



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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MONTHLY GENERAL MEETINGS: FRIDAY 25TH JULY, 1975

22ND AUGUST, 1975

AT THE GALLIPOLI MEMORIAL CLUB, 12 Loftus St. Sydney - 8 P.M.

THANK YOU, JIM (Cock) ROBIN

It is with a great deal of regret that your Committee has reluctantly accepted Cock Robin's request that he be allowed to retire as our columnist. Jim has served Association faithfully and well for more years than most of us care to remember. He has reached the stage, in coping with the mounting and voluminous correspondence, where, to put it in Cock's own succinct words, "I have had it".

Whilst we disagree entirely with this self assessment, the Committee feels it must honor Cock's wishes.

Cock has requested that his name and address be removed from the top of this page. We apologise in advance to Cock for not being able to comply with his wishes immediately as we have already pre-printed sufficient headings for several issues to come.

However it is not the intention of the Committee to let "Cock's Column" retire

with him. Cock's Column" is as much an institution and tradition in the 2/4th as White Over Green itself. Therefore space in W.O.G. will be devoted in each issue, to Cock's Column. It is up to all members to send us information relating to their activities and whereabouts so that Cock's Column can be continued at its previous high standard. Correspondence should be addressed to our Secretary, Athol Heath who will forward it to our editorial staff.

It would be inappropriate to complete this article without reference to the outstanding job that Cock has done in the past as columnist to this magazine. Cock has already been awarded Honorary Life Membership of the Association. To be numbered amongst the select band of Honorary Life Members is a true indication of the value the Association has placed on his endeavours. Memories of the "North British", "Eileen's Book" and the mighty man with the little note book and pencil ("Any news for W.O.G.?) will continue to survive in the minds and hearts, of all 2/4thers for as long as we

continue to exist as an Association.

COCK'S COLUMN

A letter from Mrs. Gwen Morrell, with the sad news of husband Bob Morrell's death on 21st April, 1974. Bob died of a heart attack following a long illness. Mrs. Morrell wrote to the Association but assumes that her letter never reached its destination, as she is still received the Journal addressed to "Mr. B. Morrell".

Mrs. Morrell wishes to pass on to all concerned her sincere thanks for their kindness and interest shown to Bob over the years.

Mrs. Morrell, we are very sorry to hear of the sad news of Bob's passing. I have written to you. Bob left a son Robert (20) who is attending Sydney University at present, of whom he was very proud. Regards all the best, mate.

Letter from Mrs. Joyce Stewart with the bad news that hubby Bill, is not enjoying the best of health, has undergone an operation. He was in the Page Chest Pavilion, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital. I have reported this to our Welfare Officer, per Ken Barber. Son Allen has been down from Enoggera, where he is presently stationed, and is still pursuing his Army career. His rank at present is Captain. Congratulations, Allen. I have written to you, Mrs. Stewart.

An interesting letter from Cyril McCosker, with news of the one and only Jack Huston.

Letter from our overseas member, Frank Mallet, 86 Wroxham Rd., Sprouston, Norwich, Norfolk, England. Frank is trying to meet Bill MacLennan in England.

Dr. Fred Dibden from South Aussie, writes "Please pass on my appreciation to President Harry and all members of the Executive for the stirring job they have, and are doing, to keep the Association rolling along over the years. I very much enjoy reading of all your activities in W.O.G."

John McLoughlin - Prahran (Victoria) has notified a change of address, "I look forward to getting W.O.G. It is very precious to me, Hoping that this finds you well and in good spirits, John."

My old mate, Stan Doggett is up to his old tricks again. He sent in his subs to Treasurer Allen but didn't sign the cheque! Stan said the last time he tried that trick was with the Tax Man, and it didn't work then either.

From Stan Sutherland - Capalaba, Qld. "The W.O.G. is well received in my small part of the peanut colony so here's to a long life for the monthly news."

The news from Chas Hood of West Kempsey is not so good. "I have been retired medically unfit. I have a heart condition but am still mobile and not feeling too bad. Still able to suck a few amber ales." Good on you Chas, while you can life that right arm things can't be too bad.

Letter from my old sparring partner:

Dear Jim,

Thanks for your letter and for your good wishes. I have heard from Repat and they have not yet accepted my worn-out hip as caused by War so I enter Wagga Base Hospital on 10th June and go onto the table on 12th June. I shall be glad to be able to walk again.

You should have seen some articles in the leading newspapers and letters to the Editors in the middle of 1974 regarding Dreadnought Boys? If you don't know anything about it, a scheme was started in the early years of this century to bring out young English lads and train them at various Experiment Farms. As Australia had \$1,000,000 to buy a battleship, and as it was not needed the money was given to Britain to start the scheme. It was known as the Dreadnought Scheme. I believe some 7,000 lads came out under the scheme up to 1939. I was one of them and arrived in Sydney with 59 other chaps off the R.M.S. Demosthenes on 13/6/24.

What I would like you to do, is ask in your column, whether any members of the 2/4 Battalion were Dreadnought Boys. Stan Blacksley is one, he arrived in N.S.W. on the S.S. Themistocles on 23/12/23 and we have several members of the A.I.F. and R.A.A.F. already. Although only three of my ship-load (13/6/24) were at the reunion we now have close to 100 members, and I am to ask Sir Roden Cutler to be our Patron.

The next reunion is at the Wentworth Hotel on 12/6/75 and unfortunately I shall not be there, as I expect to enter Concord Hospital - I am booked for 10/6/75 to Wagga Hospital, but hope to be done by Repat to have a new hip joint for

my left hip. I can't walk far and have been told not to, my hip is completely worn out. So I might be down close to you in the near future. When I am convalescing I might even be able to attend a Battalion Meeting.

By the way, an old boy of my School is playing for England in the Rugby Union Team out here, his name is Bob Wilkinson and you might see him on Telly.

Good luck to you and the boys of the Association and regards to all.

Yours fourthly,

Roy Moores.

I was pleased to hear from Brig McAtamney. It looks as though I really missed a beautiful Anzac Day.

Dear Jim,

It goes almost without saying how much you were missed on Anzac Day. It didn't seem the same without you.

Well, Jim, it was a grand day all round, the rain held off for the march just a drizzle for our wreath laying ceremony. The reunion dinner was first class, an excellent menu, so different from that unavoidable bun fight at North Sydney. It's a nice thought to think we have such a nice club to go to.

Harry G. as per usual first class with honour in his official capacity as chairman of proceedings. I think the highlight of the day was the presence of that great and good man Sir Ivan Dougherty. What a wonderful man in every possible way. He always seems to do and say the right thing at the right time.

Jim, Ron Stennet put up a unique record, but you will have to ask him about this record when you get him on his own. But don't forget to mention it. Do trust you and yours are keeping well Jim. With kindest regards,

Yours very sincerely,

Jack "Brig" McAtamney

Congratulations to Col Ray Sharpe (ex C.O. 4RNSWR) who has been recently appointed A.D.C. to the Governor General.

COUNTRY REUNION - 1975

Our man in Yarrawonga has sent a long "smoke" signal to the effect that everything is under control for the October Reunion. His signal included a list of names of those whose bookings have already been received. Due to the atmospheric conditions some of the names were not received in full (i.e. no initials here is the list, as received.

H. Gjedsted	R. Faulder	W. Panter
E. Fox	R. Coyle	Dunn
J. Copland	A. Carpenter	Ormiston
Waterstrom	W. Parry	Royal
K. Watt	W. Lambourne	A. Faulder
G. Moore	H. Silver	T. Mort
P. Smith	H. Wright	W. MacLennan
F. Sadler	E. Harris	M. Irvine
Bowman	C. Raymond	H. Pearse
J. Meehan	A. Heath	R. Morris
L. Lynch	Chapman	Lavis
P. Denver	P. Cade	J. Moore
Gabriel	M. McCarthy	Warren
Maszcowskiak	J. Foreman	H. Burgdorf
A. Lindsay	B. Cork	C. Curran
S. Young	V. Quinn	

It looks as though we are away to a good start. However there are still a lot of regulars missing from this list. Where are all the boys from the Riverina? The organisers request that you book early as every motel in the town has been tentatively booked. These bookings must be confirmed by the end of August.

Transport

The organisers advise you to come by car, where possible—for the dedicated train travellers a bus will be provided between Albury and Yarrawonga leaving Albury Saturday morning and returning from Yarrawonga to Albury on Monday evening—approx fare \$5 return. This bus will be co-ordinated to meet the 'Spirit of Progress' arriving Albury on Saturday morning at approx. 6 a.m. and departing Albury on Monday night. The provision of the bus depends on the number who intend to use it. We must have a minimum number of 20 before the service can be provided. All intending train and plane travellers from Sydney please ring the Treasurer Allen Lindsay on 524 1937 who will keep you informed of all the details.

MEMORIAL SHIELD AWARD

Congratulations are due to Mick Gray and his son. This letter, for which we thank Doctor Tom Selby shows why.

Dear Richard Morris,

The award of the Brigadier Sir Frederick Galleghan Memorial Shield was made last week. It was won by Cadet Cpl. Gray (son of Lt.Col Mick Gray) of Canberra Grammar. The award is for best N.C.O. of the year. School holds shield for year and winner gets Oxford dictionary with bookplate with coloured picture of B.J. and short biographical note and also a desk trophy.

The prize was presented by a highly respected member of Legacy, Ian Pryce, who served under B.J. in Malaya and as a past School Inspector as would be expected, gave an excellent address to the assembled school.

This completes the work of the Committee which consisted of Tom Selby (Chairman), J.H. Greenwood, Esq., O.B.E., Des Duffy, M.C., Claude Pickford, Phil Schofield and Lt.Col L.B. Swift, Hon.Sec.

Enough funds have been handed over to allow the prize to be awarded for many years.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. C.H. Selby.

THIRTY YEARS AGO (extracts from the War History)

3rd July, 1945.

Following the artillery concentration, "A" Company's attack was launched and the position was occupied without opposition. Exploitation was immediately commenced and contact was made a few hundred yards further west. Artillery fire was brought down and the patrol concerned occupied the position, again without opposition. Further along the track towards Mount Shiburangu the patrol ran into an ambush by enemy holding high ground to the west. The Regimental Medical Officer, Captain Williams, as was his practice, was close up with the forward troops and came forward to attend Private Barton. He was almost immediately shot and killed. Corporal D.L. Hunt and Corporal Coulthard were wounded and George Coulthard died the following day.

The death of "Doc" Williams came as a shock to the whole battalion. The appreciation of him published in the Medical Journal of Australia illustrates to some degree the

esteem in which he was held within the battalion. The authors of that paragraph were his superior medical officers, Lieutenant-Colonels Smith, Selby, and Ryan and Major MacPherson. They wrote:

"The death by enemy action of Captain Owen Williams, aged 27, on July 15th (actually July 3rd) was felt as a personal loss to every man and officer of his battalion. In the present campaign Captain Williams had on numerous occasions exposed himself to snipers and ambushes to attend to wounded and his devotion to this task caused him to continue to do so in spite of many escapes from enemy fire. It was not only his personal bravery that made him, in our opinion, the ideal regimental medical officer. He had a quiet charm of manner which had gained the confidence of all the infantry troops with whom he came in contact to a greater degree than we have seen before. The profession can be proud of Captain Williams, who indeed, lived up to its highest ideals."

AWARD OF M.B.E. TO NX 114064 CAPTAIN OWEN UPCOTT WILLIAMS

For conspicuous service whilst acting as R.M.O. of 2/4 Australian Infantry Battalion.

Captain Williams has served for 3! years in the Australian Imperial Force, including two years with a Field Ambulance and six months as Regimental Medical Officer of 2/4 Australian Infantry Battalion.

As an R.M.O. his work both in maintaining the health of the unit and in the care of sick and wounded has been outstanding. The sickness rate of the unit has been kept at a consistently low level, and the standard of hygiene has been praiseworthy.

In the Danmap River operations in the Aitape sector of New Guinea, the first operation in which the unit has been engaged for over 3 years the organisation of the medical services of the battalion was faultless, and the prompt collection of wounded and efficient medical attention provided at the Regimental Aid Post was of the greatest value in keeping the morale of the troops at the highest pitch. His cheerful disposition and devotion to duty and his interest in the welfare of the individual has gained for him, in a comparatively short time, the confidence and respect of every man in the unit, thus enabling him to render service of the highest value to his Commanding Officer." thus enabling him to render service of the highest value to his Commanding Officer." We will remember him, "Lest we Forget".