



# White over Green

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE 2/4 INFANTRY BATTALION ASSOCIATION

Registered at the G.P.O. Sydney, for transmission by Post as a Periodical, Category "A".

PATRON: Major-General Sir Ivan Dougherty, C.B.E., D.S.O. & Bar, E.D., B.Ec., LL.D (Hon.)

31st YEAR OF CONTINUOUS PUBLICATION

VOL. 32 No. 3

PRICE 15c PER COPY

MARCH 1977

**PRESIDENT:** Harry Gjedsted, B.E.M., 2/25 Mona Road, Darling Point, N.S.W. 2027.

Phones: 27-6350 (Bus.); 32-3977 (A.H.)

**VICE-PRESIDENTS—Senior:** Bill MacLennan, 2 Amaroo Ave., Castle Cove 2069. Phone: 407-3320.

Northern N.S.W.: Esca Riordan, 36 Cameron Street, West Kempsey, N.S.W. 2440. Phone: Kempsey 62-4671.

Newcastle: Alf Carpenter, 66 Chatham Road, Georgetown, N.S.W. 2298. Phone: 049-67-1969.

Southern N.S.W.: Tim West, "Yarrabundah", Cowra, N.S.W. 2794. Phone: Chiverton 42-9240.

Queensland: Tom Provians, 65 Foxton Street, Morningside, Qld. 4170. Phone: Brisbane 95-4181.

South Australia: Peter Denver, "Wyndgate", Hindmarsh Island. Box 51, Goolwa, S.A. Phone: Goolwa 55-2252.

Victoria: Claude Raymond, 92 Rose Street, West Coburg, Vic. 3058. Phone: Melbourne 35-1145.

**COMMITTEE:** P. Cade, C. Chrystal, E. Fox, M. Gray, R. Morris, H. Wright.

**SECRETARY:** Athol Heath, 5 Akora Street, Frenchs Forest 2086. Phone: 451-4466.

**ASSISTANT SECRETARY:** J. Meehan.

**TREASURER:** Allen Lindsay, 21A Mirral Road, Caringbah 2229. Phone: 524-1937.

**WELFARE OFFICERS:** John Copland, 117 Charles Street, Ryde 2112. Phone: 80-3771.

Bill Parry, 5 Blackbutts Road, Frenchs Forest 2086. Phone: 451-2790.

**EDITOR:** Bill MacLennan, 2 Amaroo Avenue, Castle Cove 2069. Phone: 407-3320.

**MONTHLY MEETINGS:** Friday, March 25th, 1977 )  
Friday, April 22nd, 1977 ) at 8.00 p.m.

At the Gallipoli Memorial Club, 12 Loftus Street, Sydney.

## THE 1977 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the 2/4th Infantry Bn. Association was held at the Gallipoli Memorial Club on Friday, Feb. 25th; the meeting opened at 2015 hours - Harry Gjedsted in the chair. Correspondence Finance, Welfare and General Business of the Association was conducted expediently, having been dealt with in detail at the Committee Meeting held prior to the A.G.M.

With our Patron, Sir Ivan, acting as RETURNING OFFICER, all offices were declared vacant. Sir Ivan then called for nominations for office for the ensuing twelve months, with the following results:-

**PRESIDENT:** Harry GJEDSTED -elected unopposed.

**SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT:** Bill MacLENNAN - elected unopposed.

**INTERSTATE, COUNTRY & NEWCASTLE VICE-PRESIDENTS:** elected unopposed.

**TREASURER:** Allen LINDSAY - elected unopposed.

**SECRETARY:** Athol HEATH -elected unopposed.

**ASS.SECRETARY:** John MEEHAN- elected unopposed.

**WELFARE OFFICERS:** John COPLAND and Bill PARRY elected unopposed.

**EDITOR:** Bill MacLENNAN - elected unopposed.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** Cec CHRYSTAL, Ted FOX, Ken KESTEVEN, Peter CADE, Harold BOWMAN, George STACK and Mick GRAY.

Dick MORRIS was nominated, but declined due to pressure of work at Sydney Technical College. Harry WRIGHT was nominated, but declined because of his planned overseas trip with Hilda which will take six months, beginning in April. President Harry thanked both Dick and Harry for their contribution to the Association over a period of many years, with the hope that they will both return to the Committee in due course.

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS have always been announced at the A.G.M. and the Award presented on ANZAC DAY. The nomination for this year was for Bill MacLENNAN, whose work and dedicated service to our Association is known to all.

Bill's nomination, accepted and approved unanimously by Committee, was ratified at this Meeting with acclamation, and as Bill will be overseas on Anzac Day President Harry called on



Sir Ivan to make the presentation on the spot. The presentation was greeted with sustained applause, and with some emotion Bill thanked the Association for the honour conferred on him. In his response Bill indicated that he and Gwen were leaving at the end of March to attend the first ever International Gathering in Scotland of all Scottish Clans. Allen LINDSAY immediately volunteered the services of himself and Gloria to look after the production of "W.O.G.", in the absence of Bill and Gwen. It will be remembered that Allen and Gloria did this on the previous occasion that Bill and Gwen were overseas.

The President thanked the outgoing Committee and the Members for their support during the year and welcomed the new members to the Committee team.

The fact that only 25 members attended the meeting was disappointing, but nevertheless a very happy and convivial evening was enjoyed by all who did attend.

#### LEGION OF FRONTIERSMEN OF THE COMMONWEALTH

This is an ancient ex-service organisation, slanted towards explorers, adventurers and men who have served in the out-posts or frontiers of Empire, and was originally raised in 1904 from members who fought in the Boer War. Early members were leading citizens of their time, including such personalities as Winston Churchill, the Earl of Lonsdale, His Serene Highness Prince Louis of Battenberg, Conan Doyle, Rider Haggard, and virtually every well-known soldier and sportsman of the day. It was a great success in the U.K. and from there started up in Canada, N.Z., and was raised in Australia in 1907. The aims behind the original movement included serving the Empire in time of stress - in wars, etc., and assisting the Government to form units for any expeditionary force, and because of the wide and varied experience of its members could be nothing but an asset to any Government in time of emergency.

During W.W.I the Legion offered its services to the British War Office to form units for active service and to relieve serving soldiers of certain garrison duties in England, e.g. horse breaking, riding instruction, guard duties at vulnerable points etc. The War Office were a bit slow to accept and one group, at their own expense, went off to Belgium and joined the 3rd Belgian Lancers. They were, in fact, the first British troops under fire in that war - even before the Old Contemptibles at Mons. Some little time later the War Office accepted the offer of the Legion and asked them to raise a battalion for service in East Africa. This was done, and the Battalion was known as the 25th Bn. Royal Fusilier (Frontiersmen). An Australian named Dartnell who served with

this unit gained a posthumous V.C.

The Legion remained active in the U.K. and New Zealand, but died in Australia at the outbreak of W.W.2 when most members enlisted in the A.I.F. A group of enthusiasts have now got the movement in Australia active again and currently has over 200 members. The unit will be restricted to social and ceremonial activities - assisting at parades, etc., but should war ever break out would be ready to offer itself for the formation of Home Guard units or perform any other duty requested of it by the Government or the Army.

Mick GRAY has been appointed the Australian Commandant of the Legion by U.K. Headquarters. Bill MacLENNAN has been appointed an Officer of the Legion, as has Harry GJEDSTED. Bill's job will be to raise the first Squadron, to be known as the Gallipoli Squadron - Harry will most likely find himself Commander of the NSW area. The Corps turns out in uniform on ceremonial occasions (those who wish to). Instead of the normal civilian organisation of clubs or groups, the Legion adheres to the army procedure and forms troops or squadrons. Anyone who is interested in joining this organisation - and Mick GRAY would like to see some of our old Battalion interested - should ring him any evening on 997 6011. Incidentally, he will be going to England with four frontiersmen in May to join the British and Canadian contingents on their annual pilgrimage to Belgium. Bill MacLENNAN will be meeting up with Mick over there and accompanying him.

#### WELFARE REPORT 25.2.77

Visits to R.G.H. since last meeting:-

- NX 46536 ANDREWS, Stanley. Ward 3. Suffering from leukemia which first became apparent on the way home from the Southport reunion. Stan was in hospital at Lismore, then at R.G.H. Concord, but looks well and is very cheerful after five weeks there. Hopes for early discharge.
- NX 2055 HONNERY, Athol. Ward 18. Slight coronary, after several previous ones. Now discharged.
- NX 24878 MAHER, Eric. Ward 34. Nerve condition. Discharged.
- NX 5266 WILLIAMS, Harold (Skinny). Ward 28. In for blood tests, now discharged.
- NX 68519 EWINGS, Roy. Ward 28. In for extensive tests. Not at all well.

Two other members have been in R.G.H. several times over some 3 to 4 months but they have not been seen because their names have never appeared on the computer lists. So obviously they have NOT mentioned their unit - 2/4 INF. BN. - to the admissions people and their families or friends have failed to tell us. One of our four teams calls at R.G.H. every



week to say hello and to offer help of any kind, where needed, to all our comrades. It is a great pity, but if we don't know - HOW CAN WE?

NX 11215 LEECH, Les. W. Peter COOK told me at the last meeting about Les. I then rang Betty (Leech). Les has had acute arthritis for some time. He has had an op. to re-set the bones in one leg and is now home in plaster for three months. He does not get W.O.G. so must be unfinancial. Have sent the latest copy to him so he may do something about it. We wish him and Betty well, and hope for an early improvement.

NX 5460 REYNOLDS, John. Mrs. Reynolds wrote to advise that Johnny was home after a several trips to R.G.H. culminating in a major operation. Now progressing slowly at home. His main concern was that he may be unfinancial with the association - he has always paid every Anzac Day. Mrs. Reynolds has sent \$30, so Johnny is now a Life Member. Johnny lives at 2/27 Junction Road, SUMMER HILL, Phone 799 1881 Les LEECH lives at 11 Gowry Avenue, WESTMEAD. Phone: 635 6184.

Friends living close by could ring or call. Our visits are not limited to R.G.H. Concord. There are members in most areas who have volunteered to call on our behalf if we know of cases and just ask them. One such volunteer is Ken KESTEVEN. Ken will be taking over from Harry WRIGHT who with Hilda leaves for a long overseas trip on April 4th. So Ken will join George STACK while Harry is away. Bon Voyage to Harry. Thanks and welcome to Ken.

For all the teams,  
John COPLAND.

\*\*\*\*\*

Seen on the Notice Board of "A" Coy. 4 Bn R.N.S.W.R. by John Copland at their depot at Signal Point, Vacluse:-

#### "THE HONOUR WE HAVE TO SERVE"

"The Standard of any Army depends on the quality of its Infantry. Service in the Infantry is the most dangerous, arduous and honourable way of serving a country."

By Field Marshall LORD SLIM."

Also the Motto of "A" Coy.

The man who really wants to do something finds a way - the other kind finds an excuse."

\*\*\*\*\*

#### COCK'S COLUMN

Two of our proudest parents these days are Pat & Athol HEATH, whose lovely daughter Julie gained top level passes in the Higher School Certificate at Technical College last year, entitling her to a choice between five

Universities - and all this achieved whilst looking after a husband, running a home and doing full-time nursing. Well done, Julie - your efforts are most worthy of hearty congratulations.

Everyone will be happy to know that Cec CHRYSTAL has now progressed beyond mention in further Welfare Reports - at his own request. In fact Cec has only to see his Doctor every three months nowadays and is looking very fit.

It is also good to hear that Len GOODWIN's leg operation has been postponed indefinitely. Len and Mary are taking an Overseas trip at the end of May.

Bill MacLENNAN will attempt to contact Frank MALLET in Norwich on his arrival in the U.K. about the end of April.

Tom and Joan MORT became grandparents again recently. Daughter Hilary's first - a Son in the Keith Hospital. Congratulations to all.

Ron BARBER reports having visited Stan BOWEN at Queen Victoria Hospital, Wentworth Falls, on Feb. 10th. Stan looked reasonably well, there was no shake in his hands, and he was better than the last time he had attended a monthly meeting. He was interested in hearing of the members who attended the reunion at Southport and was very pleased to hear that General Dougherty has recovered and is now getting around again - wishes to be remembered to all members of the Association. Cheers, Stan - we shall send your W.O.G. direct to the Hospital in future to keep you more up-to-date with the latest happenings.

Ron BARBER also reports that a grandson of Rex ROWELL, who lives at Lawson, is a member of the staff at the Q.V. Hospital, W. Falls.

LAST POST NX 51617 - COSTELLO, Keith.

It is with deep regret that we have received the official news of the death on Dec. 22nd last of Keith COSTELLO, as the result of a coronary occlusion. LEST WE FORGET.

#### NEWS FROM THE NORTH COAST

Esca RIODAN sends apologies for being so long winded in sending down a few notes re the Boys and their wives. Esca writes:

"We certainly had a very enjoyable week-end at Southport, and those who heard about the 'Do' are sorry they didn't make the effort. On the way home I called on Lloyd "Tiny" Eglinton at Tumbulgum, who said his wife Rob was suffering with arthritis and had a job to get about. "Tiny" is semi-retired but still is president of the Cane Growers' Association. Also had a cuppa with the CROSTHWAITES. Sam



HUGHES has been off work for months with an injured neck, but his wife Eileen told me recently he is making steady progress to recovery. Harry & Noreen DOWLING recently spent a holiday at Cowra with their son Phillip. Harry reports seeing Ted HARRIS and Tim WEST who are both O.K. Haven't seen Jim BROWN and his lady of late, but I know they are well and busy. Gordon and Marcia CAMPBELL are well and enjoying their retirement. One of their daughters has just returned from a 20 months trip overseas and another daughter, Belinda is serving in a Bank in Darwin. Haven't seen Bub & Margaret GRAHAM of late, also Jack MALONEY, but understand they are all O.K. and that Bub is busy with Legacy. Had a message on Sunday to say that Billie & Bushy BENNETT from Macksville are well and enjoying life to the full. My brother informed me that Jack & Joan CHASELING have commenced their new home in Kyogle and both are well. He also told me that Eddie SLADE has finished work and taking things easy. Had a letter from Tom PROVIANS and family a few days ago. Tom said he had a spell of no duties before Christmas and light duties since but is on the road to recovery again. Have just been talking to Chas HOOD who is reasonably fit and still able to keep one down. Best wishes to all members of the Association for a happy and successful year."

Thank you Esca for your newsy bulletin - am investigating your query, and all will be well.  
Ed.

#### IN THE MAILBAG.

Concluding the entertaining bulletin of recent MOSES escapades, published last month, Ken wishes it known that his city address is now:

C/- The Journal of the Institution of  
ENGINEERS AUSTRALIA,  
1st Floor, Armith House, 226 Swanston St.  
MELBOURNE, 3000. Phone: 663 4739 (Bus.)

which is strategically placed to well-known waterholes in the city! Ken sends kindest regards to all and will write again when he gets a bit of news. Please don't try wrapping yourself around any more trees just to have something to write about, Ken. Hope you're 100% fit again.

Fred APTHORPE writes from Griffith:

"To enlarge on the article in a previous issue re the V.C. I believe that the number of awards of the decoration now total 1358, including 95 Australians. Ted HARRIS paid a visit to these parts recently, accompanied by Ken McCAFFREY, "Slim" VENN and Ken WEBB. All the best for 1977 to all members of the Assoc-

iation." Hope you received your December copy of W.O.G. per favour of Harry WRIGHT, Fred, also your car stickers....Ed.

Wink WALKER writes from the Sunshine State:

"The attached news item is of interest.

'It is official: Green on White. Green and White will be the colours of the new Motor Vehicle number plates to be issued in Queensland from about July. The plates will promote the State with the words "Queensland Sunshine State" across the bottom. State Government yesterday approved the new design with numerals preceding the letters. This will be dark green on a reflectorised background."

(We are reliably informed that Tom PROVIANS is already queued up at the local Motor Registry trying to obtain his new W.O.G. number plates - Number 214 Bn.)

Bill GIBBS writes from Long Beach, CALIFORNIA

"Many thanks to mailing staff of W.O.G. which arrives faithfully each month and, of course, is enjoyed very much. Best wishes to all members. A special "Hi" to Ted GAMBLE and hope Hazel and family are well. (I was their best man way back when?). Regards to Tom ERSKINE, Blue SAUNDERS, Danny KARANGES, etc."

Jim BARROW writes from Ashburton, Vic:

"Have long service leave due this year and hoping that if the annual re-union is at Wagga I may be able to make it. The only bit of Melbourne news I have is that Russ MADDERN retired on New Year's Eve. My heart bleeds for him. All he has to do now is get his golf handicap down and exercise his right elbow! Have not seen anyone else since last Anzac Day. Was in Griffith last August for a few days but somehow seemed to miss most of the 2/4 boys. Was hoping to see more because that is where I joined up in 1939. Until Wagga - I hope - regards to all."

Bill ANDREWS writes from Lugarno:

"I missed Anzac Day get-together last year, as my wife Unity and I were half way between Guam and Japan on the "Marco Polo". Captain Hinton was a South African veteran, so we had both an early morning service in the main lounge and a serviemens get-together afterwards as his guests and it was surprising how many 6 Div. blokes were there. Am feeling very well after a spot of heart trouble, and virtuous due to the removal at this point of over 30 lbs. in weight. I guess it is a sign that we are all getting older. King regards."