



# 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., LL.D (Hon.)

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**MONTHLY MEETINGS:** General Meeting - Friday, January 28th, 1977  
Annual General Meeting - Friday, February 25th 1977  
At 8 p.m. at the Gallipoli Memorial Club, 12 Loftus St.

## THE 1977 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 8 p.m. on Friday, 25th February, 1977.

### Business:

1. To confirm the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting.
2. To receive and consider the Annual Reports.
3. To receive and consider the Accounts and Balance Sheets for the year ending 31st December, 1976.
4. To elect Office Bearers for 1977.
5. To elect an Honorary Auditor.
6. General Business.

Members are requested to make a special effort to attend this our most important administrative meeting of the year. YOUR support is essential. Please endeavour to be there.

## ASSOCIATION OF 4th INFANTRY BATTALIONS

### CALL FOR NEW MEMBERS.

At a recent meeting of the above Association it was decided to make a call for new members now. Membership is open to any ex-service or service member of any 4th Australian Infantry Battalion. Subscription is \$2.00 per calendar year. The Association Journal "4th INFANTEER" is published and posted to members in January, March, May, July, Sept. and November each year at no extra cost.

The Association holds a Remembrance Sunday Parade, wreathlaying and reunion and an Anzac Dinner on the Friday preceding Anzac Day. All ex-service Battalion Associations and serving Battalions are affiliated organisations and their Presidents and Commanding Officers are Vice-Presidents of the Association.

Association Ties are \$2.00 each and badges are \$1.00 each upon application to the Hon. Treasurer, to whom your application for member



ship should be also made.

Hon. Treasurer: Mr. P.J. Keating, 52 Bates St.,  
Homebush, 2140, Tel. 76 8922.

#### WELFARE REPORT

Members visited since our last report:

- NX 68706 SWAIN, Ernest A. R.G.H. 17. Had a bad time with spondylitis and sciatica, but now discharged.
- NX 58 CHRYSTAL, Cecil, Now at home after surgery, and making good progress.
- NX 39007 CALDER, James P. R.G.H. 5 Coronary occlusion, now discharged.
- NX 72312 BURNS, Leonard J. Was home for Christmas. Len Smith and I called with some Christmas gifts for the three children. All very happy but LEN not too well, will need more treatment for his spinal trouble. Len Smith is keeping in touch.
- NX 5164 WOOD, Ewen R.G.H. 310. A slight recurrence of coronary trouble. Now discharged and reporting for out-patient treatment.
- NX 67 WAUGH, Richard, B. R.G.H. 610. Throat cancer. Was only in for a few days, now discharged.
- NX202744 JOHNSTON, Robert R.G.H. 530. Was not in ward and is now discharged. Not sure whether he is 2/4 Bn. or not.
- NX 697 PRENDERGAST, John. Not seen - he had been discharged. Only in for a few days.
- NX 5294 ROBERTS, Henry R.G.H. 18. Leg ulcers and heart condition. Very cheerful. Discharged.
- NX 6048 WEBB, Arthur R.G.H. 24. Not at all well. Long standing ulcer condition now hiatus hernia and hypertension.
- NX 11945 LANE, Roy R.G.H. 28. In for liver and kidney tests. Picking a few winners and is the cross-word king of the ward.
- NX 50000 ROGERS, Richard R.G.H. 120. In for tests on bladder and kidneys. Discharged.
- NX 13262 NICHOLLS, Harry R.G.H. 2. Heart condition. Satisfactory.

4 BN.  
1914-1918

- 6088 STEWART, Desmond R. R.G.H. 8. Heart condition. Discharged.
- 1372 HENNESSY, Phillip S. R.G.H. 8. Heart condition. Discharged.
- 1145 LYNDSSELL, George. Leg broken in two places. Very cheerful and making good progress.
- 62364 CABLE, Alfred R.G.H. 630. Goitre trouble. Satisfactory.

John Copland. 11 Jan. 1977.

#### LAST POST

NX 11099 C.R. CLARKE. LEST WE FORGET.

#### IN THE MAILBAG

The following letter was received from Ernie SWAIN - written on December 20th during his sojourn in R.G.H. 17.

*"Whilst laying here in hospital feeling sorry for myself, I thought it was time I dropped you a line, Bill, to let you know about the best medicine I've had since I came here.*

*"I've been in traction for two weeks as I have an injury to my spine - there's no pain worse, I don't think. With my family being so far away and not being able to get in too often I was really down in the dumps. Then I heard the sister say "Yes, Mr. Swain is in bed 11". That's when I got the miracle treatment. I looked up to see George STAFF and Harry WRIGHT alongside my bed, also Ewen WOOD who had struggled down from the Multi building with them. Right there and then I felt 10 ft. tall just to know that I wasn't all alone in the world. I've got the greatest set of mates in the world - the 2/4th Bn., as in the next week I saw that grand smiling face of John COPLAND, also Bill PARRY and Gladys TWIST with Ewen WOOD once again.*

*"You've no idea the lift this gave me to see all these people, and just to know that somebody does care about you when you're really down is better than all the pills.*

*"Bill, these men are doing a wonderful job of brightening up our lives, so through W.O.G. I would like to say many thanks to them all. Please excuse writing, it's a bit awkward in bed. I should be home for Christmas, I hope. I hope everyone has a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.*

*Sincerely, Ernie."*

The following wording on a card received from Bill SUMPTER would be appropriate here:

*"As long as we love, as long as we share,  
As long as there ever are hearts to care..  
There will be a Santa Claus, without a doubt  
For that is what Christmas is really about."*

Bill also writes:

*"I am enclosing \$10.00 as a donation toward postage for my "White Over Green", which I always receive without fail. It was 1955 when I lived at Liverpool that I became a fully paid up Life Member for the sum of Ten Guineas and in January 1956 I moved up to Tolga and was working on Tinaroo Falls Dam in 1957 when Helen Wood - now Mrs. Ashley Cooper won the Miss Australia quest. After Tinaroo*



Falls Dam was built I moved down to the Moogerah Dam about forty miles from Ipswich, and when it was completed in December 1960 there was a credit squeeze and a large number of us were paid off. However, I was lucky enough to get a job at the Ipswich Railway Workshops in January 1961 and stayed there until I retired on June 30th, 1974. I am now an old age pensioner, a widower, and my daughter Patricia and I live together. Patricia is 27 years of age and works for Woolworths at Booval, a suburb of Ipswich."

## COCK'S COLUMN

Everyone will be sorry to hear of Charlie ADAMS' recent accident, in which he practically severed his thumb whilst helping son-in-law Peter (Son of Jack KONG of 2/4th) with a building job. We know how painful and inconvenient such a disability can be, and we all send "cheerios" to Charlie for a quick recovery. Hope it hasn't been too inconvenient switching hands to hold a mug of beer, mate.

Had a recent phone call from "Chick" SLEEMAN who sends regards to all. "Chick" was endeavouring to track down Brian HILL - hope you were successful, mate.

Proudly joining the ranks of grandparenthood recently was our good friend John MEEHAN, whose son Phillip became the father of a bonny boy - Paul John. J.M. is about to learn the joys of being a granddaddy, no doubt - becoming a built in baby-sitter, etc. Congratulations, John!

December was an exciting month for the McWILLIAM family. Rusty's flock gathered in Brisbane for son Ian's wedding there on December 4th, then a fortnight later in Sydney for the wedding of son Phillip. We know "the old man of the mountains" is very happy with his two new daughters-in-law - both named Sue.

The Festive Season was a busy time this year for Dick and Enid LATIMER, whose elder son Anthony visited them from Canada with his new bride Judy, after an absence of several years. As second son Robert, together with Jenny and two small children, also came from Victoria for the occasion, it must have been a really lively Christmas and New Year in the Latimer household.

All ex-"A" coy. hands will remember Len ("Bomber") BURNS, whose name appears in this issue Welfare Report. I tried to make it out to Concord to see "Bomber" with Peter COOK and "Dasher" DEACON before Christmas, but Legacy work interfered so rang him at home and had quite a chat. "Bomber" is not a well man, but

like most old diggers does not winge about it. I will have called on him at his home in Smithfield before this issue reaches you, and for any others who may desire to do so his address is:

83 Charles Street, Smithfield.  
Telephone: 604 5302.

"Bomber" would love to hear from you.....

Bill MacLennan.

## A NEW YEAR REQUEST FROM YOUR EDITOR

To help us keep up the good standard set by previous editors and to make our little paper as newsy as possible, please endeavour in 1977 to let us have word of YOU more often. Effort on the part of the same old few tends to lose its shine after a time - we need more people contributing to keep the Association and its "Life-line" bright and fresh. Perhaps it might be a good time to repeat an article printed in "W.O.G." several years ago under the heading of

### HOW TO BURY AN ASSOCIATION.

1. Don't attend the meetings!
2. If you do attend, come late!
3. If you ever do attend, find fault with the officers, and the other members, and sit back and talk to the man next to you about the weather!
4. Never accept office; it's easier to criticise than to do something!
5. Get sore if you are not appointed to a committee. But if you are appointed don't attend meetings.
6. If you are asked your opinion on some matter, just tell them you have nothing to say - then after the meeting, tell everyone how things ought to be done!
7. Do nothing more than is absolutely necessary - but when other members roll up their sleeves and do it all, howl about how the Association is being run by a clique.

## "FOR VALOUR" - THE STORY OF THE VICTORIA CROSS

(Continue from the December Issue)

"Eighteen months later the first ceremonial presentation of the Victoria Cross took place in Hyde Park, London, before a crowd of 100,000. On that day, June 26th, 1857, 62 people received the new decoration. The small bronze medal they received was similar to that struck for Byrne. The Maltese Cross design had been modified to incorporate the royal crest over a simple scroll bearing the words "for valour".

"Although much of the design was prepared by Prince Albert, Queen Victoria disagreed



with the Secretary of State for War, Lord Panmure, over the inscription. Panmure favoured "For the brave", but the Queen insisted on "For Valour".

"Queen Victoria was adamant that something more than the quality of bravery was necessary to receive a Victoria Cross.

"Bronze for the medals came from cannon captured at Sebastopol. This tradition continues today. The Royal Army Ordinance Corps holds a stock of cannon to ensure future bronze supplies.

"And so the tradition of the Victoria Cross was born.

Lt. ALBERT JACKA

The all-time prince of the VCs. He should have had a chestful of VCs, but there was no precedent for duplicate awards.

"On the night of August 6th, 1916, the Australians 14th Bn., dug in at Pozieres in the holocaust of Flanders. As they crouched like rats in their holes, German shells plastered their position.

"Squatting in a dugout with the seven survivors of his platoon, Lieut. Albert Jacka saw in the distance a squad of Germans who had advanced behind the murderous artillery screen shepherding off a group of Australian prisoners. He also saw red. Screaming at the top of his voice and with his howling men behind him, Jacka charged the Germans, one bullet after another hitting him as his legs flew over the shell-churned ground.

"Next instant Jacka's mob was on the Germans, bayonets flashing and bullets blasting at point-blank range. When it was all over, Lieut. Jacka himself had killed 27 of the enemy. For that action, Albert Jacka should have been awarded a Victoria Cross, but he never got it. He already had one. Instead they gave him a Military Cross, the second highest award.

"Australia, in the wars since the Boer conflict, has received more than its share of Victoria Crosses. Yet nearly 50 years after his death, Jacka remains possibly the most famous of all holders of this supreme decoration. Every year, men who served with Jacka rally to his St. Kilda graveside to honor his memory with a dawn vigil. Although the intervening years since they were comrades-at-arms have savagely thinned their ranks, time cannot dim the respect and admiration for the man whose battlefield deeds are legendary among Australian soliders.

"Australia's first VC went to Captain Neville Reginald Howse, who was with the New South Wales Army Medical Corps in the Boer War. It

might be imagined that the most celebrated holder of the decoration would be the first to receive it, but Howse is almost forgotten now, except in the official war histories, while Jacka holds his position as prince of VC winners. Perhaps it was because Albert Jacka could easily have had a chestful of VCs, but in his era the authorities shied from the idea of clipping a bar to the rarest of all valour awards.

"Jacka possessed a more calculated, cold-blooded courage than any previous winner. There seemed to be little emotion connected with it. It was just a job - being heroic. Actually, World War I leaders always claimed that the earlier Gallipoli action that won Albert Jacka the VC was by no means his greatest. His rescue of the Australian prisoners on the Western Front alone was worth a couple more.

"Albert Jacka, the son of working class parents, was born in Geelong in Victoria in 1893. By 1914 he was erecting fences for the Forestry Department near Wedderburn, northwest of Melbourne and beyond Bendigo. He wasted no time in joining the AIF when World War I broke out, and at 21 sailed from Australia as a private in the 14th Battalion. He was not a particularly good soldier out of battle but he carried out orders even if he had to control his resentment at what he considered to be pointless army discipline.

"Early in 1915 the 14th Battalion landed at Gallipoli. It was a vicious, one-sided war, but Jacka revelled in the sound, the sight and the smell of battle. To him it seemed to be a sport made more thrilling by the constant threat of death. Even when his company was ordered to rest, Jacka left the sleeping to his comrades, preferring to stalk beyond the lines bayonetting Turkish fire spotters or blasting posts.

"In May, Jacka was stationed at Courtneys Post, just below the rim of the ridge guarding Monash Valley. Because it was a strategic post, it was subjected to constant Turkish attacks. At first the Turks tried routing the Australians with concentrated rifle and machine-gun fire. When that failed, they came in with bayonets but that tactic was no more successful. So then the Turks plotted a massive attack. Their plan was simple: "Attack before daybreak, drive the Anzac troops from their trenches and follow them down to the sea." At 4 a.m. on May 19th, the Turks swarmed down the hill and into the first of the Anzac trenches".

(To be continued).