



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: There will be no December meeting, but as mentioned previously there will be an informal get-together at the Gallipoli Club on Friday, December 15th at 5 p.m. All members are welcome with wives and families.

JANUARY MEETING: Friday, January 26th 1979 at 8 p.m.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: Friday 23rd February 1979 at 8 p.m. at the Gallipoli Memorial Club, 12 Loftus Street, Sydney.

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

With the Festive Season and the end of 1978 rapidly approaching, Marge joins me in wishing Sir Ivan and Lady Dougherty, our Committee and Members, and all your families and our friends, a very Happy and Merry Christmas and a Hearty and Prosperous New Year. The coming year will be the 40th Anniversary of the raising of the 6th Division A.I.F. and our own Battalion following the outbreak of World War II on September 3rd, 1939, and we will be giving thought to a possible special re-union. It could be a 6th Division re-union for this specific occasion; however we will keep you informed of any proposed plan.

With every best wish to you all.

Harry Gjedsted



MAJOR-GENERAL SIR IVAN DOUGHERTY BIOGRAPHY

1. You will be pleased to know that Colonel Alex. Sheppard has been working very hard on this publication and that in the next week or so hopes to get the manuscript to the printers to obtain a suitable price.
2. For your information we have received cheques for loan monies to the sum of \$6,000 towards the cost, from members of this Association. The balance will be supplied, as agreed, from Association funds. This is indeed a wonderful help, without which the publication would not be possible.
3. The steering committee has at last come to a decision for a suitable title for this biography, and it is to be known as 'DOUGHERTY'; the dust jacket will be set as under:

DOUGHERTY

(Colour photograph of the General
copy of one hanging in foyer of
Gallipoli Memorial Club)

'A great man among men'

4. By the time this copy reaches you we should have prices for printing, binding, etc., and be going ahead with the chosen printer. The price of the completed volume will be as mentioned by me in last month's W.O.G. — \$16 plus \$2.50 postage if mailed (free of postage if picked up at the Gallipoli Club). Already we are pleased to have received money for advance copies — delivery of which will take place in April, 1979.
5. This is a very well written volume, has been completely edited, and I know it will be the wish of every member of the Association to ensure he gets a copy.

Cecil Chrystal,
Chairman — Biography Committee

WELFARE REPORT as at 24th November, 1978

Members seen at R.G.H. since last report include:—

- NX 46276 GARDNER, J.R. R.G.H.630. Bob has had a lung operation, is progressing well and should be going home to Kyogle about 27th.
- NX 5266 WILLIAMS, Harold. R.G.H. 110. In for minor op. Discharged.
- NX 9763 MEEHAN, John. R.G.H.31. In for annual treatment for psoriasis. John in his usual sumptuous accommodation — thoroughly spoiled. We wonder how he does it!
- NX 6514 MAIDENS, V.H. R.G.H. 630. Badly burnt as a result of an accident. I have arranged for his mail to be redirected to R.G.H.
- NX 2055 HONNERY, A.W. R.G.H. 110. Not at all well. Athol is having chest and cardiac tests, and surgery is probable.

4 Bn. 1914-1918 MOORE, R.H. R.G.H. 31. Bob, a regular attender at 4 Bn. meetings at the Club, and at the Association of 4 Bns., has been in the same ward as John Meehan, with the same complaint. Was discharged on 22/11/78.

War Veterans' Home, Narrabeen. CHAMBERLAIN, Richard Bill Parry reports that Dick is well and sends greetings to us, as well as to the Association of 4th Inf. Bns.

NX 5233 BENNETT, W.J. — generally known as 'Buzz', is now living at the Monash block of the War Vets. Home, and would like his W.O.G. to go there in future (It will be done, Ed.)

Q.V. Hospital, Wentworth Falls. BOWEN, Stan. Bob Lever called on Stan again on Nov. 18th. Stan is well and sends greetings to all who know him. Bob says he will call again, and weather permitting, take Stan for a trip out. Good work, Bob.

For all of the gang....John Copland

ANOTHER CHIEFTAIN IN OUR RANKS

Harry Wright was good enough to send us the following article from a Parramatta newspaper late in November — under the heading of

'MacGillivray — a new old clan is in good hands'.

'Guildford man, David MacGillivray is chieftain of the newly formed Clan MacGillivray Society of Australia. The Society has members throughout Australia.

'It aims to keep alive and to pass on to future generations an appreciation of Scottish history, culture and traditions, and to promote an appreciation of the part played by Scots in the history of Australia. It plans to set up and maintain a repository of clan treasures and muniments and to establish a registry of all MacGillivray families in Australia, for present and future genealogical research.

'The Society has grown from annual gatherings of the clan, held in North Manly and Albury.

'Originally from Glasgow, Mr. MacGillivray has lived in Australia for almost 50 years, in Camperdown and Leichhardt and in Guildford from 1939. He has been involved with Scottish societies and pipe bands in Australia for over 40 yrs.

'Chief of the Granville and District Caledonian Society for the past 17 years, Mr. MacGillivray was formerly chief of the Auburn Society for eight years.

'With his wife, Nan, Mr. MacGillivray attends Caledonian Society activities throughout the metropolitan area. They are also members of the Burns Society.'

Congratulations and best wishes from us all, Dave.

NEWCASTLE NOTES

The Newcastle members of our Association held their last



get-together at the Shortland R.S.L. Club on 10th November.

A large roll up was in attendance and a great night was had by all.

Bill WHITE reported on his Victorian trip in connection with Legacy and George and Heather MITCHELL's son Guy was a welcome visitor from Sydney.

Bill (Bully) HAYES' health is much improved. He flew out to Singapore to look after Ricki while daughter Alisia and husband Richard had a round world trip by plane. Bill expects to be back home before Xmas.

Alf CARPENTER, George MITCHELL, Cliff CURRAN, Joe BOHLE and Jim SHERRITT attended the 2/1st Field Regt. Annual Dinner at the United Services Club on the night of 3rd November. Many gunners attended from Sydney and the Central Coast, which helped make the dinner a great success.

Our Annual Dinner is to be held at the University Common Room on 15th December, commencing at 7.30 p.m. and is being organised by George and Heather MITCHELL.

Any members or friends may attend providing Heather is notified by 10th December on 049 672182. (Sorry, Jim, this issue will be a little late for that date.)

Newcastle members send Xmas greetings to all, and if coming our way, please call in.

Regards.....Jim Sherritt.

CASH REGISTER

The Treasurer reports having received subscriptions and donations, as follows:

Subscriptions \$6.00 from: K. Deacon, Bub Graham, G.Coles, S. Devery, E. Mackie, G. Robins, E. Knox, C.Pollock, M. Nermay, E. Jones, B.Newth, G.Crisp, K.McCaffrey, C. Geelan, W. Capper, N.Rogers, N.Howard, V.Bowman, D. Arnott, B. Stewart, B.Burton, J.Cummings, P.Dalla, L.Hart, W.Hale, M. McInnes, W.Walker, R.Groat, W.Shearwin, J.McPherson, B.Barnes, B.Kingwill, H. Taylor, M.MacAllan.

Subscriptions \$12.00 from: L.Dunn, H. Whitman, L. Yensch, L.Herbert, S. Blacksley, P.Cross.

Subscriptions \$18.00 from: F. Sadler.

Subscription \$30.00 from: N. Gillespie

Life Membership \$50.00 from: P.Gyngell, B.Cork, J.Ormiston.

Additional Life Membership \$30.00 from: A.J.Quinnell, C.White.

Additional Life Membership \$20.00 from: R. Morris, B.Bettett, A. Burgess, J.Reynolds.

Donations from: H Taylor \$1.00, F.Sadler \$2.00, K.Deacon \$4.00, G.Coles \$4.00, G.Robins \$4.00, Laura Wallace \$4.00, M. Nearnay \$4.00, W.Newth \$4.00, J.MacPherson \$4.00, B.Barnes \$4.00, M.MacAllan \$4.00, G.Crisp \$8.00, Bub Graham \$10.00, Monty Siems \$12.00, D.Endean \$14.00

Many thanksAllen Lindsay.

NEWS FROM OUR NORTH COAST VICE-PRESIDENT

On the week-end of September 10th we were visiting Macksville and Bowraville and had the good pleasure of meeting Bub and Margaret GRAHAM, John (Bushy) BENNETT, Tom CLOUGH, John SMITH, and Noreen and Harry DOWLING. On the same day, Macksville had their Rotary Golf Day, and John BENNETT took out all the major prizes.

I have been in contact with Sam and Eileen HUGHES, and Sam is enjoying reasonable health since his retirement.

Was also speaking to Chas HOOD a few weeks ago and he was unable to attend the reunion at Lismore because of his health problem. I might add he is still cheery.

After the reunion, Beb and I went to the Ballina Ex-Servicemen's Home — Darby and Joan Unit — for a very relaxed break. Whilst there we visited the Gold Coast and were the guests of Bruce Angela CORK who treated us like royalty. We also had a few beers with Doug GROVES at Ballina R.S.L. Club, after which he joined us in a meal at our flat.

On October 16th I made a brief call on Ken ANDREWS at Bexhill, also Doug STEBBINGS at South Lismore, and also in his shop was Tim LAMOND of Kyogle.

Our editor noted that I failed to compile notes on the Lismore reunion, which I regret and humbly apologise for. I will endeavour in future to keep you posted with news I can glean.

Regards.....Esca Riordan.

P.S. This morning, November 3rd, the 'Kempsey Sheltered Workshop' was officially opened by Senator Margaret Guilfoyle, and in attendance was JH.Brown - M.P. Raleigh, also John (Busy) Bennett, who is Vice-President of the Sheltered Workshop Committee, also 'Yours truly' and wife. I also spotted Sam Hughes crossing the street - he looked exceptionally wellEsca.

(Regarding the Lismore reunion notes, Esca, your conscience was misguided, as you weren't in fact the 'northern scribe' referred to. 'No names, no pack drill' the saying goes, but all was put right in 'Cock's Column' in last month's issueEditor)

IN THE MAILBAG

From Jim Brown, Kempsey to Allen Lindsay:

'I was very pleased to learn from the November issue of White over Green that the biography of General Sir Ivan Dougherty is proceeding, particularly in view of the tragedies which have surrounded this. I am attaching a cheque for \$20 for my copy, and will pick it up from the Gallipoli Club when it is available.

'The battalion still has a wonderful spirit, particularly when some 33 years after the end of the war a record number can attend a reunion. White over Green is a great publication which allows us all to keep in touch with those others who, like myself, were fortunate to serve in the 2/4th Battalion.

Kind regards to all.'

From 'Robbie' Robbins to Bill MacLennan:

'I received our Battalion medal last Monday, and it's all you said it would be. I don't think a better design could have been drawn. You know, I will be more proud of that medal than all the other medals I have, because it personifies a unit a man has served with. I will be very proud to wear it at our next Anzac march.

'By the way, I enjoy reading all the doings of our people in W.O.G. — I must say the Journal is a credit to its Editor. Keep up the good work, Bill, and let me know if I fall behind with my subs. These days I have car keys in my hand and don't know it.

'Sincere regards to you and your wife, and Happy Xmas to you all.'

From John Hawkins to Bill MacLennan:

'Further to our telephone conversation, we returned from a month in Perth last night. On the way over we had a nine hour stop-over in Adelaide, so I phoned Robbie who, with his good wife Millie, drove to Adelaide to meet us in Rundle Plaza. There was no mistaking Robbie's stride as he marched toward us, saying in a loud voice: 'Sar Major Hawkins, you still don't swing your arms correctly!'

'Anyhow, my wife Nell and I boarded Robbie's Vauxhall for a quick trip to look at his unit, his wood-carving which is terrific, and his workshop, situated in a jungle reminiscent of the crater track. For a guy of 73 he looks really well.

'Then on to Perth, and shortly after our arrival I rang Fred Stanwell and we adjourned to the Double View Bowling Club to quaff a few ales. Whilst there we were joined by another ex 2/4th Bn. guy by the name of Wally Evans (WX 30958) who was Russ Maddern's batman at Wondecla. He mentioned that he often sees another 2/4th Bn. guy by the name of Don Guthrie (ex Signal Platoon) who lives down at Subiaco.

'Anyhow, Fred and his wife and Nell and Myself had a dinner date one evening, where I hope that I convinced Fred and his charming wife Else to come over and stay with us next October and then attend the Newcastle Reunion together, so here's hoping. Fred sends his regards to Allan Kirk and all other members of the Mortar Platoon.'

ONE MAN'S WAR — the story of the great escape that still haunts former soldier Bill Neave (VX 23188) - published in the Melbourne Herald on December 11th, 1976:

'In the long, lonely hours of the night, the memories still come flooding back over Bill Neave. They have been little dimmed by the passage of 35 years. They are still raw and painful; they still bring tears. There are still ghosts that haunt his sleep and make him reach for the sedatives prescribed by the Repat. doctor. There are still times when he sees himself again as a bearded skeleton of a man, clad in rags and racked with malaria, dysentery and covered in sores...fighting despair and plugging on through the eternal twilight of the dense, hostile jungle....starving and kept alive, he swears, by prayer.

'Anybody who doesn't believe in prayer', he says today, 'well, fair dinkum, I reckon he doesn't know what he's talking about.'

'Bill Neave has lived alone in his little weather-board house at Casterton, 394 km. west of Melbourne, since his wife died 4½ years ago. He is a youngish 64. He has not let himself go to seed. He still keeps fit with daily exercise. He cooks for himself a three-course meal every night and keeps his house spick-and-span. He goes to church every Sunday.

'Bill is a survivor of Lark Force, the 1400-strong garrison at Rabaul, New Britain, which was overrun by vastly superior Japanese forces on January 23rd, 1942, after saturation bombing. Only 400 or so eventually found their way back to Australia. The remainder perished — most of them in the sinking of the prisoner of war ship, Montevideo Maru, off Luzon, in the South China Sea, on July 1st, 1942.

'For 183 days after the capture of Rabaul, Neave and a handful of other Diggers slogged hundreds of miles through the almost impenetrable jungles and mountains, gorges and rivers of New Britain and New Guinea, living on what they could scrounge from the natives and constantly hiding from the Japanese. They drifted hundreds of miles on mountainous seas in a rickety, over-crowded little boat to reach New Guinea with half a gallon of petrol left — only to find the Japanese had got there first. At one stage Neave was given up for dead. His 5 ft. 4 in. frame had wasted to 5½ stone — half of his normal weight.

'On July 25th, he reached Wau and was airlifted to Port Moresby. But the war was not over for Bill Neave. In its closing stages he was back in the thick of the fighting with the Sixth Division at Wewak — and was with Pte. Ted Kenna when he won the V.C.

'Bill Neave works as a carpenter at Peden's timber yard in Casterton. He has lived in or near the town all his life. When war broke out, he was a station hand at Dergholm Station, 35 km. north-west of Casterton. In April, 1940, he and a couple of his mates, George Coates and Lance Howlett, enlisted in the A.I.F. They became members of the 2/22 Battalion, the main unit of Lark Force. The garrison at Rabaul was a link in the slender chain of forward observation posts which Australia strung across its northern frontiers. It comprised the 2/22 Bn., some artillery and other attached troops.

'Neave arrived there on Anzac Day, 1941, nine months before the invasion. The garrison fought valiantly, but was hopelessly outnumbered and outgunned. It had been subjected to heavy bombing for some days and the coastal guns had been knocked out. Surrender soon became inevitable. Neave's company had been pushed back into a gully.' (To be continued)

A THOUGHT FOR CHRISTMAS.

Christmas is a season of happiness and enjoyment. It is a time when relatives and friends separated by the restless struggle of life are reunited in a happy state of companionship and mutual goodwill. A time when love of the person and not of money prevails. To every Member and his family Gwen and I wish a Merry Christmas with good health and happiness for the New Year

Your Editor, Bill MacLennan.