



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.)

33rd YEAR OF CONTINUOUS PUBLICATION

VOL. 33

No. 8

PRICE 15c PER COPY

AUGUST 1978.

**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 Foxtton Street, Morningside, Qld. 4170. Phone: Brisbane 399-5181

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:** H. Bowman, C.Chrystal, E. Fox, M. Gray, K. Kesteven, G. Stack, H. Wright, L. Waterhouse

**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:** Fourth Friday in each month at 8 p.m. at the Gallipoli Memorial Club.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The next meeting is being replaced by LADIES' NIGHT, being held on Friday, August 25th, at 8 p.m. at the Gallipoli Memorial Club. Please come along with your Ladies and families and help to make this important annual event one of our best yet! Don't forget, YOUR attendance is essential to the success of this occasion.

## 2/4TH AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BATTALION MEDAL WITH CLASPS

This project developed after a discussion by a group of our members at a monthly meeting some eighteen months ago.

We were talking of Campaign Medals and Decorations, and criticising the British and Australian Governments for their failure to issue Clasps for campaigns and actions in World War 1 and World War II. Up to and including the Boer and South African Wars, clasps were issued for specific campaigns and actions, but for reasons unknown this traditional recognition of the fighting man's service in action was discontinued in World Wars I and II.

In World War I, shortly after the first A.I.F. was raised, a combined Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force attacked and captured German New Guinea and the adjacent German Colonies, surely worthy of a New Guinea Campaign Medal or Clasp. Then came Gallipoli, Palestine, Belgium and France. For years after World Wars I and II the ANZACS petitioned the Government for a GALLIPOLI Medal. It was not until the early 1960's that a Gallipoli Medallion (not wearable) and lapel badge was struck. Again, surely a Gallipoli Clasp for the 1915 Star, and issued with that Medal, should have been the logical recognition of this campaign, which was the foundation of our National Day. The magnificent and stirring actions of our Australian Light Horse in Palestine — Beersheba, Gaza, Damascus — and the ultimate defeat of the Turks warranted a Palestine Medal with Clasps.

If it was considered that the various major actions in Belgium and France were too numerous for individual Clasps, then why not a European Campaign Medal with Clasps for Belgium, France and Germany?

In World War II, the most extensive and destructive War in History, Campaign Stars were issued, but the weaknesses here were that:—

1. They did not identify specific Campaigns or actions.
2. Eligibility covered areas hundred of miles away from any action.

The first major victory over the enemy was inflicted by our 6th Australian Division A.I.F. in 1941, when we captured Libya from the Italians. This was at the time when Europe had been completely overrun by the Germans, and England and the British Empire were going it alone and the future looked extremely grim. The bare Africa Star ribbon should have been enhanced with a 'LIBYA' Clasp. No Medal or Clasp for GREECE, CRETE, or the 7th Division's victorious campaign in SYRIA! These campaigns are covered by the 1939—45 Star, but this Medal covers 6 months' service in any operational area!! The Dieppe campaign saw the Canadian Expeditionary Force virtually decimated. NOT worthy of a DIEPPE Clasp? And why not for Narvick, Arnhem and other actions?

The same anomalies apply to the PACIFIC STAR, which covers the campaigns of NEW GUINEA, NEW BRITAIN, BORNEO, our 8th

Division in MALAYA, TIMOR and that heroic attack by the Commandos on Japanese shipping in Singapore Harbour – 'Operation Jaywick' - after sailing in the 'Krait' from Australia. It also covers areas where there was no action, nor any danger of action. Surely a Clasp for the KOKODA TRAIL and MILNE BAY for the first defeat inflicted on the Japanese, plus a clasp for NEW GUINEA and those other campaigns was warranted.

As a result of our discussion, it was agreed at a subsequent meeting firstly that we should submit a recommendation to our Government for Clasps to be issued for the various operational areas and actions, and that approval be given to wear these Clasps on the Australian Service Medal. It was considered that by using this Medal the need to submit the proposal to the British Government for final approval would be eliminated. If we were unsuccessful, the next step would be to produce our own Medal and Clasps.

A sub-committee comprising myself and two of our Members who are experts and authorities on Medals and Military History – Peter Cade and Mick Gray – was formed for the project. A letter of recommendation for Clasps was forwarded to the Minister of Defence and as anticipated, was unsuccessful. With the knowledge that we are within our rights to produce our own Medal, action was taken to put the project into effect. Two basic designs for the Ribbon, Medal and Clasps were produced for approval, revision, etc., by our Committee and Members. These were submitted at our July meeting, and one design, plus the Ribbons and Bars, unanimously selected and approved. The end result is a Medal which you will all be proud to wear.

On the face of the Medal are two crossed .303 Lee Enfield Rifles, the basic weapon of the Infantryman. On these is superimposed the Rising Sun badge of the A.I.F. Below these is a scroll with the words 'For Home and Country' – the motto of 4th Bn. (the Australian Rifles) 1914–18.

On the reverse side, around the perimeter of the Medal, are the words 'The 2/4th Australian Infantry Battalion Medal'. Balancing this wording at the base of the medal is a cluster of Wattle and Waratahs.

In the centre of the Medal is the wording 'For Service with the Battalion World War II 1939-45.' Around the edge of the Medal will be inscribed your Rank, Initials, Name, Regtl. No. and Awards and Decorations. This detail will be relative up to the time of your Transfer or Discharge from the Battalion. The Ribbon is White and Green. Three vertical stripes - the outer two Green, the centre white.

The Clasps cover the operational areas and campaigns in which the Battalion served, and will be worn on the ribbon in the following order. The basic Clasp will be PALESTINE which will be on the bottom of the ribbon. The spacing between Clasps will be 1/8th".

NEW GUINEA  
DARWIN  
SYRIA  
CRETE  
GREECE  
LIBYA  
EGYPT  
PALESTINE

Those members entitled to wear the complete set of Clasps will find that the re-mounting of their Medals will result in the ribbon length being a little longer.

Members who were 'attached' or 'seconded' to other Units, etc., in the applicable areas, will be eligible for the appropriate Clasps. However, Members who were transferred from the Battalion will only qualify for those Clasps applicable at the time of transfer.

When mounting the Medal, it will follow the last Campaign or Service Medal or Award (E.D. or E.M., etc.) received.

Cost of the Medal is \$20.00 and applications in the form of Statutory Declarations are enclosed herewith.

Once again we have a 'First' but I have been advised that the Commandos are also planning to produce their own Medal. This, I believe, will cover the Independent Companies' actions in New Guinea,

Timor ('Sparrow Force') and 'Operation Jaywick' (Singapore Harbour).

Harry Gjedsted (President)

## MAJOR GENERAL SIR IVAN DOUGHERTY BIOGRAPHY

Since my last report the Committee have had a further two meetings, and I now report on progress to date.

1. Ken Clift has submitted work up to the end of WWII and Sir Ivan's move into the Political field. His writing is first class and I am sure each and every member of the Association will be pleased with the outcome.
2. We are still seeking a suitable title for the project and John Copland and I have been given the task of deciding on this for the next Committee meeting. If you have any ideas please let us have them for discussion.
3. The matter of financing the project has been discussed. We feel that with the support of Sir Colin Hines, Mr. Bill Keys, General Hasset and others, we will get the \$1,000 grant from the War Memorial and the balance will be forthcoming from other sources.

The price of the book is still to be discussed.

That's all for now – make sure you put about \$10 aside for when the volume is published, which will be sooner than you think. Kind regards to all.

Cecil Chrystal.

## WELFARE REPORT as at 28th July, 1978.

- NX 26758 WINDEYER Ron. M R.G.H.3. 'B' Coy. Chronic bronchitis. Discharged.
- NX 5294 ROBERTS Henry R.G.H. 18. Severe chest infection. Discharged.
- NX 11564 DEVEY, Stan R.G.H. 610. Appendix operation. Discharged.
- NX 174013 DOOLEY, A.J. (Larry) R.G.H. 230. A major ulcer operation. After some complications after the op. Larry was discharged on 19th July 1978 but had to be readmitted for further surgery, and is currently not a well boy. We are all wishing you well, Larry!
- NX 51089 WOODCOCK, E. R.G.H. 520. Cataracts removed from eyes. Discharged.

## 4 Bn. W.W.I

- 2919 BROWN, Tom. R.G.H. 530. General check-up. Discharged.
- 2134 CHUDLEIGH, John R.G.H. 110. Facial cancer – not at all well.
- 2243 SHEPHERD, Bob. R.G.H. 17 Admitted 25th July 1978. Severe heart attack. Not at all well.

## LAST POST

**NX 5838 OGILVIE, Colin** Colin died at R.G.H. on 20th July 1978 after a long and painful illness and was buried at Point Clare Lawn Cemetery on 24.7.78. Our deep sympathy goes to his wife Cynthia and his four children. Col was in the 'I' Section, but served mainly with 'A' Coy. He was in R.G.H. for months and was seen every week by all our teams and by Vera Walsh. Colin showed great fortitude throughout and was always glad to see us. He knew towards the end that his illness was terminal but accepted it and was a shining example of faith and courage.

**NX 11594 HUDSON, F.J.M. (Fred)** of 'B' Coy. died suddenly on 25th July 1978, aged 62 years and was cremated at Woronora on 28.7.78. Fred was a good soldier, and had many friends in the Association. Jack Heaney kept me informed and very kindly rang me with details of the funeral. We were represented by Jack Heaney, Jack Hudson (Fred's brother, who joined 2/4th Bn. late in the piece),

Ted McCaffrey, Sid Buckley, Ron (Porky) Williams, Peter Cook and Dasher Deacon. The R.S.L. Service was conducted by Paddington-Woollahra R.S.L., where another brother Harry (ex. R.A.N.) is a Life Member. Fred, who never married, was one of a family of eight — as Jack Heaney says, a close-knit family. Our deep sympathy goes to all the family, and thank you to Jack Heaney for your co-operation.

**NX 9890 ROGNINI, Joe** Bill Parry reports having attended the funeral of this well-known member of the Bn., who died on 5th July 1978 and was cremated two days later. Joe was an original member, sailing with 2/4 Bn. on Jan 10th, 1940 with 'HQ' Coy. He spent most of his service with the Bn. in the Middle East and during the fighting in Greece was taken P.O.W. — returning to Australia in 1945. Joe had also served in the 1914-1918 War in the 53rd Bn. with whom he saw service on Gallipoli and in France, and on returning to Australia became a hairdresser in Manly for many years. After the death of his wife about 15 years ago Joe lost interest in most things and during the past year had not enjoyed the best of health, keeping much to himself, but it was only two or three days before his death that we received news that he was very sick and in hospital. The Bn. was represented at his funeral by George Stack, Joe Grath, V. Robberds and myself ..... Bill Parry.

In conjunction with his Welfare work for G.M.C., Bill Parry pays regular calls to War Veterans' Home, Narrabeen. He reports that Dick Chamberlin is well. Athol Honnery has chronic asthma, but remains well and cheerful.

It was a great surprise and joy to some of our hospital visitors when the sister on duty with Colin Ogilvie said that her father had been with 2/4 Bn. Sister Finch, no less, daughter of our friend, Noel. A small world !!

For the teams.....John Copland

#### A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

On Monday, 29th May, I was admitted to Mosman Community Hospital suffering from a stroke. Eight days later I contracted an infection in the blood stream and was rushed to the Emergency Ward of Royal North Shore Hospital. Eventually recovering from that and getting on with therapeutic treatment for the stroke, my next move was to Greenwich Rehabilitation Hospital and my discharge on 14th July, after arranging to receive Outpatients' therapy at St. Vincents' Hospital.

My purpose in writing this is to express my sincere thanks and my deep appreciation to all of you for your wonderful and encouraging 'Get Well' messages, too numerous to answer personally, and I'm not writing too well at the moment, anyway!!! Sixty-five 'Get Well' cards, countless telephone messages and those wonderful personal visits — all of which were such a boost to the morale that I have no alternative but to get well in a hurry!!!

My fondest thanks and best wishes to you all. See you soon.

Harry Gjedsted.

#### NEWCASTLE NOTES

The July get-together of the Newcastle Members and friends was held at Wallsend R.S.L. on the night of July 28th. A very good roll-up was in evidence. Those able to attend were Alf & Marj Carpenter with friends, Harry and Yvonne Pearse, Audrey Wright, Bill White with two friends, George and Heather Mitchell, Joe & Gwen Bohle, Aileen Curran, Jim and Mona Sherritt with son Wayne and friend.

Apologies were received from John and Margaret Rae, Jack Mann and wife holidaying at present, Cliff Curran suffering from arthritis Bill (Bully) and Estelle Hayes, Bill still not well but able to move around much better than previously.

It was with deep regret that we read of the passing of Colin Ogilvie. Col enlisted with three of our local members, Bill White, Jack Mann and Jim Sherritt, and moved into Liverpool camp in October, 1939. John Rae arranged for condolences to be sent to the Ogilvie family, also for a wreath to be placed, 'A good mate AT REST'.

The Lismore Re-union was discussed and also preliminary talks re the 1979 Re-union should Newcastle be chosen as the venue. Our next get-together to be held at Stockton R.S.L. on 18th August. Newcastle members send kindest regards.

Jim Sherritt.

#### COCK'S COLUMN

Allen and Gloria Lindsay, recently returned from South Australia, report having seen Sgt. Maj. 'Robbie' and wife Millie, Pat and Peter Denver, and Bill and Yvonne Black. Bill wishes to be remembered to his 'A' Coy. mates — Peter Cook, Cec Chrystal, George Martin, Doug Grove and the boys in the Bn. Cricket team, Bunny Burrows, Bruce Cork and John Meehan. He is looking forward to meeting up with as many of his old mates as possible at Lismore.

Tom Provians has news of Bonny Hutton of Surfers Paradise, who lost his wife some months ago, but hopes to make Lismore. Hope to see you along, Bonny, and sorry to hear of your bad luck. Bonny was up at 204 Bridge St., Oakey, Q'ld, 4401, and visited Bill Burton of 'C' Coy., who is making Lismore a certainty and is looking forward to catching up on some 'C' Coy. 'wallahs' ....he can be accommodated.

Len Sydenham called on Norm Everson recently and informs us he is now doing mission work at Honiara in the Solomon Islands with Holy Cross. Len was one of the boys who was left behind in the Middle East and was wounded at Alamein. He is going well and gave Norm quite a shock to see him.

Harry and Hilda Wright have been galavantiing around Bali (howabout that?) Bandung, Jakarta, Yogyakarta and ports around that area. We hope he is the same bloke you took away Hilda, that is dangerous country for a young blood like him!

Selby Dean, Mayor of Tingha, will be at Lismore. He saw Tim West at Goulburn recently, and informs us that Tim is just about retired these days. Selby is arranging to spend Christmas with daughter Rosemary and family up in the New Guinea mountains. Selby has also seen Ross Smith, who will be at Lismore.

Mollie Irvine and vivacious Vera Walsh are starters for the re-union. Mollie is chasing up news of the two 'Younguns' — Marj McCarty and Elsie Parsons, to get them along also. She has recently returned from a trip to W.A. by Camel Train — sorry, the Indian-Pacific - about the same pace, she reckons!

Vic & Dot Pike were nearly wiped out by the disastrous floods recently at Lower MacDonald. Van, Car, workshop and downstairs flat were completely inundated. They were without power for five days, so much for all Dot's food in the freezers, and were bird bathing to save the limited amount of fresh water available. Then Vic had to go and come a cropper in the new boat and sustain some very bad bruising. However, he is O.K. and they will both be at Lismore.

'Slim' Pollock recently sent in a cutting reporting the retirement after 40 years' distinguished service in the Australian Army of W.O. Norm Harries, well known to those who have been interested in the Assoc. of 4th Bns. We wish Norm many years of happy and healthy retirement.

Ian Fitchett sends his kind regards to all. He is not a well man these days, his main problem being diabetes, but he often thinks of his old mates in the Battalion.

Would anyone knowing the present whereabouts of NX 5550, J.N. (Neil) Taylor, please let John Copland have his address. A friend of the Battalion is anxious to contact him.

## IN THE MAIL BAG

From FERD PEGG IN LONDON to CEC CHRYSTAL.

*'My wife and I were privileged to attend the second CLAN MACLENNAN GATHERING held in Inverness from 25th to 28th May. This was an extremely important occasion, as one of the main events was the Chief's Inauguration Ceremony on 25th May, held in Inverness Town Hall. This ceremony was semi-religious and was attended by dignitaries of the district, including the Lord Lieutenant of Ross-shire (the Queen's representative), the Lord Mayor, Trumpeters, Clan Pipers, Clan Chaplain, and senior members of the Clan, all dressed in Clan Regalia. The ceremony was attended by about 200 visitors from all parts of the world who witnessed the inauguration of the Chief, Ronald G. MacLennan, and the Chieftain our own Senior Vice-President Bill MacLennan.*

*'I believe this is the first time in 200 years since such a ceremony has been held. It was extremely colourful and impressive and was a memorable occasion in our long overseas visit to the U.K. and Scotland. On the same night the Clan Ball was held in the Caledonian Hotel, where a special message of congratulations from the Queen was read out. Good food, Scottish reels, dances and exhibition dancers were the order of the night, and anyone attending could not help but be impressed by the close family spirit of the MacLennan Clan members. So our congratulations are in order for our own Bill MacLennan, newly appointed Chieftain of the MacLennan Clan!!!' (Thank you, Ferd, Welcome back .....Ed.)*

From FRED APTHORP to BILL MACLENNAN:

*'Welcome back from your Overseas trip. It must have been a terrific experience.*

*'Referring to Laurie Waterhouse's article re the Lone pine tree planted in the park at Wagga, I would like to point out that there are several such trees in other places, including the one in the park at Oatley, which I visited about 18 years ago, taking snapshots of same. This tree was grown from seeds obtained from the original tree by an Australian soldier on Gallipoli who sent them to his family, who planted them in the hope that they would mature to the tree which now holds an esteemed and revered position in the park.*

*'I cannot recall the exact words embellished on the accompanying plaque but it extolls the deeds of the Anzacs at this historic battle of August, 1915, and requests visitors to respect the thoughts behind the idea which prompted those involved to provide this permanent reminder of deeds performed by a gallant band of men, many of whom gave their lives at that time and many who have passed to the great beyond since.*

*'Fred Driscoll and I, who are neighbours, had a visit from Les Adams escorted by Ted Swadling, whilst Perc Dalla and 'Dagwood' Jackson have also been around our neck of the woods.'*

From ADA and HARRY WHITMAN CALAMVALE QUEENSLAND

*'This is now our only permanent address, as we have now joined the gypsies and are caravanning wherever the mood takes us. At present at Caloundra — going north, but will definitely be back in Lismore in early October. Harry marched with the boys in Brisbane this year and whilst there we were both entertained to the full at the Provians' domicile. We are hoping to meet Tom and Vera this weekend at Bribie Island and learn a few things about fishing from Tom's techniques and local knowledge.'* (Hope you received my note and that Harry has caught up with his missing W.O.G.s by now. There was no question of him being unfinancial.....Ed.)

From NEWTON(DOC) HOWARD, ADAMSTOWN *'We returned home in May for our youngest son's wedding and after some time in Melbourne came up here to stay with our second daughter for an*

*indefinite period. The reason for this is that it enables my wife Olive to have treatment by one doctor for the arm she severely broke the day before the wedding. Under the circumstances would you kindly forward W.O.G. to the above address in future. I enclose a cheque for my 1978 fees — would you kindly pass this on to the Treasurer.*

*'On my return I found that Bruce had put W.O.G. in a corner instead of forwarding it to me in London — if I had received same I could have met you, most probably, while you were there. We were in England/Scotland between April and December 1977, then in Canada/U.S.A. till April this year, then back in England one month before coming home. Goodness knows where we will finish up, but our thoughts are somewhere between Tweed and Southport — will let you know later. With cherished memories and kindest regards.'*

From FRANK MALLET NORWICH, ENGLAND *'I see by the June issue of W.O.G. that quite a few members of the old Sig. platoon will be in attendance at the Country Re-union. I would appreciate if you would pass on my very best wishes to them. I do hope that a good time will be had by all at Lismore.*

*'I have had a few days taking it easy — have had a little blood pressure, but am a wee bit better today.*

*(Hope you are well enough to make that promised trip out soon, Frank .....Ed.)*

From LEO DUNN, BENTLEIGH to ATHOL HEATH *'I hope you are well, as most of us are down here. Went to the 2/8 reunion prior to the march and it's the same old story — the same old heads turn up — twelve of us, known as the thin red line.*

*'Met my old Lieut. after the march — Peter Gyngell, 12 Plt. He did not know that the Bn. had its history written in book form, so I lent him mine.'*

From A.J.(JIM) QUINNELL, INVERELL to ATHOL HEATH *'I don't get around very much owing to poor health, so haven't met any of the local members of the Bn., but my wife and I look forward to the monthly magazine arriving. Many thanks to the men (and their wives) for all the work they do in keeping the magazine going.'*

From GEORGE (KING COLES to ATHOL HEATH, from WALLERAWANG. *'Couldn't make it this year to Anzac Day, wasn't up to it. Old age must be catching up. See you in Lismore?'*

From CHRIS WHITE' GORDONVALE to ATHOL HEATH. *'My wife, Patricia, and self are off on a world trip. We have two months in Europe and England and then a month or so in Canada. Always very pleased to receive W.O.G. Welcome to any 2/4th lad touring up this way — we are easy to find — 29 Swan St., Gordonvale. Saw the Anzac march in Sydney on T.V. — ranks are thinning. Pity they don't give it more footage instead of Politics. Have not had word from Provians this year — he must be drunk all the time now! Cheers to all and best wishes'*

From FRANK FRIZELLE, TAREE to ALLEN LINDSAY *'I'm having trouble with gout in the old hand these days. Regards to all the old mates as you may see them.'*