

PIONEER NEWS

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2/1-2/2 PIONEER BTN. ASSOC., WA

Another well attended meeting has gone by, with apologies from Dick Hobley and Owen Heron, and it was nice to have Fred and Flo Craig down from Kalgoorlie, especially as ex Kalgoorlie Freda Dhu was there to talk about old times with them.

JOAN AND JACK MONGER were happy to have a new 2/1 member in Harry Cable along. Welcome Harry. To make it a good meeting for 2/1 Alby Machen came in from the War Vets Home.

JACK STEWART moved around talking to all, he was especially glad to see Syd Abercrombie.

BARRY HUNT did his usual trip from Geraldton, this time he brought some articles from his hobby, an assortment of banksia and gum nut ornaments as well as dried flowers. To make sure we keep fit he had some yummy table pickings which he makes himself. We all want the recipe. Milly pops in and out from her shopping to keep an eye on things. Barry hoped we might sell some of the ornaments to help the funds along. Thanks Barry.

NORM LE CORNU is back on deck after his illness, nearly back to his old self.

JOY BUTCHER and Jack Murray kept up a steady conversation. Ethel and John McDougall mix well as do Norma and Bob Sefton, glad to see you looking well Bob.

I received a letter from Hazel Sutton of Wongan Hills advising that Bill was away visiting family, also enquiring about medals, thanks for the letter Hazel.

I know everyone joins me in sending deepest sympathy to George McNess of Busselton who lost his lovely wife.

RAY WOODS passed away and on looking down the newspaper notices I was saddened to see that Ray had died, he was a 2/2 Pioneer that I had lost track of, he was in "D" Coy first then HQ. As well as being a fine man Ray was a rare one who didn't get malaria or any nasty wog in NG, but he did bump into a bit of shrapnel in Tarakan. After his funeral I was able to speak to his wife and daughters, and extend our sympathy.

Our funds for expenses were helped by donations from Dick Hobley, Barry Hunt, Alby Machen, Norm LeCornu, Jack Murray, Bob Sefton, Jack Stewart, Syd Abercrombie, Freda Dhu, Joy Butcher and Bill Sutton, thank you to all.

Joy and I would like to thank all who attended our meeting and making it such a happy event.

We would like to wish all Pioneers and their families Health and Happiness for 1991.

— LEN PREEDY, WA Chairman

ANZAC FUNCTIONS — 1991 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24 — REDFERN RSL CLUB

The Annual General Meeting will be held at the Redfern RSL Club, on corner of Redfern and Gibbons Streets, Redfern, just east of Redfern Railway Station.

The meeting will commence at 3.30 pm and finish at 5 pm when members are invited by the President to partake of refreshments at the conclusion of the meeting.

Then a snack at the club and proceed by train to Martin Place for the Wreath Laying Service.

WREATH LAYING SERVICE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24

Assembly will be on the corner of Martin Place and Pitt Street on the GPO side. Form up at 7.25 pm, march off at 7.27 pm and lay wreath at 7.30 pm.

ANZAC DAY MARCH

THURSDAY, APRIL 25

Forming up points for both units are the same as last year — 2/1st in Phillip Street, head on King Street and rear of 6th Division, 2/2nds in Phillip Street near Martin Place and rear of 7th Division. Both unit banners will be displayed at their respective assembly points. Please check notice in city newspapers for any changes in assembly points.

ANZAC DAY REUNION

THURSDAY APRIL 25 — REDFERN HALL

Upon completion of the march and service at Hyde Park, members of both units will make their way to Museum Station to catch the train to Redfern for the Anzac Day lunch and reunion.

Members not able to march are welcome at the Reunion and we will be pleased to see you.

The doors of the Redfern Town Hall, corner Pitt and Webb Streets, Redfern, will be opened at 11.30 am and draught beer, served in jugs, will cost \$5.

The lunch will be catered for by Cliff Hallet of Brothers Catering Service of Sans Souci as last year, and members charge at door will be \$7.

1992 GOSFORD REUNION

Due to the many congratulatory letters to the Secretary after the 1990 Gosford Reunion the Executive and Committee have decided to hold another Country Reunion at Gosford.

The reason they have chosen the venue as Gosford is because it is the ideal set up with two good motels within walking distance of the Club and only a short train ride for the Secretary to make the various trips to organise the Club and accommodation arrangements.

The RSL Club and accommodation have been booked for Saturday and Sunday, September 26 and 27, 1992, and full details as to costs will be published in future issues of *Pioneer News*.

WELFARE REQUEST

Both Welfare Officers request that the families of members notify them when members are in hospital, so that they can make arrangements for a visit.

They also request that when a member is deceased, that the family notify the appropriate Welfare Officer and to include in the death notice the unit the member belonged to, so that arrangements can be made to attend the funeral.

The Association Welfare Officers are:
Sydney Region — Bill Tasker, 3 Killara Avenue, Kingsgrove. Phone: (02) 78 6658.
Central Coast — Jack Collis, 24 Hobart Avenue, Umina. Phone: (043) 41 2977.

BRISBANE GATHERING

by GORDON FINLAY

On Saturday, October 27, 1990, in glorious typical Brisbane weather, twelve Pioneers, seven wives and two visitors spent a very pleasant day at John and Mollie Hunt's home to celebrate the Brisbane Reunion.

Olive and I, with our hosts for the trip to Brisbane, Court and Margaret Peers (whom we met on our WA trip in 1981) arrived at Hunts a little early to find Charlie Kerr and Toby Palin settled in with glasses in hand.

Next to arrive were Harry and Jean Spreadborough and both looked well as Harry said his doctor has sorted him out and they intend coming to Sydney in April.

From then on, they rolled in close together — Peter and Dot Priest, Harry and Dorothy Mowbray, Winston (Mac) and Letitia McKibbin, Bert Beasley and Phil Cramsie (looking as debonair as ever). Last couple to arrive were Nev and Betty Woodham followed closely by John Taylor of Quirindi.

Several apologies were received — Pat Laughren in hospital, Neil Davenport and Mavis Blanch.

The normal exchange of photos and stories were washed down with Powers ale and then a top meal served by Mollie and her helpers. After a few words by Phil and some of John's light wine we left at 3 pm. The gathering extended sincere thanks to John and Mollie for a very pleasant day.

While in Brisbane I rang Charlie Richardson who sends his regards to all his friends in both battalions and said he may come to Sydney in 1991.

THE PIONEER

by RAY LAW — son of Jim, 2/1 Pnr

The war is long over.

The victory won.

You fought for our freedom

With bayonet and gun.

You worked in the quarry

Built bridges and roads

It was you that they called on

To move heavy loads.

From far away desert

To jungles nearby

You fought the aggressor

and saw your mates die.

You've landed on beaches

Been strafed from the air

You've proved that the digger

Is the best anywhere.

In wartime and peacetime

The brave, noble ones

You've set the example

For daughters and sons.

You march every April

To cheers from the crowd

You've got every reason

To stand tall and proud.

You've made me feel welcome

And I'm proud to be one

To march along with you

A fighting Pioneer's son.

OUR FLAG

Our flag bears the stars that blaze at night

In our southern sky of blue.

And that little old flag in the corner

That's part of the heritage too.

It's for the English, the Scots and the Irish

Who were sent to the end of the earth.

The rogues and schemers, the doers and dreamers

Who gave modern Australia birth.

And you who are shouting to change it

You don't seem to understand

It's the flag of our laws and language

Not the flag of a far away land.

But there are lots of people who'll tell you

How when Europe was plunged into night

The little flag in the corner

Was their symbol of freedom and light.

It doesn't mean we owe an allegiance

To a forgotten imperial dream

We've the stars to show where we're going

And the old flag to show where we've been.

It's only an old piece of bunting

It's only an old coloured rag

But there's thousands have died for its honour

And shed their best blood for our flag.

THE AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

By ALLAN McINNES

On a recent visit to the Australian War Memorial at Canberra Mary and I spent quite a few hours although I could have easily spent a week, viewing this Memorial, which I consider to be the finest attraction Australia has to offer.

One enters the very moving area of the Roll of Honour and the Hall of Memories, before proceeding into the many galleries on the ground and lower ground floor levels where the collection of personal, unit and service records tell visitors the history of Australia in wars and the sacrifices and suffering made by our men and women while serving their country.

Almost every Australian family have memories and connections with those who served in our forces. This explains why the Memorial is always crowded by young and old alike all quietly viewing and reading. The quietness is really very noticeable and everyone seems to respect that this is a Memorial. Interesting these days also to see the many overseas visitors including lots of Japanese.

In the newly opened "Prisoner of War" gallery on the lower ground floor, I found exhibits which I

think will be of interest to fellow prisoners. The first was a very fine cricket ball made from an old army boot by a member of 2/2nd Pioneer Battalion while hospitalised in Kranji Hospital in Singapore Island.

Then a nominal roll hand printed on a fringed rectangle of brown canvas kitbag and we are indebted to Jane Peek of the War Memorial for sending the enclosed photo of the nominal roll. The roll is in excellent condition and very legible from outside the show case. The roll measures 31.5 cm x 46 cm and lists the names of 9, 10, 11 and 12 sections.

The roll was made by Pte Charles E. Hay, a member of 12 Section and donated to the Memorial by C. Poulton of Burwood, Victoria. It was made while the members listed were POWs at Bandoeng, Java, in 1942.

These items are in a display case marked "Survival" and it seems appropriate that one finds them there. The War Memorial authorities are continually improving the exhibits and it is well worth a visit — but allow yourself two or three days as there is a lot to see.

2/2 PIONEER BN. TROPHIES

by ALLAN McINNES

On December 5, 1945, the Australian War Memorial accepted the trophies won by the 2/2nd Pioneer Battalion in Brigade, Divisional and Corps competition in the fields of sport, drill, etc., and these are housed in perpetuity.

Our trophies were on display in the lower wing prior to the unfortunate flooding, which caused this gallery to be closed in 1989 and to date it has not been opened. When the gallery reopens our battalion trophies will take turns with others, owing to the very large numbers of items held for display. They will be displayed on a rotational basis for approximately 12 months duration whereas at the moment they are held in store.

Following is the list of 2/2 Pioneer Battalion trophies held by the Australian War Memorial. Their numbers range from No. 24523 to No. 24533 and are named: Sterling Silver Bowl; Dewar Cup; Herald Cup; King George VI Cup; Haig Cup; Puckapunyal Cup; Kodak Cup; Lanoma Cup; First Aust. Corps Cup; Australian Rules Football Cairns Cup; 9th Aust. Div. Drill Competition Shield.

A TRIP TO TENTERFIELD

by PETER CRAIG

In August, I made a trip to New England, NSW, a part of the State that I had not visited before. It proved to be very interesting. I travelled by XPT to Tamworth, thence by coach; both were quite comfortable, the only hassle being the change at Tamworth. Once the train went right through to the Queensland border, but the trip now isn't too bad, taking less than 11 hours to my destination; after a dawn start from Leura, I left Central Station at 7.30 am and reached Tenterfield at 6.15 pm. It was nice to make the whole trip in daylight and to see the countryside round Armidale, Guyra, Glen Innes and finally Tenterfield.

Tenterfield is bigger than I thought it would be — very spread out, quite a lot of new homes with old ones done up. A very friendly place indeed. I counted five licensed hotels, though I did not patronise them all! At least two seemed to have good country accommodation. There are also motels and a small country property, "Barney Downs", where I stayed. It is about nine kilometres east of town on the main highway to Casino, about ten minutes drive from town.

The hosts, Jack and Nancy Tunbridge, have a cabin for guests next to their homestead, and also offer accommodation in the house; their rates, including breakfast and dinner, are very reasonable and can be obtained by ringing (067) 36 2610 or writing. They will supply lunches for guests wishing to have a day out visiting scenic spots.

There are quite a few places to visit around Tenterfield, all within easy driving distance. There are the Boonoo Boonoo Falls, a magnificent sight, in a National Park about 38 kilometres from town on the old highway to Brisbane. Along this road you come across remains of the old Brisbane Line built during World War II supposedly to hold the Japanese back north of the Line. There is also a hideout of the bushranger, Captain Thunderbolt, huge boulders on the side of a big hill, from which he had a good view of troopers coming.

In another direction is the famous Bald Rock, supposedly the largest granite monolith in Australia — a great sight. At present the National Parks and Wildlife Service is doing up the road. Then there is Bluff Rock south of the town, a huge rock rising above the road.

In the town itself, in a side street, is a famous old cork tree, brought out from England in about 1841 by a settler of the district — well worth seeing.

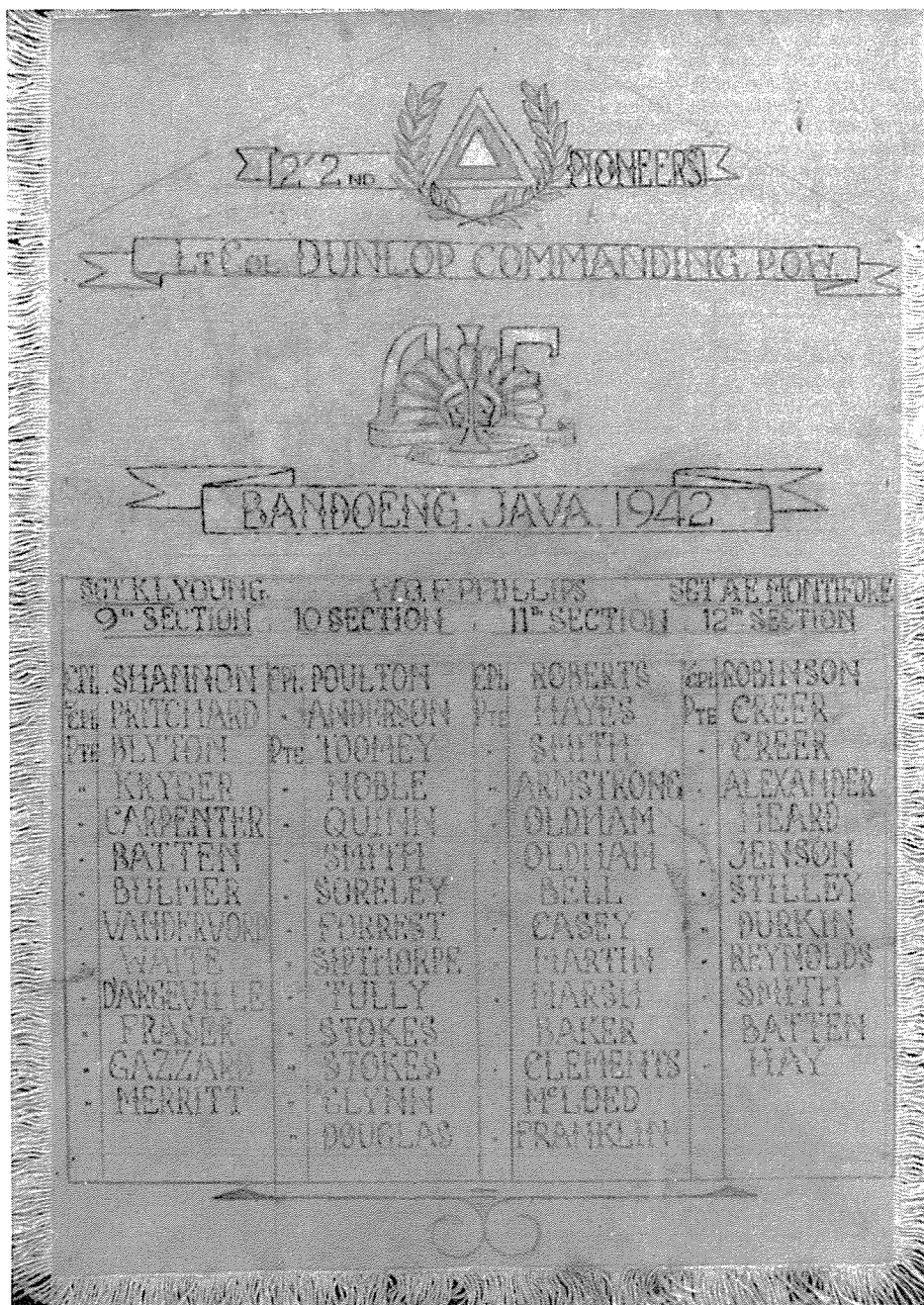
All in all I consider Tenterfield, set in sheep and cattle grazing country, well worth a holiday visit.

SICK PARADE

Bill Tasker, Welfare Chairman, reports the following as having been in hospital:

Noel Trefoni, George Hemmings, Gwen and Jack Collis and Jack Tooker.

Max Law is still in the John Paul Nursing Home at Engadine and would really appreciate visitors.



Nominal roll of 9, 10, 11 and 12 Sections, 2/2nd Pioneer Battalion hand printed on fringed rectangle of brown canvas kitbag. Made by Charles Hay and donated by C. Poulton of Burwood, Victoria.

— Photo by courtesy Jane Peek, Curator of Military Heraldry, Aust. War Memorial No. REL 11885

MAIL BAG

Editor: BOB LAKE

Hello Folks — another issue of Mail Bag, the first for 1991, and we hope that everyone enjoyed the Festive Season and we wish you all the best of health for the coming year.

CAROL SHEPHERD, daughter of Cliff Anderson (Bluey), with the news that her Dad passed away on 15.9.90 in Greenslopes Hospital after an illness that lasted some six months. He had been residing with Carol for just on two years since he left Nelson Bay. Our sympathy to you and yours, Carol, and a copy of the paper has been forwarded.

LEILA BARBER widow of Eric, 2/1, of Trangie, with a note and sub for the treasurer. Leila has built a new home at Trangie (what a hassle) but is now happily settled and starting to get the garden shipshape. Sends her regards to all her friends, with special mention to Bill and Win Tasker, Max and Joyce Law, Brian and Betty Kybert and wishes all a bigger, better and peaceful 1991.

MAVIS BLANCH widow of Joe, 2/1, Beaudesert, was in Sydney recently visiting "rellies" and rang to say hello and sent best wishes to all her old friends. Had been in touch with Pat and Mary Noonan. (You'll be sorry to hear, Mavis, that Mary passed away early in February.) Mavis sees Ted Carter occasionally on his trips north. Good to hear from you and warm wishes from all. Hope to meet up again one of these days.

KEITH BOYLE 2/1, Moama, with a letter of good wishes to all and a sub. Wife Marj had the misfortune to break toes on both feet, but mending gradually. She has now got a three-wheeled scooter which allows her to whizz around and even go shopping. Keith says when they get the new bridge across the river she will be able to go over to Echuca on her own. Their new RSL was opened recently and seems to be going OK, but says that with talk of Victoria getting clubs with "pokies", visitors may not be so prevalent as they are now. Keith and Marj really enjoyed Gosford and thank those who helped with Marj's wheelchair at the Memorial. Have had a bit of hot weather down that way and they are on restricted watering, doesn't know why as they got their water for the gardens pumped straight from the Murray, and treated water for the house.

Many thanks for the news, Keith, and we hope by now Marj is well on the road to recovery.

AUB BRASIER, our bugler on Anzac Eve, with a note to say that the Gosford reunion must have been a good one from all accounts and he enjoyed the article by "Griffo" on Gallipoli. He was sorry to hear of Gordon Finlay's resignation as social secretary. Closes with best wishes and, all going well, will see us on April 24.

LAURIE BUCKMAN 2/1, Bribie Island, with a sub for the treasurer and the news that he leads a pretty quiet life these days — bowls three or four times a week, a few games of snooker, few beers and wins a few raffles. Still enjoys the *Pioneer News* and names still ring a bell of the old days, but doubts whether he could put faces to them now. Closes with best wishes to all.

CLAUDE CAMPBELL 2/1, Inverell, per pen of wife Dot, with a donation to ensure the *News* for the next year or so. Dot says they enjoyed Gosford and a big thank you to the organisers who made it all possible. Myrtle Jopson has moved to Inverell now, so they often get together for a good yarn. Claude and Myrt spend some time with words flying between them.

GORDON CHRYSTALL 2/1, Larras Lee, per pen of wife, Eunice, saying that Gordon has been threatening to write for some time but never got around to it. Eunice was beginning to think he had left the Pioneers and joined the Gunners because he was "gunna" send a cheque months ago.

Gordon is still in the trucking business, trying to retire, but working as hard as ever. For the first time in 29 years, they have nobody going to school. You might tell Dad, Eunice, that Max does not play bowls, but he does know the Riverview Club. Max knows most clubs!

JACK COLLIS 2/1, Umina, with the news that

Jack Coates has been in and out of hospital a couple of times since he last wrote. "Bluey" Miller had a fall and cut his arm pretty badly. Blames the dog, but as Jack says he didn't know the dog's name was "Fosters". Jack's wife, Gwen, had another spell in hospital but at the time of writing wasn't too bad. Jack has also had a spell in hospital, went in for an operation, and finished up with four other complaints.

The bet on the "footy" is on again Collis — we seem to have bought very well this time — sarcastic b_____ aren't you.

Jack tells that son William sails for the Gulf shortly and says that at least he won't have to sleep in the dust and sand like we did.

Closes with best wishes and the words "See you all on Anzac Day".

RON CROSS 2/1, Ballina, with a sub for the treasurer and the information that the Ex-Servicemens Home and Legacy keep him pretty busy, with little time to travel far from the area. Met up with Alec George recently and he is still the same old Alec. Sends his regard to all the blokes and their ladies.

NORMA FITCH widow of Harold 2/1, with a Xmas card to the Editor thanking him for the *Pioneer News* and for kindness to herself and family. Thank you, Norma, and for your donation to funds.

FRANCES FLANNERY widow of Vince 2/1, writes a thank you for the copy of "The Pioneers" (which was requested by Steve Clarke) and for back numbers of the *News*. Enjoyed meeting up with Steve and Joan Clarke at a bus stop in George Street after all these years.

JOHN FLOOD 2/1, Penrith, with a sub for the treasurer and a change of address from Lugarno to the west. Good luck, John, hope you become a Panther in time.

SAM GARDINER 2/1, Oak Flats, with a sub for the treasurer and the news that they are well and still enjoying life. Quotes that one of the best things to happen to him was the cornea operation. He does not see 100%, but good enough to drive a car and dabble in painting. His art teacher has requested one of his flower paintings for her collection. He hoped to paint a landscape for one of his daughters for Xmas and says that they think he can turn them out like a machine. Keep up the good work, Sam.

CLIVE HARRIS 2/1, Aberdeen, with a note as back-up to a sub. Both he and Betty are well and Betty has presented three copies of "The Pioneers" to three schools in their area on behalf of the History Committee. She also asked the Headmaster of each school to write and acknowledge the donation, and Max has informed me that he has received letters of appreciation from the schools concerned. A message for Larry Robson — Clive said to tell you he did have two pairs of shoes at Gosford. Closes with best of luck and good wishes to all.

ALLAN JAKINS son of Alf 2/1, with a sub for the Association and a letter of appreciation for the *News*. Enjoys reading same and names crop up from time to time that his Dad would refer to when talking to him and brother Neville. Both he and Neville have read "The Pioneers" and found it excellent reading, also the article in November issue of the *News* by "Griffo". Quotes that he often thinks that he would like to visit where the Anzacs fought and Tobruk, but I would say that you would need to take a guided tour to appreciate both these places. Nice to hear from you Allan, and best wishes to Neville.

TED JENSON 2/1, Doonside, with a letter telling of his trip to Maryborough in August to visit his daughter and family. He and Marie did the trip by car (took eight days) and called on many Pioneers along the way. First stop was with Ivan Pepper at Tarro (2 hours), then on to Harrington for an overnight stop, then Kempsey and South West Rocks. Spent a night with Don and Mona Barraclough at Burleigh Heads, from there to Beenleigh, Nambour and then on to Maryborough. While there Ted contacted Charlie Kerr and had a few ales with him at the local RSL (XXXX). On the way home stayed a night with Ivan and Mabel Pepper, who took them on a tour of Newcastle and the earthquake area, and visited Don Crooks at Mayfield. They were away nearly two months — car went like a charm and they enjoyed every minute of the trip. Did you get a card from Peg?

MYRTLE JOPSON, widow of Sid 2/1, with a change of address from Port Macquarie to Inverell, presumably to be with some of the family. Well Myrt there's not much chance of Lakey or Finlay dropping in on you up there, but we will keep it in mind if we do another car trip. I'll wager that leaving No. 2 Anne Street was a bit of a blow. Good luck to you, Myrtle, and keep well.

CHARLIE KERR 2/1, Marborough, Qld., with a letter of thanks for the wonderful weekend at Gosford and a sub for the *News*. Was great to catch up with the Sigs. once more and see Jack Price and Percy Fisk (how does he keep that slim) after all this time.

He has been on the move since then spent, another week at Gosford and celebrated Xmas with his family at Gatton. Dropped into Coffs Harbour and called to see Allan and Beulah Crute at Woolgoolga, played bowls at Sawtell and saw Fred Wheaton on a couple of occasions. Also played in a bowls carnival on the Sunshine Coast and he and Toby Palin made their way to John Hunt's for an enjoyable day. A big thank you to John and Mollie.

Charlie has just completed another two weeks bowls trip via Moree, Goulburn, Canberra, Maitland and Kyogle. Met Flo Shearman at Kyogle, who told him Jack was in Lismore Hospital for a knee replacement and was doing well. Tried to ring Bill Hoffman, but no luck. (Hard man to catch.)

Son Frazer still with Boral and back in Australia temporarily after six years in Lae and Honiara — Charlie hopes to catch up with him on the Gold Coast shortly.

Good letter, Charlie, and plenty of news.

FRED KILLEN 2/1, Warners Bay, with a cheque for the treasurer and best wishes to all — short and sweet, that's our Fred.

ALVIN KLAUS 2/2, Grafton, with a letter per pen of wife Merle, with a donation for the treasurer. Alvin doesn't get about much, so was glad to read about the "big do" at Gosford. Was pleased with the news that Sid Booth was there, as Alvin had not heard from him for years. Thank you, Merle, for your letter and best wishes to you both.

DON LINTON 2/2, Tuncurry, with a letter and a cheque for the treasurer. During their regular winter sojourn to Tweed Heads, he and Nancy have befriended a couple of people Ron Pasfield and wife Ellen, also a member of the 2/2, and asked that they be put on the mailing list. Don has also discovered that the President of the Blackhead Bowling Club is also an ex-2/2, and would like to receive copies of the *News* too. Max has placed both names on our role and they will shortly receive the April issue at their respective homes. Thank you for your letter, Don, and best wishes to you both.

HENRY LISTON 2/2, Glen Innes, with a short note saying that he must be dragging the chain with subs so enclosed a cheque for the treasurer. He enjoys the *News*, but confesses that the names are getting hard to place.

ALEX MITCHELL 2/2, West Gosford, with a change of address from Wyoming to the RSL Village at West Gosford. Nice and close for the next reunion, Alex. Max has sent a copy of the November issue to the new address, and hopes you enjoy life in your new surroundings.

OSSIE McCURTAYNE 2/1, Laurieaton, with a cheque for the treasurer, and a change of address to ensure that he continues to receive the *News*. He also enclosed a bit of trivia as to how "Snaggs" Sinclair got his nickname. It was in Egypt, 1940, prior to our moving up to Salum. It was raining like hell and mess parade was on. Ron Sinclair was nearly always late for meals, so got the last of the sausages and mash. He walked away, tripped over a tent rope, fell flat on his face and lost the lot. There was Ron dripping mud, empty dixie and no more grub. Nice work, Ossie, memories are always good to look back on.

JEAN MCINTYRE 2/2, Warrimoo, widow of John, with a card of good wishes to all and a cheque for the treasurer. Many thanks, Jean, good to hear from you.

LEW NORTHBY 2/2, Swan Hill, with a first letter to the Association — better late than never Lew. He has attended a couple of reunions in Melbourne and secretary George Murphy had suggested he write to Max, with a view to getting our newsletter. This has been attended to and we can assure you of a warm welcome should you make Sydney on Anzac Day.

PETER PEILE 2/1, Caringbah, per pen of wife

Erika, with a short note and a welcome sub. Things are much the same in the Piele household and looking forward to the birth of a third grandchild in September. All the best to you both.

PETE PETERSON 2/2, Merimbula, with a note and a cheque for the treasurer. Pete also enclosed a newspaper clipping on the death of Fred Ness. Fred had spent the last four years at the Bimbimbie Retirement Village, Merimbula, and was befriended by a Harold Clinton who would pick him up for bowls. Harold kindly gave Pete a photocopy of the Eulogy given at Fred's funeral at the Royal Military College, Duntroon, by Maj-Gen Alan Morrison. The written article is far too long for me to produce in our paper, but I will give some brief details. Serving with 2/1 Pioneer Battalion from 1942-45, Fred then went to Japan with the Occupation Force until 1948. He served with distinction in the Korean campaign and later became the physical training officer at Duntroon. He was discharged from the Army on 28-9-1955, his 47th birthday. Fred was a man of immense strength and the feats of this were legendary.

LEN PREEDY 2/2, Shenton Park, writing with one eye on the one-day cricket between Australia and New Zealand — and Simon O'Donnell battling — and said a bit hard to manage both. However, good to hear from you Len, even if we have to compete with the cricket. Len sent New Year greetings to all and said Bill Jollie's annual report was very good. He covered just about everything and Len agrees with him about the remarks "on pride in our units". One member whom Len thinks is the spirit of the unit, Barry Hunt 2/2, travels 800 km to each meeting held in Perth. (That's what I call spirit.)

CHARLES RICHARDSON 2/2, Manly West, Qld., with a cheque for the treasurer and says the only contact he has had over the years is through the newsletter — needless to say he looks forward to receiving his copy. Sometimes the news is sad, but that is offset by the memories he has of those old comrades. Charles writes of names such as Norm Rose, Mick Egan, Gordon Buller and Jack Crispin. Jack would never forget his "tour of duty" with C Coy — during jungle training at Tully Falls prior to going to New Guinea, Jack was struck across the face with a Gympie-Gympie bush and was in severe pain for several days. Last Anzac Day Charles attended the local service and during the wreath laying ceremony an "old digger" who had just moved up from Sydney noticed Charles was wearing his Tobruk medal. He had also served in Tobruk and asked Charles what unit he had been with. When Charles told him 2/1 Pioneers, the other digger informed him that his brother-in-law was with the Pioneers — Kev Morahan — and did Charles know him. He was speechless when Charles told him that not only did he know Kev but also brothers Cyril and John and had grown up with them. Small world! Charles was sorry he could not make it to Gosford on account of a serious dental problem but did try hard to contact us at the RSL, with no luck. Newsy letter, and keep up the good work.

TED ROWE 2/2, Willetton, WA, with a cheque for the treasurer and a thank you for the *News*. Short and sweet, but good to hear from you.

LINDA SAUNDERS widow of Ross 2/1, Scone, with a cheque for the treasurer and says she still enjoys reading the *News* and recognises many of the names that her husband used to talk about. Max has written to you personally about the Front Line Medal, explaining what you have to do, and says it sometimes takes a little while before delivery. Thank you for the letter and cheque, Linda, and good health for the years ahead.

NOEL SMITH 2/1, Bathurst, with a very brief note, as he quotes "Late again, but ..." and includes his sub.

BONNIE SNUDDEN widow of Cec 2/2, Dubbo, with a welcome cheque to help with *Pioneer News*. Bonnie had recently met up with Barbara Baird, widow of Wally Baird 2/2, and they spent a very pleasant few hours together. Barbara now lives in Dubbo in a retirement village and had seen mention of Bonnie and her address in the *News*. Although they had both been to the reunions at the same time, had not met, so the *News* was able to bring them together. Good to hear from you again, Bonnie and hope life in your Legacy Village is all that you could wish for. Our kind regards to Barbara when you meet again.

JACK SPOTTISWOODE 2/1, Allambi Heights, with subs for 1991 and a few lines to say his wife

had broken her hip and slowly recovering in Manly Hospital. Do hope she is now on the mend, Jack, and our best wishes to you both.

HARRY SPREADBOROUGH 2/1, Alexandra Hills, Qld., with a cheque for the treasurer and best wishes for the New Year to all. Harry had a good holiday period and comments on the floods and storms we had down here in Sydney. He and Jean had planned to have Xmas with their daughter at a property at Thangool, about 500 km to the north of Alexandra Hills and then go down the coast to Yeppoon for New Year. It was terribly hot, but they managed to see a bit of the district, including a tropical fruit farm. They decided to leave their car at Thangool and booked passage on a coach to Yeppoon. Two hours later the rains came, roads were blocked or washed away, coach tour was abandoned and the road north of Biloela impassable, so they packed up and headed home. Jean has been laid up with a broken toe, so Harry is chief cook and washer upper. So far no one has called the cook a b_____, but there is still time. Also hopes to see us on Anzac Day. Thanks for the sub, Harry, and trust Jean is on the mend.

MICK TASSELL 2/1, Hay, with a cheque for the treasurer and to say how pleased he was to see the "gang" who did the Wentworth trip in September last year. Good to hear from you, Mick, we did enjoy the few ales we had together and hope we can do it again sometime.

CHARLIE WILBY 2/1, Moree, with a letter and a cheque for Vic. 1990 was not a good year for the Wilby family, first Charlie had a slight stroke from which he has not fully recovered and Kit slipped over in the kitchen and broke her hip. This meant a complete hip replacement from which she has recovered well and has taken over the hard yakka again. Charlie says he had quite a while on slavery while Kit was out of action. Sends special regards to Vic, "Split", Lahey and all concerned in the transport. Trust this year will be kinder to you both.

MARIE CLARK, sister of Albert Wilkinson (Ike) 2/1, with a thank you note of appreciation to Bill Tasker and the 2/1 Association for their kindness and sympathy in the loss of her brother. Thank you for your note, Marie, and we wish you and your family well in the future.

ERIC REYNOLDS 2/1, Macksville, with the news that he and Joyce are both well and still able to get about — can't believe he will be 76 in April. Always jobs to do around the house and plenty of grass to mow. They spent several weeks away at Xmas visiting daughter Alison and family in Victoria and a few days at Avalon and Woollahra in Sydney, before the train trip home. Good to hear from you, Eric, and best wishes to you both.

FRANK SPENCER 2/1 (deceased) served Middle East and New Guinea. If anyone has any information about his war time activities please contact his granddaughter, Mrs C. Beresford, 20 Honey-suckle Street, Jannali, NSW 2226, or phone (02) 528 4947.

That concludes the Mail Bag for this issue, with Anzac Day looming up as our next big engagement. Football is just starting up, but I honestly think it is too hot yet. All I can say is that I hope to see a good roll up at the march and at Redfern on Anzac Day. So long for now — LAKEY

WORLD WAR II MEMORABILIA

The Westpac Sub-Branch of the RSL in conjunction with the Rats of Tobruk Association and representatives of the four women's services of the Australian Defence Forces of World War II will feature an exhibition which will turn back the clock 50 years.

The display will be on view in the Bank's 341 George Street, Sydney, office (main banking chamber) from April 2 to 28, 1991, and will include:

- The most comprehensive collection of photographs taken in Tobruk during the siege ever assembled.
- A machine gun post built by the veterans themselves, similar to those that dotted the perimeter of Tobruk during the siege.
- Photographs and memorabilia of the WAAAF, WRANS, AWAS and AAMWS.
- Models dressed in the uniforms that our men and women went to war in 50 years ago.
- Room settings depicting women at work under their wartime conditions.

LAST POST

SYD NOAKES 2/1 passed away on September 5, 1990, in Blacktown Hospital at the age of 76 years. The funeral took place at Pine Grove Cemetery Eastern Creek. Sympathy was extended to the family and we thank Mrs Noakes for supplying us with the details.

DICK SEDDON 2/1 passed away in September, 1990, and the funeral was attended by Tom Waller, Jack Bertram and Jack Griffiths who read the Eulogy. Dick was 83 years of age and had been in a nursing home for many years.

CURLY BENTLEY 2/1 passed away on November 14, 1990, and the funeral was attended by Roy Jardine, Pat Noonan, Jack Stone, Jack Clarke and Vic Whiteley. In attendance also were members from the Rats of Tobruk Association. The Eulogy was read by Bill Tasker.

GEORGE BROOKS 2/1 died at Berry Hospital on November 26, 1990, aged 81 years. He was late of Ipswich and more recently of Nowra.

The funeral held at Uniting Church, Nowra, and Lawn Cemetery, Warrigoo, was attended by Bluey and Jean Locane, Tom and Renee Wood, Jack Stone and George and Joyce Walker.

George never married but was much loved by his 29 nieces and nephews and resided with one of his nieces Mrs Eunice Coulon and husband Bob.

Each year George travelled down from Queensland to see family and attend the Anzac March in Sydney and was always to be seen with the Don Company 2/1 crowd, at their permanent table just inside the door at Redfern Town Hall.

All Pioneers are grateful to his niece Eunice for her loving care and attention to George over the last few years of his illness. To her and family we extend our sincere sympathy, and we share her loss in losing such a gentleman.

EARL JONES 2/1 passed away on January 2, and the funeral conducted at Rookwood Lawn Cemetery was attended by John Gilchrist and Bill Tasker who extended our sincere sympathy to all the family.

GORDON KITCHING 2/1 passed away on February 2, 1991, quietly and peacefully. The service was held at Northern Suburbs Crematorium.

2/1st Pioneers will remember Gordon very well as Captain Adjutant of the unit — a role he performed very well.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to the family and we thank Mrs Kitching for providing us with the details.

JOHN TAYLOR 2/1 of Quirindi passed away quietly and suddenly at his home on February 1, 1991. He was very proud of his home — five children and nine grandchildren and led a full and wonderful life.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to Mrs Heather Taylor and family. We thank her for passing on the sad news.

MARY NOONAN wife of Pat 2/1 passed away on February 8, 1991, after a long fight with asthma. On extending sincere sympathy to Pat at the Committee meeting in February he simply said, "Thanks be to God she is now in heaven and at peace".

ALBY MACHEN 2/1 of Mt Lawley, WA, passed away suddenly on February 2, 1991, and upon request was cremated, dressed in his bowling clothes. He really loved his game of bowls.

STEPHEN GOLDSWORTHY 2/2 of Lesmurdie, WA, passed away on February 7, 1991, and the funeral was attended by Mrs Freda Dhu and Len and Joy Preedy. Stephen had been house bound for some years.

SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE

With subscriptions, send news of your family and happenings. Letter to contain surname, christian name, company, battalion and present address. If forwarding new address, state old address. All in block letters.

If *Pioneer News* no longer required, mark wrapper NOT REQUIRED and post to Secretary.

All correspondence to Secretary as follows:

M. Herron
Hon. Sec. 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Btn. Assoc.
3 Enoggera Road
Beverly Hills NSW 2209

PIONEER NEWS

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Welfare: BILL TASKER, phone 78 6658

2/1-2/2 PIONEER ANZAC ACTIVITIES

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Association was held on Wednesday, April 24, at the Redfern RSL Club at 3.30 pm with an attendance of 28.

The meeting was opened by President Bill Jollie with the Ode to the Fallen, followed by a welcome to members, especially those who had travelled long distances. A special welcome was extended to Patron John Gilchrist.

The Treasurer read out the statement of income and expenditure for the year ended March 31, 1991, resulting in balances as follows:

General Account	\$2452.19
Welfare Account	183.99
Pioneer News Account	2265.49
Total	<u>\$4901.67</u>

The Treasurer was complimented on the fact his balance showed an increase of \$321 over last year's balance as read in the minutes.

The President then read his Annual Report in which he thanked the Executive and Committee for the continued support.

Secretary's report then followed which covered all the details for the Anzac functions. This was followed by Bill Tasker's report on Welfare.

Election of office bearers was conducted by Returning Officer Ray Harris and the senior appointments were Bill Jollie, President; John Gilchrist (2/1) and John Williams (2/2) co-Patrons.

WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

Upon completion of the Annual Meeting members had a meal at the RSL Club, then proceeded to Martin Place for the Wreath Laying Ceremony. Ray Harris, acting as marshal, lined up the 28 members in attendance. The unit banners were carried by Doug Shearston 2/1 and Roy Levy 2/2. Wreaths were placed on the Cenotaph by John Gilchrist, representing the Association and Mary McInnes for the Ladies Auxiliary.

John Gilchrist, our Patron, recited the Ode to the Fallen and Aub Brasier sounded the bugle for the Last Post and Reveille. Many thanks Aub for your fine effort on our behalf.

ANZAC DAY MARCH

For the 2/1sts the march marshal was Clancy Scholes with an attendance of 65 members. The march leaders were John Gilchrist and Bill Jollie. The banner was carried by Tim Lloyd. The spectators along the whole route were in great numbers and in good cheering voice. According to Gordon Finlay, who fell out of the ranks at Market Street and watched the remainder of the march, said the numbers of the other units were still up, in fact the 2/13 and 2/17 Infantry Battalions had 12 rows with 10 in each rank.

For the 2/2nds the march marshal was Ray Harris and the attendance was 35 members and the march leaders were Bill Robertson and Allan McInnes.

ANZAC REUNION DINNER

We had another of those great Anzac Days that we have become accustomed to, with an attendance of 132 members to sit down for the Reunion Dinner at the Redfern Town Hall. President Bill Jollie commenced proceedings by thanking South Sydney Council for the free use of such a fine hall. He then called upon John Gilchrist, our Patron, to say a few words. John opened his remarks by saying how pleased he was to see such a good attendance especially to see our aged ones putting in an appearance in the form of Bill Robertson and Jack Pearce. John spoke at length about how we should all look upon Anzac Day as Australia's National Day and that on this day we do "Remember Them".

2/1 TABLE TALK by Gordon Finlay

Some old faces were missing around the tables but then there were several new ones to take their places. It was great to see three new faces in the form of Charles Richardson, Charley Wilby and Jim Law — the first time I had seen them at an Anzac Day Reunion.

Charles Richardson who served in both battalions was an original 2/1st and then OC of C Coy in the reformed 2/2nd.

Charley Wilby was in the 2/1st Transport Platoon and was pleased to meet up with his mates such as Vic Whiteley and Roy Jardine.

Jim Law had not been to an Anzac Day Reunion in years, mainly because of an accident to his leg while working for the State Railway. Despite this, Jim marched the full distance with his son Ray marching very proudly alongside him in case he needed support. Jim served with C. Coy 2/1sts.

Eric Guthrie was one of four members present who served with 8 Platoon A Coy. He always wishes me a happy birthday, on Anzac Day remembering our counter attack in the Tobruk "R" Sector on May 1, 1941. Henry Burke down from Bathurst again, Dick Blakeney as spruce as ever and Frank Gillian telling all and sundry about his grandson number five, born the previous day, 8½ lbs and no doubt as noisy as Frank.

Clem Moroney had a table for 9 Platoon and had his daughter there at one stage. George Bates was also at the table and had his daughter Pam helping out by serving the afternoon snacks, together with Jenny Brennan, Laurie Kelly's daughter — thank you girls for a great job. Perc Penrose marched with ROTA contingent. Casey Brown states his football days are over, Fred Callaway could not do the march but came to the Reunion. Brian Kybert, Ray Horne and Tom Crossman made up the table.

Lance Gayden, Larry Robson and Jack Bertram were three country lads — Lance from Shoalhaven Heads, Larry and Jack from Newcastle. Jack was a stretcher bearer but did serve with "A" Coy at one stage.

George Tolmie and I meet in July each year at the John Edmondson VC Club at Liverpool for a 25 years luncheon. He was at the usual D Coy table near the door with George Walker and Jim Gray. Another visitor was Max Herron who was with D. Coy prior to transferring to the Signals Platoon. Bill Hodges did his usual good job on the lunch counter, checking numbers. Thank you Bill. Also at the table were Jack Lamerton, Peter Craig, Ken Oliver and Jim Anderson with his son Jim.

Bill Doney appeared to be in charge of the C Coy table while Sam Lewis had the job of mess orderly and looking as spry as ever. Dick Chalmers is standing up pretty well and was having a good chat with Beau Hannaford. Clem Cook, George Richards and Ted Wilcox were handling things very well, while Jack Claypole was not missing much. I took along a copy of 15 Platoon nominal roll from April 1941 but we could only remember a few of the names. Ted Carter was the Lieut. and Kevin Morahan the Sergeant. Bill Wright was his usual bright self as was Phil Cramsie from Queensland. Jack Kerslake and Jim Law were at another table.

Bill Tasker was with B Coy at their usual table and he seemed to be doing good business with his "Front Line Medal". Don Barraclough was down from Burleigh Heads and said he has had several visits from Ron Callaghan and Ted Jensen. Jack Coates was quieter than usual, probably because the Balmain Tigers are not doing so well, but never mind Jack neither are the "Eels". Len Weymark does not think he will be doing any more professional fighting as he has put on weight.

Max Law of B Coy and of course one of the writers of "The Pioneers" paid a visit to the Reunion and was accompanied by his son Craig. It was really good to see you Max and we do appreciate the effort by Craig. Another B Coy member was Steve Morgan, one of the few 2/1st POWs from Tobruk.

Laurie Kelly was in charge of the HQ Coy table and with him was son-in-law Ray Brennan in the uniform of Major in the armed services and was busy during the day helping to sell beer tickets and working on the tables — well done Ray. Bert Herne seems to have a shiny spot on top these days and he was looking after Charles Wilby. Albert Brown and Noel Schomberg brought along Roy Jardine from another table and Cec Peake had his own place with his back to the wall and was with Mick Punton. Clancy Scholes had his daughter Wendy in attendance and Ivor Garnon with his brother was there chatting with Bill Hoffman.

Doug Shearston, past treasurer, was at the table near the door with Vic Whiteley and I don't know how we would manage without Vic. At the march assembly point, Doug was helping Vic collect the subs. Many thanks Doug and I think we are doing alright.

Jack Collis and Jack Pearce worked tirelessly in the kitchen — thanks boys for a great job.

Pat Noonan and Jack Stone had a busy time catching up with old mates and although I did speak to Bluey Miller I must apologise to him for not visiting his table. As the afternoon wore on it was hard to put names to faces and I have to say, regardless of the fact I have been to Reunions for 40 years, there are a lot of faces I can not put a name to.

George Nichols and "Porky" Graham were at a table with several 2/2nd members as George said — we are all Pioneers.

Bill Jollie had his usual President's table with Patron John Gilchrist, John Tooker, Steve Clarke, Ken Stuart, Bill Robertson, Ray Harris and Allan McInnes. Our first doctor, Stan Goulston, marched with us but was not able to make the Reunion — try and make it next time Stan as a lot of the members would like to say more than "goodday".

Joe Kyffin came up from Victoria and was moving around the tables and enjoying his stay with Max and Peg.

At 3.30 pm several wives and widows arrived to see us safely home. They had watched the march and then had lunch together and it is good to see them so closely associated.

2/2 TABLE TALK by Russ Harrison

There was a good roll-up of 2/2 Pioneers at the reunion this year, with two or three not seen for quite a few years. Some quite good thirsts had developed, particularly amongst those who participated in the march. Bluey Locane, Bob Lee, Gavin Todd, Fred Mathews, Tom Wood, Chris McKay and Reg Armstrong were on hand early, eager to get on with it.

At a table close to the BDU (beer dispensing unit) were Bill Lewis, Ian Willmore, Bill Henry, Andy Beebar, Don Crawford, John McKnight and Jack Allison. It was pleasing to see Jack after all these years. Those who know him, will no doubt remember that he received a commission and went on secondment to the British army in India in 1944.

Also close to the BDU were Bill Fallon and his brother Max, Tom Morgan, Vince Longmore, Roy Levy, Ken Wilson, Bert Beazley, Bob Ginnane, Bruce Medcalf, Jack Crouch and son John and Russ Harrison. Thereabouts were Charles Richardson from Burleigh Heads who had been AWL for some years and his son-in-law (or was it "minder") Adrian Lane-Mollins. There were tall tales, strange but true, told here.

Jim Field and Jack Henderson were there. Jack

Continued overleaf

with two minders, his sons-in-law Jerry Iredale and Garry O'Neill.

Other tables of 2/2 Pioneers included Pat Collins, Ray Harris, Jack Hore-Lacy, Pat Egan, Allan McInnes, Bill Robertson, Wally Coe, Clive Maddrell and Padre Jock Steele who performed his tap dancing routine in a nimble manner and deserved the applause he received.

BIG THANK YOU by Max Herron

The Executive would like to thank the following sons and relatives of members who helped to make the work load of the Secretary and organisers so much easier, resulting in another perfect Anzac Day.

Bill Lake for delivering and returning the temprite to Brookvale.

Terry Bird and Geoff Finlay for all their work on the beer pulling and hauling the temprite up and down the stairs.

Anthony Lloyd who assisted in the handling of the temprite then stayed on to sell the beer tickets all day.

Lloyd Allen who assisted in the handling of the temprite.

Tim Lloyd who carried the banner so proudly and then assisted in the arrangements at the hall.

David Herron who worked in the kitchen preparing the meal and then washing up all the pots and pans for the caterer as well as carrying them down to the vehicle.

Jim Law for assisting the caterer in the kitchen and for making the twin Pioneer cakes which were presented to the ladies on their arrival. Jim, with the help of his wife, also made all the afternoon snacks and then arranged them on to a trolley especially made for the purpose and was assisted in taking it around the troops by Jenny Brennan and Pam Herrick.

SA PIONEER ASSOCIATION

By President ALLAN OLSON

Anzac Day in Adelaide dawned drizzly and grey when Secretary Len Norman and myself attended the dawn service at the War Memorial in North Terrace, and placed a wreath in remembrance of all Pioneers from the 2/1st, 2/2nd, 2/3rd and 2/4th battalions who we represent. Despite the weather 1000 people attended the service.

For the march, which commences at Victoria Square and finishes at the Cross of Sacrifice at Pennington Gardens, the weather improved somewhat, but was very blustery, causing some difficulty with the troops carrying banners and unit discs, etc.

2/1st Pioneers who marched were Bill Thiele and Doug Waters, while 2/2 Pioneers marching were Les Bence, Stan Clarke (our Treasurer), Cyril Denton, Harry Fenwick, Geoff Lloyd, Len Norman, Ron Pasfield, Joe Robertson, Bruce Scott and Allan Olson.

After the march 25 Pioneers and relatives attended the General Meeting and Reunion which was held at the Duke of York Hotel in Adelaide, where all enjoyed a two course hot meal. George Sauer, because of a recent operation, did not march, but attended the Reunion.

It was a most enjoyable Reunion with a lot of old memories being recalled and a fair amount of the amber liquid being consumed, before finally dispersing about 1800 hrs.

Considerable interest was expressed at the thought of the Gosford Reunion in 1992. I realise just how much you and Peg and your committee will have to do to arrange this function but as the results of the 1990 Reunion proved, I feel quite sure that this venture will be as successful as the one held in 1990. Those of us here in SA still have fond memories of that occasion.

I wish you well with your arrangements and look forward to seeing you all again in 1992. Greetings and best wishes to all Pioneers.

1992 GOSFORD REUNION

Saturday, September 26 and Sunday, September 27, 1992, at Gosford RSL Club, 26 Pacific Highway. Full details in November issue *Pioneer News* with application form.

ANNIVERSARY OF SIEGE

A world reunion of the Rats of Tobruk Association was held in Sydney from April 9-15, 1991, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Siege of Tobruk in April 1941. A "Canberra Extension" followed from April 16-19 where a Time Capsule was laid in front of the Tobruk Memorial to be opened in 2041 — 100 years after the Siege.

What a wonderful time was had by all who attended, over 1100 Rats and their ladies, and the Organising Committee has every reason to be proud of its efforts.

The Tobruk Display at the Westpac Bank, George Street, Sydney, was a splendid effort and of great interest to 2/1 Pioneers was the photo of Lyle Cheney, D Coy, KIA the Salient 1941, together with his medals. The Westpac RSL Executive hosted morning tea for various Rat dignitaries including Roy Jardine, Jack Collis and Jack Griffiths. Jack Coates was also instrumental in mounting a small montage of "Monty the Cat who was a Rat" — the Pioneers mascot in Tobruk and photos of the USS "Westpoint". Laurie Kelly, Jim Edwards and Bill Steers featured in "The Pioneers".

The visit to the various warships berthed alongside Garden Island on Thursday, April 11, was curtailed due to the Gulf War, but one ship was inspected and a Navy launch took members up to Spectacle Island, near Cockatoo Dock. In the evening an informal dinner was held as a Sydney welcome at the University of NSW Round House, where the Band of the RAAF Operational Command played before and after the dinner.

Friday 12th saw most of the visitors out on Sydney Harbour on the Manly ferries for the day and a splendid lunch was served. 2nd Military District Band provided some rousing songs on one of the ferries. Quite a few Pioneers were on the Queenscliff including Ted Carter and Mary, Clive Meek and John Glen with their wives, Laurie Kelly and Harry and Jean Spreadborough.

Saturday saw a number of options — scenic tours, special meetings at Randwick racecourse or the football. In the evening the Official Reunion Dinner was held at the Round House at Kensington. Tremendous work went into the catering and Roy Jardine was responsible, with help, for the decorations. The guest of honour was the Governor of NSW, Rear Admiral Peter Sinclair, AO. The RAN Command Band was in attendance, together with the Tobruk Memorial Pipe Band from Melbourne, Piper Athol Robertson carrying the 2/1st colour patch on his standard.

On Sunday, the Rats assembled in Oxford Street for a march to Anzac Memorial in Hyde Park where a Service of Commemoration was held. The band of 2nd Military District and Tobruk Memorial Pipe Band did the honours and the RAAF provided a great fly-past during the service. It was a most inspiring event and we were again honoured with the presence of the Governor and his charming wife and the Chiefs of the three Services. After the service, buses transported members to Victoria Barracks for lunch and refreshments.

The final day's outing was to Warringah Rugby Park at Narrabeen where lunch was served in large marquees by local Lions and Apex clubs. After lunch, members assembled in the grandstand where the Tobruk Band and the band of the Collaroy Plateau Primary School did the honours. Farewell speeches were made and a wonderful event came to a close, with nothing but praise from all who attended.

The "Canberra Extension" was a repeat of the reunion in Sydney. Members moved to Canberra on Tuesday to get ready for the ceremony at 10 am on Wednesday, April 17. The service at the Tobruk Memorial was attended by about 700 men and women. The Tobruk Pipes and Drums led the march of about 400 men and the Officiating Padre, Major Don Woodland, OAM, of the Salvation Army, welcomed the official guests. The service was well conducted and appreciated by all, as was the speech by the Veteran Affairs' Minister Ben Humphries. The President of ROTA, Mr Joe Madeley gave his address and then accompanied by the outgoing President placed the Time Capsule in place. After the laying of the wreaths, the drummers who had previously piled their drums, recovered their instruments to the strains of The Lament. It was most impressive. The Ode was spoken and the service concluded with the Lords Prayer and the National Anthem.

— Sydney report by JACK COATES
— Canberra report by JACK COLLIS

2/1-2/2 PIONEERS WA

By President LEN PREEDY

For our meeting in March it was very hot and we were pleased to be in the cool comfort of Anzac House.

NORMA and BOB SEFTON sent along their apology for non attendance because of a family commitment, but never mind, see you next meeting. A phone call of apology from Freda Dhu, who was on the sick list.

NEIL MACPHERSON attended his first meeting and made us all pretty envious of his new life-style. Since retiring he and his brother have a lovely home at Falcon, just south of Mandurah, overlooking the estuary and they use this for four months of the year and then go touring up north for the rest of the time, so avoiding the cold weather. Neil has been working hard on all the things he missed out on while business had first place. Now he is catching up on old POW mates and their addresses. Last count he had 23 names from the reinforcement of 52.

BARRY HUNT is wrapped in his new hobby of making ornaments out of local wood and nuts. Any money we make from the sale of them goes into funds.

JOAN and JACK MONGER held the fort for the 2/1 and although his hearing is not good Jack does enjoy our meetings.

FRED NEWTON looked well in spite of hurting his back recently, which is no doubt due to Ivy's loving care and attention.

ETHEL and JOHN McDougall were their usual friendly selves, trying to keep their eye on Jack Murray and Norm Le Cornu. It was nice to see Jean Lyford and Joy Butler.

Many thanks to the following for their kind donations towards expenses: N. Macpherson, D. Manski, J. Monger, F. Newton, J. McDougall, N. Le Cornu, Jean Lyford and Joy Butler.

It was great to see you all and hope to see you and some new faces at our next meeting on July 19.

SICK PARADE

JACK HUMPHREY 2/1 visited Max Law in the John Paul Nursing Home at Heathcote in April and spent a happy two hours remembering the times they were together in 12 Platoon B Company.

ALEC GEORGE 2/1 of Lismore was in hospital over the Anzac Day period and most disappointed he could not be in Sydney with his mates. Thank you Jean for letting us know, and do hope Alec is in good condition again.

CASEY BROWN was in hospital for two months early in the year with multiple fractures but was able to attend on Anzac Day. He presented Peg Herron with a rose at the Reunion in recognition of her services to the Association. Peg was thrilled and wishes to thank you Clive.

WIN TASKER was in hospital in April after suffering a mild stroke but is now on the road to recovery. Good to hear from Bill that you are improving Win.

BILL ROBERTSON 2/2 of Randwick was in hospital in June after suffering a heart attack while watching the State of Origin match. Good to hear from Toss that you are on the road to recovery Bill, and she thanks Bill Tasker for his visit to the hospital.

LEN PREEDY 2/2 of WA had a very slight stroke in March but is now back on the healthy list. You and Joy are doing a mighty job keeping the WA Pioneers together but you can over do it, so take care.

BILL JOLLIE 2/1 of Castle Hill had a heart turn on Mother's Day and this resulted in a by-pass operation on June 20. At the time of going to print Bill was slowly improving, but will be resting for a while.

GWEN COLLIS 2/1 of Umina had been hospitalised again with kidney problems but is now home giving Jack a lot of cheek. Look after yourself Gwen and take it easy.

BRISBANE REUNION

Saturday, October 26, 1991, at 11 am, at residence of John and Mollie Hunt, 4/25 Mountford Road, New Farm, Brisbane. Telephone (07) 358 4349 by October 20.

MAIL BAG

Editor: BOB LAKE

Issue number two of this year's Mail Bag and approximately 57 letters, so without further ramblings I'll get straight on.

FRED ALWAY 2/1, Beaumaris, Vic., with a cheque for the treasurer and a thank you for the news and all those responsible for its publication. Claims that he reads it through four or five times and many memories come flooding back. Fred joined us late in the war as a young reinforcement and has always been proud of being a member. Lost his wife some years ago and lives alone, but is quite close to the RSL where he spends a fair bit of time in good company.

DON ANDERSON 2/1, Merimbula, per pen of wife Dora with a substantial cheque for overdue subs and as he leaves the writing to Dora she passed on some family news. Both lived in Melbourne for 39 years, married just 10 days after he returned from Borneo and after holidaying at Merimbula for 30 or so years decided they would live there. Have two sons, one at home and one in Melbourne with a wife and two children. They often go up to Don and Dora for holidays. Both of them are involved with the Sub-Branch, which has 405 members on the roll, and the Women's Auxiliary has 75 ladies — not bad for a small country town. Both find plenty to fill their days — play golf, go fishing, and when the prawns are on plenty of late nights. Don is also proud of his vegetable garden.

Good letter, Dora, and makes good reading to other members who remember Don and to know what he has been doing all these years.

DON BARRACLOUGH 2/2, Burleigh Heads, with a letter enclosing some photos and saying how he enjoyed the reunion with all his old mates. It's good to get together, even if only a couple of times a year. Both Ted Jensen and Ron Callaghan and their wives have called on Don since he has been in Queensland. May make it to Gosford in '92 and will let us know in plenty of time. Don could see some improvement in Max Law since he last saw him. Thanks for the photos, Don, they will be displayed in the Pioneer album.

ALBERT BARTON 2/1, Yagoona, with a cheque for the treasurer and the news that after 45 years in the one place they are on the move. Not enjoying the best of health, his Yagoona home has become too large for him to maintain, so is moving to Gulgong. His son, Rob, wife and grandson are already living there so Alby has decided to join them and by the time this goes to print will be residing at Kaylene Crescent, Gulgong, home of the \$10 note. Hope both you and Gwen enjoy your years in the country and our very best wishes to you, Alby.

MAVIS BLANCH, widow of Joe 2/1, Beaudesert, with a sub for the treasurer and the news that she has plenty to occupy her time. Still sees a lot of people and it's wonderful to find so many still care and makes her life so much easier. She is off for a three day trip to Fraser Island and Hervey Bay with the Probus Club and is hoping for fine weather. No more news and with the footy coming on TV must close. Tells me that I will be pleased to hear she still follows the NSW footy, but she has to cheer for the Broncos.

AUB BRASIER, our bugler, with an acceptance to Max that he would be available on Anzac Eve at the Cenotaph. He and Nancy are now on their own as son Douglas has moved to Orange where he works for the Department of Agriculture. Many thanks for your support over so many years, Aub.

LES BRITT 2/1, Cairns, with a sub for the treasurer and although now living in North Queensland is still a member of Penshurst RSL. Was sorry to hear of the death of their President, Neville Swadling, as Les played bowls with him at the Diggers. Says he is as well as can be expected for his 72 years and enclosed cheque for worthy treasurer.

MICK BYE 2/2, Dubbo, with a sub for the treasurer and an excuse for being late with same. He and Hilda were at North Haven for the Xmas period where he felt a little off colour. As a result he spent a week in intensive care in Port Macquarie

Hospital, then off to Sydney, a further three weeks in Concord, two weeks in Prince Alfred (where they gave him four by-passes) and then six weeks back at North Haven. When able to drive the car finally arrived back at Dubbo, and a heap of mail. That's his story and he's sticking to it! Is feeling OK again now and we certainly wish you all the best Mick.

He quotes that all 2/2 blokes must be as bad as he is in regard to letter writing, although he had letters from Jack Morgan and "Thad" Dowd while he was in hospital. "Thad" had also been taken to hospital with heart problems.

Mentions that he will call and see Barbara Baird now that she is living in Dubbo, will get her address from Bonnie Snudden. Closes with best wishes to all.

FRED CALLAWAY 2/1, Wahroonga, with a letter and a clipping from the local Hornsby paper regarding Alan Stutchbury. He is a member of our Association, Fred, in fact was a member when you were the Association's secretary. In regard to the march details, Max supplies the information to the ABC each year on the two battalions' war service, a brief but concise report, but what the ABC does with them is entirely up to them and out of our hands. The commentary by the ABC leaves much to be desired as far as a brief summary is concerned.

COLIN CAMERON 2/1, Campbelltown, with a note to say he was sorry that he could not be with us on Anzac Day. He suffers badly from arthritis and very restricted with his walking. Wishes everyone the best and encloses a sub for the treasurer.

BRUCE CHAMBERS 2/1, Turramurra, with a substantial cheque for the treasurer and the news that for the past couple of years he has been out of action due to the replacement of both hips. All OK now and back to his favourite pastime, golf. Has been driving extensively recently to see the family — four in Perth, two in Queensland and one the other side of Sydney (seven in all and nine grandchildren). Keep up the good work, Bruce.

FRANK CAULFIELD 2/2, Benalla, with a sub for the treasurer and his usual annual newsletter. Went to Melbourne for the march with Tom McNaughton, but only went to the reunion. Frank was having trouble with his waterworks, and said there was no way he could have got as far as the Shrine without hopping behind a tree on the way. Has an appointment with a specialist shortly, so hopefully everything will soon be fixed up. They had about 135 at the reunion which was very good.

He and his wife still follow the Sydney Swans and, although not doing very well, they still enjoy watching them every two or three weeks on TV. Frank also mentions that he has a young 17-year-old grandson, Brett, who has been signed up by the Los Angeles Dodgers, used to be the old Brooklyn Dodgers, and is also captain of the Victorian under 18 baseball team. Has been to America twice before with junior teams and is off to Canada to play for Australia in the World Junior Titles. Was voted Junior Sportsman of the Year in 1990 in the Northern Suburbs — and as Frank says certainly doesn't take after him. Closes with best wishes.

JACK CLARKE 2/1, Rockdale, entertained Joe Kyffin at lunch after Anzac Day and caught up with the news. Joe was up from Melbourne for the march and reunion. Many thanks for your donation, Jack, has been passed on to the treasurer.

RON CLARK 2/1, Kingsford, with a note to say how sorry he was to see so many of our old mates passing away and expressing his sympathies to their families. Also enclosed a cheque for subs. Thanks Ron.

KEN COLLIER 2/1, Essendon, with a cheque for the treasurer and the news that he has not written for some time due to illness. Has had a couple of strokes, plus leg problems caused through bad circulation, but is taking it day by day as there is always someone worse off than yourself.

Your request for Fred Alway's address has been taken care of by Max and you should have same by now. Ken closes with best wishes for all Pioneers and their families.

IVAN CROOKS 2/1, Lane Cove, with a short note "enclosed donation to Association". You certainly won't get writer's cramp Ivan, but many thanks.

VINCE CULLEN 2/1, Peakhurst, with a letter per pen of wife Eve, with a cheque for the treasurer and the news that Vince is occupied with painting the

house and doing a good job too. Praise from the boss is hard to get Vince, get it in writing, also quotes that owing to ill health they didn't get their trip to Perth last year, but hope to make it in '92.

DAVE DENNY 2/1, Lismore, with his subs for continuation of the News — would not miss it for anything. He was sad to hear of so many of the old crowd passing on, but pleased to see their wives are still carrying on. Missed Anzac Day this year, the first ever, but was bedridden, not serious, but OK again now. Wishes sometimes that he was closer to us down here that he could put a shoulder to the wheel. Closes with best wishes to all and continued success in the future.

ALBERT DEAN 2/1, Shepparton, with a cheque for the treasurer. Had a few drinks on Anzac Day with an old comrade, Rex Francis, and said their local RSL really came alive with the legalising of "Two Up" on the day. It was well conducted and really made the day. Alby and his wife are enjoying reasonably good health — what more could you ask old mate.

VIC DONALD 2/1, Glen Innes, with a short note with (as he says) overdue subs and best wishes to all Pioneers. I don't think you need worry about that overdue bit too much Vic, seems like I write your name pretty regularly. Good luck, mate.

JOHN DOWD 2/2, Wagga, with a cheque for the treasurer and the news that he has had lots of trouble with his eyes — called "macula" degeneration and has no central vision. Can't even read the headlines, so good wife Daphne has to help out. (Just as well you don't have a "floosie" writing to you John.) Would also like to thank Bill Robertson, Russ Harrison and Bob and Nell Ginnane for the visits to him while in Concord for his heart surgery. Glad to hear you are well on the road to recovery, John.

NORMA FITCH, widow of Harold, 2/1, Rydalmere, with a thank you for the *Pioneer News* and says how she looks forward to receiving it. Sends a donation to funds and her best wishes to all.

TOM GAISFORD 2/2, Balwyn, with a cheque for the treasurer and the news that the Melbourne reunion, with its new format and location was a huge success and very enjoyable. It certainly helped to front up for the march the next day. Numbers are regrettably down as can be expected but those who were able to make it did the battalion proud. Sends his regards to all, with special mention to those of 5 Platoon (Tank Attack).

STAN GAVAN 2/2, Greystanes, with a few lines to say thank you for the News. Thinks he could be dragging the chain with regard to subs, so enclosed same with best wishes to all.

JIM GRAY 2/1, Primbee, with a note to say he may not be at the Wreath Laying on Anzac Eve, but he would have to be in his box before missing Anzac Day. He has not been to see Max Law for a few weeks but said Max was sure he would make it to the reunion. He certainly did just that, with the help of son Craig, and some strong young blokes to do the lifting. Closes with best wishes to all.

STELLA GRANGER, widow of Bill 2/1, Schofields, with a cheque for the treasurer and best wishes to all for an enjoyable Anzac Day. Sends a big thank you for the *Pioneer News*, which she still enjoys reading.

MABEL HANNON, widow of "Lofty" 2/1, Mackay, per pen of daughter Anne Smith (it's becoming a national hook-up Anne) writes with Anzac Day coming up reminds her of old times when she polished up her Dad's medals and his "pennies". It wasn't until she was much older that she realised that the pennies were for two-up. Anne has also found an old photo of her father and a group of soldiers leaving Australia and promises to send it later on. There are a lot of signatures on the back. Thanks Anne for the sub for the News for your mother.

TOM HENSLEY 2/1, Harrington, with a small slip of paper and a sub for the treasurer. Thanks Tom.

FRANK HEPBURN 2/2, Bankstown, per pen of good wife, Irene, with subs and a donation to funds. Hope you are both keeping well. Best wishes.

CLIFF HALL 2/1, Murwillumbah, with a note that he has not been the best over the last few years with cancers on the legs and poor circulation, which does not let him get about very much. He enclosed a cutting from the local paper with our own Len O'Connor ("Spino") marching with the Rats on Anzac Day — first time I have seen Len

with a suit on. Scrubs up well, doesn't he, for an old bloke. Also enclosed a sub for treasurer.

DICK HOBLEY 2/1, WA, with a sub for the treasurer and remarks that it hardly seems possible that a year has gone since he was with us at Redfern. He still speaks of the great time he had and the hospitality offered. Well, Dick, when we find out where Bremer Bay is we will see if we can look you up, as Lakey and wife, plus Kerslakes, are on our way to Perth on the 10.9.91. However, I shall have to find out if we are going that way.

DICK HOOK 2/1, Lambton, per pen of wife Barbara, with the news that Dick's eyes are not the best, and he is not reading. Both say they are looking forward to the next reunion at Gosford as the last one was so good. Barbara sent along a cheque for the treasurer and good wishes for all.

JOHN HUNT 2/1, New Farm, with a cheque for Vic and have noted that your expected overseas visitors have been forced to postpone their visit until next year. John thought with their visit in October, the Brisbane reunion would have had to be cancelled this year, but will now go ahead on 26.10.91.

He and Mollie-Jean are always kept busy, but are grateful they are still able to do as much as they do. Sends best wishes to all.

LES JAMES 2/1, Mackay, with a request for a bottle of the Battalion port. Max has forwarded an application form to you and you are so right they do make good presents for a special occasion. Jack Monger is still in good health as far as we know, we hear from the West every so often.

MARGARET JONES, widow of Llew 2/1, Bexley North, with a welcome sub and good to hear from you and know you are keeping well.

JACK KEMPNIICH 2/1, Fingal Bay, per pen of Maisie, with a cheque for treasurer and the news that Jack has been a tower of strength over the last 12 months. Maisie has been suffering from pinched nerves in the neck and has to lie flat on her back for relief. (Been alright 30 or 40 years ago Maisie. Joke!) The gardens at Fingal Bay are a credit to them both and they have had some huge mangoes this year, along with bananas and dozens of paw paws. Maisie says it is time we had another show up there later in the year, claims she is missing the company that a week together gives her and Jack. There's plenty of accommodation at the caravan park and workers units at reasonable rates. Has not seen Gert Vickery for some time and wonders how Jack and Gwen Collis are coping. Says keep the chin up, Gwen. Closes with best wishes to all.

PAT LAUGHREN 2/1, Nambour, with a welcome cheque and the news that his health has not been the best over the last few years. Has been taking it easy since his discharge from Greenslopes last November. Had a few visitors and at one stage the four bed ward had four Pioneers. Nell managed to break her ankle in January, so the house resembled a mini-hospital for a while. Thanks Nell for writing for the big fella — keep well.

DES MARTIN 2/2, Wodonga, with a long letter and cheque for the News. During the war years Des' father, along with another Councillor and Lieut-Col N. Wellington of 2/2, had been instrumental in the planting of an avenue of poplars along the Causeway on the Vic-NSW border. Recently a number of the trees on the NSW side had to be removed to allow for a tourist centre access road and Des asked Wodonga Council for some to be retained on account of the history attached to the planting. This Wodonga Council has decided to do — with a suitable plaque to commemorate the 2/2nd Pioneers. When further details are available as to the type of function to be held, let us know Des and we shall be pleased to publish in *Pioneer News*.

HARRY MOWBRAY 2/1, Cleveland, with a cheque for the treasurer and a deposit to Peg for Gosford. Really getting in early. Dot and Harry are off again shortly on another overseas trip — London, Berlin, Frankfurt, Warsaw, Hungary, Budapest, and then the United States. Will be away 10 weeks. Harry thinks back to the time when we left Dubbo for the Middle East and the slogan on the railway carriages were "Berlin or Bust". Well it's taken he and Dot 50 years to achieve just that.

NEIL MCGILL 2/1, Birrong, with a thank you for the News and a sub for the treasurer. Sends best wishes to all.

JACK MCGREGOR 2/2, Shortland, with a letter of apology for his non-attendance on Anzac Day

this year due to ill-health of both himself and Dot. They stayed home and watched the march on TV. The 2/2 got a fair coverage this time and looked good headed by "Robbie", looking very well in close-up, as did a number of the boys.

Noticed a few more names re-surfacing in last issue of *News* — three from old D Coy, Jack Allison, Roy Leadbetter and Len Northby. Both he and Dot looking forward to seeing us all at Gosford in 1992.

ALBERT (TOBY) PALIN 2/1, Maryborough, with cheque for treasurer and best wishes for those who keep the Assn. going. Has not seen Charlie Kerr for some time (probably he's off gallivanting again), but they do go to the Brisbane reunion together.

PETER PRIEST 2/1, Ballina, per pen of wife Dot, with cheque for the treasurer and the news that Anzac Day on the North Coast had good crowds. They went to Evans Head, as usual, and starting with the Dawn Service met up with Bill and Amy Facey, Norm McEvoy, Val Black and Jack Martin. All had a good day and she does not think Pete remembered the last few hours.

They were pleased to hear of the proposed Gosford reunion and almost had their bags packed until they realised it was next year. Will give Pete time to catch his breath — and a few good fish.

BRUCE RICH 2/1, Narrandera, with his subs for the year and trusts that we had a good Anzac Day. Bruce says his health stops his many activities these days, so content to take it easy. Sends his regards to all, with a special hello to 3 Platoon.

CHARLES RICHARDSON 2/2, Queensland, with a letter thanking all and sundry for a wonderful day on Anzac Day — said it was the best he had ever experienced. His only regret that he did not stir himself earlier. He had not seen most of the fellows for 45-50 years and talking to them seemed as though those years had never existed and he seemed to see them as they were so long ago. Said it was great to see Ray Horne again, as they had known one another back in the militia before the war.

Charlie's son-in-law, Adrian, kept him company on the day and said a battalion reunion was a real eye-opener to him and he has never stopped telling his friends what a great day it was. Chas wants to say many thanks to Gordon Finlay for urging him to attend and please God he will be able to make it again next year.

Charlie also enclosed the cutting on Alan Stutchbury, everyone must have got that paper, we received two copies and Jack Kerslake had shown it to me.

RAY ROBBINS 2/2, Boolarra (Vic), with a cheque for the treasurer and the news that he and his wife Nancy "babysat" Neville O'Connor's place at Tintenbar last year while Nev and Betty were overseas. They certainly enjoyed the stay very much over the winter months. At present they are tied down awaiting Ray's call to hospital for a second hip replacement — not sure just when but socially he will be out of action for a while. Hope to get to Ballina sometime later in the year when fit to travel again and will look up Neville. Both he and Nancy enjoyed the Gosford reunion very much and look forward to another in the future.

BRYAN SMALLHORN 2/1, Armidale, with sub enclosed and a big raspberry to the Rev Allan Walker. Presume he meant to prefix "2/1-2/2" to his suggested new name for April 25. Never knew he was so well acquainted with the deeds of the Battalions! Your regards passed to John Tooker, and can assure you John is OK again now.

DAN SPROUSTER 2/1, Dundas, with a cheque for Vic and his apologies for non-attendance on Anzac Day. Danny was sorry to hear of the death of Johnny Taylor — they always got together when John came to Sydney and he will be missed very much. He keeps in touch with Bill (Shaky) Arthur, who doesn't get around much any more. It's a trip to the bowling club by taxi, a few runs with beer chasers, and presto all the aches and pains are gone. Danny is still plodding along, his eyes are a bit of a problem, but apart from that it's Bobs your Uncle with Danny.

DUDLEY STANFORTH 2/2, Wagga, with a sub and the information that Jack Morgan has eye problems and sight not the best — some trouble reading and cannot drive his car any more. His good friend Evelyn gave Jack a breakfast at the RSL to celebrate his birthday and a good time was had by all. John Dowd was home after his heart

surgery and doing well. Closes with best wishes to all.

COLONEL JOHN WILLIAMS CO 2/2, Sefton, with a sub and the news that he is still finding it hard to get around. The doctors are suggesting knee caps but, as the Colonel says, at 87 years "young" it could be a bit risky. His wife Sylvia is still in the nursing home and keeping very well.

Kindest regards from all, John, and hope your health shows some improvement.

JOHN SMITH 2/1, Smithtown, per pen of wife Violet, with a sub for treasurer and to say that John is now blind and deaf and unable to write. They still enjoy the *Pioneer News* and lead a very quiet life after 84 years. Had a trip to South Australia and Victoria last year to visit their two sons and families. John would love to go to Sydney for the march, but it would be too much for him, so will have to settle for the local at Gladstone which is just across the river. He spends a lot of time listening to tapes from the Blind Society and his greatest sorrow is that the book "The Pioneers" was not on tape — that would have made his day. Smithtown is about half way to Brisbane and Violet says that anyone passing through there would be assured of a warm welcome. Thank you, Violet, for your letter and can assure you that any Pioneers going your way will appreciate your offer. Our best wishes to both.

KEITH BOYLE 2/1, Moama, with a long letter and lots of news from down on the Murray. Your change of house number has been noted, Keith, and as you say a bit of a nuisance having to let all and sundry know of the change.

Guess you did get a surprise with the phone call from Bob Bally in WA after all those years — just goes to show how the *Pioneer News* gets around. Our WA Chairman, Len Preedy, has only just recently come up with Bob's address.

In regard to the John Taylor who recently passed away, he was a Lieut, and you may remember he and Heather were at the Gosford Reunion. They came from Quirindi.

Keep well and good wishes to you both.

JACK COATES 2/1, Umina, has had another spell in hospital for an operation, but is home now but grounded for a couple of weeks. Trust this may be the last of your problems for a while. Jack, you've certainly had your share. He mentions seeing Ivor and Eva Garnon and Harry Hamer last meeting of Rats, and says Ivor often brings Rebecca Clogg, Bill the bandsman's widow.

JACK COLLIS 2/1, Umina missed the Rats reunion in Sydney, due to Gwen's illness, but they did manage to get to Canberra for the laying down of the Time Capsule. Said the trip down was good and the country looked great. They spent a couple of days down there and then called into Thirlmere on the way home to visit his old mate Cliff Secombe. He looks OK with his eyes on the improve. Jack enjoyed Anzac Day — and didn't say one thing about Manly football team, Lakey. But what sort of currency is NZ currency!

BERN REINERS 2/1, Corryong, with a donation to funds and a thank you letter to Peg and Max for their help on Mona and Bern's surprise visit to Sydney recently. They had been given a "mystery flight" air ticket for their birthdays by the family and found themselves in Sydney for the day. Had a great day on a tour of the Sydney area and then spent the afternoon with the Herrons before leaving for Melbourne late in the afternoon. Bern writes that he had hoped Tullamarine Airport would have been closed for the night — then they could have had a "wild night" at some posh Sydney hotel at Ansett's expense. Sorry the weather didn't oblige, Bern. It was great to see you both again — we know how you hoped it might be Alice Springs, but we were glad it was Sydney. Maybe next time.

EUNICE COULON, niece of the late George Brooks 2/1, sent along a donation to funds and was pleased to see the Pioneers at her uncle's funeral.

That completes the Mail Bag. The Lakes and Kerslakes are off to the West in September on a three weeks tour. Going as far north as Geraldton, then south to Albany — doing it in our own time with a drive yourself car and on our reckoning about 3000 km. Looks a bloody big place. The football is becoming very interesting and the leaders board congested. My team has had a couple of hiccups over the last couple of weeks, and there might be another when we play Newcastle, but I think my lottery ticket is safe and Manly will be there at the finish. That's all for now. So long. —LAKEY

PIONEER NEWS

Phone: 759 5491

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PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT 1990-91

It only seems like six months since our last Annual Meeting. How time flies and with so much happening during the period.

Anzac Day as usual was a great success, with the usual numbers marching, whilst the reunion luncheon greatly appreciated. The catering was excellent, thanks to our new caterers, "Brothers Catering Services". Our thanks are also due to the Yeoman Service carried out by the sons of some of our members who did a great job in providing Bar Service, waiting duties, etc. In the words of George Nichols the gathering was the most disciplined group at any Anzac Day reunion he had attended.

Of course the "Jewel in the Crown" was our 50th Anniversary celebrations held at Gosford during June of last year. It was well attended, brilliantly organised and a credit to all those who assisted in any way. Our thanks to you all and congratulations to Max and Peg Herron for their untiring efforts in making the function the outstanding success it was. I have on behalf of the Association written to the Minister for Veteran Affairs thanking him for the generous donation of \$1000 towards the cost of the function.

Only two Committee Meetings were held during the past 12 months, one in July 1990 and the other in February of this year. The usual November meeting was dispensed with to lighten the Secretary's work load. Both meetings were well attended and my appreciation is extended to all the Committee members for their interest in the Association.

I believe the Association owes a debt of gratitude to the following personnel:

VIC WHITELEY for carrying out the successful duties as our Honorary Treasurer.

BILL TASKER for his work in the field of welfare. Bill has attended many funerals during the past 12 months and made numerous hospital visits. In the welfare area he has been assisted by Bob Lee, Jack

Harvey, Fred Callaway, Ken Stuart, Jack Collis and Jack Coates when required. Bill, assisted by Russ Harrison, has also been active in the distribution of the Front Line Medal.

GORDON FINLAY and GEORGE WALKER for their part as Social Secretaries. Gordon, due to ill health, unfortunately has had to resign from this position.

RAY HARRIS for acting as the Association Delegate to the 7th Division.

RUSS HARRISON for his assistance to Max Herron and Bob Lake in his reporting activities, for publication in the *Pioneer News*.

JOHN AND MOLLIE HUNT in once again organising the Brisbane Reunion.

TO ALL OTHER COMMITTEE PERSONNEL my grateful thanks for your co-operation during the past year in office.

Our ranks during the past 12 months have been sadly depleted with the death of so many of our members — "We will remember them". To their widows and families we convey our deepest sympathy.

It is proposed to hold a reunion at Gosford during September of next year, further details of which will be conveyed to all members in the *Pioneer News*.

The *Pioneer News* continues to be the mouthpiece of the Association with three issues during the year. Our appreciation is extended to the Editors, Max Herron and Bob Lake, and to all those who have contributed during the year. A special thanks to those contributors and sub-committees from other States.

Further, I would like to convey my appreciation to our Patron, John Gilchrist, for his assistance to me during the year and last, but not least, to Max and Peg Herron for their untiring efforts in furthering the interests of the Association.

BILL JOLLIE, President

GOSFORD REUNION

26th-27th SEPTEMBER, 1992

All details are outlined in a programme on page four and the reason this has been produced earlier than usual is because the motels now have regular custom in the form of coaches on the way through. For this reason they stipulate early deposits.

If members wish to retain their *Pioneer News* intact, they can make a photo copy of the advert complete and send in a copy of the application form. We will accept the application form written out on a separate piece of paper with the details.

This will be the only occasion we will produce the complete programme in this form so we suggest members put it away for reference.

2/2 PIONEERS, VICTORIA

The 2/2 Pioneers in Victoria have their own Association and produce their own newsletter in the months of April, September and December.

If any 2/2nd Pioneer receiving our *Pioneer News* would like to receive their publication just write to the Secretary, George Murphy, 29 Simpson Street, Mitcham, Victoria 3132, and he will arrange delivery.

It costs nothing to be a member — no joining fee and no annual subscription.

2/1-2/2 PIONEERS W.A.

By President LEN PREEDY

The meeting held in July was attended by 15 good friends. Apologies were received from: Jack Murray who was in Brisbane, Neil MacPherson who is on walkabout chasing the sun, Joy Butcher with the bad allergy which has been chasing lots of us, Jean Lyford sent an apology with Beth Lee, Milly rang to say Barry Hunt would not be down as he had a very bad fever, which turned out to be malaria. Hope you are OK now Barry.

It was good to have some new blood for the 2/1 in Robert Whally. He and Syd Abercrombie were catching up on past events. In answer to your query Neil, I checked around for anyone going to Java, but no.

JACK MONGER was proudly showing off the length of his moustache, it will be in plaits next time! Joan was a bad girl with her smokes!

BOB and NORMA SEFTON made their trip from Safety Bay, they were deep in conversation with Freda Due and John and Ethel McDougal. The usual cheery Norm LeCornu is still looking for his birthday cake. Jack Stewart joined the group a little later as did Beth Lee.

Thank you to the members who made donations to our fund, Neil MacPherson, Jack Stewart, John McDougal, Owen Heron, Norm LeCornu and Gordon Buller.

Had a letter from Neil MacPherson on his way north, he reported that Arnold (Nugget) Cousins of Pt. Denison was in hospital but due out in a few days. Neil sent regards to all Pioneers in cold wet Perth, don't rub it in Neil.

Received mail from George Murphy 2/2 Melbourne and Max Herron 2/1 Sydney, keeping us up to date with events over there, sent their regards to all. Also received a letter from Gordon Buller from Esperance.

Heard from Dennis Manski who is now at Woodleigh Gardens, Darwin, he likes to keep up with his father's unit. Received the book OK thanks Dennis.

Had a call from Mac English of Victoria who was here on holidays, nice to speak to him. Was expecting a call from Jack Williams but maybe we were out.

It seems I have run out of news so I hope to see you all at our next meeting on NOVEMBER 15. Regards to all.

PIONEERS VISIT NORTHERN TABLELANDS

Early in March, Gordon Finlay organised a group of Pioneers for a five day trip to Walcha on the Northern Tablelands. Included in the group were Gordon and Olive Finlay, Bob and Joan Lake with friend Jane Hope, Mary Lloyd, George and Joyce Walker, Vic and Peg Whiteley, Bill and Toss Robertson, Marj and Jack Kerslake, Russ and Rona Harrison all from Sydney, and Clemm McDonald and Norma Lowe from Port Macquarie.

The Sydney group travelled up by XPT and amidst good natured banter, settled down to enjoy the journey, the scenery and refreshments on the way to Tamworth, where they joined the coach for Walcha. Clemm and Norma came up by car from Port and were also charged with the responsibility of "hauling" the refreshments, which was much appreciated by all.

On arrival at the Walcha Motel we were met by the proprietors Bruce and Elaine Aitcheson — and what wonderful hosts they turned out to be. After a few drinks together on the verandah before dinner at a small restaurant down town, all retired early after the day's journey.

The first day, Tuesday, was spent touring the area in the motel bus, all through lovely New England country with lunch in a park in Armidale. Lakey managed to spill his hot cup of tea on his pants — but could not find a taker to dry him down. Gordon Finlay and Bill Robertson climbed through a fence to take a photo of a very old cottage and were confronted by an irate landowner wielding a walking stick. The incident passed without any real harm being done. From there to Goswyck where we found a lovely old church completely covered with

ivy amongst a grove of very old elms. Peaceful country — Australia at its best.

In the course of the following days we visited a property where crutching was in progress. We visited the local timber mill "Fennings" which is highly automated and a credit to all involved, both the owners and the workers. It is to be hoped the "Greenies" consider these people when formulating their plans for the future of the timber industry in Australia. Walcha is only a small town in the centre of a very rich rural district with a population of about 1700. They have four pubs and three clubs, but the town could die if the timber mill was forced to close. So much of the town is connected in one way or another with the mill and the timber industry in general.

We toured Armidale and Tamworth and all places in between. We were wine and dined in style, as if we were someone special and treated very well by everyone we came in contact with.

All good things must come to an end and by the Saturday we were packed and ready to return to our homes. We were taken for a final tour around Walcha before calling into the Walcha Library to present a copy of the 2/1st Pioneer Battalion's history "The Pioneers" to the librarian. The book was kindly donated by the History Committee of the 2/1st.

We returned to the motel for morning tea and after saying our farewells to Elaine and Bruce we set off for Tamworth, and home. All agreed the stay at Walcha was one to remember.

Reported by CLEMM McDONALD



This is the final issue of *Mail Bag* for 1991 and to my way of thinking this year has simply flown — we are all getting older so much faster that it is not funny any more.

SNOWY ANDERSON 2/2 Victoria, with a note to Peg and Max and a sub to the Treasurer to help keep the wheels turning. Also comments that he passes on his regards to Jim Field and Kath and that he hopes to be with us on Anzac Day next year.

VAL BLACK widow of Allen 2/1, and still at Evans Head with a sub for treasurer and a big Hello to all. Val keeps herself very busy and sees the Kyogle boys on Anzac Day. The Women's Auxiliary serve a hot breakfast after the Dawn Service, then a baked dinner when they come back from the Woodburn Service. It is always a good day and they enjoy doing it, and raises a lot of money for the Ballina Home. Claims that the weather has been a bit "iffy" up that way with lots of wind. Going to the ROTA dinner on September 22 at their own RSL Club. Members come from Grafton to Tweed, as Lismore is the main meeting place. Lunch is in a different area every three or four months and it's nice to see some of the old faces. Sends her regards to all with a mention of the Lakes.

ERIC CAUSER 2/1, Macarthur, Vic., with a long letter to Max on the doings of the Causer family since they joined some of the Pioneers on a weekend in Stawell in September last year. Sorry to hear of the death of your mother, Eric, and we send you all our sympathy.

He has enjoyed getting the *News* and was great to read the news of some of the old Sig Platoon — Bernie Reiners trip to Sydney, also news of Doug Shearston and Sammy Gardiner. Sorry to hear Ken Collier is still having a rough trot.

Eric spent Anzac Day in Melbourne this year and while there also met up with Leo Healey and phoned Jack Commerford (both sighs) and had a good yarn. Thanks for the photo of Leo, certainly has not changed much since the war years and hope your night was brightened up by the "stripper". He looked to be enjoying himself.

Eric has joined Hamilton Legacy and says it is interesting work, with over 300 widows in the Hamilton club area. He has 14 local widows on his list.

They have had good rains, unlike NSW and Queensland, but the future income prospects for men on the land are grim.

Good to hear from you, Eric, and all the best to you and Doff.

JACK CLEMENT 2/2, Baulkham Hills, with a welcome sub and many thanks for the *News*, especially when a few familiar names drift by. Sends his best wishes to all, with a special mention of all 2/2nds.

JACK COLLIS 2/1, Umina, with a note to say that Jack Coates had been in hospital at Concord and Lady Davidson, but was once more out and about. Jim Miller was doing OK, as was Bill Wright. Has not heard from anyone else, so presumes that all are OK.

WINN DWYER, widow of Mick 2/1, with a short note and a cheque for the treasurer. Keeps herself busy with the family and thanks all those concerned with the *News*, which she really enjoys reading.

NOEL GRANT 2/1, Victoria, with a donation to funds and the news that he and Jean have been helping a nephew on a farm in South Australia, and have been away from home for some time. As the nephew could not afford to pay wages on the farm, he and Jean have been helping him over a difficult time. Noel quotes that it is a screwball country at the moment. Sheep are being sold at eight dollars a head and to give a sheep an injection the cost of the needle is \$15. Says that he feels like a "cocky" having a whinge, so closes with best wishes to all.

MAVIS HALL, daughter of the late Mrs Lilla O'Malley-Wood, with a letter to Max and Peg that she has now moved from Emu Plains to Narromine to be closer to her family. Has not yet settled in her

new surroundings, but does say it is very comfortable and it is lovely to see more of the family and children. Good to hear from you after so long, Mavis, and hope to see you again in the near future.

VERA HAMILTON 2/2 CCS, Blakehurst, called on the secretary recently and is keeping well, except for a few leg problems. She and her sister Marj have been busy jam making and Peg's cumquat tree has been supplying the fruit. Nice to see you, Vera, and many thanks for the donation to funds.

NOEL HIBBARD 2/1, Meadowbank, with a short note with his subs, a bit late he says, but no excuses.

JACK HUMPHREY 2/1, Casino, with a letter stating he had sold his house at Vincentia and gone to Casino to be close to his family. Was a big move for them and left him a bit dizzy from all the work.

Jack was pleased to see Max Law had made the picnic at the reunion at Gosford. He had visited Max just before he moved up north, and Max had told him he would be going.

Sends his best wishes to all and hopes to be reading the *Pioneer News* for many more years.

MARY JONES, widow of Terry 2/1, Hurstville, with a letter telling of the death of her husband recently. She thanked the secretary for the *News* which Terry enjoyed over the many years and enclosed a cheque towards our various expenses. Our sincere sympathy to you, Mary, in your sad loss.

DON LINTON 2/2, Tuncurry, with a letter to the secretary concerning another 2/2, Max McInerney, who had been re-elected for a further year as President of Blackhead Bowling Club. Don sends best wishes to all and always glad to get the *News*.

DORRIE LONG, widow of Bob 2/1, Sutherland, with a thank you for the *News* which she still enjoys reading with many names still familiar. She did not get to see the Rats' display at the bank during the Tobruk anniversary as she was in hospital. However, is now recovered and back enjoying Legacy, not to mention grandchildren. Also mentions the death of Frank Gravenmaker at Grenfell a couple of months ago. Closes with best wishes to all and enclosed a cheque for the treasurer.

JACK MORGAN 2/2, Wagga, with cheque for the treasurer and the news that John Dowd is showing lots of improvement after his trip to hospital earlier in the year. Jack sees him every few weeks and can see him getting better all the time. Also sees Dudley Stanforth fairly often. Dud is a very keen bowler.

Jack says he is getting along OK and has learned to live and cope with his eye problem. He's not able to drive, but his good companion Evelyn takes him wherever he has to go.

Max has written to you regarding the poem in the *News*, so won't dwell on that, but like yourself I think that most of our vintage think as you do "keep Australia and our Flag as they are".

RON MURRAY 2/1, Hill End, with a note that he had high hopes of getting to the march on Anzac Day, but did not make it. They had a bad summer and drought and lots of fires which they were lucky to contain. Hopes to make the "big smoke" next year if things turn out alright.

He watched the march on TV — this left a lot to be desired, but the ABC is the only channel doing the commentary now so it's a case of put up with it.

Thanks for the sub, Ron, and best wishes.

PAT MACFARLANE, widow of Ron 2/1, Blacktown, with a short note expressing her appreciation of the *Pioneer News*, a sub enclosed for same, and sends her best wishes to all.

ROY MCGREGOR 2/2, Rothbury, with donation to funds and apologies for being late with same. Brother Jack has had lots of health problems of late, has been in and out of hospital several times since last writing to us, but he and his wife are keeping well at the moment. Both Roy and Jack attended the Dawn Service at Shortland RSL on Anzac Day and hope to make it to Sydney next year. Also pleased to hear of the Gosford reunion in 1992 and

both hope to attend. Closes with best wishes to all and with appreciation for the good work by the editors.

NEV O'CONNOR 2/2, Tintenbar, with cheque for Vic and said how time has flown since they took off overseas late last year. Took a long time to come down to earth after such a trip. He and Bet had a great time overseas, the Passion Play you would have to see to believe and they really enjoyed it. Stayed with friends in Northern Ireland, just outside Belfast, which is a lovely city, but like a place under siege. You can't leave a car unattended on the street, you have to put it in a car park and it's searched going in and out. Police all carry sub-machine guns and security people everywhere and armed. Despite this had a wonderful time in Ireland and celebrated their 5th wedding anniversary while there.

Flew back to London and then left for New York which they didn't like — not only a filthy place but frightening — on to North Carolina, Washington, Los Angeles and Niagara Falls.

Also had a stopover at Las Vegas and on to San Francisco. Took in parts of Canada, including the Rockies, and would like to return to Canada and go up to Alaska — who knows, but the "bikkies" are a deterrent. Sounds like a good holiday, Nev, and I guess you are sorry it's over.

Max has sent you Len Preedy's address and his phone number is 381-6294. Joan and I have just come back from the West and we rang them. Talked to Joy, his wife, but Len had gone to the Perth Show for the day. Good luck Nev and Bet, glad you had a wonderful trip.

WALLY PAGE 2/1, Cudgen, with a letter thanking the troops for the *News*, and a cheque for the treasurer. Wal has had a couple of spells in hospital with fluid around the heart, plus bleeding ulcers, but is a lot better now and able to drag his arthritic bones off to bowls four afternoons a week. Closes with best wishes to all.

LEN PREEDY 2/2, WA, with a letter thanking Max for the members' list which he has pasted into a book for the WA members to peruse at their meetings. Claims that interest in Anzac Day is growing over in the West with lots of younger ones starting to attend the March.

They have had some bad weather over there (we know as we were there in September and it was not the best). Sorry we missed you Len, but your good wife told us that you had gone to the show. We were to go home next day, so could not do anything about it. Closes with the best of luck to all.

JACK PRICE 2/1, Harden, with a cheque for the treasurer and the news that both he and Norma are well and looking forward to the next reunion in Gosford. He was pleased to see that Linda Saunders still receives the *News*, and says that he sees Jack Nilon and Albert Brown occasionally. Hopes to see all the folk at Gosford and send best wishes to all.

CHARLES RICHARDSON 2/2, Brisbane, with some photos for the Battalion album to show round. Also passes on his thanks to Bill Tasker for his prompt attention to the Front Line Medal. Pleased also to see that Bill Robertson is progressing favourably. Charlie and Bill served together in the AIF, originals of the 2/1, then in the Middle East Trng. Depot, and later the reformed 2/2.

Before the war Bill was a Lieut. in the 41st Bn. (the Byron Regiment) and after the war Charles served with the 41st Bn. (then known as the Byron Scottish Regt.) with the rank of Major, as OC of A Coy. in Lismore. Small world!

He hopes to be in Sydney in November and perhaps able to catch up with a few of the boys. (Keep the phone numbers handy, Charlie.)

MICK ROBERTS 2/1, Leeton, with a cheque for the treasurer and says how he enjoys the *Pioneer News*, but lost with some of the names. Also pleased to hear Craig Law had taken Max to the reunion. Mick has not seen Craig since he was

three years of age when the Laws lived in Adelaide — No. 4 was a half-way house for Max when on his travels for his firm.

Mick often sees Les Gavel and Bruce Rich, sometimes Jack Paynter of Narrandera, and Jack Purcell was down from Inverell to play bowls. If anyone visiting Leeton would care for a game, look Mick up at the Leeton Soldiers Club.

In regard to the query re Henry Smith (Capt. Kitching's batman) and Ross Thompson of B Coy., Max does not have either name on our mailing list, so can't help you.

Sends his best wishes to John Douglas and all the boys, especially B Coy.

ANNE SMITH, daughter of Lofly Hannon 2/1, with a letter to Max and a photo of some of C Coy. on board the Johan-de-Witt. Anne has gone to a lot of trouble having the signatures blown up and hopes that some of the diggers are still with us. Thank you, Anne, for your trouble (you have Lakey's thanks too) and I'm sure it will be of great interest to the boys still with us.

NOEL SMITH 2/1, Bathurst, with a short note and a sub for the *News*. Wants to know when our financial year begins — just remember Anzac Day, Noel, and take it from there.

JACK SPOTTISWOODE 2/1, Allambie Heights, with a short note enclosing a sub and a thank you to all those who produce the *Pioneer News*. Tells that Casey Brown is keeping well and sees him occasionally at Bondi RSL. Jack's wife is slowly recovering from her broken hip. Sends best wishes to all Pioneers and their ladies.

KEN STUART 2/1, Turramurra, with a letter to Max saying that he visited Lady Davidson Hospital, as requested, but only to find that all three Pioneers (Ron Sinclair, Allan Chase and Jack Coates) had been discharged that morning. Ken says you know you are getting old when you receive your *Pioneer News* or your local RSL magazine and the first page you turn to is the Vale or sick parade.

As most Pioneers know Ken was in America for five years and while he was there the last survivor of the American Civil War marched down Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, DC, all on his own. In October this year Ken will be 78, so doesn't anticipate he'll be the last Pioneer.

Expressed his thanks for the workers who keep the show going and says there is a bond between us all that only we can understand or appreciate. Many thanks for a good letter, Ken, I see that you still maintain your sense of humour.

CHARLES URWIN 2/2, Wye River, with a short note of thanks for the *News*, which he enjoys reading, and a donation to funds. Good to hear from you, Chas.

MRS. G. WHITFIELD, widow of Ted 2/1, with a letter informing us of Ted's death on 18.7.1989 and apologising for not letting us know sooner.

Thank you for the sub also enclosed and your best wishes. If you do not wish to receive further copies of the *News*, please let us know and we will delete your name from our mailing list, but we are quite happy to still forward copies if of interest to you. No subscriptions are expected from widows of our members.

DICK WILSON 2/1, Panania, per pen of wife Jean, with a letter of thanks for the *News* and a welcome donation to funds. Jean says Dick looks forward to getting the *News* and sends best wishes to all who work hard to produce it.

NEV WOODHAM 2/1, Thornlands, Qld., with a few lines regarding life in the "warm country" and that both he and Betty are well. Thanks for the news on Ken Franks and glad that you were able to verify with Harry Spreadborough on his eligibility to join ROTA. I'm not sure if he was an original, but was with me (Lakey) at Walgrove in 1940. No doubt Max will have placed him on our mailing list for future copies of the *News*. Look forward to seeing you in Gosford '92, but what about Anzac Day in Sydney?

BARBARA WILLIAMS (2/7th AGH) of Brassall, Qld., former wife of Geoff Williams 2/1, with a note of praise for the Pioneers and the members of the 2/7 AGH. Barbara has had lots of health problems, but hopes to be in Melbourne for her brother's 80th birthday shortly. All the best to you, Barbara, and your good wishes are passed on to all members of 2/1.

HEATHER WIGGINS, great-niece Hugh Wiggins, 2/1, with a letter to Max again seeking information. Just recently she was in Canberra and naturally spent some time at the War Memorial. With

regard to the medal that he had, it was unique to our battalion originally. The shape of the medal was our battalion colour patch — three triangles, purple over white, over grey. The medal was made from shell casing and Germalium, which was the white, and was the component of a German aircraft which was shot down over our lines. Quite a few were made and some were presented to General Morshead and the three Brigadiers in charge of the Tobruk Garrison. Max has been in touch with you advising you how to approach the Army Records Office, so will leave that up to you. Hope the information is of some help.

HARRY (SNOWY) YOUENS 2/2, Essendon, with his subs and the news that he will be leaving Melbourne on June 15 to drive to Darwin. Will spend about two months with his son at Humpty Doo before leaving to come home by the West Coast. You should enjoy it very much Snow, it's a bloody long way but by taking it easy you should really enjoy it.

DOUG SHEARSTON 2/1, Forster, with a short note and a photo for Joan of her marching on Anzac Day. Says he enjoyed the day although he thought the Pioneers were down in numbers. I'll admit the wreath laying was very poor this year. No, Doug, you did not miss us as we never called in — were not at North Haven but at son Bill's weekend at Lemon Tree Passage — so continue to keep a bottle in the frig, we shall get around to it one of these days.

BOB DONALD 2/1, Glen Innes, with subs from himself and Tom Manual. Tom is still Pension Officer of the local Sub-Branch and Bob on the Committee. Bob has just returned from Sydney where he has been a delegate to the RSL Congress, and was accompanied by Ernie Lee 2/2, so Pioneers well represented. He met Jack Griffiths, 2/1, President of ROTA, Newcastle Branch, so we presume "Griffo" must have been in Sydney too. Healthwise Tom, Vic Donald and Bob quite OK, apart from a few aches and pains, but that's normal at our age. Sends his best wishes to all Pioneers.

JACK CROUCH 2/2, now of Ballina, writes in with his new address and has already been in touch with Nev O'Connor and had a great yarn with him. Jack had not seen Nev since 1945 so had some catching up to do.

Jack states he and wife Betty would love to see any Pioneer passing through Ballina.

KEN FRANKS 2/1, of Waterford West, writes to say Ivor Garnon had called in to see him and as they had been in the band together they sure had some "blowing of the trumpet" to do.

Ken promises to turn up at the Gosford Reunion and hopes to meet other members of the band.

That finishes all the Mail Bag for this issue. Will close with the news that the Lakes and Kerslakes took advantage of the cheap air fares and the four of us took a trip to WA in September. We had a fairly good time. The wildflowers were very nice, but you had to find them. The biggest display of Kangaroo Paws we found in an old tip (figures) and that was passed on to us by a lady in a Tourist Bureau. Too much to go into detail here, but we hired a car and travelled 5,176 km in 19 days — north as far as Kalbari and south to Albany. Rang Dick Hopley at Bremer Bay and also rang Len Preedy. Spoke to Dick, but as mentioned before, Len was out. We did not know who won the football until the Monday night, but pleased that Penrith was the winner.

Will bring this scribble to a close with a big cheerio to all and a Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year for 1992.

So long for now. LAKEY

SINCERE THANKS

Jack Collis 2/1 has written to say that he and two sons Brian and William would like to thank their many friends for the floral tributes, cards and expressions of sympathy in the sad loss of his wife and their loving mother Gwen, who passed away suddenly on July 27.

CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondence to Secretary as follows:
M. Herron
Hon. Sec. 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Btn. Assoc.
3 Enoggera Road
Beverly Hills NSW 2209

SICK PARADE

FRED CALLAWAY visited Lady Davidson Hospital at Turramurra to see Allan Chase, Ron Sinclair and Jack Coates on August 8 only to be informed that Allan and Jack had been discharged the day before and Ron only an hour before.

Many thanks for your effort Fred and sorry you missed our members.

ROY LEVY 2/2 was in Concord Hospital in August for an operation on his leg to remove a blood clot. In fact three operations had to be carried out before it was successful. He was visited by Russ Harrison, Ray Harris and Peg and Max Herron.

Roy is now at home and slowly making a recovery although his leg is still not functioning perfectly and has had several visits back to Concord.

JACK COLLIS 2/1 spent a week in Brisbane Waters Hospital in September as he had problems in walking. After performing traction on his legs and much therapy his legs have improved.

BILL JOLLIE 2/1 our President had another stay in hospital at Westmead in September for removal of his gall bladder. According to Bill this was quite a traumatic experience especially coming right on top of his by-pass operation in June.

WIN TASKER wife of Bill 2/1 suffered another stroke in August and was hospitalised for some time. She is now being looked after by Bill at home and Win, we do wish you a speedy recovery.

JACK GREEN 2/1 had a hip replacement in Manly Hospital and was visited by Jack Kerslake.

KEEP OUR FLAG FLYING

The Australian flag was born with the creation of Federation at the dawn of the century. A contest resulted in 32,822 entries, seven judges representing the Army, Navy and Parliament, unanimously choosing five equal winning designs. Thus was produced "the flag of stars".

The Exhibition Building, Melbourne, was used to display the numerous flag entries, the exhibition being opened on September 3, 1901, by Lady Hopetoun, wife of Australia's first Governor-General and Australia's first Prime Minister, Edmund Barton. On the building's dome a huge flag of the winning design flew gloriously in a strong breeze.

The Union Jack reflected the new Federation's historical background, the Southern Cross its place in space, and the large star, the six States of the Federation. Here was a flag containing history, heraldry, distinctiveness, and beauty. It has flown for 90 years of Australia's history as a nation.

Why pull it down?

THE CENOTAPH STATUES

There can be no doubt that one of Sydney's most impressive and revered sites is the Cenotaph in Martin Plaza.

With Anzac Day and the associated Service, interest in the Memorial itself has increased and, in particular to Sir Bertram MacKenna's bronze statues of the Soldier and Sailor, and of their origin.

SAILOR. The model of the Sailor was No. 3059 Leading Signaller John William Varcoe, of the RAN, a characteristic sailor wearing the rig and equipment of fighting ashore.

He was born at Bakers Swamp, NSW, on July 20, 1897, educated at Dubbo Public School and enlisted in the RAN on 3rd June, 1913. He served on HMAS Pioneer, December, 1914, to November, 1916, German East Africa, and on HMAS Parramatta, April 1917, to November 1919, and was awarded the DSM on May 17, 1918. He died in October, 1948.

SOLDIER. The model for the Soldier was Regimental No. 6, Private William P. Darley, of the 15th Infantry Battalion, and 4th Field Ambulance AIF, who died in Brisbane in January, 1936, aged 66 years. Sir Bertram MacKenna was impressed by his physique, athletic bearing and stern warrior-like cut of face.

OFFICIAL SIDE. Inquiries are made from time to time as to which is the "official" side of the Cenotaph. The answer is the GPO side. This then dictates the correct dressing of the flagstaffs. Thus on all occasions, when dressed, the Australian Flag is shown on the right hand staff (George Street end) and the Union Jack on the left hand staff (Pitt Street end).

2/1-2/2 PIONEER BATTALIONS ASSOCIATION

PROGRAMME — GOSFORD REUNION

Saturday, 26th September and Sunday, 27th September, 1992

WREATH LAYING SERVICE — Saturday, 26th September.5.00 pm — Members to form up at Soldiers Memorial, Mann Street, Gosford.
No march but medals and decorations to be worn.**REUNION DINNER** — Saturday, 26th September

6.00 pm — Assemble in Auditorium of Gosford RSL Club, 26 Pacific Highway, West Gosford. Punch and wine for ladies provided by the Association. All other refreshments purchased by members at bar.

7.00 pm — Wine and squash for two toasts on to tables, provided by Association. Remainder paid for at bar by members. Three course sit down meal. Choice of two — Cost per person \$19.00.

PICNIC LUNCH — Sunday, 27th September.

Held at Mt Penang Detention Centre which is opposite the turn off to Woy Woy on the Pacific Highway.

10.00 am — Assemble motel car park and members to organise themselves into cars with special attention to those members without transport. Each person to supply own lunch and if possible, chairs and rugs. A Recreation Hall with seating for 200 is available in case of rain. Barbecue facilities are available. Beer and soft drinks on hand at cost, otherwise bring your own.

FAREWELL DINNER — Sunday, 27th September

6.00 pm — Refreshments in Auditorium of Gosford RSL, purchased at bar by members.

7.00 pm — Smorgasbord meal and full use of bar with informal evening afterwards — Cost per person \$18.50.

ACCOMMODATION: Bookings have been made at the following motels with tariff as listed: Galaxy Motel — room only, single, \$58; double \$63. Rambler Motel — bed and breakfast, single \$65, double \$75. One night bookings will be accepted at the Rambler but not the Galaxy. The Galaxy Motel will not accept any private bookings, all must be made through the Booking Clerk, P. Herron.

No hotel or caravan park bookings have been made but persons can share twin rooms at both motels.

DEPOSIT of \$30 is required with each application for accommodation, but it is necessary for catering purposes, that ALL persons attending fill out and send in the application form below. This also applies to persons arranging own accommodation.**CHEQUES** to be made out to P. HERRON, NOT the Association and with application form posted to Mrs P. Herron, 3 Enoggera Road, Beverly Hills, NSW 2209 — Phone (02) 759 5491.**WELFARE REQUEST**

Two Association members have volunteered their services in visiting Pioneers at Lady Davidson Hospital, Turramurra, and we seek the co-operation of the member's family in notifying direct these two delegates.

It is suggested they be notified early because on occasions they have visited only to find the members had been discharged sooner than expected.

Pleasant contact: KEN STUART phone 449 6393; FRED CALLAWAY phone 487 1949.

KILLING LOATHED*The following article headed "Diggers loathed killing" was written by Ken Stuart 2/1 and published in the Telegraph-Mirror on September 20. All Pioneers will agree with Ken in his statement.*

I am quite sure that A. S. Booth (16.9.91) was not even born during World War II, so where does he get his information that a lot of gun-owners are ex-servicemen?

I write as a Rat of Tobruk with 5½ years' service in the AIF and, later, New Guinea and Balikpapan. You do not carry a nine-pound Lee Enfield rifle every day for all those years and wear a Webley pistol for three of them to come home and clean and collect guns.

Incidentally, gun-happy troops make poor soldiers. They lack the discipline and camaraderie which are the essential virtues in a serious business such as war. We quickly weeded them out as "cow-boys" and too unreliable.

So line the streets, as you always do, next Anzac Day, and just remember that every one of those codgers marching (now in their 60s and 70s) were once young men and women who left their jobs to become sailors, airmen and soldiers and came back some five years later loathing killing and war. Collect guns, Mr Booth? Where did you get that from?

K. STUART, Turramurra

LAST POST**GWEN COLLIS**, wife of Jack 2/1, passed away on July 27 at Brisbane Waters Hospital after a long bout of kidney disorder.

The funeral was held at the graveside of the Point Clare Cemetery at Gosford on July 31 and a fine Eulogy was read by Tom Lavery, Federal Secretary of the Rats of Tobruk Association.

In attendance were 12 members of the 2/1st Pioneers as well as numerous members of the Central Coast Rats of Tobruk Association of which Jack Collis is President.

On behalf of the Association the Secretary extended sincere sympathy to Jack and his two sons Brian and William.

BERT HERNE 2/1 passed away on September 18 and the funeral was attended by Roy Jardine and Bill Tasker who read the Eulogy.

The service at Rookwood Cemetery was carried out in part by the Welfare Officer from the Newtown RSL.

MYRTLE JOPSON, wife of the late Sid Jopson 2/1, passed away in August at Inverell Base Hospital. Our sincere sympathy is extended to her daughter, Ann Hanson of Newcastle.**WAL MCGREGOR** 2/1 of the War Veterans Home at Narrabeen was accidentally killed on October 6, 1991.

The funeral service was held at St Roses Church Collaroy and the burial took place at Mona Vale Cemetery.

The Welfare Officer of Dee Why RSL Mr Larry Burke carried out the Poppy Service and Laurie Kelly 2/1 read the Eulogy.

Numerous members of the War Veterans Home were present including May Smith, a friend of Wals, who made all the funeral arrangements.

Jill Doyle, nee McGregor, daughter of the late Bob McGregor, represented her mother Joyce who was unable to attend.

Sympathy from the Association was extended to Wal's daughter, Pat Hackett, by Bob Lake and Jack Kerslake who represented the Association.

GORDON WHITELEY of Aust. Corps. Signals and brother of Vic Whiteley 2/1 passed away on September 4. Sincere sympathy is extended to Vic and family on their sad loss.

CUT OUT — Fill in particulars — GOSFORD REUNION — 26-27 SEPT., 1992

Surname

Known Name

Ladies Name Phone Unit

Address

ACCOMMODATION: If booking required fill in number of persons under each night —

OWN BOOKING: If arranging own accommodation fill in number of persons under each night —

FRI	SAT	SUN	MON

ATTENDANCE: Insert number of persons — CAR TRAIN

REUNION DINNER: PICNIC LUNCH: FAREWELL DINNER: