

PIONEER NEWS

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1994 ANZAC ACTIVITIES

Although the Wreath Laying Ceremony and the Anzac March are the same details as in previous years, it is important that members note carefully there is a change of venue for the Anzac Day Reunion Dinner and for the date of the Annual General Meeting.

WREATH LAYING — Sunday, 24th April

The Wreath Laying Service will be held at 7.30 p.m., on Sunday, 24th April and the assembly point will be on the corner of Martin Place and Pitt Street, G.P.O. side, at 7.25 p.m.

This has been an important event organised by your Committee and it is here we pay homage to all our mates who gave of their lives. Let us pledge to be at this ceremony, if at all possible, and ladies are also welcome.

ANZAC DAY MARCH — Monday, 25th April

The forming up of the march will be the same as in previous years for both units — 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 city newspapers for any change in the assembly points.

ANZAC REUNION — Monday, 25th April

The Anzac Day Reunion Dinner will be held at: THE OCCIDENTAL HOTEL 43 YORK STREET, SYDNEY.

The Committee made the decision to move from the Redfern Town Hall because the small band of workers had found it impossible to carry on with the arduous task of carrying out the work at this hall. At the Occidental Hotel everything will be done by the staff.

DIRECTIONS: After the march board train at Museum and travel to Wynyard. Proceed up esca-

lators to York Street exit — turn right into York Street towards Central — travel to the first street (Erskine Street) and the hotel is on the south side corner. Enter from York Street to hotel foyer.

PROCEDURE on entering foyer:

1. NAME TAGS issued at first table by Bob Lake/Geoff Finlay.
2. MEAL COST of \$10 paid to David Herron/Ray Law.
3. ENTER LIFT and proceed to the 1st Floor and be seated at table. (Three tables will be reserved for 2/2nds who march with the 7th Division and arrive late.)
4. REFRESHMENTS from bar: beer, midgy \$1.50, schooner \$2.
5. LUNCH SERVED at 12.45 p.m. Roast beef or chicken, vegetables, buttered roll. Waitress will serve to table of 10. One member from each table to collect meal tickets.

ANNUAL MEETING — Friday, 27th May

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday, 27th May at the Redfern R.S.L. Club, corner of Redfern and Gibbons Street, Redfern, at 1 p.m.

The reason for the date change is because after last year's Anzac functions the Secretary and Treasurer pointed out to the Committee that their task in preparing for all the Anzac functions, e.g. Annual Meeting, Wreath Laying, Anzac March and Anzac Reunion Dinner over two consecutive days had become too arduous for them. Upon this request the Committee agreed to the change of date to 27th May.

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, Mercantile Marine, Pilot Services 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 3rd September, 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.

Why pull it down, when it has flown over 90 years of Australia's history as a nation?

The flag is a symbol — it speaks for the nation's history and soul. The pattern which emerges when the flag is unfurled tells of the birth, the growth, the trials, the glories and the hopes of the people who fly it.

Critics of the Australian flag are all united against the presence of the Union Jack. This is the number one target. The following is the type of statement made by the critics: "We are now a nation which has come of age. We must stand on our own feet and show the rest of the world that we are truly independent. It is, therefore, essential that we free ourselves from our colonial past. How can we expect other people to respect us while we use the flag of a foreign nation? Let us show the world a distinctive Australian image."

This type of criticism is not a manifestation of maturity, but that of immaturity and shallowness. It also lacks that logic which its authors often stress.

Tradition is not something which can be dismissed as a "blind clinging to a past which no longer matters". Tradition is the accumulated wisdom of the past, learned in the long years of a people's history. Those who will not learn from the mistakes of history are doomed to keep on repeating those mistakes.

The Union Jack not only symbolises the truth that the overwhelming majority of the people who explored, pioneered and developed Australia were English, Irish, Scots and Welsh background, but that every aspect of social, cultural, constitutional, legal and religious life had its roots in the United Kingdom.

The Anzacs who stormed the beaches at Gallipoli did not feel subordinate to anyone, nor did they feel they were searching for a "new identity". They fought under the Australian flag. El Alamein was one of the turning points of the Second World War, where Australians took place with troops from all parts of the Crown Commonwealth. All fought under flags in which were incorporated the Union Jack. HMAS Sydney flew our flag as she defeated the German ship Emden in the First World War. The first allied flag raised in Singapore after the Japanese surrender in 1945 was an Australian flag made in secret.

In two World Wars, in Malaya, in Korea and Vietnam, Australians have fought against totalitarianism under the symbol of the Australian flag. It is this flag which symbolises Australia's real heritage, which has been so closely associated with everything worthwhile in Australian history.

A nation tearing down the symbols of its heritage is a nation engaged in destroying itself through vandalism. Those who wish to preserve the nation's heritage for their children's future must at all times proudly display the symbols of that heritage.

— Keep our Australian flag flying!

THE 2/2nd AUST PIONEER BATTALION

Final article of the series covering the Battalion from the formation in June, 1940, to the 50th Anniversary in 1992.

PART 7 — THE JAPANESE SURRENDER

On 9th August, the day a second atom bomb was dropped, this one on Hiroshima. On 15th August the official news was received and excited troops celebrated with rifle fire and singing and shouting. The Japanese Government had accepted the surrender terms.

On 8th September, 1945, Admiral Kamada signed the surrender of all Japanese forces in Borneo. The process of demobilisation had already begun, those with 5 years service and a minimum of 2 years overseas service being the first to be on the way home. Two small parties of the 2/2nd Pioneers who had been prisoners of war for 3½ years were aboard ships which called in at Balikpapan. They were warmly greeted by the members of the battalion who were allowed on board.

On 8th October the 2/2nd Pioneer Battalion was declared redundant and the men were drafted to units of their choice. Many went to the 2/33rd Battalion. Others went to 2/10th Battalion and various other units. There were some who volunteered for 65th Battalion, established for garrison duties in Japan. Those with the required number of demobilisation points were transferred to 2/1st Machine Gun Battalion and 2/6th Independent Company. A proportion of regimental funds accompanied each draft. Eventually Maj. W. A. Robertson assumed command of 2/33rd Battalion until it too was disbanded.

TROPHIES TO WAR MEMORIAL

A committee consisting of Maj. W. A. Robertson, Lieut. J. Drummond, Sgt. J. White, Cpl. E. Loveridge and Pte. N. A. Robinson recommended

that battalion trophies be given into the custody of the Australian War Museum. The proviso was made that, should an authorised association be formed by men of the 2/2 Pioneers, the trophies might be given to that association.

So ended the official existence of the 2/2nd Australian Pioneer Battalion, and eventually those who had survived the more than 5 years of its operations, returned to their homes and loved ones. Official associations were formed and Pioneers still gather to meet their old army mates. Those who died in battle and as prisoners of war, and those who have passed away over the years are remembered when Pioneers meet. — LEST WE FORGET.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

It has been a pleasure for me to publish the seven part series of the story of the 2/2 Pioneer Battalion. My thanks to the following: Jack Allison, Ray "Butch" Buchart, Bill Cunneen, Bob Ginnane, Ray Harris, Russ and Rona Harrison, Bob Lee, Allan McInnes, Len Preedy, Charles Richardson, Bill Robertson and George "Squizzy" Taylor. The Committee also acknowledge using the 2/2 Pioneer Battalion History by E. F. Aitken and Pioneer News copies of 1982 and 1990.

The seven part series has filled the need for the battalion history because of the scarcity of the history book — not many were printed and it is now nigh on impossible to obtain a copy. I only hope our readers have kept all the copies so that they can keep it to show their families — many times I have been asked by sons and daughters for a history of the unit their father served in. I can now refer them to the 2/2 Pioneer Battalion's seven part series, which in due course I intend pasting up and photocopying as a complete booklet.

— MAX HERRON, Editor

MAIL BAG

Editor: BOB LAKE

First issue of Mail Bag for 1994. Quite a few letters received, and always willing and able to answer same. Hope everybody enjoyed a happy festive season and hopefully many more to come. Now, on to the letters.

JOYCE ACHURCH, widow of Kevin 2/2, Croydon, with a sub for the News and her thanks for still receiving the paper so long after Kevin's death. Always reads them and finds them interesting as she recognises a lot of the names. Also was pleased to see the article on Rev. Albert Pitt-Owen as he was Acting Rector of St. Johns at Ashfield for a while and she always enjoyed his sermons. Thanks for your good wishes Joyce.

FRED ALWAY 2/1, Beaumaris, Victoria, with a short note, a donation and his kindest regards to all. Still keeps in touch with his old mate Ken Collier, 2/1, who is still having big problems with his foot and finds it hard to get around. Fred had a trip to New Zealand recently with a few friends and caught some big fish in the Bay of Islands — enjoyed everything but their beer. Can't win 'em all Fred.

CYRIL AMIES 2/1, Thornleigh, with an interesting letter and the news that Doris has retired from active classroom teaching, so that they have been able to do a lot of travelling over the past year. Visits to Brisbane have enabled them to catch up with family and to realise how they are all growing up. Rail travel to Perth was very relaxing and surprisingly the Nullabor was under water. Using the bus and rail systems of Perth they travelled extensively and enjoyed the glorious displays of wildflowers, for which the West is famous. Followed this up with a trip to Fiji — spent seven days on a Blue Lagoon Cruise and a further week at the Fijian Hotel. Not hard to take at our time of life! Have found a little time to do some gardening chores on the home front, and for a game of bowls occasionally as a diversion. Closes with best wishes to all.

DON ANDERSON 2/1, Merimbula, per pen of good wife Dora, with a letter of thanks for the News and a donation to funds. Don looks forward to reading same and there is always a familiar name to bring back old memories. They trust all Pioneers were out of range of the bushfires and hoped for decent rains shortly — says they may have to do a "rain dance". Had a trip to Melbourne recently to see two grandsons play in baseball competitions and both she and Don do their share of barracking. Both lads reached the finals in their respective age groups.

LIONEL "SNOWY" ANDERSON 2/2, Victoria, with a card to Peg and Max for the Christmas season, a cheque to the Association and his many thanks for the newsletter.

JUNE BIRRELL, Mudgee, widow of Bob 2/1 and 2/2, with a letter of thanks for the News and a cheque for the Treasurer. Still enjoys receiving same, even though Bob has been dead for 18 years. Thank you for your continued support, June, and we wish you all the best for the future.

KEITH BOYLE 2/1, Moama, per pen of wife Marj, with a donation to funds and news that the floods along the Murray had passed them by, although the river was the highest it had been this century. Marj reports that Keith had to go back into the nursing home last June as his condition had deteriorated and the constant lifting had exhausted her. They were both very upset, but were grateful for the months that she had been able to care for him at home. He is now able to come home once a week and one weekend a month and he really looks forward to these outings. About six weeks prior to her letter, Keith had taken a few steps, with help, and it has given them both hope that eventually he may walk again. Certainly given him something to work for, Marj, and we hope he continues to make good progress. All the best to you both and many thanks for your note.

TERESA BRENNAN, widow of Bill 2/1, Altona, with the sad news that Bill had passed away in December, 1993. When Bill had written in June last year he wasn't well, but Teresa and her family had not realised that he would slowly get worse and he

died peacefully in his sleep at home. Our sincere sympathy to you and your family. Teresa wants to continue with the News as she knew a lot of Bill's mates and they often used to get out old photos of "the mob" and browse through them. Many thanks Teresa for letting us know of your sad loss and, as you say, 47 years together is a fair step up the ladder of life, but like all Pioneer wives I know you will carry on and your family will give you plenty of support. Our warm wishes to you and yours.

LES BRITT 2/1, Cairns, with a cheque for the Treasurer and a thank you for the News and looking forward to receiving the April issue. Good luck, Les, and keep sober.

JACK COATES 2/1, Umina, with two newsy letters since last paper which keeps us in touch with all the Central Coast crowd. At last meeting of Rats at Davistown saw Harry Hamer and Glad, Blue and Edna Miller, with an apology from Ivor Garnon. However, all were in attendance at Christmas luncheon at Tuggerah, plus Roy Jardine, Jack Pearce and Robyn Edman (daughter of George 2/1) from Sydney and a good day enjoyed by all. William Collis (son of late Jack and Gwen) is at sea once again on the "Perth" and misses his parents very much. Jack and Lex have been to Narrabri recently visiting family and had a good trip on the XPT. Said the ghosts were still hanging over the fence at Greta and reports that they are finally building on the old campsite. Passed on lots of family news — young ones finishing courses at university and tech, mis-haps at Soccer, chicken pox, appendicitis — you name it — but now on the mend. However, says Lex is fine, but Jack, least said, Has been spending a lot of time at Concord in recent weeks, but still ticking on. At least can still say "Tigers to roar in '94" and can say it louder than Lakey. Good luck and stay sober.

NORMA FITCH, widow of Harold 2/1, Rydalmere, sends regards to all Pioneers and hopes they have a happy and healthy 1994. Also enclosed a donation to keep the News flowing.

CLIVE HARRIS 2/1, Aberdeen, with a cheque for the Treasurer which he says is long overdue (his words). Both he and Betty are keeping well and have only just returned from a holiday in Tasmania — did the Island top to bottom and sideways and arrived home a bit leg weary. Don't tell me you walked all the way — we hired a car when we went. Thanks for the good wishes and best of luck to you both.

LEO HEALEY 2/1, Hampton, Victoria, with a cheque and the news that he will be up to Gosford in January to see his brother. Max Herron sends special regards to you, Leo, remembering happy days in the Signals Platoon. (I like that — didn't Bill Thomas call them "performing seals"?)

PAM HERRICK, daughter of George Bates 2/1, with a thank you note to Peg and Max and best wishes for Christmas. Was especially pleased to see the venue for Anzac Day had been changed to the City and hopes the "new home" will be successful. Pam said her dad just finished six weeks of chemotherapy and the doctor has given him the "all clear". She and her son Damian were off to Singapore for Christmas — hope you had a good holiday Pam.

DES "MICK" GREEN 2/1, Wattle Grove, with a change of address and a cheque to cover subs. No writer's cramp for you Mick — but I guess no news is good news. Keep sober, old mate.

JOHN HUNT 2/1, New Farm, Queensland, with a long letter and the sad news of the death of Charlie Kerr, which is dealt with in "Last Post". He and Mollie-Jean had a very pleasant visit with Nell Laughren just before Christmas when they were up on the Sunshine Coast to attend a school concert in which their grand-daughter was involved. They were also going to visit Nell Davenport and going out to lunch. John wonders how much the change of the date of the Annual Meeting will have on the number of "out of Sydney" members now that it will no longer be held on Anzac Eve. This remains to be seen, but was a Committee decision. Good letter John and best wishes to you and Mollie-Jean.

FRED KILLEN 2/1, Warners Bay, with a sub to keep in our good books. Enjoys reading the News, but always sorry to hear of departed members. Health-wise Fred is ok but has a bit of eye trouble — still manages to play a few games of bowls so is a lot better off than others. Thanks for good wishes Fred.

MARY LLOYD, widow of John 2/1, with a card to the Herrons while holidaying in England over Christmas. The weather was cold, but she was really enjoying her trip. Suppose you think we envy you (we do) but welcome back you old "Tike".

MIN LEIS, widow of Joe 2/1, Casino, with a letter enclosing a newspaper story of Jack Martin. We had already seen a copy, Min, but Max will keep it amongst his Pioneer memorabilia. Glad to know that you still enjoy the News and your family is also interested. With regard to the Polish Medal this has been "scrubbed" by the Polish Government, so will not be issued to Aussie troops who served with the Poles in Tobruk. Thank you for your letter with cutting, Min, and good health and happiness in 1994.

DORRIE LONG, widow of Bob 2/1, Sutherland, a card for Christmas and a donation enclosed for funds. Sends all Pioneers greetings for the year ahead for which we thank you Dorrie, and we hope you keep good health during the coming year.

HEATHER MARSHALL, widow of Dick 2/2, Victoria, with a welcome letter and news from her new home in Koondrook. Dick had seen the house after he knew he had cancer and decided to sell their house in Queenscliff and settle Heather before he became too ill. He died 16 days after she moved in. The year has gone too quickly and Heather has been kept busy. Drove up to Proserpine to see her daughter and a brother at Caboolture, was away about eight weeks and says she is lucky to be healthy and able to do these things. Also has two daughters living not far away, so is kept busy. Heather sends her very best wishes to Max and Peg and was delighted to hear from them. Also sends best wishes to all the "Pioneer Gang".

HARRY MOWBRAY 2/1, Cleveland, Queensland, with Christmas wishes to all Pioneers and the news that he will be down for Anzac Day. He will arrive early on 25th and go back the same night, so I presume this is not the visit to Sydney you have been talking about. He has not been too well since returning from his trip to the States, with a couple of bouts of bronchitis, but maybe the weather has a lot to do with it. Closes with best wishes to all from Dot and himself. Had a good laugh over the sketch you sent — certainly true Pioneer spirit.

TOM McGUINNES 2/1, Laurieton, with an apology for being late with sub for the Treasurer but with the loss of his wife a couple of months ago things are just starting to sort themselves out. Our sincere sympathy to you, Tom, on the loss of your dear one. Keep your chin up and stay well.

JEAN MCINTYRE, widow of John 2/2, with a cheery card to the Herrons. She is well (more creaks than an old gate) but still manages to get around. Sends kind regards to all and best wishes for a happy 1994.

JOHN MCKNIGHT 2/2, Dundas, with a short note and a cheque enclosed for Treasurer. John leads a fairly quiet life lately and doesn't travel much, owing to a troublesome right ankle, but health otherwise good. Was off to Newcastle for Christmas — hope you made it ok and your best wishes passed on to all.

KEVIN "GUNNER" NOLAN 2/2, Merimbula, has been finally shamed into writing a letter. He has appreciated receipt of the News for a long time, but the inclusion of the Kapooka Camp card was too much!! It was of particular interest to Kevin because, although he has never been there, he will be shortly visiting a grandson who just joined the Ready Reserve and so 50 years on Kevin will make the acquaintance of Kapooka. They still say "you'll be sorry".

GEORGE NICHOLS 2/1, Cronulla, with the sad news of the passing of Lloyd (Porky) Graham suddenly in the early days of December, 1993. George attended the funeral in Queensland, returning to Sydney the same night. He and Jean were stunned by the suddenness of his death as Lloyd had spent three days with them only two weeks previously. George and Lloyd were very close mates, meeting at the Hordern Pavilion on their very first day in the army and in their fifty odd years they had never had a cross word. George personally cherishes so many memories of their times together and feels that fate is unfair at times, especially to Lloyd, who worked so hard to get what he had, and then wasn't allowed to enjoy the fruits of his labour. The passing of Lloyd has left a huge void in the Nichols' household and I would say that the same applies to all of us that had the pleasure of knowing him,

of serving with him, and sharing so much the pleasure of his company over the past 50 odd years. Our sympathy to his wife Dot and our thoughts are with her in these sad days.

NEV O'CONNOR 2/2, Tintenbar, with a newsy letter on his doings and his trips to "Trek Back" in Cairns. Has not been keeping the best of health since his back operation 12 months ago and still had severe pain in the hips. Now finds he has to have a hip replacement, which is scheduled for early this year. Was in Sydney recently for an eye appointment and it has confirmed that the sight in the left eye has almost gone. Nev remarks on how so many of our guys have eye troubles (too many keyholes), eye operations and hips and knee replacements are the order of the day. He has been in constant touch with Ray Harris since he moved to Ballina, and Ray's health has not been the best. Has had several trips down to Concord for treatment and at last report not the best. Do hope by now, Ray, things are going better for you. Neville and Bet really enjoyed their trip back to the Tablelands and the reception given to the returning troops was unbelievable. The people of Queensland are really the only ones to realise how close the Japs were to Australia, and they have not forgotten. It certainly brought back some vivid memories and well worth the effort made to get there. He and Betty were the only Pioneers to go on the trip to New Guinea and Nev feels that without her encouragement he would not have gone. Port Moresby was filthy, no going out at night and plastic bags by the thousands blowing about the area. They flew to Lae — Nadzab is the airport, as the strip at Lae is not used. The war cemeteries at Moresby and Lae are well kept and it was no trouble to find graves of former comrades. There are plaques on the sites to tell the story where units were and the 2/2 Pioneers and the 503 Parachute Battalion got a big mention — and don't think Nev wasn't backward in bringing it to the notice of their party. Glad you both enjoyed your trip and hope the health problems improve in the next few months.

PETER PEILE 2/1, Caringbah, per pen of Erika (as usual) sending best wishes for the Christmas period and a sub towards the News. They are almost unpacked after their move last year and Peter has kept himself busy getting the small garden in order. Says it's a good size — about as big as two billiard tables. Best wishes to you both.

BERN REINERS 2/1, Corryong, with a letter to Max and Peg wishing them all the best for Christmas. The Herrons and Kerslakes did a trip down that way in November and stayed with Mona and Bern for a couple of nights. Bern is always good for a joke and they all spent some happy hours together. Spent a pleasant day's outing to Khancoban and to Scammells Lookout in the Snowy Mountains, and were fortunate to still see snow on the main range. Certainly lovely country in that part of the State. Closes with best wishes to all and keep fit.

CHARLES RICHARDSON 2/2, Queensland, with a report also on "Trek Back" and said it was a wonderful experience and he was most thankful that he was able to attend. Said it was more like a homecoming than a visit. The organisers were all volunteers and there wasn't a hitch in the proceedings. Charles met up with Nev and Betty O'Connor and Mac and Lorna English, so the five of them joined forces for most of the functions. The big event on the Saturday was the arrival of the troop train and the march of the troops. The most noticeable feature was the friendliness of the Diggers — all talked to one another as if they had known one another all their lives. The troops of the Far North Queensland Regiment supplied the Guard of Honour at the various receptions and they were dressed in the old uniforms of the 40's with the old webbing and 303 rifles and each one of them wore a colour patch of the various units who had been on the Tableland during the war. The "Trek Back" Committee produced an excellent video of the event and this can be obtained from Cairns Legacy Club, P.O. Box 131, Cairns, Queensland, at a cost of \$25, plus \$3.50 postage. Charles met only one 2/1 Pioneer who was adamant that the 2/1st were 7th Division. We were only with 7th Division from our move to Kairi in September, 1944, for the duration of the war. Many thanks for your letter, Charles, and look forward to seeing you in the near future.

LARRY ROBSON 2/1, Stockton, with a card to Max and Peg and the news that he now has his electric wheelchair and able to get about. He has been elected Chairman of the Residents Committee at the nursing home, so something to keep him busy. Closes with best wishes to all. Keep well, Larry.

HARRY SPREADBOROUGH 2/1, Queensland, with a card for the festive season and a sub for the Treasurer. Harry and Jean celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on the 1st January, 1994, and had an Open Day for family and friends. You will join a lot of the blokes all celebrating 50 years of marriage in recent months, as a lot were married on the leave of late 1943. Congratulations to you both on your special day. Harry had a cataract operation in September and is slowly getting his sight back. Some seem to take longer than others. All the best, old mate, and kindest regards to Jean.

BONNIE SNUDDEN, widow of Cec 2/2, with a thank you for the News and for the card commemorating the opening of the Chapel at Kapooka. She would like two more if available. (Max has attended to this Bonnie, and you should have them by now.) Bonnie trusts that all Pioneers are as well as can be expected at this time of life and not too many hiccups in 1994. Many thanks for your kind wishes and on behalf of all Pioneers we wish you all the best.

GWEN STRODE, sister of Keith Jones 2/1, K.I.A. Balikpapan, with a sub for the Treasurer and expressing good wishes to all. She enjoys reading the News even though she does not know anyone concerned, but she knows that they knew brother Keith and that's what is important to her. Many thanks, Gwen, and best wishes to you.

GEORGE "SQUIZZY" TAYLOR 2/2, Victoria, with a letter to say how much he appreciated the News and the card on Kapooka. George was discharged from 2/2nd at Trinity Beach and would appreciate to hear from anyone who remembered him — and would answer all letters. He is now 82 and has had his share of health problems with artery trouble, but doctors will not operate because of his age. His son looks after lawns, etc., but George cares for his wife who is also suffering health problems. However, he says "there are a lot worse off than us". Closes with best wishes to all that may remember him.

ERIC ("BOMBO") REYNOLDS 2/1, Macksville, with a short note to say he and Joyce had just returned from a trip to Victoria to visit their daughter, Alison, and family who live at Trafalgar, about two hours from the airport. They took advantage of the cheap airfares and flew down. Eric was sorry to hear of the passing of Bert Sullivan in February, said he was a good mate. They have had some welcome rain at Macksville for which they were very happy. Closes with best wishes to all.

ALBY BARTON 2/1, Gulgong, with a note of thanks for the Pioneer News and kind words of praise for all those who spend time putting it together. Says he is feeling a lot better after his bypass and will attend the march and ceremony at Gulgong on Anzac Day, but will remember all who gather in Sydney for the march and the "get together" afterwards. Many thanks for the donation to funds, Alby, and our warm wishes to Gwen and yourself.

● That concludes the Mail Bag for this issue. Our cricketers are doing ok and the footy about to begin. Manly has had one win \$100,000 so we won't be completely stoney broke. When Peg Herron reads this I would not be surprised if I were asked to resign, the writing is shocking (maybe I could speak into a tape) — anything is better than this. My left hand and arm are still not working properly, but apart from that I can't complain — still enjoy a noggin of ale, haven't had a smoke since Mothers Day, 1993, so could say I've become a bloody wowser. Good Luck — LAKEY

WAR MEMORIAL REQUEST

The Australian War Memorial, at Canberra, has sought access to the Association's mailing list in order to send a copy of their newsheet "Despatches" to all our members.

This request was put to the February, 1994, Committee meeting and was agreed upon. This means that all our members will receive a copy of the newsletter, but each member has the right to reply and state the copy is not desired.

The Memorial is conscious that many people in the community do not fully understand the complexity of the Memorial's activities and are not familiar with the complete range of services they provide. Naturally they are eager that all Australians understand what a valuable resource the Memorial is.

One of the ways they can achieve this is to keep people informed about their activities and provide a forum for them to seek information, such as help them find records, like a father's diary and war letters, or perhaps the citation of his award. They are, therefore, producing a twice yearly newsletter, "Despatches".

They are also seeking donations so as to improve their research centre and the Association has responded by sending a \$50 donation. If any of our members also wish to send a donation to this worthwhile cause they may send it direct to Australian War Memorial, G.P.O. Box 345, Canberra, A.C.T. 2601. Cheques to be made payable to Australian War Memorial Development Fund.

2/1st-2/2nd PIONEERS, W.A.

by President LEN PREEDY

We had a good attendance at our November meeting at ANZAC House. Joan and Jack Monger were early arrivals. Joan contributed to the conversation but Jack can't join in with his loss of hearing, but Jack we all think well of you so just keep on. You brighten the place up. Jack Stewart did his usual by dropping in for a while and helped keep the 2/1 flag flying, we missed Barry Hunt who had leave of absence but should be back next meeting. Ethel and John McDougall are regular attendees and Norma and Bob Sefton brightened the scene. Jean Lyford and Beth Lee kept the ladies scene a bit brighter. Norm Le Cornu got around to talk to all and Neil MacPherson rounded up the P.O.W. boys with Hugh Sorley and Ted Rowe; Neil had a list of 52 W.A. Boys who joined the 2/2 at Hill 69, Palestine, January 1942. We are having trouble finding the whereabouts of them. Another 2/2 man has passed away, Ken Walker from E Vic Park.

The finance was getting very grim, but some help arrived from Lyn Wilson, Hazel and Bill Sutton, Jack Murray, Norm Le Cornu, Jack Monger, Bob Sefton, Ted Rowe, Neil MacPherson and Jean Lyford, thanks to all, much appreciated.

To all who were not able to attend the Remembrance Day Ceremony at Kings Park and would like to know where the Pioneer tree is, I'll try to describe its position. It is in Lovekin Drive on the south side of the road, after leaving the roundabout by the memorial and about a kilometre west. About 100 metres past the parking area in Lovekin Drive.

The Remembrance Day Ceremony was impressive, also the dedication later. We are looking into 2 colour patches to go on the post for the plaque.

Calling Jack Crispin! Several were asking about you, hope you are ok.

We did have some correspondence from Hazel Sutton from Wongan Hills and Olive Buller from Esperance. Also a phone call from Alf Bentley, re: Kalbarri holiday. Hope it worked out. Phone call from Dick Hobley from Esperance who Joy and I missed when we were at Bremmer Bay, we enjoyed the wild flowers, they were great.

Regards to all Pioneers — looking forward to hearing from you and see you at our next meeting.

CHANGES TO BE CAREFULLY NOTED

OCCIDENTAL HOTEL — 43 YORK STREET, SYDNEY
ON 25th APRIL FOR ANZAC REUNION DINNER (change of venue from Redfern Town Hall)
27th MAY, 1994, FOR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
AT 1.00 P.M. — REDFERN R.S.L. CLUB
(change of date from Anzac Eve)

WHERE ARE THEY?

Eric Causer asked this question, after Max Herron recently visited Bern Reiners. As the three of them were in the Signals Platoon together they asked that all the names they could think of being with them, between 1943-5 be published as follows:

Eric Causer, Wal Parsons, Les Denham, Jim Robertson, Max Herron, Bern Reiners, Les Nicholls, Sam Gardiner, Gordon Gentles, Allan Crute, Charlie Kerr, Bill Edgerton, Lloyd Luckie, Allan Jensen, OK Watson, Jack "Blue" Pitman, Doug Shearston, Bill Hutchinson, Norm Hume, Jack Caughey, Ron Macfarlane, Arthur White, Leo Healey, Ron Gash, Jack Comerford, Gordon Gillett, Keith Reynolds, Reg Wells, Fred Brooks, Strawb Day and Ossie Thurling.

2/2nd WAGGA REUNION

Members of the 2/1 and 2/2 Associations are invited to attend a Reunion at Wagga, on Tuesday, 25th October, 1994, and Wednesday, 26th October.

This Reunion is being organised by the 2/2 Pioneer Battalion Committee, which was formed to make all arrangements for the 2/2nd colour patch on the door at the Kapooka Chapel. All enquiries regarding the Reunion are to be made direct to Ian Willmore and members are requested to send the deposit slip below, with their cheque, made payable to:

IAN WILLMORE, P.O. Box 387, Vacluse, N.S.W. 2030

The timing of the Reunion relates to the inauguration in October last year of the Soldiers' Chapel at Kapooka, where the 2/2 Pioneer Door features among others, at the entrance to the Chapel.

For all those who have worn the purple and white, the 2/2 Pioneer Door is a symbol of the ties which have endured for 50 years and more.

So too, in a sense, the Reunion will be a pilgrimage to a site which has significance not only for those who passed through Kapooka, but for all who passed through the Battalion from the beginning to the end.

Essential details are as follows:

Tuesday, 25th October — Arrive Wagga. Dinner at night at Club.

Wednesday, 26th October — Morning Service at Kapooka. Lunch — Barbecue Uranquinty Hotel. Evening — Buffet meal at Club.

Accommodation: Members will need to arrange own accommodation. Wagga is well provided with motels and a caravan park.

The following motels have agreed to allow a 10% discount for Pioneers. You should request this discount when booking.

CLUB MOTEL, 33 units. Ph: (069) 21 6966.

ASTOR MOTOR INN, 43 units. Ph: (069) 21 4328.

PARK MOTEL, 26 units. Ph: (069) 21 4301.

Transport to Kapooka/Uranquinty: Bus transport will be provided, if so desired, on Wednesday, or take your own vehicle. (Wagga Police are known to be proficient with a breathalyser.)

BOOKING FEE: \$10 per person, payable with application.

For catering and other arrangements, we need to know as soon as possible the numbers intending to come.

PLEASE NOTE THAT FINAL DETAILS WILL BE ADVISED LATER IN THE YEAR WHEN FIRM ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN CONCLUDED.

CUT OUT — Fill in particulars — 2/2nd WAGGA REUNION

Surname: Known Name:

Ladies Name: Phone: Unit:

Address:

TICK: Dinner ☐ Kapooka Service ☐ Uranquinty Barbecue ☐

Farewell Buffet ☐ Kapooka/Uranquinty Trip: Bus ☐ Own Car ☐

Booking fee for Reunion \$10.00 per person enclosed.

(Cheques payable to Ian Willmore please, NOT the Association.)

LAST POST — "We Will Remember Them"

MICK PUNTON 2/1 of Padstow, passed away on 20th September, 1993, at his home after he had been in ill health for a long while. Mick was a regular attendee on Anzac Day and always sat with the Treasurer at the door of the Town Hall. We thank his wife, Margaret, for notifying us with the details and extend to her our sympathy.

KEVIN PAGET 2/1 of Singleton, passed away in the John Hunter Hospital at Newcastle on 2nd December, 1993. He had a coronary heart attack from the effects of emphysema, from which he suffered for many years. Many thanks Rona, for supplying us with these details and please accept our sincere sympathy.

"MONTY" REID 2/1 and 2/2 of Cessnock, passed away on 7th December, 1993, of a massive stroke. He was 79 years and would have had his 80th birthday on 15th February, 1994. Monty was a regular correspondent to the Pioneer News and wrote some very good articles. Thank you to his daughter for sending us the details and please accept our sympathy.

LLOYD GRAHAM 2/1 of Clear Island Waters, Queensland, passed away on 12th December, 1993. George Nichols, who was a close friend of Lloyd's, attended the funeral at Ellambie Gardens on 14th December. Also in attendance were friends from the 2/17th Infantry Battalion, who Lloyd transferred to in the latter part of the War, the President of the Surfers Paradise R.S.L. Club and a group from the Mermaid Beach Bowling Club. Lloyd, who was known affectionately in the 2/1st as "Porky" had come down early in December to visit George and stayed with him for three days so it came as a shock to hear of his sudden passing. We are grateful to George for attending the funeral and extending to Dot the sincere sympathy of the Association in her sad loss.

BILL BRENNAN 2/1 of Altona, Victoria, passed away on 11th December, 1993, and the service was held at St Mary's Church Altona. We are grateful to daughter Maureen for supplying Bill Tasker with the details. Sympathy from the Association was extended to Teresa, his widow.

CHARLES KERR 2/1 formerly of Maryborough and late of Gatton, passed away on 29th December, 1993, and was buried at Gatton lawn Cemetery on 4th January, 1994. Toby Palin travelled down from Maryborough and participated in the R.S.L. section of the service. He also arranged a floral tribute on behalf of the Association. There was a good attendance of members from the Gatton R.S.L. Club and also from the Gatton Bowls Club, of which Charlie was a member. Charles served in the 2/1st Signals Platoon as a corporal. Sympathy is extended to daughter Cathie and son Frazer and their families. We are grateful to Toby Palin and John Hunt in sending us the sad news of Charles' passing.

RON MAHER 2/1 of Regents Park, passed away on 18th January, 1994, and the funeral was held in the South Chapel at Rookwood Crematorium. Bill Tasker read the Eulogy in which he spoke of his association with Ron in the unit. We are grateful to his daughter, Cheryl Holland, for supplying us with the details. Cheryl travelled down from Darwin to

attend the funeral and on behalf of the Association we extend to her sincere sympathy to all members of the family.

NOEL SMITH 2/1 of Bathurst, passed away on 4th February, 1994, after a long battle with cancer. His wife Mavis writes that he was a great mate and father to his two daughters and that he is now out of pain and marching on. Thank you for notifying us Mavis and please accept our sincere sympathy.

BERT SULLIVAN 2/1 of Gosford, passed away in February, 1994, and the funeral was conducted at the Gosford Uniting Church. Bill Wright attended the funeral service and said it was the most moving tribute to any person he had ever witnessed. Bert was an Elder of the Church and practiced a Christian faith equal to any minister, according to Bill, who had heard Bert deliver many sermons in the Chapel of the hostel where Bill resides. Bert also took church services in other retirement villages as well as visiting hospitals and nursing homes each week, wherever there was a need. Bert's three sons and daughter spoke highly of not only a loving father, but of a good friend. Bill said he wished every Pioneer could have heard the moving tribute the children paid their father, and he prays that the memory of Bert Sullivan will live in the minds of his family and friends forever. Thanks to Bill Wright for the above details and for passing on to the family the sincere sympathy of all Pioneers.

STEVE MORGAN 2/1 of Ashfield, passed away on Saturday, 5th March, 1994, and the funeral was held at Rookwood Cemetery on 9th March, after a mass at Ashfield. Bill Tasker read the Eulogy and took part in the Poppy Service. Steve was taken Prisoner of War in Tobruk while serving with the 2/1st and was a sergeant with B Company on a patrol in the vicinity of the Bardia Road when captured. Thanks to Steve's wife, Jan, for passing on the details to Bill Tasker and please Jan accept our sincere sympathy in your sad loss.

Following are extracts from Reveille: NX 69850 - M. J. Butler, 2/1; NX 52718 - Jack Maxwell 2/1; NX 97662 - K. Selve 2/2; NX 71327 - W. A. J. Smith 2/1; NX 52640 - Tom Hensley 2/1; NX 29943 - David King 2/1; NX 24508 - Tom Towers 2/1; NX 18836 - Aub Ridgely 2/1; Leo Cornelius 2/2; NX 50840 Reg Hales 2/1; WX 14229 - Bert (Buck) Press 2/1; NX 125780 - T. J. Chatman 2/1; NX 91588 - M. C. J. Denton; NX 34589 - H. E. Tweedle 2/2; NX 17909 - Jack Garnham 2/1; WX 14262 - G. W. Jordon 2/1.

SICK PARADE

BILL TASKER, Welfare Officer, reports he had visited the following: FRED CALLAWAY in Lady Davidson Hospital at Turrumurra. RON CALLAGHAN in hospital with heart problems. JACK DOLAGHAN in Concord Hospital. ERIC LINDSAY, of Coonabarabran, flown down by air ambulance to Prince Alfred Hospital.

HARRY SHIELDS had been in hospital and visited by Jack Kerslake. MAX LAW and JIM FIELD are still in nursing homes.

THE INFANTRY MUSEUM

The Royal Australian Infantry Corps Museum, located at Singleton Army Camp, is well worth a visit. It is open Wednesday to Sunday between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. (Closed in November.)

Bill Robertson recently visited the museum and found it most interesting, but was disappointed that there were no exhibits regarding the Pioneers, apart from a lonely 2/1st colour patch. The curator said he would be interested in donations of any army memorabilia, particularly in reference to the Pioneer Battalions. Anyone interested may contact Major Jim Johnstone (Curator), Royal Australian Infantry Corps Museum, Milpo, Singleton, N.S.W. 2331.

ANZAC PROGRAMME

WREATH LAYING SERVICE

Sunday, 24th April, at 7.30 p.m.

Martin Place and Pitt Street, G.P.O. side

ANZAC DAY REUNION DINNER

Monday, 25th April, at

THE OCCIDENTAL HOTEL

43 York Street, near Wynyard Station

PIONEER NEWS

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Editors: R. LAKE and M. HERRON

President: BILL JOLLIE

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JULY, 1994

Welfare: BILL TASKER, phone 718 6658

2/1st - 2/2nd ANZAC ACTIVITIES

WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

Twelve Pioneers attended the Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Cenotaph on 24th April with Jack Tooker as Marshal. The unit banners were carried by Noel Grant 2/1 of Altona, Victoria, and Jack McDonagh 2/2. Wreaths were placed on the Cenotaph by John Gilchrist representing the Association and Kay Burton, daughter of Bert Rayner (2/1 deceased) for the Ladies Auxiliary.

John Gilchrist recited the Ode to the Fallen and Aub Brasier sounded the bugle for the Last Post and Reveille.

ANZAC DAY MARCH

What other country in the world has a day which means so much as Anzac Day does to Australia.

We cannot fail to be deeply moved by the solemnity and reverence displayed by the people of Sydney who turned out in such large numbers, packing footpaths and vantage points along the route.

The news media with national television, radio and newspapers gave a very full coverage of what we Australians have done in two world wars and subsequently in Malaya, Korea and Vietnam honouring the dead and giving due respect to the survivors.

A very pleasing aspect of this year's march was the great number of Australian flags being waved by the cheering crowds (many being new to Australia).

The march, as always, was very well attended and it was gratifying to be part of it and see so many of our chaps carrying on despite many of us with disabilities. "Lest we Forget".

— ALLAN MCINNES

ANZAC DAY REUNION

This year's reunion was held at the Occidental Hotel in York Street, Sydney, which is close to Wynyard Station. It is a centrally located hotel with easy access to transport. There was not a lot of elbow room compared to the Redfern Town Hall. However, everyone found a seat and settled down to enjoy the function with 105 in attendance.

President Bill Jollie gave his speech of welcome and carried out the formal activities. He then called on Patron John Gilchrist to address the gathering. John spoke of how on this day we commemorate those who made the ultimate sacrifice in war which makes Anzac Day the most emotional day in our national calendar.

REUNION TABLE TALK

Vic Whiteley and Doug Shearston were well positioned to ambush the troops and collect the donations while downstairs the issue of name tags and collection of meal money were in the capable hands of sons, Ray Law, Geoff Finlay and David Herron. Gordon Finlay and Bob Lake assisted.

Country areas were well represented with Bill Hoffman, Kyogle, Ken Wilson, Lismore, Tibby Martin, Matt Elliott, Tom Wood, George Walker and Bluey Locane from the South Coast. Peter Craig came out of the mountains and joined D Coy 2/1st group which included Jim Gray, Jack Lamerton, Bill Hodges and George Tolmie. Jack Crouch from Ballina was accompanied by his son, Ray Harris was not well enough to travel to Sydney. Snowy Dodd from Tuncurry and Tom Morgan from the same area came to Sydney for the march and reunion. Bert Beasley flew down from Brisbane just for the day. We take our hat off to all those chaps who travelled such long distances to be with us.

As the afternoon wore on, those present moved from table to table talking to old mates and sinking a few noggins. Max Herron was most relaxed at a table with Noel Grant from Victoria, Gordon Finlay and Jack Pearce. Others doing the rounds were Bill Tasker, Jack Tooker, Steve Clarke,

George Nichols and Stan Jones. It was good to see so many of our officers enjoying themselves.

Laurie Kelly brought along his own bottle of special "jungle juice" brewed at Moresby in 1943 and was handing it around for anyone who was game to have a try.

Harry Mowbray flew down from Thornlands in Queensland and extended apologies from Harry Spreadborough. Bill Hoffman extended apologies from Toby Hale and Jack Shearman and said he missed the company of Betty Creasy, who was not able to come to Sydney this year.

Alec George from Lismore extended an apology from Clancy Scholes, who has not been well of late. Alec had his son-in-law with him who made sure Alec was in good order and condition.

Noel Grant from Altona, Victoria, came up with his wife Jean and he was very proud to have carried the 2/1st banner at the Wreath Laying. After Anzac Day he was travelling up north for a few months and would probably return home sometime in August.

Doug Shearston did a good job carrying the money bag for Vic Whiteley prior to the march as Max, who usually does this job, was tied up attending to queries from the chaps about how to get to the Occidental Hotel.

Bluey Miller went well for his age as he went the full distance of the march and reckons it was the beat of the terrific band that kept him going. He had his two sons with him to make sure he made the Occidental.

Robyn Bell, daughter of the late Leo Morris 2/1, came up from Harkaway in Victoria and attended the Wreath Laying Ceremony and also the Reunion where she was looked after by Sam Lewis. Robyn brought along her dad's photo album and said it was great to talk with some of Leo's mates.

— Reported by RUSS HARRISON

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Hon. Secretary
Pioneer Bn Association

Dear Max,

I enjoyed the Anzac Day March and the Reunion Dinner so much that I feel impelled to applaud the efforts of your Working Committee for making it all happen.

I thought the decision to move from Redfern Town Hall to the Occidental Hotel well founded.

The venue was most accessible and the meal supplied was excellent. The girls were most pleasant and appropriately attired.

The "coup de grace" I thought was the sight of the bright white linen table cloths and the beautiful large purple dinner napkins — a sight for any Pioneer to see.

I felt so sorry that my mate "Porky" Graham, who was associated with the catering profession for so long, was not able to have enjoyed the day with us.

I thought John Gilchrist's talk was very much to the point and excellently delivered.

And Jean, my wife, had a smile on her face when I arrived home reasonably early as in past years "Porky" has always been around to steer the boat — hence this time I had to take extra precautions.

Because of the absence of my mate I approached the day apprehensively but I am pleased now I made the effort as I thoroughly enjoyed the day.

Ten out of ten Max, to yourself and to your Working Committee who assisted in making Anzac Day, 1994, such a resounding success. Love to Peg.

— GEORGE NICHOLS 2/1st

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Association was held on Friday, 27th May, 1994, at the Redfern R.S.L. Club at 1 p.m.

The meeting was opened by Chairman Allan McInnes standing in for President Bill Jollie, who was unable to attend. After the Ode to the Fallen the Chairman welcomed members with a special mention to new members, and those who had travelled long distances such as Doug Shearston from Forster.

Election of the Senior Office Bearers being Bill Jollie President and John Gilchrist 2/1 and John Williams 2/2 Co-Patrons.

With the attendance at 27, which was four more than the previous year, indicated to the Executive that the change of date from 24th April as previously, did not deter members from attending on the new date.

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

27th MAY, 1994

During the past 12 months two committee meetings and a special meeting were held, all of which were well attended and for which I thank all the committee concerned. Also during the year many Pioneers attended the dedication of the new chapel at Kapooka Army Camp and the entombment of the Unknown Soldier at the Canberra War Memorial. It was indeed an inspiration to see the banners of both the 2/1 and 2/2 Pioneer Battalions march abreast up Anzac Parade.

Anzac Day this year was again a great success. Approximately 70 2/1st led by our Patron John Gilchrist and your President, whilst approximately 40 2/2nd marched led by Allan McInnes. Both units were covered on the television. The loss of the Bankstown Police Youth Band caused some dismay, but this loss was soon overcome with the advent of the City of Sydney Youth Band which was magnificent. I have spoken to the Band Master and requested that we would like to adopt his band to which he has readily agreed.

The luncheon was a great success in our new environment, "the Occidental Hotel". Approximately 105 sat down to the lunch which was well catered for whilst the bar service was excellent. The management of the hotel were more than happy with the conduct of our members and are looking forward to next year's reunion.

Our finances are still in good shape thanks to our Treasurer, Vic Whiteley, who as always has carried out his duties in an exemplary manner.

To Bill Tasker and his cohorts we owe our gratitude for their visitations to the sick and attendances at the many funerals of those who have passed on.

The Pioneer News continues to be the life-line of the Association. Three publications have been printed during the past twelve months, the cost of which, especially postage, is ever increasing. The Association relies solely on the contributions received from members, so please give generously and appreciate the untiring work of the Editors, Max Herron and Bob Lake. A vote of thanks also goes to members of the Wrapping Committee without whose assistance you would not receive the News.

Far too many of our members have passed on during the year under review and to their families and loved ones we extend our sincerest sympathy.

I would like to extend, on your behalf, appreciation to the President and Directors of Redfern R.S.L. Club for the use of their facilities for our meetings free of charge.

Finally, and in all sincerity, we all owe a debt of gratitude to both Max and Peg Herron for their untiring efforts in furthering the interests of the Association as without them I feel sure the Association would wither and die.

— President BILL JOLLIE

MAIL BAG

Editor: BOB LAKE

Another issue of Mail Bag, some 50 odd letters, so I will definitely finish up with writer's cramp this issue. Into it —

REG ARMSTRONG, 2/2. Coonabarabran, puts pen to paper with the news that he will not be in Sydney for Anzac Day. He will fall in with the local R.S.L. group this year and with a bit of luck Eric Lindsay 2/2 may be able to march too. He encloses a cheque for Vic and a thank you for the News, which he only gets to read after Coralie has finished. Wishes us all the best for the big day and sends his regards to all the Pioneers and their ladies.

BOB BALDIE 2/1. Victoria, with a short note and a cheque for subs. He has had a cataract operation and is doing well — can do without glasses. Likes Tooheys Blue and says its a good drop. Closes with best wishes to all.

PHIL BARNETT 2/2. Alstonville, with a few words of praise to the Committee for the job they are doing and encloses a cheque for the Treasurer. Sends us his best wishes and still looks forward to receiving the News.

ROBYN BELL, daughter of Leo Morris 2/1, with a letter to Max and a contribution to Pioneer News, and her thanks for letting her share Anzac Day with us. She was very impressed by the poem by Ray Law, son of Jim, called "I Wasn't There", what a wonderful verse. Max has posted you back numbers of the paper and a few photos that we have duplicates of, so hope they will be of interest. (Have just received a further note from Robyn to say she had received the back numbers and photos and how she enjoyed reading them. Also makes mention of Padre Albert Pitt-Owen and how Leo helped with the services. — Max.) Best wishes to you, Robyn, from the Pioneer Battalions' Association.

GORDON BELL 2/2. Tumburumba, with a note requesting copies of Parts One, Two and Four of the series covering the 2/2 Pioneers as he has mislaid his copies. Max has posted these to you, Gordon, and hope they arrived safely. Gordon wishes to be remembered to his mates in H.Q. and D Coy and says he often sees John Dowd and Dudley Staniforth, and sends regards to Bob Lee.

ALF BENTLEY 2/1. Western Australia, with a cheery note to the Secretary and says he won't be with us for Anzac Day, but hopes all have a good time and enjoy the day. He and Pat hope to get over again in the future, but have just visited Adelaide for the National Swimming Titles and then a week in Tasmania which has left finances a bit on the short side. Sorry Fred Wheaton didn't show up this year either, Alf, but your best wishes are passed on via the News.

JACK BERTRAM 2/1. Hamilton, with an apology for his non-attendance on Anzac Day, but asks to be remembered to all. Jack and Jean are both well and Larry Robson happy enough at Westcott now that he is mobile and gets a lot of pleasure pottering in their workshop. Closes with best wishes to all.

MAVIS BLANCH, widow of Joe 2/1, Beaudesert, with quite a newsy letter, still keeping well and finding plenty to keep her occupied. Last month enjoyed a bowls tour to Inverell and says it was nice to see that part of the country again. Also went to Moree and Mavis was quite surprised that where Charlie Wilby used to live at Pallamallawa now has a hotel and some shops. Last November she had a trip with the over 50's to the Snowy Mountains on a Wildflower Tour, but did not have a stop-over in Sydney. The coach did have a half day in Canberra each way, which was enjoyable. Glad you think Manly has improved this year, Mavis, and I won't hold it against you for sticking to the Broncos, but what for I can't imagine. They will get their a---s kicked this year. Best of luck to you, Mavis, and keep sober.

LEN BROWN 2/2. Elmore, Victoria, with a cheque for the Treasurer and regards to all who remember him in D Coy. Thanks us for sending the Pioneer News and also the card commemorating the opening of the Kapooka Chapel at Wagga.

RAY BURROUGHS 2/2. A.C.T., with a cheque to put him in the "black again". Things are quiet down

Canberra way since his old mate Gordon Sheen 2/2 passed away. They grew up together in Canberra and joined up at the same time. Meets up with Bill Lewis and Don Linton from time to time and catches up on the news. Closes with best wishes to all.

COL CAMERON 2/1. Campbelltown, per pen of wife Jean, with a cheque for the Treasurer and letting us know that Col was in Lady Davidson at the time of writing and unable to be with us on Anzac Day. Hope you are on the mend, Col, and our best wishes to you and your good wife.

FRANK CAULFIELD 2/2. Benalla, with a cheque for the Treasurer — upped a bit this year as printing and postage costs are increasing. Many thanks. Frank had a marvellous time at the 2/2 Reunion in Melbourne for Anzac Day and it was made rather special by Colonel Williams celebrating his 90th birthday. He is a remarkable man and gave a wonderful speech after the Reunion. Frank says "he wouldn't have missed it for quids". Also mentioned the D Coy boys might be interested to know that their old Sar-Major, Bob Sutton, was sitting at the same table as Frank. Thanks for the photos, Frank, and Max will display them in the Pioneer album.

BRUCE CHAMBERS 2/1. Hornsby, with a cheque for Vic and best wishes to be passed on to Bill Jollie, Vic Whiteley and Bob Lake. Hopes all have a great day on the 25th, which is Bruce's 75th birthday. Trust you had a great day too, mate, and best wishes from all Pioneers.

FRANK CHEAL 2/2. Victoria, with a long overdue letter. They had fine weather for Anzac Day in Melbourne, a good march but numbers thinning out. He's glad to see the News is still moving along nicely and he gets a kick out of receiving his copy. Max has sent you the address of Mrs Paget at Singleton. Wishes all the very best and says to keep up the good work.

JACK CLAYPOLE 2/1. Matraville, with a letter saying the coverage of the march was only "just", saw the two banners but no one else. He hopes everyone enjoyed themselves at the Occidental with a few ales and a few mates. Jack wonders if the Peter Peile mentioned was "Basser" Peile of 14 Platoon, C Company, he and Billy Sutton used to drink with "Basser" at Murder Paddock — where the hell is that? The phone number of Ernie Jamison is 816 4753 — so don't lose it again. Glad you are not that bit younger, Jack, who the bloody hell would want to read about your army career. All the best old son, and keep sober.

RON CLARK 2/1. Kingsford, with a note conveying best wishes to all Pioneers and a cheque for the News. Many thanks, Ron, and glad to hear you find it good reading.

JACK COATES 2/1. Umina, a nice long letter as usual with plenty of news and his apologies for non-attendance on Anzac Day. He had it all worked out — he was to lunch with the 2/3 Battalion at City Tatts and then slowly wander up to our new venue, but it was not to be. Two cancer operations on the shin and arm put paid to that. He has also more cancer trouble on the face, but is waiting until after the Rats meeting at Tuggerah Lakes R.S.L. As far as the Hamers, Millers and Ivor Garnon, they are all ok. The Millers are very much involved with the Central Coast Cancer and Palliative Care Group. Over the past few years the Group has raised some \$350,000 to get a cobalt machine at Gosford, as patients have to travel to Wahroonga at present five days a week for six weeks for treatment, travelling by bus daily and really doing it the hard way. Thanks, Jack, for your mention of Lakeys Sea Eagles, they are going along quite nicely thank you. Jack has seen Brian Collis signwriting around the area recently and said William is at sea again on the Perth. (Both sons of our late Jack Collis.) Jack and Lex are still keeping their feet on the ground. Lex busy making cakes for street stalls, granddaughter Vanessa has a graduation coming up so will have to attend or cop the grandfather of all baggings. All the best to you both, good letter Jack.

BETTY CREASY, widow of George 2/1, Portland, with comments of good crowds at the march and apologies for non-attendance this year with leg problems. Thought the television coverage was good, but had an interruption and missed the Pioneers. She had a good view of Vera Hamilton, one of our adopted nursing sisters, and says she never looks any different. Bet enclosed a clipping from the Portland paper with a write-up of the

George Creasy Memorial Trophy, for the best scratch score, and one of the Portland Golf Club's most prestigious trophies. Sounds like George is still a well-remembered personality around the area. We had a pretty good day at the Occidental, a few teething problems, but hopefully they will be sorted out next year.

VINCE CULLEN 2/1. Peakhurst, per pen of wife Eve, with a letter and sub for Treasurer. They have both been busy with visitors from Wales staying with them and thanks to their family were able to show them as much of this great country as possible. Went to the Blue Mountains, Jenolan Caves, all round Sydney, then on to Evans Head, the Gold Coast, west to Moree, then another week in Sydney. Seems a good trip. Eve, and I'm sure it was really appreciated by your visitors. Glad to know Vince is still keeping well. Closes with best wishes to all.

ALBY DEAN 2/1. Shepparton, with a sub for Vic and the news that he is well on the road to recovery after an operation in February. Apart from that both he and his wife keep reasonably good health. The floods that were around Shepparton left Alby well alone and he felt sorry for the people devastated by fires in our State. Kindest regards to you both and keep smiling.

JOHN DOWD 2/2. Wagga, with a donation to funds and a resume of Anzac Day in Wagga. John has some bother with peripheral vision, not very good, and he cannot read back what he has written. (There's nothing wrong with my eyes, John, and I have the same trouble.) Only Jack Morgan and John were there from the 2/2, although Sid Booth popped in for a few minutes, as Sid had to go to the Victoria Hotel where his grandson and friends were — the grandson had just marched out from Kapooka the previous day. Wagga had a big crowd and good weather, with a large attendance of young people. John sends regards to all here in Sydney and trusts all are keeping reasonably well.

NITA FERRIS, widow of Leo 2/1, Kyogle, with a short note and a cutting from the "Kyogle Examiner" with a wartime story of some of the local men. Sometime when space permits we may be able to print the poem, Nita, so shall keep it in our files. Thanks for the thought, and hope you are keeping well. All the best to you and your family.

HEATHER FLACK, great-niece of Hugh Wiggins 2/1, with a letter requesting information of the Rats medal that was made in the Desert. Heather has part of the medal and Max has written to you and filled you in with the details of this medal. Hope this satisfies your query, Heather, and thank you for your donation to funds.

JOHN FLOOD 2/1. Penrith, with a short note and donation to the Association. He will not be down on Anzac Day, but will be with us in spirit, says the years spent together in the Unit were always very special. John says he appreciates the work of the Committee and congratulates those responsible for the Pioneer News. Best wishes, John, and thanks for your kind remarks.

STELLA GRANGER, widow of Bill 2/1, Schofields, with a card wishing us all the best for Anzac Day and a donation to funds from the Granger family. Many thanks, Stella, and keep well.

FRANK GILLIAN 2/1. Maroubra, with an apology for non-attendance on Anzac Day, due to a clot in his leg, and we hope by now it has cleared up. They can be a bloody worry at times, especially as we get older. What price Manly now. Gillian, 61-0 against St. George!!!

TOM GAISFORD 2/2. Balwyn, Victoria, with a change of address after 55 years in the one house. It became a bit hard to maintain so moved into a unit, and at the same time remarried — both moves have been highly successful. Good news, Tom, and best wishes to you both. Tom sends special wishes to 2/2 Tank-Attackers.

TOBY HALE 2/1. Kyogle, with a letter telling us he is still enjoying good health and he and Vera are able to get about to bowls and housie a couple of times a week. He still has a few prize fowls and wins an occasional prize at local shows. Toby attended the Rats dinner at Lismore recently and had a good day. Met Jack Shearman, Ted Felton, Dave Burt and Jim Hall, all 2/1st, but there were about 50 Rats present. Toby says he does not march on Anzac Day as even the band gets out of step with him, so he does not shame them. Wishes to be remembered to all Pioneers.

DICK HOBLEY 2/1, Bremer Bay, Western Australia, with a sub for the Treasurer and the news that he and Sheila went for a holiday last September-October towing a caravan up through the Centre. After Port Augusta, Ayers Rock, Alice Springs, Camowear, Cloncurry, went north to Normanton and Karumba and then on to the Atherton Tableland where they stayed for three days. Had a good look round the old camp sites, all changed somewhat, before heading down the coast to Brisbane, then on to Toowoomba and Stanthorpe. Made a point of calling on Vic Donald 2/1 and brother Bob at Glen Innes and over a "cuppa" had a good old yarn. Both those old warriors look fit and well. Dick was writing this letter in the carpark at Jerramungup, at least I know where that is. Sends best wishes to all for a good roll-out on Anzac Day and kind regards to all who remember him.

CLIFF HILL 2/1, Murwillumbah, with a short note including subs for the Treasurer and to say he is always pleased to receive the Pioneer News. Eric transferred to the 2/4th Pioneer Battalion in the latter stages and saw the war out with them. He sends regards to all Pioneers.

SID HOLMES 2/1, Sussex Inlet, with his first letter for some time and included a cheque for the Treasurer. The book of the 2/1st Pioneers gave him an insight into the Middle East campaign as Sid joined the Battalion on the return to Australia. Sid is saddened always to read the Vale column but there is not much we can do about it because as the saying goes — "There comes a time". I don't like that comment about anyone that beats Manly (Lahey) but my shoulders are broad and I can take it.

JOHN HUNT 2/1, Queensland, with the news that they will not be down for Anzac Day or the meeting this year but hopes both will be successful. I might have to take your advice John and get a typewriter as my writing is getting worse with each issue. John hopes that all Pioneers are well and says "old age is not so bad, when you consider the alternative". John and Mollie are well and he said he is keeping the asthma in control.

TED JENSON 2/1, Doonside, with a card written at Maryborough, Queensland, where they stayed four weeks at a caravan park and then on to their daughters place. Their daughter has four children aged one, three, six and nine years — two boys at school and two girls at home. Apologies for not attending the Annual Meeting but that was the day they left for Queensland. Ted's comments on the Anzac Day Reunion were: beer good, service good, food plates big, food scarce.

JACK KEMPNIICH 2/1, Fingal Bay, per pen of wife Maisie, saying that she meant to write months ago. Both have had their ups and downs, but she would like to have more of the ups. Maisie said that the football has been good, the cricket has been super. In fact any sport that keeps her watching the idiot box is alright by her. Jack is still walking down to the beach each day about 3 kilometres, for a spot of fishing but has been having a lean time lately. There are days that Maisie would go with him but not at 5.30 a.m. Maisie has just arranged booking a tour to fly to Darwin, then bus down to Perth covering 22 days then back to Sydney by the Indian Pacific with a week stopover in Adelaide. They have decided to sell their caravan as they only use the car to get around the town, and use public transport when they go long distances. Maisie enquired after May and Cec Sloggett and as they have a letter answered in this issue Maisie can read all about it. Jack's garden is a little neglected at the moment as he is so busy going fishing, doing the cooking and keeping the home brew going. Maisie says "Up the Knights Lakey, we nearly done ya." My reply — Lakeys Manly is slapping lots of a---s at the moment, ha ha, and glad to be doing it. Keep well Maisie and Jack — love you both.

DICK KENNEWELL 2/2, Brighton Le Sands, with a cheque for the Treasurer which included a sub for Alf Ballard as well as himself. Both Alf and Dick have had problems with health. Dick has leg problems and there is always the chance of him having a fall so he keeps close to home these days. Passes his regards to all the boys.

NELL LAUGHREN, widow of Pat 2/1, of Nambour, with a cheque. Pat often spoke of Father Gard in Tobruk and enclosed an article from the local newspaper containing his exploits in the Desert which is too long to publish here. Nell has had a bad couple of months with arthritis and then topped

it off with Ross River Fever. Good luck for the future Nell.

ERIC LINDSAY 2/2, Coonabarabran, per pen of Norma and a request for a second copy of the April issue of Pioneer News as the last one was lost while Eric was in hospital. Many thanks to Bill Tasker for visiting Eric in hospital. He is now at home as his problem was inoperable, and under the tender loving care of Norma. Best wishes to you both from all your friends.

TONY LLOYD, son of the late Jack 2/1, with a note thanking the Committee for the invitation to attend the Anzac Day Reunion Dinner and looking forward to seeing us again next year. For those who did not know, the working sons at the Redfern Town Hall over the many years, were invited to have dinner with us at the Occidental.

NEVILLE "BINDI" MOANE 2/1, Curl Curl, with a cheque for the running of the paper. Not much else but I suppose it will have to do, at least you have put pen to paper so I won't scream too loud. All the best to you old mate.

JACK MCGREGOR 2/2, Shortland, with the usual cheque and the news that he and wife Dot are still holding their own in the aging race so far. They watched the march on television and appreciated the stalwart body of men, who made it all possible while Jack reclined in an armchair. Lucky bugger as I marched for the first time in 21 years.

ROY MCGREGOR 2/2, Maitland, with a cheque and apologising for getting around to putting pen to paper so late. He is still becoming used to his new leg and learning just what he can and can't do. Railway stations are definitely off limits, with all those overhead stairs. Sends best wishes to all.

DON MURRAY 2/2 Tinonee, with a note saying that they have had drought conditions up that way for the past 12 months but as he writes his letter the rain is falling and it is a great sound on the roof. Sends best wishes to Larry Robson from a former pea grower — ten peas to the pod. In answer to your query George Taylor VX 74090 now lives at Warrnambool. Don was in Melbourne last year and caught up with Bill Hanson, Frank Baugh and his wife, and George Murphy. Melbourne turned on its warmest August on record, also had a meal with "Cleo" but she is upstairs now and still as lovely as ever.

BRUCE RICH 2/1, Narrandera, with a short note and a sub, saying he appreciates receiving the News. Bruce has a problem with Parkinsons Disease and of course this restricts his activities somewhat. However, keep your chin up Bruce and keep sober, with best wishes from the big smoke.

CHARLES RICHARDSON 2/2, Queensland, with best wishes for a happy Reunion and sorry he will not be with us on the day. He will be attending the local function with number two son and number two son-in-law. Charles has plenty of friends in the Wynnum R.S.L. but it still does not add up to a reunion with Pioneers. Sorry about that mate, you will have to do better next time.

LARRY ROBSON 2/1, Stockton, with a request to pass on a cheque and the news that he has had a few ups and downs, more ups than downs. Larry said he would watch the march on television and hopes that the coverage is a bit better than last year and closes with best wishes to all.

CEC SLOGGETT 2/2, Gunnedah, with a cheque and always happy to receive the Pioneer News and read about the folks they know. Both Cec and May are both well with Cec doing quite well at bowls and has had a good run of late with a few wins under his belt. Have had a couple of trips away to Queensland and last one went to Gladstone, but are home for a spell now, with plenty of firewood to be gathered to be ready for the cold weather but they need rain badly. Sends best wishes to all and hopes everyone is well.

BRYAN SMALLHORN 2/1, Armidale, with a note expressing his sympathy on reading George Nichols' report of the passing of "Porky" Graham. Bryan went through the Officers Training College with "Porky" and again at Canungra while waiting posting to units. When he learned Bryan was posted to the 2/1 Pioneers "Porky" went to great lengths to tell him of the record of his beloved Battalion. "Porky" would have loved to have swapped boats with Bryan but he would not have fitted into Bryan's uniform in those days. Kind regards to all.

DANNY SPROUSTER 2/1, Dundas, with a sub and the news that he keeps in touch with George Bates, Frank Gillian and Dick Blakeney. They had a day out a few months ago and a good time was had by all but the light ale keeps you on the run. Frank has had a trip to hospital and is taking it easy. Danny is looking forward to another day they have planned to be together. Danny is feeling alright but said his eyes are not as good as he would like them. Maybe they are getting a little bit on the aged side Danny.

RON WEBSTER 2/1, Bass Hill, with a letter written on 26th April saying sincere thanks to all who work and make Anzac Day a success. Congratulations to President Bill Jollie for arranging the band at the last minute, as Ron says a band gives a person that little extra enjoyment and encouragement to keep on going the full distance.

TED WILCOX 2/1, Oakdale, with a change of address up to the high country — very cold but better than his last place. He was able to attend Anzac Day, and he had a good time but had a rough trip home as he felt crook and two soldiers helped him down to the train at Wynyard and then they spoke to two policemen who helped him onto the train. One policeman said, "You sit in that seat, Ted." He later found out he still had his name tag on his coat. Apart from that Ted says a good day, good beer, good meal, good service, and above all, good mates.

COLONEL JOHN WILLIAMS 2/2, Sefton, with a thank you for the Pioneer News, and said it is great to be kept up with the news. He was in Melbourne again this year for Anzac Day and was 90 years old on the day, which is quite an achievement. "You are not kidding" — but as John says over part of that time he had a lot of good mates and they all helped. Thanks for the cheque and kind regards, John.

TIM WOOD 2/2, Terrigal, with a cheque and a thank you for the Pioneer News. Tim has kept every copy of the paper and he reads every line. He has not been able to attend the functions or reunions because of ill health as over the last ten years he has had two knee replacements, one hip replacement, both kneecaps have been resurfaced plus two hernia operations. I guess you could say Tim is really a walking wounded. Tim says if his legs improve he will try to attend the reunion at Wagga. Tim remembers vividly marching into Wagga camp in 1942 before it was completed. He was a member of the Carrier Platoon H.Q. Coy. Sent regards to all Pioneers and wish every success for Anzac Day.

NEV WOODHAM 2/1, Queensland, with a note to say they arrived home after a month down south and said it was great to see so many old faces on Anzac Day, just a pity that the day is over so quickly. Nev has had a problem in the posting of his Pioneer News but Max has posted a new one on 17th May. As to your hint of another reunion Nev, you will have to be very nice to Max and Peg although like you say, it is a lot of work, but we would all be in it.

BILL WRIGHT 2/1, Gosford, with a thank you for a great Anzac Day and a request for two phone numbers which Max has posted to you Bill, but I will give you two bites of the cherry. Sam Lewis 997 8188 and Bill Doney 428 3704. Good luck.

MAVIS HALL, daughter of our late Patron Lilla O'Malley Wood, with a donation to funds and a letter to Max and Peg from her new surroundings in Narromine. She is very comfortable but misses her old friends and hopes to have a trip to Sydney when the weather warms up. Is lucky health-wise and closer to her family, so that's a big help. All the best to you, Mavis, and we look forward to seeing you one of these days. Good to hear from you again.

ERIC CAUSER 2/1 Victoria, rang to say he had a good march in Melbourne on Anzac Day and was at a small gathering after the march with Leo Healey, also of the 2/1 Signal Platoon. Eric passed on the address of John Cumming who was in No. 1 Platoon and has been enrolled by the Secretary. Many thanks Eric.

● That completes the Mail Bag for this issue and I think it is the biggest one I have done for some time, about 50 letters. I don't know whether to retire or buy a bloody typewriter, however, it must be getting better as you people would not keep on writing. I won't say much about the football. I have not rung Vic Whiteley since the Manly and St. George match as I don't want to hurt his feelings. Will close with best wishes to all and hope you stay sober.

— LAKEY

LAST POST

JACK SPOTTISWOODE 2/1 of Allambie Heights, passed away on 18th April, 1994. The service was held at the Uniting Church, Bronte, and the funeral was conducted at Waverley Cemetery.

Daughter Lorraine, and son-in-law Colin, invited all present to join the family afterwards at the North Bondi R.S.L. Club, of which Jack had been a member and an ardent supporter.

Casey Brown representing the Association extended our sympathy to the family. Many thanks Casey for attending and supplying all the details.

Following are extracts from Reveille and Mufti supplied by Eric Causser: NX 51048 - Terry Kearney 2/1; NX69628 - Tiny Field 2/1; NX 47807 - H. F. Bull 2/1; NX 53327 - A. P. Phair 2/1; NX 140863 - A. F. Sullivan 2/1; W. H. Lowe 2/2 of Bendigo; H. F. Walters 2/2 of Euroa.

2/2nd WAGGA REUNION

Members of the 2/1 and 2/2 Associations are invited to attend a Reunion at Wagga, on Tuesday, 25th October, 1994, and Wednesday, 26th October.

This Reunion is being organised by the 2/2 Pioneer Battalion Committee, which was formed to make all arrangements for the 2/2nd colour patch on the door at the Kapooka Chapel. All enquiries regarding the Reunion are to be made direct to Ian Willmore and members are requested to send the deposit slip below, with their cheque, made payable to:

IAN WILLMORE, P.O. Box 387, Vaucluse, N.S.W. 2030 Phone: 337 2058

PROGRAMME

TUESDAY, 25th OCTOBER

6.00 p.m.: Assemble at Wagga R.S.L. Club for refreshments and pay total fees for meals, etc. \$35.00 per person (less deposit).

7.00 p.m.: Sit Down Dinner.

Cost per person \$22.50, which includes \$2.50 incidental expenses.

WEDNESDAY, 26th OCTOBER

9.30 a.m.: Board bus for Kapooka at R.S.L. Club. By car meet at Chapel at 10.15 a.m.

After Chapel Service, proceed to Uranquinty Hotel for barbecue. Cost per person — \$12.50.

6.00 p.m.: Refreshments at Club.

7.00 p.m.: "Farewell" Buffet Meal. Please note this meal, and all drinks both days are at members' cost.

Accommodation: Members will need to arrange own accommodation. Wagga is well provided with motels and a caravan park.

The following motels have agreed to allow a 10% discount for Pioneers. You should request this discount when booking.

CLUB MOTEL, 33 units. Ph: (069) 21 6966.

ASTOR MOTOR INN, 43 units. Ph: (069) 21 4328.

PARK MOTEL, 26 units. Ph: (069) 21 4301.

Transport to Kapooka/Uranquinty: Bus transport will be provided, if so desired, on Wednesday, or take your own vehicle. (Wagga Police are known to be proficient with a breathalyser.)

BOOKING FEE: \$10 per person, payable with application towards cost of meal.

For catering and other arrangements, we need to know as soon as possible the numbers intending to come.

ANZAC DAY — ADELAIDE

This year we were only able to muster 17 Pioneers from the four battalions for the Anzac Day March. I'm afraid "Father Time" is gradually catching up with us.

However, I am pleased to report that a record 54 Pioneers, wives, friends and children attended our Annual General Meeting and Reunion at the Duke of York Hotel after the march. All those present voted it a huge success and have indicated their willingness to come again in 1995.

Len Norman and myself attended the Dawn Service in the city and laid a wreath in memory of all fallen and departed Pioneers. There was a large crowd in attendance at both the Dawn Service and the march. Here in S.A. Anzac Day remains a solemn and popular occasion by the community to show their respect to our fallen and to those of us who returned.

2/1st Pioneers who marched were Bill Thiele, Doug Waters and George Sauer. 2/2nds were represented by Harry Fenwick, Roger Monks, Len Norman, Joe Robertson, Ross Pasfield, Bruce Scott and Allan Olson. Those unable to march but attended the Reunion were Les Bence, Stan (J. E.) Clarke, Reg Cranwell, Cyril Denton and Geoff Lloyd. Apologies were received from Harry Lock and Ray Stidford.

That's all for now, hope you are all well and the very best from all Pioneers here in S.A. Cheerio.

— **ALLAN J. OLSON,**
President Pioneer Bn S.A.

NEWS ITEMS

IAN WILLMORE 2/2 attended the 90th birthday party for Percy Robinson at the Tudor House Restaurant at Forster on Saturday, 2nd July. There were 40 guests present and although 90 years of age Percy is very healthy and enjoyed the party. Percy is planning to be at the Reunion in Wagga in October.

JACK LAMERTON 2/1 contacted the Secretary and said his son and grandson spent Anzac Day at Uberi after doing a wonderful trek along the Kokoda Track. The Fuzzy Wuzzy angels treated them in a wonderful manner and have nothing but praise for the Aussie soldier. Jack had sent in a newspaper report of their New Guinea trek which Max will publish in due course.

RON CROSS 2/1 of Ballina, was presented the award of the Certificate and Gold Badge of Honorary Life Membership of the Rats of Tobruk Association on Tobruk Sunday, 10th April, at Lismore.

The presentation was made by the President of the Northern Rivers Sub-Branch, Norm Cooper, who said Ron had earned the honour after many years of dedicated work for the Rats.

Congratulations to you Ron on your award from all Pioneers.

KOKODA DAY will be held on 2nd November and conducted at the Cenotaph, Martin Place. This is to commemorate when Kokoda was retaken and the Kokoda Day Committee are endeavouring to make this a National Day throughout Australia. Look for further details in media coverage.

AUSTIE RONAN 2/1 was murdered in 1989 and on 16th June, 1994, a psychiatric patient was charged with the murder. We reported in the Pioneer News in November, 1989, that Austie had been assaulted outside his residence and after being unconscious for two weeks in St Vincents Hospital he died of injuries received.

2/1st-2/2nd PIONEERS, W.A.

by President **LEN PREEDY**

Joy and I have been away for a week at Busselton, where Ted and Dorothy Lyon called on us and had a good natter. I didn't go out to McNess's place as we were pretty busy with two sons and their families staying with us; but I did talk with his son-in-law, who told me George had won a trophy at golf. It was an unusual one and was called the N.A.G.A. Trophy. I wonder what it meant???

Ken Wilson paid a visit to the West and got around quite a bit. His wife, Ida, was a West Aussie and knew her way around quite well, so they called on quite a few Pioneers. John Ure was one, they are now back home at Lismore in New South Wales.

We had an apology from Joy Butcher and Jean Lyford for our March meeting but we had a lot of other absentees. Our regulars, Joan and Jack Monger were there. Ethel and John McDougall (John was a C Coy guy) did some tale swapping with our visitors. Ken and Ida Wilson (Ken also being from C Coy).

Beth Lee called in for a flying visit and Norm Le Cornu and Jack Stewart made up the total.

I had a phone call from a chap named Glossop on the 16th March, he had been Barry Hunt's mate. He gave me the terrible news that Barry had passed away. Joy and I spoke to his wife Millie and we put a Death Notice in the West on behalf of the Unit. We also sent some flowers to Millie. His funeral was held in Geraldton. We are missing one very fine chap, who many people thought the world of and as far as I know was an original 2/2 Pioneer. RIP Barry.

We had some mail. One was from a 2/1 member who has been a watchdog on 2/1 chaps who have answered the call. Thank you Bert Woodhouse. I love your name for that quarry in Moresby, Bert — "Hateful".

Tom Cream from Geraldton says Neil MacPherson has chased him up a bit and he went to Adelaide and may be going to Sydney for John Williams' 90th birthday. A great occasion and we all wish him well. Had a word from Dick Hobley who was wondering what has gone wrong with the weather and I agree, it's crazy Dick. You're right, Jack Monger is the 2/1 main attender even though he is stone deaf and uses two elbow crutches. He is assisted by his wonderful wife, Joan, and he gets some support from Jack Stewart.

I recently replied to a letter I received from Snowy Denton from Adelaide. Snowy was a Don Coy member of 2/2 and the only crow for a long time. He had a very hard time. In his letter he enclosed some photos and one was of our Platoon in which Shorty Campbell was in. Unfortunately, Shorty passed away a long time ago. Snowy was a self employed painter and decorator who had his 80th birthday on 17th February, 1992.

Had some donations from George Sauer, Josie Outridge, Tom Cream, Bert Woodhouse, Dick Hobley, Ken Wilson, Norm Le Cornu, Joan Monger, John and Ethel McDougall and Neil MacPherson, which helped a lot. Thank you.

President, Ted Hansen, gave Neil MacPherson a list of W.A. Reinforcements who joined the 2/2 at Hill 69, Palestine 42. In all 48 were PoW's and of these 32 were recovered and returned to Australia. Of this group, I found that 22 have since died. I was helped with this information by the Department of Veterans' Affairs and I thank them.

To Ted Lyon of Busselton. E. Nannup you asked about was missing in action in Java.

To Neil MacPherson. Sorry I can't find any news on your dad but you are in the best place over east. Try the records in St Kilda Road or the records of the War Museum in the ACT.

That about all for now. Cheers and regards to all from Joy and I.

SICK PARADE

ERIC LINDSAY 2/2 of Coonabarabran, was in hospital in Sydney and visited by Bill Tasker in April. **FRED CALLAWAY** 2/1 of Wahroonga, had a long stay in Lady Davidson Hospital.

PETER CRAIG 2/1 of Leura, was in Lady Davidson Hospital in May for treatment.

CES PEAK 2/1 had a spell in Concord Hospital and at the same time his wife was in Royal North Shore.

CUT OUT — Fill in particulars — 2/2nd WAGGA REUNION

Surname: Known Name:

Ladies Name: Phone: Unit:

Address:

TICK: Dinner ☐ Kapooka Service ☐ Uranquinty Barbecue ☐

Farewell Buffet ☐ Kapooka/Uranquinty Trip: Bus ☐ Own Car ☐

Booking fee for Reunion \$10.00 per person enclosed.

(Cheques payable to Ian Willmore please, NOT the Association.)

PIONEER NEWS

Phone: 759 5491

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Welfare: BILL TASKER, phone 718 6658

WAGGA CHAPEL ANNIVERSARY REUNION

The 2/2nd Pioneer Battalion Reunion held at Wagga Wagga on 25th and 26th October, 1994, was a great success. This was held to commemorate the grand opening of the Soldiers Chapel at the Kapooka Army Camp on Saturday, 30th October, 1993.

REUNION DINNER — 25th October

In attendance at the Reunion Dinner were 105 Pioneers and partners at the Wagga RSL Club on Tuesday night, 25th October. Among those attending from Victoria were Ted Hansen, President, and wife Dot; George Murphy, Secretary, and Jack Hocking, Treasurer and Editor of the Newsletter. A large Victorian contingent included many members of the 2/2 Committee.

Representing NSW were Bill Robertson, and Allan McInnes, who presided over the formal proceedings. These were conducted with a minimum of ceremony, but with due regard for the special nature of the occasion.

Allan Olson, President SA Association was there, and Charles Richardson had come down from Queensland. From the north of NSW we had Ken and Ida Wilson, Kevin Raward, Neville and Betty O'Connor. Ray Harris had to cancel at the last minute.

Others were there from the South Coast, Central Coast, metropolitan and outer suburbs — too numerous to name.

It was pleasing to have in attendance Joyce and George Walker 2/1st, Assistant Secretary of the 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Association, who was representing Peg and Max Herron, who had a specialist appointment that day regarding his coming operation.

A photographer from a local paper came in and quietly lined up a few likely lads, including Gavin Todd, Bob Lee and MM winner Pat Egan — an inspired choice.

Gordon Sheen's widow, Noela, was a welcome participant, as was Jean Dixon, widow of Bob Dixon 2/2, who was President of the 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Battalion Association until his demise in 1988.

LAMERTONS ON THE KOKODA TRACK

Jack Lamerton, who was with D Coy 2/1st Pioneers at Milne Bay in 1942, sent along a newspaper report about the exploits of his son, Harry, and grandson, Peter, when they walked the Kokoda Track in April of this year.

Harry (42) had done the trek in 1992, which marked the 50th anniversary of the battle for Kokoda, so he took his son Peter (14) this time because he wanted him to see the conditions the Australian soldier experienced during World War II.

Peter, who is in Year 9 at Camden High School and the youngest member of the group of 15 Australians to complete the trek in 1994, admitted he was fortunate to have had the opportunity to see the conditions the Australian troops faced during the Kokoda battle.

Before the trek, organised by a Vietnam veteran, Harry and Peter had trained at a gym by carrying loaded backpacks up steep slopes.

The trek involved rising at 4.30 a.m. each day and walking until nightfall, with an hour break for lunch. They stopped at a village each night, after travelling through steep terrain which plunged into very deep ravines, the thick jungle and the dangerous rivers of the New Guinea highlands region.

Experiencing all this made Harry and Peter wonder how our Diggers survived all the harsh conditions as well as fighting an enemy at the same time.

The group visited places such as Isurava, Kokoda, Brigade Hill, Iora Creek, and Templetons

KAPOOKA SOLDIERS CHAPEL

On Wednesday, 26th October, all assembled at the Soldiers Chapel. There the Pioneers were honoured by the presence of the Commandant, Colonel David Kibbey, who welcomed the Pioneers and contrasted their training with current programmes. The Commandant's interest and involvement was typical of the support received from the Army, without which the Reunion would not have been possible.

All then took part in a moving service conducted by Chaplain Angus McDonald. A highlight was the rendition of the Last Post by Master Bugler which touched the hearts of everyone. The beautiful Chapel was greatly admired, and the Pioneer Door was the centre of much attention.

URANQUINTY BARBECUE

Then off to the Uranquinty Hotel, where many of the reformed unit had staved off dehydration during route marches in 1942. Mine host Phillip Saywaker and his wife Karen dressed up the covered area at the rear of the pub, and an enjoyable barbecue followed.

Kevin Raward paid a tribute to POW members of the original battalion, concluding with three hearty cheers. This was the only formal part of the function.

FAREWELL DINNER

Then it was back to barracks, for a spell until evening, when many gathered informally at the RSL Club. This concluded the 1994 Reunion, another in a long line of successful Pioneer get-togethers.

On behalf of the many members who have expressed their appreciation, Bill Robertson congratulates the organisers of the Reunion, Allan McInnes, Ian Willmore and Bill Lewis for their successful organisation of the Reunion.

SANDAKAN MEMORIAL

Whilst visiting Wilks Park in Wagga at the recent 2/2 Reunion it was interesting for the members to witness the Sandakan Memorial which was dedicated on 28th August, 1984, by Father Sagers OFM, who was a Chaplain of the 8th Division from Sandakan to Kuching.

The Sandakan death march was carried out by Japanese troops, forcing sick and starving prisoners to move from Sandakan to Ranau in Brunei. 1800 Australian 8th Division personnel died as did also 750 British troops. Only five members of the 2nd AIF survived this terrible death march. Japan had transferred these POWs from Singapore to Sandakan in 1942.

The memorial is a magnificent large sculpture, with the bronze top showing the terrain where the march occurred and a string of copper depicts the route taken. Names and home towns are shown around the base and the beautiful marble slab above the base holds the sculptured terrain. "Lest We Forget."

Also in the Wagga Wilks Park, which is possibly the best memorial park in Australia, is a new memorial to HMAS Wagga, a Kapooka memorial featuring a 3" mortar gun and a "Peace" memorial.

The story of the "Peace" memorial is most interesting. Paris horticulturists had just developed a marvellous rose when Germany took Paris. Enough of the new rose was smuggled to America and botanists soon had this rose in good supply. The rose was named "Peace" just as peace was declared in Europe and the rose was perfected and now most gardens around the world grow this rose. The plaque has a beautiful "Peace" rose on each side and a bed of roses in front.

Anyone visiting Wagga should make Wilks Park a stopping place with such interesting features to see.

Reported by ALLAN MCINNES

2/1st-2/2nd PIONEERS, W.A. BY President LEN PREEDY

The meeting in July was down in numbers, but the usual reliables like Jack and Joan Monger and Bob and Norma Sefton joined Joy and I for lunch at the Anzac Club.

Apologies were received from the following: John McDougal, who is on a walking frame, waiting to go into Hollywood Hospital for an operation; Jack Murray who had the flu; Jean Lyford whose health is not good of late; Beth Lee who was away on holidays. Hope those on the sick list are feeling a bit brighter.

Since March we have received mail from the following: Mrs Keitel who reported that T. S. Maxwell 2/1, had passed away; Mrs Josie Outridge from Boyup Brook; Owen Heron from Rivervale with regards to all; Frank Stokes from Orealia; Mili Hunt from Geraldton; Dorothy and Ted Lyon from Busselton; Jack Murray from Mandurah; our wandering Pioneer Neal MacPherson and Joy Butcher from Rivervale with a change of address. Joy had so much trouble with break-ins and threatening letters she decided the safest thing was to move. They even stole a lot of her late husband's mementos and gifts he had given her — things which just cannot be replaced.

Kind donations were received from Ted Lyon, Jack Monger, Bob Sefton, Jack Murray, Mili Hunt and Josie Outridge — many thanks.

Saw Freda Due at Hollywood Hospital so hope things are still going well Freda. Cheerio to Bill and Hazel Hutton of Wongan Hills and hope everything is alright with you both.

We were pleased to send birthday greetings to two of our "young" members — Ted Lyon of Busselton, who was 80 on 7th May and Jack Monger, who was 80 on 19th July. Hope they both have many happy and healthy years ahead.

Regards to all Pioneers from Joy and myself.

NEWS ITEM

GEORGE WALKER 2/1, of Culburra, was recently awarded Life Membership of the Calala Country Club for his outstanding devotion to duty at the Club.

George is a Past President and at the moment holds the position of Senior Vice President. He has worked hard in helping to build the Club's golf course and is also a member of the committee.

Congratulations to you George, from all Pioneers.

MAIL BAG

Editor: BOB LAKE

Another issue of Mail Bag and I hope that everyone is enjoying good health, or as good as can be expected at our age, and with this issue I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year on behalf of the editors of the News.

JACK BERTRAM 2/1, Newcastle, with a short note to the Secretary re the daughter of Sergeant Ron Hay, who served with us from Dubbo to New Guinea, where he was invalided home. Her father is now deceased, but she was very interested to hear more of the Pioneers and intended contacting Max for more information. Jack also mentions that Larry Robson has had another spell in the Mater Hospital for several weeks, but hopes to be back to normal soon. Larry sends his best wishes to all. What's the idea of asking Peg Herron does Max look after her as he should — no Jack, he belts her up, kicks the tripe out of her and acts like a real b--- all the time!!! (Just joking.) Closes with best wishes to all.

TOM BLAINEY 2/1, Victoria, per pen of wife Vi, with a cheque for the Treasurer and a thank you for the Pioneer News. Tom has had a few eye ops over the past few years, so Vi has been promoted to chief letter writer. They both enjoy the News and the trips of fellow Pioneers and how they are enjoying retirement. Tom and Vi have been to Tasmania to visit friends who moved there from Victoria — a great little State, quite a few of us have made the trip and really enjoyed it. Many thanks for the letter, Vi, and your good wishes are heartily reciprocated. Your best wishes are passed on to Larry Robson per the News.

JOHN BOYD, Victoria, son of Stan 2/1 (deceased), with a long letter saying how much he enjoyed reading the back copies of Pioneer News and can understand how our members have retained their friendships for such a long time — the letters reflect their concern and support for each other. John's two sons have shown great interest in their grandfather's connection with the Pioneers and John would like to receive further copies of the News and enclosed a cheque to cover same. John has mentioned that there were five Boyds in the battalion, but only they would know whether they were related. Most of the Boyds that I remember were from the North Coast of NSW. Any Boyd reading this might like to write to John — J. O. Boyd, 14 Tinks Road, Narre Warren, Victoria 3805. Don't know whether you will get any response to this John, most of our blokes did enough letter writing during the war to last them a lifetime, but you might be lucky. John has had some army experience himself with the 30th Infantry Battalion (NSW Scottish Regiment) in 1947/48 and you would not be intruding if you were to turn up on Anzac Day, together with your two sons. Max has already notified you that you would be made very welcome. You have had more than your share of health problems, John, with heart attacks, by-passes, angina — you lucky b---, I have not had any of those things and I am 74 years young. Jokes aside, John, we will be looking forward to meeting you and the boys next Anzac Day. Hope all goes well with the new expected additions to your family.

ALLAN CRUTE 2/1, Woolgoolga, per pen of wife Beulah, with a cheque for the Treasurer and an enquiry regarding the health of Max. He is going to hospital shortly to have that ankle fixed, so we hope that he will soon be his old self again. Both she and Allan have had a few minor ailments — mostly sunspots, a few at a time, and Beulah has to have a carpal tunnel op in the near future. They used to trip off to Parkes at Christmas to visit son Denis and family, but it's too hot and too far for Allan to drive these days. They are both interested in the Red Cross, Allan is the Treasurer (keep your fingers clean mate) and Beulah has just been elected President. Have not seen Joyce and Eric Reynolds of Macksville for some time, but Joyce and Allan get on the "blower" every so often and have a natter. With regard to Jim Field, Beulah, sorry to say Jim recently passed away after a long illness. His passing will be reported elsewhere in this issue. Gordon Finlay is ok, you can't kill him with a gun, let alone

a bit of sickness. Beulah closes with best wishes to all from Allan and herself, and passes on that key saying — Keep Fit.

JACK COATES 2/1, Umina, with a card mailed in Kempsey while on tour with the Rats to Nambucca. Jack and Valda Pearce were also on the trip and all had a good time. Closes with the wish that Herrons and Kerslakes enjoyed their trip to the West.

BILL FALLON 2/2, Barraba, with a cheque for the Treasurer and a thank you to Max for his trouble in finding out the ruling regarding the wearing of medals. Closes with best wishes to all.

LIONEL FULLARTON 2/2, Orbost, with a letter saying he had received the July issue of Pioneer News and once again found it good reading, and the first name he saw was Reg Armstrong, who called on him years ago when he was still working. Lionel passed on the news of the death of Jack Brown, 2/2, who served in New Guinea, Tarakan and Balikpapan. Lionel used to call and see him every day over the past couple of years. Max has written to you personally re Keith Jones. Closes with best wishes to all for the coming Festive Season, and encloses cheque for worthy Treasurer.

STAN GAVAN 2/2, Greystanes, with a donation to funds and the news that he always finds the paper interesting reading. A few names crop up now and then to "ring a bell". Charles Richardson was an officer in both battalions, also a Company Commander in the 2/2. Closes with best wishes to all.

JACK GRIFFITH 2/2, Frankston, with a donation to Pioneer News and much appreciated news of his mates in the 2/2. Also a thank you for the card commemorating the Kapooka Chapel. Extends his best wishes to all for a job well done.

STUART HALDANE 2/2, Victoria, with his thanks for the News and a sub for the Treasurer. Also was pleased to get the card of the Chapel and says it looks very impressive. Stuart keeps fairly well, just ageing like all Pioneers, and says the world is so full of changes these days we tend to think of the good times more and more. Sends his best wishes to all for the coming Festive Season.

SUSAN HAYES, daughter of Bill Brennan 2/2, Altona North, with a note to Max requesting information on her late father who was a member of 2/1 Pioneer Battalion. Max has written to you personally, Susan, and I think he has filled you in very well and I could not add to his letter. Trust you found it of interest.

ERNEST JAMISON 2/1, Gladesville, with a very generous donation to funds and an apology for not having written sooner. Enjoys very much reading the Pioneer News, but assures us that it was just thoughtlessness, not lack of interest, that he has not been in touch sooner. Max has written to you personally, so thank you again for your kind thoughts and good wishes.

TED JENSON 2/1, Doonside, with a few lines to let us know that brother, Allen, is in Lady Davidson Hospital at Turrumurra, following a stroke. He has been there for several weeks, can talk and knows everyone, but is likely to be in hospital a long time. Allen was in Signals Platoon 2/1, and would welcome a visit from any Pioneer who happens to be over that way. He will be 80 on 12th November. Ted is also recovering from a stroke — best wishes to you for a speedy recovery. Many thanks for your letter, Ted, and all the best to Marie.

JACK KEMPNIH 2/1, Fingal Bay, per pen of wife, Mais, with a long letter to the Herrons over their meeting up with one another on a cruise on the Swan River in Perth. Maisie has written a daily tour itinerary of their trip down from Darwin to Perth, which we shall publish elsewhere. They had a wonderful trip after a hectic four weeks. Mais was full of do's and don'ts for Max with his ankle, just as well she's not the nurse when you get it done, you wouldn't survive the good care. We all know that Jack is a good home brewer, Mais, but what's this about him being no cook. I'll bet he could dish up bully and biscuits with the best of us, including Three-Course Kelly. Good on you both and glad you had a lovely trip — looking forward to reading all about it in the News.

OWEN MILLS 7th Division Signals, Springwood, and a friend of J. Day. Owen was originally from Maclean, NSW, where he knew so many of the Pioneers, but says unfortunately most of them have now gone to the "Great Parade Ground". He called in to the Ballina RSL Village some time back to see Alec Cameron, one of our originals, but Alec did

not know him. He is still in the nursing home section and is visited regularly by Ron Cross 2/1. A great bloke, Alec, and a gentleman. In recent times Owen has visited the Maclean RSL where, above the entrance, the following words have left an imprint on his mind ever since — "For those who have fought for freedom, it has a taste the protected will never know." Many thanks for your donation, Owen, and your letter. Always good to hear from you, and hope you enjoy your spare time after so long on the committee. All the best.

RAY LAW, son of Jim 2/1, Bargo, with a thank you for the honour of carrying "Our Flag" on Anzac Day. That's not a privilege, Ray, it's a sentence and you will probably get it for the next 10 years. Regards your comments re the waitresses, don't you know that all Pioneers are blind in one eye and can't see out of the other. When you refer to your dad, young Ray, cut out the "old feller" or he will be giving you a quick kick in the tail. Max has written to you, Ray, with regard to the questions you asked him, so keep sober and looking forward to seeing you again next year. All the best to the "old feller".

H. S. NEASBEY 2/2, Davistown, with many thanks for your donation. First of all what does the H. stand for? We in the Association are all on a first name friendly basis, have been for years, so keep up the good work H. and let us know. Pleased to hear you enjoyed reading the News and it will continue to arrive at Davistown. Best wishes and write again sometime.

MAY OLLIFFE widow of Joe 2/1, Kingsford, with a cheque for the Treasurer and a big thank you for the News. She still enjoys reading all about the troops and trusts that all are enjoying good health and managing to keep busy. So nice to hear from you, May, do hope you and the family are all well.

PETER PRIEST 2/1, Ballina, per pen of wife, Dot, with a "sorry I'm late with subs". You're forgiven, Dot, better late than never. Pete as usual went to Evans Head for Anzac Day with Bill Facey and behaved themselves. He and Dot left on 28th April for England and had three months away staying with relatives most of the time. It was a wonderful trip and they were made very welcome. Pete had only found this side of his family in 1992, so had a lot of catching up on family news. Left them with a lot of Aussie sayings, drank a lot of Pommie beer, but in the end there's no place like home. Closes with best wishes to all and they are hoping to be in Sydney for next Anzac Day.

ERIC REYNOLDS 2/1, Macksville, with a cheque for the Treasurer and many thanks for the News which he and Joyce still enjoy reading. Still a few names that Eric remembers and says you are still getting the same old crew on the D Coy table on Anzac Day. Eric went to Macksville RSL after the march on Anzac Day for lunch, but most of the old timers start to head for home early (don't we all). It's still very dry up there and rain badly needed, only consolation there's no grass to mow. He and Joyce were down in Victoria recently to see the family who were all well. They have had some good falls of rain. Eric closes with best wishes to all and all the best for the coming Festive Season. Says the time goes so fast, he is 79 now. Take care, Eric, and all the best to you both.

CHARLES RICHARDSON 2/2, Manly West, Queensland, with a cheque for the Treasurer and quotes "it's great to get the News, it helps me keep in touch with events down south". Was pleased to see everything went off at the new location on Anzac Day and it speaks well of the Pioneer spirit that 105 attended the luncheon. Bert Beasley from Queensland rings Charles every now and then and Ken Wilson from Lismore visits a couple of times a year, so he catches up with some news of former members. Charles speaks of a Fred Acret of 2/1 in hospital, as reported in local "Tobruk Truth". Also mentions that the Dutch War Cross is obtainable in Brisbane without a lot of red tape. It costs \$45 plus \$3 postage from A. J. Organ, G.P.O. Box 2831, Brisbane 4001. Many thanks for your letter Charles, and keep sober.

JOE ROBERTSON 2/2, South Australia, with a cheque to the Treasurer and hopes his letter finds us all in reasonably good health. Joe complains the winter months are harder to take, each one seems to get colder, but supposes that while on his feet and mobile he shouldn't complain. Hopes to be able to make the trip to Wagga in October and catch up with some of the fellas. All the best, Joe.

GEOFF ROBINSON 2/1, Quaama, with a donation to funds and best wishes to all who keep the News going. He has not been to Sydney for a couple of years, but hopes to make it in 1995 to cast an eye on the troops, and stir up the odd bod. Both he and Enid send their kindest regards to all.

MICK TASSELL 2/1, Hay, with a cheque for the Treasurer and not much else. I dunno Tassell, it must be at least five years since we all met at the RSL in Hay and you still haven't got any news. At least we know you are still with us, so we must be thankful for that. All the best, old chum.

GEORGE (SQUIZZY) TAYLOR 2/2, Victoria, with his sub and a question. George is wondering if anyone knows the whereabouts of "Bomber" Bill Brown, who joined the 2/2 at Trinity Beach. Must have been an officer, as George was his batman until his discharge in 1944. George had been corresponding with Vince Longmore of Campbelltown and Reg Cairns of Campsie for some time, but has heard nothing of late. Perhaps if they read this, George, you may get a letter. George is now 83 years young but has a few problems, a heart condition, and needs a hip replacement. However, his son takes him shopping and mows the lawn for him, but George still manages to do the washing and cooking and take care of his 82 year old wife. His wife isn't well either, but he still reckons there are others worse off than they are. Says doing cross-words in his spare time gets a bit monotonous, so would appreciate if some former 2/2nds would drop him a line — he'd love to hear from them. Max has given me the name of Allan Olson, 36 Smith-Dorrien Street, Netherby, South Australia 5062, who is President of the SA Pioneers, who may be able to help you trace the Sergeant you were enquiring after. Good luck.

CATHE TRETHEWIE, Gatton, Queensland, daughter of the late Charlie Kerr, with a thank you for sending the Pioneer News and for the kind words of sympathy passed on when her father died in December, 1993. Can assure you Cathe they were spoken in all sincerity, as Charlie was a good Pioneer and a good friend. Thank you also for the donation to the Association and keep smiling.

CHARLES URWIN 2/2, Wye River, with a welcome sub and his thanks for the continuance of Pioneer News. Does not know all personally who are mentioned, but that wonderful Pioneer spirit is always there. Sends best regards from he and good wife, Jean, to all and says many thanks to all who keep the News alive. Kindest regards to you both, keep well.

CLANCY SCHOLES 2/1, Casino, with a note on the sad passing of Jack Martin 2/1, also of Casino. Says news up his way is scarce, but most of the local Pioneers look well and have no real problems. The country is very dry, reckons the frogs are nine years old and can't swim. Sends his best wishes to all.

● That completes Mail Bag for this issue. Thank you all for your contributions, keep up the letters, even though I whinge about writer's cramp at times. I haven't much to write about now the football is finished. I have kept off the smokes for almost 18 months now, but to be honest, I don't feel any great improvement, still it saves me money so that's one consolation.

On behalf of our President and Committee, Max Herron and myself, I would like to wish every member, their wives and families all the very best for Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year, and may you all enjoy good health in the coming year.

Good Luck, keep sober — LAKEY

LEN PREEDY — LIFE MEMBER

On Tuesday, 13th September, at Anzac House, Perth Secretary Max Herron presented Len Preedy 2/2, with his Life Membership Certificate.

This was in recognition of Len's 11 years of honorary service to the Association by presiding at meetings of the WA Pioneers three times per year and providing the editors of Pioneer News with news and happenings of the 2/1st and 2/2nd Pioneers in Western Australia.

The luncheon at Anzac House was attended by Jack Stewart 2/1, Jack and Joan Monger 2/1, Norm Le Cornu 2/2, Len and Joy Preedy 2/2, Jack and Marj Kerslake 2/1 and Max and Peg Herron.

Congratulations to you Len on achieving this Association honour from President Bill Jollie and his Committee and all Pioneers.

GREAT HOLIDAY TOUR OF N.T. AND W.A.

With Australian Pacific by MAISIE KEMPNIICH

We started with a plane trip to Darwin, via Brisbane, and after a tour of the city and important buildings, including the monstrosity called Parliament House (talk about an Asian influence) arrived at our excellent travel lodge on the beach. Next morning we were off to Kakadu, an area of 20,000 sq. km., escarpment beauty all around with lots of wild-bird life. Toured the main living area before reaching the Big Alligator Hotel, Jabiru.

Off next day to cruise the Yellow Waters Billabong where the coach picked us up to continue our tour to Nourlangie Rock (an Arnhem Land escarpment area with lots of Aboriginal art engraved or painted on rock overhangs). We climbed the rough steps to the lookout to get a birds eye view of the vast waste-like area. It was hotter than hell could ever be, I'm sure. Returned to Darwin after lunch.

The next day we were off to Adelaide River to the War Cemetery, where I found the name and number of my brother's air crew mate who was lost on his first mission over Timor. He had been transferred to another crew at the last minute to a sad ending. Housed in a yard behind the shops was the buffalo, Charlie, used in the Crocodile Dundee movie. On to Katherine for lunch and a trip on the gorge (we didn't go). Overnight stop at Katherine.

Off to East Kimberlies next morning — dusty and hot off the coach — into Lake Argyle, with lunch at the Durack Homestead, rebuilt on site of head of lake, after removal from dam area. The meal was delicious with pieces of silver cobbler, handed around generously. It turned out to be catfish, but it was delicious. Lunch over we boarded a boat to view the huge rock wall dam and then a fast run down the Ord River where the lake overflow runs out to the sea. Select spots along the way were quite a spectacle. With a lake that carries nine times the amount of water in Sydney Harbour, and can still take more, by 3 foot depth overall, it still pours a lot away to sea via the Ord River. The future of the overflow water has yet to be decided. Here the coach picked us up and off to Kununurra for our overnight stop.

We had an early flight next morning over Lake Argyle, plus a low fly over the great diamond mine on the outskirts of the lake, the biggest in our hemisphere, if not the world. Then on to the unbelievable sight of the Bungle Bungalies, a really breathtaking view, and very hard to explain. It was a two hour trip and well worth the \$140 trip. The afternoon was spent driving all round the Ord River scheme, visiting a huge dairy and various crops, including corn for Kelloggs who, when they couldn't take the supply, send the remainder to China for pig feed. Toured the Hidden Valley area before returning to Kununurra for another night.

Off next morning to visit the diamond mine — every woman's delight. Lunched in their workers' restaurant and boy what a variety of meal choices. They live like kings, not a penny to spend of their pay, free phone calls anywhere, free plane trip to and from work (Perth or Kununurra), all amenities, no housework or washing — what a life!!! Our plane pilot mentioned that one young chap at 20 years old worked there as a truck driver on \$46,000 a year and after seven years he left to study in Perth, owning five houses. They work a 12 hour day, one week dayshift, one week on nightshift, then two weeks off with a plane fare paid to anywhere in the world if desired. What a life!!! The girls all flash beautiful diamond jewellery, which when seen in the polished state are exquisite, particularly the pink gem quality which will eventually run out. I still liked the white diamond for \$9,800. Through a view window where they were doing the sorting, a man had a four gallon bucket, ¾ full, of what looked like dirty shattered glass — he lifted a handful and said it was worth \$7 million. What would the bucketful be worth??? After a lavish lunch we set off for Hall Creek, where we visited a track to a very strange wall (the China Wall). I didn't go close, but Jack made the effort and said it was as smooth as silk to touch — great boulders stacked like pyramids in a wall of some length, presumably erupted from the seabed thousands of years ago.

Before leaving Halls Creek next morning they visited the park where a memorial rock has been placed to remember the two lads who perished in the desert two years ago. Fresh flowers are placed

there every few days by the townspeople. Travelled on passing huge stations and dry rivers to cruise Giekie Gorge, carved in Fitzroy River. Coach picked us up for our overnight stay at Fitzroy Crossing Lodge, about 18 feet up on stilts to escape flooding every year.

Next morning off to Derby, which was quite a big town. Here we saw the huge Boab tree and a Japanese cemetery. Jack wasn't impressed and said there wasn't enough in there, so we sat pat. Then on to Broome where we spent two nights at the Cable Beach Resort. It was a beautiful place, spoiled with steps to everything. It was a nightmare to find our place for dining and then back to the right block of rooms. Toured the port of Broome but the luggers weren't working. Home in time to see Manly wiped out of the semis — sorry Bob but they weren't disgraced.

Set off next day for Port Hedland, through remote areas skirting the Great Sandy Desert to the east, then off to view the 80 Mile Beach. Glorious blue ocean. We passed huge salt lakes and saw several salt trains carting it in for export. Stayed in Port Hedland overnight with prawns, crabs, bugs and barra on the menu, plus all other dishes. Beaut.

On the dusty road today. Port Hedland is the port for Mt Newman Mining which supplies Newcastle and Wollongong steelworks with ore, plus export, of very high quality. We pass a train 1½km. in length, two engines in front, two more halfway, each wagon carries 105 approx. tons, so with nine of these trains each day it will give you an idea of how much ore is taken out. Travel on to outskirts of Wittenoom, on to Marble Bar for lunch, then continue on to Newman, a town established in 1968 to house the workforce to set up the huge workings of Mt Whaleback ore mine.

Next morning we travelled to the various areas with ongoing commentary. Believe me I never thought I could become so overwhelmed by the vastness of such an open out. It's mind boggling, but so interesting. With all the ore taken out each day, they still expect to be working in the year 2050. After quick lunch set off for Tom Price, through Rio Tinto Gorge to Hamersley, past the station where Lang Hancock grew up, no wonder he had the ore bug as he grew older. It was very hot and dry out in this area, so we had a day's break before heading off again on tour.

Headed off again over some pretty rough and dusty roads to an oasis in the desert at Millstream on the Fortescue River. A sight for sore eyes in such desolation, the river flowing well, lovely little ponds amongst palms and bushes and beautiful water lilies to admire. After lunching, we moved on through Chichester Range National Park, leaving the green behind, and along the rail link to Hamersley mine to at last reach Roeburne and the first real sighting of our beloved darker race. Evidence showed with the huge mounds of beer cans and cartons for miles on the outskirts of town. Could have nearly filled a train!!! Then into Cossack, a township slowly being restored, and on to Karratha where we spent the night.

Next morning a tour of Dampier, the port for Hamersley mines, and a visit to Woodside Petroleum's North West Shelf visitors centre where we saw a very informative film on how this huge undertaking took place and grew into what is one of WA's most profitable enterprises. It is tremendous both on and off shore and all cyclone protected. More salt lakes around Karratha and then on to Exmouth for a night at the Pot Shot Hotel.

A tour of Exmouth after some lavish seafood and then on to Coral Bay, a very pretty little place with a beaut van park and shops. Jack and crew went on a cruise in a glass bottomed boat viewing coral fish, while others chose to scuba dive. We then headed off to Carnarvon for a nightly stopover.

Next morning toured around acres of banana, mango, pawpaw and other tropical plantations, fed by irrigation from the Gascoyne River before heading south. A huge industry here. On to Shelley Beach, near Denham, which has tiny shells 15 metres deep for miles and being mined to make shell bricks, popular for building, before arriving at Monkey Mia. This is a lovely resort set up for all types of accommodation from tents and vans,

(continued overleaf)

cabins, on-site vans, units and luxury chalets. The dolphins had been in twice, so we went down to the water's edge where we spotted four that were in looking for food, but were advised they were not to be fed as they were leaving their young to be lost to sharks in deeper water. There was a dolphin trip later in the afternoon, but we were itching for footie results, so we spent afternoon tea listening to the last minutes of the game, Norths winning.

Up early next morning to see the dolphins again before heading off to the Kabarri area where the wildflowers were beginning to bloom. We had lunch here before leaving for Geraldton where we spent the night.

Toured around Geraldton next morning to see how big it had grown since Jack was fined for illegal parking 20 years ago, before leaving for Dongara where the trees lean almost to the ground from the force of the winds. Cervantes was our next stop, and we were to see some beautiful wildflowers in this area, before arriving at the Pinnacles. These strange looking limestone pillars range in size from stony twigs to columns more than six metres tall — truly a wonderful sight — and there are thousands of them. Passed some lovely country on road to Gin Gin and saw a good cover of kangaroo paw in the local cemetery.

We spent three nights in Perth at the Orchard Hotel — Japanese owned and run by Japs. No one was happy!!! We did a tour of the city sights on our first day, then on a cruise on the Swan River to see the scenery and the homes of the rich and famous, including Rose Hancock's. On boarding, Jack wanted to stay down below, but there were no seats by the time I hobbled on (my hips were playing merry hell by this time of our trip) so we decided to go up top. Boy, what a surprise we got to come face to face with Max and Peg Herron and Marj and Jack Kerslake, all looking like stunned mullets at seeing one another so far from home. It was our greatest moment!!! Of course our tongues went 90 to the dozen. Only saw Rose's mansion, too much to talk about. Reluctantly we had to say goodbye as our coach was meeting us at Fremantle. After lunch we took the coast road to show Jack (and others), I'm sure, the nude beach and others along the way. That night we had a happy hour, parting drinks and goodies, for all those parting company the following morning.

The next day was a free day. Jack found a pub that served Tooheys Old on tap, so he was happy. We spent the afternoon at the old Perth Mint, where we cut two coins for our daughters and watched a gold pour. Back to our hotel to pack up and head for the train the next morning.

It was lovely to travel in Perth city on their clipper buses, free anywhere and all day, and have them interested enough to advise tourists where to go. Mr Court has my gong for the best State in more ways than one. Mr Fahey should take some lessons!!!

We drew the "crow" on the Indian Pacific — the toilet malfunctioned spilling the doings into the shower area — we reported it only to find it hadn't been working on the way over either. That meant going down to the next carriage to use toilet and shower. (Not very good at night in night attire.) We were 1½ hours late leaving Perth, the engine gave up the ghost halfway across the Nullabor and when we finally got going crawled for hundreds of miles, where a goods train was robbed of one of its two engines to take us on to Adelaide, with a stop at Cook to take on fuel and water. We had a lovely week with friends and relatives in Adelaide, before catching the Indian Pacific again for home, and longing for a good night's rest in our own bed.

The end of a marvellous tour with it being worth every penny it cost and satisfying our desire to see the West before it was too late to enjoy it.

NEWS ITEM

ROY SWANSON 2/2 is in Narrandera Nursing Home, Chantilly Street, Narrandera, and as he is not mobile, would enjoy a visit from any Pioneer who might pass that way. He sends best wishes to all Pioneers. Many thanks to his niece, Mrs Betty Hume, for passing on the information.

ELIZABETH CRAIG, sister of the late Peter, has sent a note of thanks to the Association for the sympathy card forwarded to her. Peter's last months of life required great courage and knowing all this he was very brave and never complained.

SICK PARADE

ALBERT BROWN 2/1, formerly of Harden is in the War Veterans Hospital at Narrabeen and enjoyed a recent visit by Jack Pearce and Jack Kerslake. While they were on the grounds they also visited Sid Kent 2/1 and Joe Barker 2/1.

ALEC CAMERON 2/1, of Ballina, is in hospital after suffering a stroke and although he does not recognise anyone Ron Cross visits him every week. Thank you Ron for passing on the news.

FRED CALLAWAY 2/1, of Wahroonga, has been transferred from Lady Davidson Hospital at Turramurra to the nursing home section at War Veterans Home at Narrabeen. Son Martin rang the Secretary with the information and said his father is on the second floor. Jack Pearce and Jack Kerslake have visited Fred in the nursing home and he really enjoyed their company.

JACK DOLAGHAN 2/1, of Manly Vale, has been in hospital at Concord for treatment and visited by Bill Tasker. Jack is now at home and we hope he has fully recovered.

DON CROOKS 2/1, of Mayfield, has been in hospital at Newcastle but is now at home recovering.

ROY JARDINE 2/1, of Gladesville, has been in Hunters Hill Private Hospital for a hip replacement operation. On his last visit to see Roy at the hospital Bill Tasker said he was making good progress.

MAX LAW 2/1, of Kareela, is still in a nursing home at Heathcote and was recently visited by Bill Tasker and Ron Callaghan, as well as George Nichols who is a regular visitor.

BILL HOFFMAN 2/1, of Kyogle, is still in the Rehabilitation Section of St Vincent's Private Hospital in Lismore after an operation for a brain tumour. He is slowly making progress and our good wishes were sent to him for a speedy recovery.

JACK COATES 2/1, of Umina, was in hospital at Concord during August for an operation on his leg, and is now home tripping around. He was visited by Bill Tasker and Peg and Max Herron. Good to see you out and about again, Jack.

ALLEN JENSON 2/1, of Rydalmere, is in Lady Davidson Hospital suffering from a stroke after a hip operation, and welcomed recently a visit by Jack Kerslake.

LAST POST — "We Will Remember Them"

ROY ROACH 2/1, of Kirrawee, passed away on 11th March, 1994, after being in ill health for many years, mainly from heart trouble. To his wife Lois and two sons Stephen and Peter we extend our sincere sympathy.

JACK SUMMERVILLE 2/1, of Castle Hill, passed away in July and Bill Tasker extended sincere sympathy from the Association to his wife and family.

KEITH BOYLE 2/1, of Moama, passed away on 29th August after suffering a stroke about two years ago. His wife, Marj, contacted us with the details and said he had not been in good health of late but said he fought for life in that true Pioneer spirit right up to the last moment. Please accept our sympathy Marj and we do hope you will be able to carry on, knowing how handicapped you are — we too will sadly miss Keith, for over the years he has been a regular attender of our reunions.

STAN CHANDLER 2/1, of Wangaratta, passed away on 28th July and we are grateful to Mrs Chandler for informing us with the sad news. Sincere sympathy is extended to you Mrs Chandler in your loss.

Many thanks to Eric Causer for supplying the following from "Mufti" Victoria.

T. A. BLEAZBY 2/2, of Elwood.

D. G. RYAN 2/2, of Werribee.

HARRY PERROTT 2/1, of Padstow, passed away on 13th July. Harry was a Prisoner of War taken in Tobruk. Bill Tasker has extended sincere sympathy to Harry's family.

"ROCKY" WATTS 2/1, of Murwillumbah, passed away in September — no information to hand — taken from "Reveille".

GEORGE BATES 2/1, of Caringbah, passed away on 19th September and the funeral was attended by Ron Callaghan, Frank Gillian and Bill Tasker who read the Eulogy. On behalf of the Association, Bill Tasker extended sincere sympathy to wife Dot, and daughter, Pam Herrick, who has been a staunch supporter at our Country Reunions.

JIM FIELD 2/2, of Greystanes, passed away on 22nd September and the funeral at Pinegrove Lawn Cemetery was attended by the following Pioneers: Gwen Petrich, Rita Trefoni, Bill Tasker, Vic Whiteley, Bob Lee, Jack Henderson, Snowy Todd, Joyce and George Walker, and Gordon and Olive Finlay. Bill Tasker read the Eulogy and gave a brief outline of Jim's life, making special note of his keen interest in our Association, having been a Committee man since its inception in 1950. He had been Publicity Officer for many years and also Custodian of the 2/2nd Banner. He was also an Honorary Life Member of the Association. Jim is survived by his wife Kathleen, daughter Ruth and five grandchildren. Heartfelt sympathy has been extended to Kathleen and her family by Bill Tasker, and we will sadly miss Jim at our functions, where he was a regular attender.

TOM MANUEL 2/1, of Glen Innes, passed away recently and the service was held at the Church of the Holy Trinity in Glen Innes, followed by a private

cremation. After serving in Borneo with the 2/1st, and at the end of the War, Tom was seconded to Intelligence to deal with war crimes, where he spent some months before returning to Australia. Active in the Glen Innes Sub-Branch of the RSL he was Pension Officer for thirty years and was responsible for helping hundreds of Diggers about their claims for disabilities caused by war. He was made a Life Member of the RSL in 1979 and served as a Director of the Board of Management of the Services Club for a number of years. The passing of Tom Manuel and his influence within the Glen Innes Sub-Branch of the RSL and as a citizen will be sadly missed.

PAT NOONAN 2/1, of Darling Point, passed away on 16th October after a short stay in St Vincent's Hospital where he had been visited by Bill Tasker and Jack Stone. The service was held at St Canices Church, Elizabeth Bay, and the funeral took place at Waverley Cemetery. The Eulogy was read by Bill Tasker and others in attendance were Jack and Lex Coates, Phyllis Jardine, Jack Stone, Laurie Kelly and Jack Pearce. Pat was a staunch Committee man and attended all our reunions. Our sincere sympathy was extended to the family members by Bill Tasker.

PETER CRAIG 2/1, of Leura, passed away on 18th October at Katoomba Hospital and because a private cremation was requested no Pioneers were present at the funeral. Peter was a staunch Committee man and never had he missed an Anzac Day Reunion and always sat with his many mates of Don Company. He would be the one to round up Don Coy and make sure they had the best position in the hall at Redfern — just inside the door as you walked in. Because Secretary Max was in D Coy until 1943 Peter would make sure Max had a drink with his old Company at the Reunion every year. Whilst receiving treatment for cancer in the neck at Lady Davidson he was visited by Bill Tasker who stated Peter went around the hospital checking on other Pioneers to see how they were doing. Peter lived with his sister at Leura and to her we extend our sincere sympathy and can only say all Pioneers will sadly miss Peter.

JACK MARTIN 2/1, of Casino, passed away on 24th October and the funeral was held on 27th October. Jack had been homebound for many months, and on oxygen 24 hours per day, but then the doctors found he had a tumour on his liver and within two weeks his time came. Clancy Scholes visited him each week and they had quite a good yarn about old times and happenings in the Unit. Those in attendance were: Jack and Flo Shearman, Bruce and Molly McNaughton, Ted and Jean Felton, Alec and Jean George, Peter Priest, Ron Cross, Ted Vaughan, Clancy and Irene Scholes, Val Black and Gloria Gray. Pallbearers at the cemetery were Bruce McNaughton, Peter Priest, Jack Shearman, Clancy Scholes and Joe Cramp of Rats of Tobruk Association. Many thanks to Clancy Scholes for extending our sincere sympathy and supplying us with the sad news of Jack's passing.