



# White over Green

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE 2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

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**MONTHLY MEETINGS:** There will be no December meeting, but as is customary, anyone interested in calling at the Gallipoli Club for a festive drink on Friday, December 23rd, will be most welcome from 5 p.m. onwards.

**JANUARY MEETING:** Friday, 27th, 1978 at 8 p.m.

**Annual General Meeting:** Friday, February 24th, 1978 at 8 p.m.

## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS TO ALL



Our Patron, Sir Ivan and Lady Dougherty, President Harry & Marj Gjedsted, with all members of your Executive Committee and their ladies, extend to all members and their loved ones best wishes for a Happy Christmas and a Bright, Prosperous, Peaceful and Healthy 1978.





We are indebted to "Dasher" DEACON for the following bit of journalism, regarded by your Editor as one of the most humorous received in recent times ... hope you will agree.

"It is about time the Ex PRIVATES of the 2/4 Bn. formed their own Association. To be eligible one must have joined the Battalion as a PRIVATE, and by sheer guts, determination and influence have served in a combat zone and been discharged still a PRIVATE. Sorry about Ted McCAFFREY not being allowed to join, because I have a photo of him taken in Tel Aviv - a beer in one hand and one stripe on the other. But he can still be an ex-member of the exclusive B/Coy. M.S. Club. "Bludso" HUDSON could be our first PRESIDENT. He will make a good president because he won't talk much - you can't get the cigarette out of his mouth! Also his brother Jacky from Lightning Ridge can donate a few opals - in fact Jacky could be Lightning Ridge Country Vice President. Lightning Ridge will be our first Country Reunion. It will be held underground, because that is the place where all Ex PRIVATES finish.

"The City Council has kindly agreed that the 2/4 Bn Ex PRIVATES ASSOC. can have the facilities of BELMORE PARK for our Parade Ground. Also the old Bandstand will be used for our Monthly Meetings, which will be held on the seventh Friday of every month. This will allow all of our members to attend our Bn. meetings every fourth Friday. Also the Army has given permission for Country Members to stay overnight in Holdsworthy Detention Barracks, which will make most of them feel like old times. Bruce STEWART can have his old room at the COSY RESIDENTIAL. Bruce used to book the room and then sneak about a dozen B/Coy men in for the night. All you ex Privates know Belmore Park opposite Central Railway Station. Most of us have happy memories of the Park; during the day sipping a nice red wine - at night entertaining our girl friends. Also handy for all transport the Paddy Waggon still operates.

"The Ex PRIVATES ASSOC. will cater for all sport. Only ex-privates will be allowed to join. the Imperial Services Club members will only be allowed to take one Ex OFFICER friend to the Club that is if they have an ex-Officer friends!

"Also the Royal Sydney Golf Club will only take Ex PRIVATES, but the rules will be strict. All golfers playing on the course must have Ex SERGEANTS as their caddies. Tom PROVIANs will be my caddy. My golf bag consists of seven woods, fifteen irons and four putters. Also a separate golf buggy which will be used as a Mobile Wet Canteen - this will allow me to keep my head down. Also the caddy will have to carry a pick and shovel, just like privates used to carry in the Western Desert.

"Bowls will also be played at the City Bowling Club. The Champion of Champions Private Pairs will be played on April 1st - April Fools Day - every year. That is the date we sailed for Greece. Tooheys Brewery might sponsor this big event - "Larry" DOOLEY can look after this.

"The Cricket Ground membership can also be ex-privates only. Peter COOK will be O.K. He can still be a member of the Cricket Ground, although I think he will be able to join our Association.

"Don't worry about buying golf sticks or bowls these will be provided out of the old Canteen Funds. We never did get much out of it anyway. Also golf balls. If you can't find a lost ball hit another one, and then hit your caddy.

"I must stress on all of you ex-privates who wish to join this very exclusive club that even if your Great Grandfather was a Corporal in the Boer War, please don't mention it in your application form, because all applicants will be screened by A.S.I.O.

"Also a special PRIVATE'S Medal will be stuck to be worn on the right breast. This will save silly questions on Anzac Day, with clowns asking us what we were in the war.

"The only non-Private who will be allowed to attend our meetings will be Sir Ivan Dougherty, but he must leave his sword at home.

"Send your applications to Private Mail Box, Belmore Park, Sydney enclosing Canteen Orders for subscriptions. No money please!

DASHER DEACON, A.B.C. PRIVATE (RETIRED)."

#### ANNUAL LISMORE DINNER, 1977

The Lismore Christmas Dinner party was a huge success, 79 bodies sitting down to a very delectable meal at the East Lismore Bowling Club which very kindly gave us their Club free of charge and provided the stewards also. Of course we had as two of our guests the President and his good lady, John and Doris EATHER.

2/4thers at the dinner included Ian & Edna WALLWORK, Jack & Joyce LISTER, Mick ANTONELLI, Eddie SLADE, John & Doreen HUGHES, Bruce & Angela CORK, Aub PRIEST, Doug & Gwen STEBBING, Fred & Laureen VARLEY, Max NERNEY, Tom & Vera PROVIANs. Norm & Jean EVERSON, Harry & Hilda WRIGHT, Norm McINTYRE, Morrie & Jess WILSON, Bill & Aimee FACEY, Clive & Ailie BROWN, Alf & Doss GRAHAM, Jack & Joan HUGHES, Vic & Beryl SLADE, Bill & Una SHEAFFE, Roy & Doris ANDREWS, Vin & Nancy SLADE, Doug GROVE, Herb HOATHER, Dave & Ella CROSTHWAITE, Eileen BYRNES, Allan & Carma KIRK, Mel & Lyla McINNES, Tim & Ailie LAMOND, Tom & Freda CLARKE, Ken ANDREWS, Reg & Coral MURPHY. Some had sons, daughters and in-laws etc. with them.

Tom PROVIANs also brought along two 6th Div. boys, John SHINGLES and Max COOK. Max is the President of the 6th Div. Association, and we



were very glad of their company.

I suppose I did most of the "yakking", how ever am glad to say it was to some purpose, as those assembled backed me whole-heartedly when I asked them to support Doug STEBBING, Fred VARLEY and self if we are successful in our application for the 1978 Re-union in Lismore.

Carma joins me in sending regards to all.

Allan KIRK

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#### WELFARE REPORT

A very quiet month - those in Hospital have been:

NX 2048 COLE, Reg. R.G.H. 610. In for gall and kidney tests. Discharged.  
NX 56899 BUTLER, Ken R.G.H. 130. Heart tests. Discharged.  
NX 1993 POLLOCK, Ivan A. (Slim). Minor nasal operation. Discharged.  
NX 7001 PETERSON, N. R.G.H. 34. Nervous condition. Discharged.  
NX 21 STACK, George. Collapsed muscle in left leg and thrombosis. Improving with ray treatment and physiotherapy. Expects to return to duty soon.  
NX174013 DOOLEY, A.J. (Larry). In for ulcer tests. Satisfactory.

#### 4 Bn. W.W.1

7051 SMITH, E.J. R.G.H. 230. Surgery on foot  
51094 DOBINSON, R.H. R.G.H. 610. Had just been taken to surgery.  
For the Welfare Teams.

John COPLAND.

#### A THANK YOU

Des CUNNINGHAM rang your Editor recently to say how very grateful he was for the Welfare visits, plus the comforts provided whilst he was recently in Concord. He promises to try much harder (like Avis) to attend meetings in future.

#### LAST POST

NX 13578 HADDON, S.E.  
NX 9538 McFARLAND, R.J.  
NX 25431 WARD, J.V.  
NX 29282 WESTWOOD, H.J.  
NX 6003 McCARTNEY, R.J. (Scotchy)

#### VALE "SCOTCHY" MCCARTNEY

Guildford Presbyterian Church was packed to overflowing recently for the funeral service of our late friend "Scotchy" McCartney, who, since his retirement from the permanent Army in 1953, had been a staunch worker for the Guildford R.S.L. in which he subsequently held the offices of Secretary, Vice President and finally President The R.S.L. Masonic Lodge and local fraternities were well represented at the funeral, as was the 2/4 Bn. by Harry WRIGHT, Bill KEOGH, Ken

KESTEVEN, Dick MORRIS, "Butch" WARREN of Canberra and Bill PARRY, also Norrie McGREGOR and Tex DALLOWAY, Welfare Officer and Treasurer of Smithfield R.S.L. respectively. The crowd of mourners was seen to include a large number of young people, usually a sincere indication of the high regard in which one has been held.

At the Rookwood Crematorium following the Church service, Bill PARRY spoke for the first time on behalf of the 2/4 Bn., saying that he was one of many who were very proud to have been able to call "Scotchy" McCartney friend and cobbler for nearly 40 years, as he was one of the original members of the 2/4 Bn. and served through every campaign with the battalion until it was disbanded in 1945. Bill expressed to Mrs. McCartney (Kate) and daughter Cherry our deepest sympathy in their sad loss and gave them an assurance that the friendly hand of the 2/4 Association would always be there to help them in any time of trouble or need.

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CONGRATULATIONS to the newest (reported) 2/4th grandparents. "Larry" and Yvonne DOOLEY recently joined the ranks of the "oldies" when son Brian's wife Jenny gave birth to a beautiful daughter, Lauren Jane. Time to ease up now, Larry. It's really getting later than you think!

Also to Peter and Betty COOK, who recently moved into a brand new, beautiful home at Caringbah, built by Peter himself. "Dasher" and Lily DEACON and Bill and Gwen MacLENNAN were honoured to be included in the guest list for the house-warming recently.

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#### IN THE MAILBAG

Nothing ever seems to arrive from "Rusty" McWILLIAM, but thanks to his lovely family we do keep up with news of him. This time it comes via Manchester (England), where Rusty's daughter Robi is currently living with her husband, Major Michael HILL, and family Robbie writes:

"Dad's temporarily taken over as storekeeper at a mission on Melville Island and is really enjoying it. All mod. cons. plus car, house and food, and he can do lots of fishing and hunting. We've nicknamed it "Paradise Island". Virginia and Richard are both well, but look like returning to N.Z. early in the New Year. Phillip is doing very well still and David too. All seem to agree that the Northern Territory is the place to live so there must be something in it."

Jack CROWLEY recently reported having seen Fred SYMONDS when he visited a shearing shed at Bourke.

Ted KNOX, writing recently from Burringbar, sent his best wishes to the Association.



"Pop" (H.C.) WILLIAMS normally to be located at his home in Birrong (Sydney), recently wrote as follows:

"I'm writing this from London, U.K. Was unable to write earlier due to not having your address with me. My wife (Jess) and I sailed for the U.K. on May 18th this year and two days later Ceilia and Ken RICHARDSON made themselves known to us. For the rest of our voyage we enjoyed their companionship very much. Unfortunately Ken was ill a good deal, but is now on top of the world due to an English doctor.

"A Cliff SMITH also looked me up - one time in 6th Div. A.A.S.C., taken P.O.W. in Greece. He is a mate of "Blue" POHLMANN - always stays with "Bluey" when in Sydney. Cliff had several unsuccessful escapes in Germany, once with Greg HOLLAND and Bill Keary, and again with "Nobby" Allan CLARK, all three 2/4th blokes. Cliff would like to know if anyone knows where Fred O'HARA and Sandy CLERK are. They were both P.O.W.s in Stalag 18A and both from 2/4.

"Jess and I had two grand days and nights with Grahame & Joyce WOODWARD of Dawlish, U.K. They drove us around their lovely old village and countryside. They have a lovely home and a beautiful view of the coastline and village. We left with real regret. Ceilia and Ken RICHARDSON also Jack & Joan HUSTON had called on them previously. Cheers to all."

Tom PROVIANs writes that he has taken on a couple of days a week back in the shop game. Says it keeps him out of mischief, and also out of Vera's way. He recently had a letter from Sar.Maj ROBBIE who wrote from Myrtle Bank, S.A.:

"I would love to have a trip like the one you recently had, but Millie does not want to travel around these days as we have done so much of it over the past 20 years, and I would not wish to leave her home on her own.

"You might be interested to know we have a wonderful crop of weeds in the creek and the best of it is that unlike your front garden we don't have to mow them, because they have real charm - all in flower too. I am having quite a busy time around my tent this year, because we have a heavy crop of olives. I still carve and whittle and rake up the fruit, with Mill nagging in between cups of coffee. I can't go wrong. I had the cabinet I was making when you came to visit valued, and it worked out at \$1,500, but I did not make to sell. I spent all my working days making money - that's six years behind, and I am far too contented without making more.

"Once again we are getting close to Xmas - and not weather of course. I am not very keen about sun-baking these days. It's really not old age, but a sort of slow decay, but I manage to live with it, and who knows - I may go on rotting for years. Millie has been trying for years to bring my voice down from a bark, but I keep telling her

my bark must be preserved for the next war's batch of recruits. Notice how I look ahead with glee at the thought?!

"Do you know, this is my second letter in six years, and both of them to you. Maybe you bring out the best in me."

(Perhaps you might spend a few moments of your retirement occasionally, Robbie, to let one of your "salt water sergeants", nowadays your Editor, have a little more frequent news of you for the troops....Bill MacL.)

Tom PROVIANs writes further about Robbie's designing and wood carving. His latest effort, to which he refers in his letter above, is a record cabinet, self designed and hand carved with an inlay on the top of pressed dried flowers covered with polished perspex. Tom considers the valuation should be much higher than \$1,500.

Herb HOATHER wrote recently from Keith Hall: "Since I have reached the age where forgetfulness is rapidly approaching, and senility is lurking around the corner, I think it would be a wise move on my part to become a Life Member of the Association for the good work being done to keep it alive."

Perc LANSLEY wrote that he and Eileen are going along well at Guyra. Perc is still slugging it out with the N.S.W. Railways, and giving thoughts to calling things a day. He might be afraid he will get on the rum to keep the cold out, and reckons that paid exercise is better!"

Max NERNEY reports that he and Edna are having a busy time preparing for their daughter Margaret wedding this month. Edna has been running a Cafe in Urbenville. However, she has sold out as with all the weddings, etc., she has found that the load can be rather heavy.

#### ASSOCIATION PLAQUES

Your Committee would like it known that there are still quite a number of very beautiful and well made 2/4 Bn. plaques available at the extremely low cost of \$7.00 plus approximately 60¢ postage. They are approximately 6" x 6½" and would grace the wall of any home - no 2/4th dwelling should be without one!

We are still awaiting some news of the travels of Ferd and Gwen PEGG. Hope your WOGs are arriving, Ferd. Have you been to see the Chief yet?