



# Whiteadder 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.

29th YEAR OF CONTINUOUS PUBLICATION

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MONTHLY GENERAL MEETINGS: FRIDAY: 28TH NOVEMBER 1975 (LADIES NIGHT)  
23rd JANUARY 1976

AT THE GALLIPOLI MEMORIAL CLUB, 12 Loftus St. Sydney - 8 p.m.

## LADIES NIGHT

Our Annual Ladies Night will be held at the Gallipoli Memorial Club on Friday 28th November at 8 p.m. Music and entertainment will be provided by Dick Pinson and his band.

During the evening there will be novelty dances with prizes for the ladies. A light supper will be provided at the Association's expense, your committee having decided that no admission charge will be made for this year's Ladies Night. Liquid refreshments will be obtainable at the usual bar prices. The Association will have exclusive use of the Club's Ballroom and bar facilities on the first floor, so roll up and make this important event in the Association's annual activities a success. Members are reminded that if they wish to bring any friends, relatives, etc. as their guests, they will be most welcome. As the function is being held on licenced premises we will, unfortunately, be unable to admit persons under the age of 18 years.

The committee is particularly anxious that you attend this function for it is only by your attendance will the success of the function be assured.

## ASSOCIATION MONTHLY MEETING - OCTOBER

Once again no formal business was conducted due to the lack of a quorum (15 members required). The remark was passed at the meeting that this situation (no quorum) seems to occur after a particularly successful Association activity such as the Anzac Day and Country reunions. Although age does not appear to be 'wearying' us to any discernable degree, it seems that these days we take just a little longer to surface.

The stalwarts that did attend and ensured the convivial success of the evening were: President Harry Gjedsted, Snr. Vice President Bill MacLennan, Athol Heath, John Meehan, Harry Wright, Peter Cade, Bill Parry, Dick Latimer, Dick Pinson, Jack Reynolds and Allen Lindsay.



## ASSOCIATION MONTHLY MEETING - DECEMBER

As usually happens our normal meeting night, the fourth Friday falls right in the middle of the festive season during December. Therefore, as is customary, our formal monthly meeting will not be held. However, an informal cocktail hour (or two) for members and wives will be held at the Gallipoli Memorial Club on Friday 19th December commencing at 6 p.m. These gatherings held during recent years have been outstanding successes so don't miss this one.

Members are reminded that as Ladies Night will take the place of our November General Meeting the next General Meeting of the Association will take place on Friday 23rd January 1976 at 8 p.m. at the Gallipoli Memorial Club.

## MORE ON YARRAWONGA

As promised in our October issue, we publish, uncensored, Ken Moses writings and reflections on our 1975 Country Re-union.

We also publish, with due acknowledgements to the Melbourne Observer the column Ken wrote for his weekly article on his return to Melbourne.

37 Edinburgh Street,  
East Bentleigh,  
Victoria.  
October 12th.

Dear Allen,

Enclosed is the promised article. I am sorry I have not made it a nominal roll call of those present. There were too many so damn nice people there WOG would not be big enough. Rosemary and Jillian are still talking about it. It was darned hard to write as writing about something you are emotionally involved in is always difficult. I find writing satire a lot easier.

I am also enclosing one of my weekly columns in the Observer which I devoted to the occasion. I have a weekly joust with Geoffery who is a typical English Pukka Sahib. Anyhow, 200,000 readers will know we are gathering on the Gold Coast next October. Nothing like a bit of advance publicity. Quite a funny thing happened to me in the publishing room at 4 am today. I usually work 24 hours straight on the weekends. The presses only had another hour and a half to run and most of the hands had had a chance to read the paper during the breaks. One young bloke about thirty stopped me and said "Were you in the Second Fourth Mr. Moses" I replied in the affirmative and he replied "I read their war history, they must have

been a pretty tough mob and it was a very good history." I told him I had had a bit to do with the book and again he thanked me and added "When we were studying tactics for our commissions in the CMF last year we were told to get hold of the 2/4th war history and study it thoroughly as it was the best example of tactics of a unit in the field." I thought a few of you would like to know that little snippet and take a bow.

Most of the photographs I took came out rather well but the ones I really wanted of the march were not the best, mainly due to the poor light and the fact I suspect the crowd who processed them had a weak mix in the developer. I have ordered another set from another crowd and will get them away to Bill MacLennan as soon as possible. If anyone wants copies of them I will number the backs of the set I send up and keep duplicates down here. It will be a case of ordering by numbers and I will get a price on bulk ordering. Have not had any quotes on the car yet which is still in Yarrawonga, but the police have been co-operative. The local sergeant was the bloke dishing out the steaks at the barbecue. All these things help. Let me know if the piece is to your satisfaction and I will dish out a few more for you from time to time.

At this point Rosemary and I would like to thank everyone for being so nice to Jillian after the accident. It was typical Fourth treatment. I also think the reunion did a great lot for the Victorians. I think we will be getting together a bit more now.

Cheers and all the best to everyone.

Ken.

## YARRAWONGA REFLECTIONS

You get asked some funny questions when you are driving up the Hume Highway from Melbourne to a country reunion on the Murray.

Questions like "Why is the Second fourth Assn. such a strong Association?" The questioner was my chauffer Stan Carpenter, about to attend his first country reunion. My wife and daughter were at the rear of the convoy in their own car. I looked at Stan and thought 'That's a stupid bloody question', but then on second thoughts I started to think about it myself and tried to find an answer. As Yarrawonga got nearer I told Stan about the early days in Palestine. How the Fourth was practically an entirely country battalion made up of characters from the bush. I told him how we became a leaderless legion when we returned from the guns in Haifa. I told him how we were demoralised at being cast



out of the 16th Brigade, away from our mates.

Then I told him about the young school teacher bloke who took us over. He looked as if he should only have been wearing a couple of pips. I then started to tell him how this young bloke, Ivan Dougherty started to grow on us. He was not only a Colnel but a man and a team man at that. The Fourth became a part of a great team -- a team which was impossible to break up after the war.

I don't think Stan was completely satisfied with the answer. I was not either and I knew Stan was more worried whether anyone would know him at the reunion. But during the week-end Stan not only met many old mates but made many new ones as well.

He also met "The Doc" for the first time. He listened to him at the dinner, took in the standing ovation, ate with him at breakfast and shared his company on the lawns at the barbecue. As Sir Ivan, who was sitting on the grass in front of my family, the Ormistons and the Houstons, rose to his feet and wandered over to join mess parade, Rosemary, who was also at her first country reunion, looked at me and said; "Gee he is a sweetie. For the first time in 30 years I understand what the Second Fourth is all about" "Yes, Rosemary, Said Stan, "I think you have answered the question I asked your husband on the way up. That is the reason why the Second Fourth is so strong. A little bit of Sir Ivan has brushed off on everyone". On the way back down the Hume, the main topic of conversation was how to get to the Gold Coast next October.

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FROM THE MELBOURNE OBSERVER

# Shocked

*I REGRET to report that the White Rajah is in a state of severe shock and is in the intensive care unit of the Elephant Trainers' Repatriation Hospital.*

*It all happened so innocently.*

*I was endeavoring to be friendly with Geoffrey and was chalking his cue at the pub when I casually remarked I had been to a beautiful reunion of the 2/4th battalion up on the Murray at Yarrowonga-Mulwala.*

*The Rajah, a "we will fight on the beaches" hero, sparked up and said "that must have been a colossal three-day binge".*

*"No," I replied, "it was really fantastic, we took our wives."*

*It was then that Geoffrey started to look as if he had stroked the wrong end of a jumbo.*

*His condition deteriorated when I went on to say it was really the women folk who made the reunion its outstanding success.*

*He started to jibber when I said how attractive the girls looked standing in their long dresses around the Yarrowonga war memorial at 5.30pm waiting for their 110 be-medalled heroes to march the 200 yards to the strain of the pipes, to lay the wreath.*

*He started to froth at the mouth when I mentioned how nice it was to sit alongside your wife at the reunion dinner with your mates and their wives and sip the red between the courses and the speeches*

*But the crunch really came when I mentioned the presence of the women really made the reunion because no one got disgustingly full, re-fought battles day and night, played two-up or sang bawdy songs*

## Invite

*It was while they were placing him in the straitjacket I invited him to the next country reunion of the 2/4th in October 1976 on the Gold Coast.*

*"My God," he screamed, "women at a regimental reunion. What are these stupid bloody colonials coming to?"*

*Poor Geoffrey, he does not know what he has missed.*

KEN MOSES

## LAST POST

NX5836	S.J.(STAN) GLYNN - Ryde
NX5489	H.F.M.(HILTON) BATCHELDOR - Cowra
NX 24109	L.J.EDWARDS - ex Reveille
NX11781	J.J.LOWE
NX1991	R.E.NELSON
NX203986	J.(JOHN) GURD
NX36145	W.(BILL) BULLARD

Members will be saddened by the passing of EVA MORRISON, sister of the late Johnnie. Eva was always keenly interested in the Association and kept in touch with Jim Robin, Ted McCafferey, your Editor and others.

We regret to report the death of NX5836, S.J. (Stan) Glynn of 26 Haig Avenue, Ryde on 14th October after a long illness.

Stan served with us in Libya, Greece and Crete where he was wounded. After hospital he was transferred to 2/17 Bn with which he served at Tobruk Alamein, the landing at Buna and the New Guinea campaigns. He was a respected member of the Ryde District R.S.L. who visited him regularly in Aeolus Private Hospital.



Mr. Ron Tuttlebee (2/13 Bn) Welfare Officer for Ryde R.S.L. rang me on the 15th but it was then too late to organise any participation by our members. I rang Dorothy, Stan's wife and we arranged that I should attend with Ron Tuttlebee who took the service and spoke on behalf of us and of the R.S.L. He spoke well and is attending to her Legacy and other needs.

Mrs. Glynn mentioned Athol Heath and Blondie Ford as being two of Stan's close friends in the Battalion.

Our deepest sympathy goes to his wife and family.

It was a large funeral with family and many members of the Ryde R.S.L. in attendance.

Hylton Francis Melbourne Batcheldor -- at his home 9 Sheehan Street, Cowra, Aged 59 years. Hylton was a well known identify in the Battalion. In later years he was a strong supporter of the Cowra Services Club. He gave sterling service to the Association by way of assistance at the Country Re-Unions held at Cowra.

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74 Mitchelmore Street,  
WAGGA.

Dear Dick,

Just a few lines to let you know of the death of ex 2/4 Bn member John Gurd. I got to know John quite well while we were in Wewak and then again while he was at the Wagga Teachers College and we were both members of the Wagga Golf Club. I will enclose a clipping from the Wagga paper which describes John pretty well. All I can add is that he was a very nice fellow.

Your old pal,

Max Sydenham

Dear Dick,

I received a telephone call from his employer this morning to inform me that Bill Bullard died at Balranald yesterday after a short illness.

Bill, who was a very well known member of the Battalion's mortar platoon, enlisted from Hay and had lived in Balranald for the past two decades where he was employed by the local Shire Council.

After service with the Battalion he joined the Occupation Forces in Japan and, while on service there, he made quite a name for him-

self as a footrunner. I understand that he also saw service in Korea, where he was attached to a British regiment.

Yours sincerely,  
Frank Crutchett.

#### WELFARE REPORT

NX5349	A.R.(DICK) FAULDER	Fair
NX9924	CHRIS BATHO	Discharged
NX3981	HENRY TAYLOR	Discharged
	Mrs (Mick) Welling	Discharged
NX165865	LEN SMITH	Awaiting Op.
NX5806	JOHN PEACE	Discharged
NX9810	JOHN WALSH	Only Fair
NX5085	CHARLES SCULLY	Satisfactory
FRED EVANS	4BN WWI	Ready for Discharge
CLIFF HODGSON	4BN WWI	Fair.

Once again the Association's thanks to John Copland and his teams. Our thanks is particularly due as, at present, John himself is incapacitated as is his right hand man Dick Faulder. It speaks volumes for their enthusiasm and dedication that they can keep the welfare function operating smoothly from their respective sick-beds. Well done John and Dick and our very sincere wishes for your speedy returns to good health.

#### NEWS FROM THE NORTH ...ESCA RIORDAN

Since my last news to the Magazine, I have to report several sad happenings. Firstly Mrs Connie Groves (Doug's wife) passed on, after a fairly long illness, about six weeks ago. Following that, Chas Groves (well known to all) died following a stroke which he had earlier in the year. His death was about a month ago.

Recently, I attended an Ex P.O.W. reunion at Port Macquarie, and another 2/4th in the person of C.G.(Bill) Campbell was in attendance. He is now living in Wauchope. While in Port Macquarie I called on Ruth Bawden and charming daughter Suelllyn. Ruth is very well and has settled down nicely. Sue also has a good position. A few weeks ago I phoned Bub and Margaret Graham at Bowraville, also John Maloney and Billie and Bushy Bennett at Macksville. They are all O.K. and the Bennett's become grandparents again. Tom Clough is also O.K.

When I last heard from Tom Provians, he was busy organising an "Allied Meat Trades" Golf "Do" on the Gold Coast. He said that Norm



McIntyre wasn't in the best of health.

On Tuesday (16.9.75) I had the pleasure of having a few noggins and dinner with Gordon Chrisp of Wingham. He was in Kempsey for a Seminar on "Soccer Pools". He informed me that he has Chris Geelan for a drinking mate, also see Frank Frizell from time to time, also said that Johnny Graham is in the area once again. Ted Swanson and wife have moved to Tuncurry - Forster area.

I have just made a quick count of 2/4thers in Kempsey and came up with eight - Reg Baker, Jim Brown, Gordon Campbell, Harry Dowling, Chas Hood, Sam Hughes, Tom Malcom and self.

25.9.75 Heard from Kyogle this morning, that Bobby "Yappy" Gardner is keeping fairly well, and is sorry he cannot attend the reunion. Chas Hood also sends apologies.

Further from my Kyogle Spy - (Blood Brother) that sixteen boys from the Association attended Chas Groves funeral. He also informed me that Max Nerney and his wife celebrated their 25th Anniversary recently. Bill Facey Eddie Slade, Ian Wallwork, Jack Lister are all O.K. I had a note a few months ago from Hughie and Eileen Whilleton, and they are now living in Townsville.

1.10.75 Called on Bernie O'Mara and he sends his best wishes to all the boys and apologies for not attending the reunion.

2.10.75 Called on Arthur Webb in Griffith and found him quite bright, but he has had a lot of sickness during the past twelve months. Also called on the Erskines, and received the usual friendly hospitality. They are bus, planting rice.

#### COCK'S COLUMN

#### MAIL BAG

Palm Beach,  
Queensland.

Dear Allen,

I have just spoken to Tom Provians on the phone. He told me he has all the preliminary arrangements for the 1976 Country Re-union on the Gold Coast well in hand. From what he said it looks as though it will be a real "go-er". He will be contacting the Sydney Committee shortly to let them know the score.

Regards, Bruce Cork.

Croydon Park,

18.10.75

Dear Allen,

In answer to your request in Sept W.O.G. re the scholarship fund money please use mine for the 2/4th Welfare Fund. I am sorry the scheme has fallen through and more so as it is no fault of the people at this end. Wasn't Yarrawonga a success and we got a lovely write-up in the local paper. They seem to get better every year.

Hope all your family are well and look forward to seeing you again on Ladies Night.

All the best,

Molly Irvine.

Blackheath

15.10.75

The 2/4th Battalion Association,  
I read in the September issue of "White Over Green" that the Wekak Scholarship Fund has been closed down.

Will you transfer my donation to the Benevolent and Welfare Fund please. Sorry the Scholarship Fund didn't work out the way you hoped.

With best wishes,

Nance Smith.

Ashfield

Dear Mr. Gjedsted,

I have written this little poem for the White Over Green. It is in memory of all 2/4th members who were killed during the war or have since passed on. I would like it printed in the White Over Green if possible nearest to my Father's death which was 19.10.74. I think it is a nice memory to all the members of the battalion who are no longer with us.

With best regards, yours truly,

Antoinette Jordan (daughter of Sgt.  
John Jordan)

P.S. I am just getting over rheumatic fever, and I wrote this while recovering. I am also looking for employment. If any member could assist me I'd be grateful I'm used to office work and shop work. I have been out



of work since my illness (April 1975) now I'm getting well I need to find work.

Thank you,

Antoinette.

CAN ANY MEMBER HELP ANTOINETTE, PLEASE?

#### THEIR'S IS NO SACRIFICE

The bleeding clouds reflect the dying day,  
The gallant dead lie in an informal grave,  
But still at rest; while far afield;  
The slaughter and the fray,  
No foe will ever spur these men again,  
No battle cry will twist their peaceful lips,  
The breast that once heaving, once so full,  
Unshackled now from pain.  
These sons of war would never have been free,  
Whilst in this world-perchance thats why they left,  
Full well they knew there only is one home,  
That is, O Lord, with Thee.

by Antoinette Jordan

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Kogarah

Dear Dick,

I dropped into the Hurstville R.S.L. on Monday after watching the cricket at Hurstville Oval. I heard a voice say "hello Brig, fancy seeing you here." (Kogarah R.S.L. is generally our rendezvous). It was none other than that jocular and jovial character Ron Stennett and his charming wife. It didn't take long to acquire the liquid that cheers and momentarily at least helps you forget inflation and kindred economic ailments. Ron is excellent company and REMINISCENCES soon began to flow thick and fast. Ron was telling me about the time he was in Bathurst simply to call and see his fond pal of long standing the late Bill Colley. Bill had a town house, and a ranch some 20 miles away. He located the ranch but no Bill, to be forewarned is to be forearmed, at the gate was a large sign, Trespassers will be Shot, Survivors Prosecuted - this was typical of Bill's wonderful humour. I might add Dick that Ron has had a stay of some two months in St. George Hospital, looks pretty well now, as always bright and

cheerful. I wish I had known when he was in hospital as I only live the proverbial stones throw away.

Kindest regards and best wishes to all.

Jack (Brig) McAtamney.

#### TIES AND DECORATIONS

Members are reminded that on appropriate occasions they are requested to wear Assn. ties and decoration.

Apart from the more obvious times when these should be worn, such as Anzac Day, Country Re-unions, Church and other Parades, it is most appropriate to wear tie and decorations to funeral services in honour of the departed one and to indicate the presence of his comrades-in-arms of the Association.

It can be safely said that the displaying of these emblems of our service, unity and esteem for the departed comrade gives great comfort to his family and for this reason alone is sufficient to warrant the observing of this honorable and traditional custom.

#### LOST AND FOUND

An exposed film cassette of 126 (12 exposures) colour film was found at Skilands - Yarrawonga. On developing and printing there was no clue regarding the owner as they were general scenes around Skilands and Cyprus Gardens Motel. The owner may have the pictures and negatives by contacting Peter Cade, 19 La Boheme Ave., Caringbah N.S.W. 2229, Phone: 524 3529.

#### WELCOME HOME, HARRY AND MARG

Our President, Harry and his wife Marge returned home from a month's visit to the U.K. While they were in England Harry attended the Annual Church Parade and Reunion of his old regiment, The Royal Sussex.

#### CASH REGISTER

Our Treasurer reports having received Subs, Donations etc from the following members (NB Additional donations shown in brackets)  
SUBS \$6 - S. Dean (\$4), J. Agnew, D. Milne, C. Stillwell, G. Parry, L. McCosker, C. McGirr, J. Dubber (\$4), J. Kearney, R. Robberds, W. Keast (\$4), A. E. Coyle, K. Watt, J. Shriden, L. Thomas, L. Moon, P. Dalla, T. Hart, C. Batho (\$4), K. Northrop (\$4), V. McDonnell  
SUBS \$10 - W. Poplin, J. Crowley, R. Macallan, J. Keating.