



# 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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**JUNE MEETING:** Friday, 28th June, 1974, Gallipoli Memorial Club, 60 Loftus Street, Sydney, at 7.30 p.m.

**JULY MEETING:** Friday, 26th July, 1974, Gallipoli Memorial Club, 60 Loftus Street, Sydney, at 7.30 p.m.

## ANZAC DAY

Another tremendous day in the history of the Association must be recorded, with full marks for both organisation and support. Congratulations to all concerned!

You know, granting the ability of your Executive and Committee to plan a well-organised and well-run function, it is **you**, the members, who make such an occasion a **real** success.

It is meeting those we haven't seen in years and those we have come to rely on in the "front line" of our activities that turn a function into a memorable event.

Apart from the unfortunate absence of those ill or injured, such as Sir Ivan, Cec Chrystal, Dave MacGillivray and others, the support was excellent for a week-day, especially by those from far afield, and the thoughts of those with us in spirit such as Tom Provians, Peter Denver, Claude Raymond and those interstate whom they represent.

Names, we shall keep for Cock's Column, but it all spells out companionship and support of those at the helm.

It was **so good** to see—and talk to—so many of the old gang! I could not help but notice that there was

an upsurge in A Coy attendance, particularly those mentioned by Artie Kleem's message in last issue. I trust we will see them all at Young in October! Then there were those who marched, but could not attend the Luncheon—and those who could not march, but turned up at Manresa Hall. Apart from money for Luncheon tickets, I myself finished up with a bundle of notes for subs and donations from men who fronted up to see old mates, but for various reasons had to forego the Luncheon.

Our band was on deck as usual, and at the F.U.P. President Harry presented to them our gift of appreciation, in the form of a new Drum Major's Sash, complete with an original 2/4 Bn. colour patch.

Another innovation was the Colour Party to carry our Banner and Flags, comprising Sgt. "Pancho" Black and other stalwarts—our mates—from 4 R.N.S.W.R. Thank you, fellas. You did a fine job and enhanced the scene more than somewhat!

I'm sure "Robbie" would have again been proud of your bearing and marching!

The Luncheon itself was quite an affair, with good mates, interesting and **interested** guests, good food and liquid refreshments.



Ron Barber was presented with his Hon. Life Membership Badge.

As a further acknowledgement of his sterling work, George Stack was presented with an Association plaque with a suitably inscribed gold plate attached.

Guests were Cols. Ray Sharpe and Tom Chambers, Lt. Col. Vin Hallivan, all previously or currently from 4 R.N.S.W.R.; Ft./Lt. Stuart Bryce and Sgt. Noel Wright of 37 Sqn.; our Colour Party; and of course, a group from "our" Band, led by Bill Ford (now their Sec.), who played rousing tunes (much to the disgust of "Bagpipes Barreller" John Meehan!).

Much more could be said, or names mentioned, but by now you must have the message that the march went off fine and the Luncheon was memorable.

**This only leaves us the task of recording that prior to—and above—all such, was the earlier wreath-laying ceremony with due solemnity and great sadness, our thoughts full of those no longer with us. Fresh in our minds were those who passed on since last Anzac Day—a total of thirty-three!**

**We rejoice to be together, but we gather in honour of these—our late comrades-in-arms.**

—(Dick M.)

#### LAST POST

##### Honour Roll, 1973-74

DICK BOWDEN	TED MITCHELL
CLAUDE JOHNSTON	BEDE MACHEN
W. C. HUMPHREYS	W. (Bill) LEONARD
WALLY POTTS	HUGH DOBBIN
JOHN (Frog) CLARKE	IAN BECKWITH (Band)
J. H. MILLER (Bingara)	RON BELFORD
C. MATTHEWS	ERNEST (Ollie) TWIST
HENRY J. LAUNT	DAVID KNEALE
J. C. WOODS	E. W. DOWNIE
C. C. BLANDFORD	KEITH BEATY
E. H. FIELD	W. L. HICKS
A. DOHERTY	R. S. WILLIAMSON
J. MAC SMITH	R. B. WARD
Sgt. H. HUNTER	REX GILLILAND
SID THOMPSON	F. C. WHITEHOUSE
SID CROAKER	FRANCIS CECIL
NOEL (Mick) WEIR	WHITEHOUSE
BILL HYDE	ROBERT MURRELL

#### WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

##### FILLING YOU IN

Fred Apthorp writes: "Noticing a communique in W.O.G. has prompted me to explain the why and wherefore of something which may be foreign to those not in the "know", so here goes.

Back in 1939 I was in possession of a gold filling set in my teeth, which prompted others of the Battalion to remark, 'Apthorp, if ever you get bowled over in this war, someone is sure to knock out that gold and cash in on it.'

So much for 1939. By 1943, when it became obvious that my filling was likely to fall out through dental trouble, Frank Mallett claimed first priority and threatened me with numerous reprisals if I failed to comply.

So, you can guess the rest!

Incidentally, my rifle number was 21212—I believe Mick Owers's rifle was number 21216!

I hope you still keep it constantly brushed, Frank. (The filling, I mean.)"

#### WELFARE

Here are a few broad details as known to the Act. Ed.

Sir Ivan is unfortunately still immobilised in Concord, but gradually improving. Best wishes from us all, Sir.

Dave McGillivray was admitted to Concord prior to Anzac Day, as was "Curly" McNamara. "Curly" has since been discharged.

Dick Latimer, as valiant a warrior as ever, has been up and about again—and "on parade".

Cec Chrystal is back in circulation after having to miss Anzac Day activities due to illness.

Matt Myers has been having a poor run of luck health-wise, but things can't be going too badly—he hasn't asked me to look after his pipe again. (In the M.E., as he was being evacuated to hospital, Matt entrusted his pipe to my care—and me a non-smoker in those days.)

I was later able to return the pipe intact back here in Aussie.

Good luck and chin(s) up, boys.

—(Dick M.)

#### WARRING W.O.G.s

##### (A research by Fred Apthorp)

Some time back I appealed to members of the Bn. for information re members of 2/4 who had served in W.W. 1 and subsequent wars. As I received much help in this direction, I would like to convey my thanks to those who came to my assistance through W.O.G., by letter, and personal contact. This info. enabled me to write to "Reveille" in the form of a friendly challenge to any other W.W. 2 unit which may be able to better our figures, as I believe that the 2/4 may be in possession of a record of which it is not aware, viz, the number of its members who have served in 2 or more wars. However "Reveille" did not publish my letter, quite to my surprise as it previously had always done so. So I am forthwith forwarding a list of those names whom this claim concerns, hoping that it can be reproduced in W.O.G. in the near future.

##### W.W. 1

Lt. Col. Parsons (C.O.)	Sgt. W. Deaney
Major R. Winning	Pte. F. Barriston
Sgt. S. Irvine	Pte. S. Halifax
Sgt. M. Downie	Pte. T. Reeder
Sgt. W. Watson	Pte. G. Spicer
Sgt. F. Driscoll	Pte. T. Hopper
Sgt. R. Jupp	Pte. D. Russell
Sgt. J. Rognini, P.O.W.	Pte. W. F. Palmer
(Greece)	

##### KOREAN WAR

Pte. R. Kable	Sgt. W. Walker, M.M.
Pte. S. Buckley	Pte. D. P. Buck
Pte. A. G. Rinner	Pte. W. Bullard
(K.I.A.)	Pte. R. Findlay
Capt. J. B. Wells,	
M.B.E.	

Capt. M. Gray is possibly the most experienced soldier around today, as he also joined up and served in some capacity in Vietnam, making it three. Prior to W.W. 2 he saw service with the Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders on the Indian N.W. Frontier, in the company of Capt. Harry Gdjested, the latter also seeing service with the Royal Sussex Regt. in Malaya



(Operation Octopus). Capts. N. Ford and R. D. Bawden were seconded toward the end of the S.W. Pacific war to a British Regt. serving in Burma. Both finished the war in that campaign.

Other Indian army men in our ranks were: Sgt. M. Siems, W.O.1 Robbins (R.S.M.), W.O.1 Jackson.

In conclusion I would like to add that Joe Rognini who was taken prisoner in Greece, had the unique "distinction" of that experience twice, having also been a P.O.W. in 1918 whilst serving with the 53 Bn., A.I.F.

In conclusion, I would appreciate corrections in the case of any error in these collated facts.

Fred A. Apthorp.

### SNIPPETS

Members will be pleased to know that the effects from the Kenna Club at Scheyville have been transferred to Portsea O.T.S. The portrait of "Nedda" Kenna, presented by our Association, is prominently hung, I am reliably informed.

Stan Pretty, Victoria, was on parade on Anzac Day. He acted as "runner" for Claude Raymond and "Co.". Details next issue.

Max Reingie was good enough to send brief but prompt word of a very successful 19th Bde. Anzac Day Reunion—letter next issue. Peter Denver is sending full details.

### CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to those from our ranks who have been elected or re-elected to the Board of the Gallipoli Memorial Club. They are:

Snr. Vice-President: Russ McWilliam

Treasurer: Allen Lindsay (unopposed)

Minute Secretary: Dick Morris (unopposed)

Directors: John Copland, John Dooley, Ted Fox, Bill MacLennand, John Meehan.

Dick Faulder is "next on the list" should any Director fall by the wayside for any reason.

### 6 DIV. ASSN. PRESENTATION

**Darlington Public School celebrates  
Greek National Day, 22nd March, 1974**

Miss M. Beresford, Headmistress of Darlington Public School, does a superlative job in integrating the children of different National groups. On this occasion, the Assembly room was decorated with examples of Greek handicrafts and Australian and Greek flags to celebrate Greek National Day (March 25).

Dr. C. H. (Tom) Selby handed over to the school some gifts sent by Greek children to 6 Aust. Div. Association (N.S.W.).

These presents from Greece, though small by some standards—a book of cards with subappended remarks in English and Greek, a doll and a stamp collection—represented a lot of thought and heart-warming effort by the children of Kosani and Ellason. They were a mark of appreciation of some of the thousand books sent to Greek school libraries by the Association. Each book contained a bookplate, reading "This book is a gift to the schoolchildren of Greece from members of 6th Australian Division Association, who have not forgotten the kindness and courage of the Greek people in 1941."

Others present at the school were Mr. Ernest Colman (Director of Education), Mr. Yates (Inspector), Mr. E. Givney (2/1 Bn. Association), Mr. Ray Norman (2/1 Fd. Amb. and 39ers), School staff, parents and friends.

The proof of the results of Miss Beresford's efforts was to be seen when 8- to 12-year-old Australians voluntarily joined in with Greek children—some in National Costume—holding hands and taking part in Greek folk dances in the playground.

It is expected that this liaison between children here and in Greece will be maintained, and 6 Aust. Div. Association feels that their gift was, indeed, as the Australian Ambassador in Athens stated, "a heart-warming and successful exercise".

Some publicity of this simple, happy ceremony might encourage similar action, establishing contact between children in Australia and other countries. In this regard, students of Sydney University set a fine example in giving voluntary help to those with language difficulties, regularly visiting Darlington School.

Dr. Tom Selby,  
Pres., 6 Div. Assn.

6 Div. Assn. is certainly to be congratulated on the enterprise shown in organising the presentation of books to Greek schools—and how touching the response!

Your Assn. contributed toward this scheme, for we know you would want to be associated with such a worthy enterprise. Whilst ever men of vision can put forward suggestions to benefit those deserving of help, or to better international relationships, surely such deserve support.

### COCK'S COLUMN

I received a second letter from Ken "Spanner" Graham reporting that he attended Ron Belford's funeral. Unless there was someone whom Ken did not recognise, he was the only 2/4er there. Ken also enclosed five lovely colour photos—one of the Pendare Dam where he works, and four of the Grafton Reunion.

Ken writes:— "Grafton Reunion—what a beaut. We'll be at the next. Met a lot I had not seen since the war, and I was booked at the same hotel as Sir Ivan."

Ken should be down soon and hopes to attend a meeting. "The names you mentioned in your letter, Jim—**Jack Dubber**, **Stan Bowen**, also countless others, including **Wally Lambourne** (who only recently dropped in for a "coldie" on his way through further North)—they don't seem to change much. You mentioned **Mick Weir**, I haven't seen him since the war, but I still have photos of him and my Jap truck that I had at Wewak. (Mick died recently.)

Thanks very much "Spanner". The boys will be interested to see those photos you intend bringing along.

### ANZAC DAY MARCH AND REUNION

One of the first I interviewed was **Phil Cross** (I. Sec.), Mongolia, Ben Bullen. I have passed Phil's place many times on my way to Kandos and did not know he lived there, with wife Vera, and daughter Mary, 9 years old. Next time Phil I'll call in—have the bottle opener ready. Phil was unable to come to



the Reunion, was hoping to see **Dave Tearall**. "**Rocky**" was at Reunion.

**Bill Bartlett**, City, could not attend the Reunion on account of sickness in the family. Sorry Bill.

**Dick "Pop" Williams**, Birrong, met **Teddy Flanagan** (A Coy.). Sorry "Pop" was not enjoying the best of health and so unable to attend Reunion. He had a letter from **Grahame Woodward**, Devon, who is O.K. and enjoyed the trip over here with his wife.

**Matt Myers**, Dee Why, met "**Snow**" **Gordon**, Carlingbah, at his son David's wedding. I'm sorry to report that Matt has to go into Concord for a heart operation. We wish you the best mate. Matt also reports that **John Ringrose** would not be able to make the March or Reunion due to a bad leg. Also met **Bob Ferguson** at Dee Why Club, had a few beers for his birthday. Hi Bob. Sorry you could not make it, John.

**Joe McGrath** is O.K.—still on the water waggon. I heard that Joe is still the champ euchre player of Dee Why. Joe was hoping to see **Ted Swadling** and **Ted Driscoll**. What happened, Ted?

**Henry Elliot**, Darwin. Excellent effort, Henry, "**Painbrush**" came to the Reunion 2 years ago, and we will see him again in another two years. He was hoping to see **Craig Clarke**, **George Martin**, **Stan Bowen** and **Norm "Buck" Rogers**. Mrs. Elliot—**Naisie**—came down too but I am sorry to write, had to go into hospital and missed the March. Very sorry to hear that, Mrs. Elliot. We sincerely hope you're well again.

**Mick Steele** and **Bill Luck** were sorry they could not attend as Bill had to return home early. "Wot, no leave pass, Bill?"

**Jack Whitelaw**, Bankstown, works with **Albert Grattan**, and often sees **Wally Lambourne**. He had a couple of beers with **Jack Dubber** at the "Three Swallows".

**Barney Furley**, Albion Park, has recently seen **Colin McCallum**, who wished to be remembered to all.

"**Scotchie**" **McCartney** of Guildford would like to see **Ernie Dawes** next Anzac Day for sure.

**Leo Carter**, Kiama, I'm sorry to write, has to go into Wollongong Hospital for an eye operation. We wish you all the best, mate.

Leo often sees **Gus Kyle** and **Keith Costello**.

It was good to see **Monty Siems** at the Reunion—first for 25 years! Monty has left England and is now resident in West Heidelberg, Vic.

Monty said: "It has been one of the best days I have had for many years, and I will most certainly be back for the next Reunion."

How about the Country Reunion at Young, Monty?

**Stan Pretty**, of Clayton, was attending his first March here in Sydney. He recently saw **Claude Raymond** and **Monty Pickles**. (A Cooe to **George Friend**.

He is the one you were asking about, George. By the way, where were you?)

**Cec Cameron**, Chester Hill, reports that **Jack Pead** has been very ill for some time. We know you have been in hospital, Jack, but hope that you will soon be enjoying good health again.

**Lionel Clark** recently saw **Bill (Snow) Walker**, who wishes to be remembered to all the boys, including myself. Hope you are soon yourself again, Bill.

I was pleased to see **Jim MacBrown**, who is a sergeant now at Cessnock, and still trying to get **Dick Mennie** to attend a Reunion.

**Harry Dale** was with his friend **Reg Higham** from Ramsgate R.S.L. Harry often sees **Sid Carey** (C Coy.) and **Ron Stennett**. I was pleased to see Ron at the March and Reunion.

**Slim Venn** and **Fred (Bludso) Hudson** were noted having a beer together—what a double!

After about five years, **Sid (Battle-Axe) Buckley** turned up to see all his old mates. Hoorah!

I noticed Mortar Pl. men **Lofty Taylor**, **Tom Tracy**, and **Bert Milner** sitting together. Bert passed on to me the sad news that **Mick Weir**, who paid me a visit some months ago, had passed on.

**Dick Morris** reports that **Dave McGillivray** recently spotted **Brick Bradford** and his wife at the Long Jetty/The Entrance R.S.L. Club. Brick is staying in that beautiful district and is on 100% War Pension.

Dave himself has had rather a bad trot and was admitted to Concord prior to Anzac Day.

He sends best wishes to all members—he was most sorry to have been unable to attend on Anzac Day, an occasion which Dave has rarely missed in the past.

(To be continued)  
—"**COCK**" **ROBIN**.

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#### WANTED — "MAN FRIDAY"

**RELIABLE** Cleaner/Janitor for Gallipoli Memorial Club. Must be responsible type, capable of working without supervision. Award wages and conditions. Good working hours, includes 2-3 hours Saturday and Sunday morning.

**Ring Secretary/Manager Harry Gjedsted, 27-6359.**

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#### GERVAISE

There was a younge belle of old Natchez,  
Whose garments were always in patchez.  
When comment arose  
On the state of her clothes,  
She drawled, "When Ah itchez, Ah scratchez!"

Ogden Nash.

Sure, deck your lower limbs in pants;  
Yours are the limbs, my sweeting,  
You look divine as you advance—  
Have you seen yourself retreating?

Ogden Nash.