



# 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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**JANUARY MEETING:** FRIDAY JANUARY 23rd

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:** FRIDAY FEBRUARY 27TH

) 8 p.m. Gallipoli Memorial Club

) 12-14 Loftus Street, Sydney.

## 1976 COUNTRY REUNION

As previously mentioned in W.O.G., this year's October week-end reunion is to be held on the Gold Coast. Our live-wire Queensland V.P. Tom Provians, is already off to a good start with arrangements, and so that all will be up-to-date with developments so far, we publish in full Tom's recent report, which is as follows:-

"Dear W.O.G's and Members of the 6th Div. Association of Queensland and elsewhere.

"As we have a very important event on our hands for 1976, I have decided to put you in the picture by means of this bit of garble and (the Scotch in me is coming out) also dispense with the usual Xmas Card. For any typing mistakes, you may place the blame where it belongs, on the shoulders of our official 2/4th typist for Queensland - Norm McIntyre - have no fear, he is not allowed any swampwater until he completes the task.

"The very important event I have referred to is, of course, the 2/4th Annual Country Reunion, to be held on the first week-end

in October, 1976, and - for the first time - North of the border, and we Bananalanders have the privilege of being the organisers for this very special event - put the date down on the 1976 diary NOW - commencing on Saturday 2nd October, please keep in touch with W.O.G. or myself at

65 Foxton Street, Phone: Q'ld.  
MORNINGSIDE, 4170 399 5181

immediately you have a suspected starter, we will darn soon confirm this.

"Laurie McCosker and myself have been doing quite some Recce work along the Gold Coast with the help of Bruce Cork, who lives there, and recently, during October (Yarra-wonga week) I was connected with the organisation of an Interstate Meat Traders Convention and Golf Carnival on the Gold Coast, hence the reason for the absence of the usual Q'ld contingent. Bruce assures me that he did his best to make up for us and we thank him for his efforts - the 'orrible pessimist who has been my first convert.



I have had discussions with Norm McIntyre, Wink Walker, Bill Cavanagh, Bruce Cork, Ted Werne, Max Cook and my very good gang of the 6th Div. I have yet to get in touch with Bill Sumpster, Don Singleton and Tom Gowans; however I can safely let the cat out of the bag and say that we will be holding our 1976 Country Reunion at SOUTHPORT on the Qld Gold Coast and our venue for the Dinner and Doings will be SOUTHPORT RSL & SERVICES CLUB and the local Sub-Branch, who have their HQ right next door to the Club and whose hall we will be using for the Dinner. Apologies to Duncan Russell, Merv Harris, Fred Catley and Stan Sutherland, whose names should have been mentioned above - we will be in touch with you also. RSL Sec. Stan Rossiter and Club Sec. Manager, Noel Collins have assured us of every support, and the Ladies Auxiliary have promised to do our catering at a far better rate than is available elsewhere on the Coast. Accommodation is available, Hotel or Motel, at very reasonable rates and all within walking distance of the Club and Sub-Branch HQ, full rates later, but I doubt that anybody will be paying more than \$10 per night - Bed and Breakfast, and I feel sure that we will do better than that by a substantial margin. 1976 rates are not available as yet, however the maximum for the RSL Convention held there this year was \$8 single and \$14 double, both including brekko. Venues for accommodation are available at the Pacific Hotel, Pacific Motel, Sundale Motel and the Anglers Arms Hotel-Motel.

"As 1976 progresses, our Q'ld Committee will be in full touch with the gang at the Gallipoli Club and anybody who appears to be remotely interested. Those blokes out around Inverell and the North West had better be prepared (look out Deane and Co.). I do know that Ian Wallwork has retired and will be only too happy to chase all the WOGs around Kyogle (don't call me "Dobber" for nothing Ian), whilst Allan Kirk Esca Riordan, Leo (the Lion) Lynch, Merv Stebbing, Nick Allardyce, Harry Wright and Co., need not think they will escape our attention I feel sure they will be as keen as we are.

"As I told Harry Wright to pass on that we would not be starting our publicity until Peter and Claude had done their thing at Yarrawonga, we now mean BUSINESS and all the support we can get - so start thinking and planning - time will go quickly enough.

"Well, folks, Xmas Cheerios starting to flow and I hope I don't miss anybody with this - whatever you wish to call it. I have

already had news of the blokes I have mentioned, plus a letter from Chris White from Gordonvale, June Deane from Inverell, and all are going well. I hope to be able to make a couple of trips to Sydney Town plus other ports of call in between during the next few months and also to keep our Queensland gang on the "go" - you can bet that we will.

"Very best wishes to all the WOGs and 6th Div. boys, particularly the boys we have not seen for a while from the gang in Brisbane, and an extra special one from myself and family for your 1975 Christmas and may 1976 be one of health and prosperity for all.

Tom Provians, Vice Pres. Queensland, 2/4 Aust. Inf. Bn. Association"

Thank you, Tom, for an excellent starter to what portends to be another bumper reunion.

#### LAST POST

NX 9814 John Walsh.

Members of the Signal Platoon in particular, and others in the Battalion who knew him, will regret the passing of our old friend Johnny Walsh after a long illness.

Johnny, a man of quiet humour and dependability sailed with us to the Middle East on the Strathnaver, and saw action with us in Lybia, Greece and Crete. On our return to Australia, and whilst we were in Darwin, he transferred to the 19th Brigade Signals where his efforts were no doubt appreciated as much as they were by our Battalion.

We extend sincere sympathies of all members to Mrs. Vera Walsh and daughters Lynette and Noni.

VALE JOHN.

#### WELFARE REPORT - Hospital Visitations

- NX 5882 Al Murphy (Ward 330) - Called on Dec. 18, but not permitted to see him - on D.I. list. Rang on Dec.19 but condition unchanged. Has had a severe coronary since his original stroke.
- NX 5349 Dick Faulder - Discharged from R.G.H. Not much change, but still cheerful.
- NX 5866 John Pearce - Has had trouble with his eyes but is improving.
- NX 11842 Rick Carter - In for minor op. for sinews of hand, now discharged.
- NX115504 Cecil Williamson - Having surgery for veins of legs, but is improving.



NX 31233 Stanley Healey - Suffering from iron deficiency, but now discharged from hospital.

Mrs. (Mick) Welling Not well, but is her usual self. I rang to inform St. George Legacy.

Fred Evans (4 Bn.) In for further surgery. Cheery as ever. Swears he will go to Adelaide for the trots - he always wins.

John Copland (Welfare Officer)

#### COUNTRY AND INTERSTATE VISITORS TO GALLIPOLI MEMORIAL CLUB

Those who have visited the Gallipoli Club during the past month (December) and have made their presence known include:-

Bill Sumpter (ex. "B" Coy.) Ipswich, Q'ld.

Bill was in transit on holiday to Perth with his daughter.

Gordon Crisp, Wingham, N.S.W.

Jack Huston, Canberra, A.C.T. On visit to Sydney with his wife, Joan.

President Harry has, for the benefit of country and interstate visitors to Sydney, now established a 2/4th Bn. Register at the Club (12/14 Loftus St., Sydney), and invites all such visitors to leave names and addresses and any special message for possible inclusion in "Cock's Column" which could be of interest. This will ensure your visit being recorded even in the event of Harry not being available to extend the hand of friendship.

#### SPECIAL NOTICE

We are pleased to have news of the long awaited publication of the Autobiography of the late Lt. Gen. Sir Iven Mackay - under the title of "Citizen and Soldier" by Ivor Chapman. This book has been published during December by Gordon & Gotch and is selling at \$10.95 in Sydney Bookshops. Lady Mackay, who incidentally, is much improved from her recent illness but is due into R.G.H. in the near future for a further leg operation, is reported to be very pleased with the autobiography. We wish Lady Mackay the very best of good luck with her awaited surgery, and a speedy return to good health thereafter.

#### COCK'S COLUMN

Les (Lizard) Leach rang with Christmas greetings to all and reports that he, Betty and family are all well. What about making it for the fourth Friday some time, Les?

John Copland recently met Ted Dobbin at R.G.H. He is at present O.I.C. Repat. Section at

the Hospital. You too, Ted. What about coming to a meeting soon? We badly need some new faces at the Gallipoli Club on the fourth Friday - how about starting the New Year with a visit on Jan. 23rd.

Edith Richardson sent Christmas greetings from Hong Kong, where she was staying with her daughter Elspeth.

We believe we owe Dave McGillvray an apology for an error in reporting in our December issue. It wasn't his Son David but rather his Grandson of that name who began his rookie training with the Engineers in December. Sorry, Dave, time is getting away from us faster than we care to notice at times! However, we do trust that young David is enjoying his new life, and we know this is the wish also of his very proud grandfather.

Slightly overdue are congratulations to Committeeman "Larry" Dooley, who celebrated his 50th birthday on Nov. 30. The lovable "Larry" must surely be one of the youngest members of our Association.

Our best wishes go to Jack and Joan Chaseling, who flew to America on Dec. 16th to spend Christmas and New Year with their Son John, Daughter in law Diane and small Grandchild. We know your Son Bill and Daughter Julie will have missed their folk at Christmas, but will be wishing you a very happy time in the cold country. Your "batman" joins them in wishing you a very safe return home.

Congratulations to Jennifer, second daughter of Committeeman, Ted and Heather Fox, who marries, on Jan 17th Don Van Mehiehoff. Good wishes for future health and happiness are extended to the happy young couple by 2/4th friends.

The Christmas get-together of the 2/4th Members and wives at the Gallipoli Memorial Club on Friday, December 19th was, although not particularly well-attended, a most enjoyable occasion for those who made the effort to attend, and can be thoroughly recommended for future years. Several of the "regulars" were forced to send apologies due to various pressures of the Festive Season, but everyone present was pleased to see Cec and Phil Chrystal, missing in recent months from our social functions due to the sad illness and death of Phil's sister, about which we were all most sorry to learn. It would appear that the Chrystals will be the leaders in the new grandchild stakes for 1976 - all three daughters to become mothers for the second time during this year.



We also hear that Son Rolfe is still enjoying his work (and play) overseas - best wishes to all the young Chrystals.

We are pleased that the "keeping togetherness of Christmas did not let us down this year.

The Festive Season brought most welcome Greetings Cards to several of our members from our old friend Russ McWilliam, about whom many enquiries have been received in recent months, and news has been particularly scarce. Russ apologises for his lapse from writing but promises to be in touch again in the near future. Bill & Gwen MacLennan were thrilled also to hear from three of Russ's family - Ian from Canberra, with news that has been posted to 2/4 R.A.R. in Townsville so is pleased to be back in the Association; Virginia, who with her husband Richard and small daughters Georgina and Kate is now happily settled in Wellington, N.Z.; and Robin, also enjoying the joys of motherhood with her wee daughter Christen and proud husband and father Captain Michael Hill in Sherwood, Q'ld. To complete the McWilliam family news, we hear that Phil is off to West Australia this year, leaving only David as the sole Sydneyite. Our very best wishes to all the young McWilliams and to Dad too, who - so a little bird tells us - we may be seeing in Sydney some time soon.

Elsie Bradford, wife of our old friend "Brick" writes that she was off to W.A. just before Christmas to stay with her daughter Janice for a month or two. Thank you for your kind donation to the Association, Elsie.

Whilst at Yarrawonga, our own special scribe, Ken Moses, also a keen photographer took a pictorial record of the reunion and has offered to have copies printed for anyone who is interested in having them. The batch of picture (34 in all) have been shown at the meetings and are now available for inspection at the Gallipoli Club.

Best wishes to Philip Gjedsted, son of President Harry and Marge, who left for America recently with his wife Kathy and small son Dee. Phil is over there for several weeks to further his knowledge in his work field. We wish him continued success and a safe return home.

"Larry's" elder daughter Bronwyn deserves special mention and congratulations too, having recently gained her first letters for dancing - M.B.B.O. We know she is set for a very successful future in this field - good luck, Bronwyn, we shall be watching your progress.

#### GALLIPOLI CLUB ELECTIONS

Will all 2/4th members of the Gallipoli Memorial Club please be alerted to the fact that the elections for 1976 Board representation and Executive positions in the Club are almost upon us once again.

We urgently need as many nominations of 2/4 members as possible, and it is also imperative that all 2/4 members of the Club register their votes.

#### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2/4 BN. ASSOCIATION

The above meeting takes place at the Gallipoli Memorial Club on Friday, Feb. 27th at 8 p.m. If you value the work done by your association, BE THERE!