **Ron "Porky" Williams**, also **"Sailor" Harvey**, both well. Ken also had a drink with **Joe Rognini**.

Had a letter from **Frank Gattenhof** whom, I am sorry to write, is in St. Luke's Hospital, Kings Cross. So I'll sign off now and write to Frank. Frank writes, "In August we spent a week at Port Macquarie, called on **Frank Frizell**, Taree; **Gordon Chrisp** and **Chris Geelan** at Wingham. **Ruth Bawden** was away. Tried to find **Cpl. Sid Gainey** (D Coy.) at Taree, eventually spoke to him on the phone. He was hoping to be at Grafton but no luck. Congrats to Esca Riordan on Life Membership.

Frank also wants to know Dave Morgan's address. Dave was in D Coy., brother of "Snow" Morgan.

THE GRAHAM GAZETTE

Adam Street
Bowraville 2449
9-12-73.

Dear Rusty,

I no doubt should have written this a couple of moons ago, but one gets a bit lazy at times.

After we left Grafton we met Young "Budda" at Ballina and later on the road met him again with **Raggy Butler**. Raggy works for the P.M.G. at Ballina; looks a million dollars and had a great talk about the boys.

From there we went on to Brisbane. Had a few beers at Coorparoo with **Tom Provians**, and then tea with him and his very charming wife Vera. Had a lovely night with them and much talk. Headed South the next day with great haste (to get decent beer) came through Goondiwindi — did not know that **Slim**

Pollock lived in that part of the country or would have unwrapped the swag for a couple of days. Stayed the night at Moree and next morning had a yarn with **Mick Owers**. He does not see many of the boys but pulled in and saw **Bernie O'Mara** at Forbes a few months ago. On to Narrabri to see "**Snow**" **Duncan Lovlee**. I met his wife first, a very charming girl, who started to look for Dunc. as he walked in. He works for the P.M.G. where he is a line foreman. Hasn't changed since I last saw him (too many years ago). From Snow to **Maurie Naismith** who hasn't changed much. Maurie is President of the new R.S.L. Club. Next to see was **Ronnie Witt**, who is a miller at the local flour mill. It is great to see these old mates of the Transport Plat. "**Dora**" **Dawes** had been up to see them recently.

From there to Dubbo for a beer with **Frank Sadlier** who looks well and sees a few of the boys now and then. At Forbes saw **Bernie O'Mara** who hasn't changed a bit. A very keen golfer he has been President of the Golf Club for some years and it is a beauty.

Went to Griffiths but it rained all the time I was there, so did not see anybody down that way.

Landed back in Sydney with a fever and after four days in bed headed for home where blood tests showed that I had rheumatic fever, had a few weeks off work but am A1 now.

Went to Lismore for their Annual Dinner, stayed with **Alan** and **Carma Kirk**; it was a very good night — about 40 altogether, but won't try to mention names. A very good time was had by all!

Called in to see **Leo Lynch** on our way back; his sister had passed away whilst he was at Lismore.

Esca Riordan was present but on his way home on the Sunday night at Nambucca Heads he fell asleep at the wheel and took to the bush; being a good forestry man he missed all the small trees and had a go at the biggest one in sight. Only for his safety belt he would have suffered serious injury; as it was he had a shoulder injury and plenty of bruises. He had a week in Macks-ville Hospital. After the crash he sent a message to **Bush** and **Billie Bennett** who arrived before the ambulance, took him to Hospital and looked after all his gear out of his vehicle.

Rex Rowell's wife passed away in November after a very long illness. His broth Jack lives here at Bowraville.

Best of everything to you all from Maragret and me.
Your old mate,

BUB

DEFINITIONS

Friend: Someone who knows us, and still likes us.

Alibi: An excuse that's cooked up, but is always half-baked.

Pessimist: A person who would commit suicide if he could do it without killing himself.

Reckless driver: The other motorist.

Spaghetti: A food that should not be cooked too long. Not over 18 inches.

Profanity: A way of escape for the man who runs out of ideas.

Mystery: How do the Joneses do it on their salary?

Dough: A misnomer for money — dough sticks to your fingers.

WELFARE REPORT

Jim Cameron reports visiting the following in Concord R.G.H.:

Dick Faulder (disch.); Dennis Kilker; Mat Myers; Arthur Field; Sid Davis; Keith Beattie; Ern Twist; David Kneale.

LATE REPORTS—

William John Walker admitted to R.G.H. then to Lady Davidson.

Peter Armstrong reports Bob Morrell (Int. Sec.) has been seriously ill.

David Kneale, only recently granted T.P.I., has passed on.

John Copland (thanks John) quotes from "Salute" (T.P.I. Assn. Magazine) that the following are now T.P.I.:

NX5155 Kneale, O. J.; NX14089 Webb, P. J.;
NX47723 Wright, A. W. B.

LAST POST

4 Bn. A.I.F.:

6758 H. A. MARSHALL; 427 A. C. McKERN;
51066 C. H. BEAVEN; 7203 H. F. BRIEN;
701 C. V. CLAY-LAVER; 7328 H. W. PIPER.

2/4 Bn. A.I.F.:

NX15260 E. H. FIELD;
NX12782 W. C. HUMPHREYS;
NX139803 C. C. BLANDFORD;
NX5853 J. C. WOODS.
NX 72640 E. W. DOWNIE;
J. C. CLARKE; NX5082 W. B. "BILL" LEONARD
NX5155 D.J. KNEALE.

W.A.A.F.: 106344 BARBARA McWILLIAM.

"WE WILL REMEMBER THEM"

Our thanks to those who have taken the trouble to inform the Assn. of the passing of old mates. It was doubtlessly a saddened Fred Staggs (Hon. Life Member) who reported the loss of Bill Leonard, one of his old Carrier Platoon mates. Bill was one of the most cheerful souls I have known and had borne his long affliction with fortitude. Vale, Bill.

Dick Morris

6th AUSTRALIAN 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 Memorial 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,
Long Jetty, N.S.W. 2262.