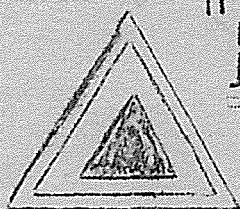


Subscription : 2/6d. per annum.

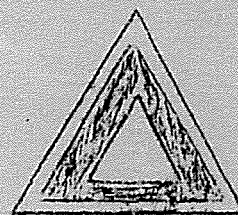
March, 1953.

Vol.1.,No.2.



"PIONEER

NEWS"



EDITED BY

M.Law & F.Cheal,
19 Hunter Street,
SYDNEY.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

As Anzac Day draws near once again it is incumbent on us all to pause for a few minutes to think of the significance on Anzac Day and how it effects everyone of us.

It is on this day that we meet to offer our tribute to the men, who, by their overwhelming courage and resource, placed this glorious country of ours in the forefront of the world in the Great War 1914-18. The same attributes enabled the men who followed in the footsteps of their fathers during the Second World War of 1939-45 to maintain the noble traditions which had been set for them in such high standard.

Thus, on Anzac Day we not only pay tribute to the establishment of the tradition but also to the maintenance of the tradition in a manner which is worthy of this great country of ours.

I am reminded of some words spoken by one of our fallen comrades, Dick Camm, during the last War, when he said that Anzac Day had a special message, and suggested that it might be "PUT ASIDE ALL THOUGHTS OF SELF, ALL DOUBTS, ALL FEARS".

It is now my suggestion that we incorporate that message in our daily lives and make adequate use of Anzac Day to take stock of ourselves bearing in mind those who established traditions which enable us to celebrate Anzac Day and all that it means to us.

" LEST WE FORGET "

CHRISTMAS PARTY

A successful Children's Xmas Party was organised by the Ladies Auxiliary, headed by our own Mrs. O'Malley Wood and held at the Feminist Club, on 20th December, 1952.

A truly successful afternoon, and it seems to us that those parents in attendance had as much fun as the children. All were ably entertained by a lady Magician who subsequently produced "Punch and Judy" for the enjoyment of all present. (Estimated in Sydney papers as 300.)

Later in the afternoon "Santa" (Bertie Holmes) was seen to arrive and proceeded with the distribution of presents for all kiddies. It is always a constant source of amazement for us to see the quality of gifts produced. How our ladies do it is something we can't fathom.

A special effort this year was made to send gifts to the children of country members whose names were registered and of course could not attend. From letters received it appears our country cousins realise that although they are miles away they are far from forgotten and that is one of the prime aims of our Patron.

At this stage it is appropriate that mention is made of Mrs. J.E. Grant, an extremely able lieutenant of Mrs. O'Malley Wood, never obtrusive but always there, diligent and efficient.

It is now also appropriate that we men thank those ladies of our Committee who spend so much of their own time ensuring that these functions are successful. We thank you!

GUESSING COMPETITION

The Annual Xmas Guessing Competition was drawn at the Children's Party, and we have pleasure in publishing the list of winners.

The prizes were drawn by three former C.O.'s of the

3.

Battalions namely, Col. A. Brown and Col. G. J. Graham and Col. C. E. Davis. Congratulations to the winners and our thanks to all who participated in the competition to help expenses for the Children's Party.

LIST OF WINNERS.

1st	3584	Mrs. C. Hennessy, 27 Mary Street, Hunter's Hill.
2nd	7176	Mrs. F. P. O'Brien, 27 Park Avenue, Chatswood.
3rd	10576	W. Salway, C/- R. Roach, 20 Queen Victoria St., W. Kogarah.
4th	10608	Mrs. Kath Goldrick, Brisbane Street, St. Marys.
5th	4866	Mr. Garry Fuller, 260 Albany Road, Petersham.
6th	10878	Mrs. Ricketts - FY6365.
7th	1370	Mr. E. Bourke, C/- Arncliffe Hotel, Arncliffe.

Lottery Tickets.

1840	W. A. Corrigan.
10766	Mrs. Gavis, 381 Liverpool St, King's Cross.
5377	R. Lawrence, 61 Barton Street, Kogarah.
11058	B. Woodham.
12236	Mrs. O'Malley, 83 English Street, Camperdown.
8254	V. A. Gates, C/- Kelloggs.
10189	Mr. J. Paton, 16 Beach Street, Balgowlah.
4925	H. B. Burnstein, 36 Wharf Road, Gladesville.
9135	R. Fowler, 266 Pitt Street, Sydney - M4774.
2425	Robert Grant, Old Junee. N.S.W.
11137	Mr. McInnes, 447 George Street, Sydney.
2880	H. Fitch, 58 Snape Street, Kingsford.
10556	Mr. McLaughlan, C/- Sterling Varnish Co.
6675	Roy Evans, C/- G. Brown, York Street, Sydney.
1583	W. Grosse, C/- Tooth & Co, Sydney.
10900	Mrs. Moxey, President Avenue, Miranda.
10843	R. Moore, Pittwater Road, Collaroy - XW7311.
11048	G. S. Osborne, (Maj.) Victoria Barracks.
6881	P. G. Nicoll, 41 South Creek Road, Dee Why.
11041	Rhonda Roach, North Bondi.

"Instinct - the faculty which tells a woman whether
a man needs inducement or encouragement."

EDITOR'S CORNER

Firstly thanks for the letters. It appear that our first paper was well received and we can only endeavour now to maintain a higher standard.

With this issue we have commenced a new feature, by one of us who has a responsible position with the Repatriation Commission, which we hope will be of benefit to all.

Above all we ask - Firstly, write and tell us what you wish to read in our paper in the way of articles, and Secondly, we again request that you forward those half-crowns to enable us to continue production, for although the response was gratifying, there are still many from whom we have not received donations. We can only assume that (allowing for those whose memories are short) there are many who do not require editions. Ultimatum; NO MONEY - NO PAPER.

Elsewhere in this issue particulars of our Annual General Meeting and Anzac "Smoko" will be found. Please make every effort to attend as we hope that many more country members will be present as the function will be held on Friday, 24th April, 1953 - 'Anzac Eve'.

MAGAZINE NAME COMPETITION

The response to our request for a name for our Magazine was also very good. We modestly bow our heads to the majority who said "leave the name as it is" - Eric Face commented that "it is appropriate and reserved".

"A novelist claims the best cure for hysterics is a kiss; now the only problem is how to give a girl hysteries."

-H.I. Phillips.

IF YOU LIKE THE PAPER - IT'S ONLY 2/6d PER ANNUM.

INFORMATION

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING to be followed by a Smoko is to be held on Anzac EVE 24th April, 1953.

To enable arrangements to be completed, if you are attending, complete the form on the back cover and return to our Secretary - smartly.

A further circular will be despatched to you approximately ten days prior to the Smoko, so we shall accept no excuse for non-attendance.

The change of location is regretted, but difficulty was experienced in locating a suitable Hall available on the 24th April.

PARTICULARS.

Location - Training Depot,
 30 INF. BN. (N.S.W. Scottish Regt.),
 Carlow Street,
 NORTH SYDNEY.

Date - 24th April, 1953.

Time - 7.45 P.M. ~ Annual General Meeting.

Smoko - Upon closing of meeting.

ATTENTION COUNTRY VISITORS.

With Anzac Day falling on Saturday this year, we hope that as many country members as possible will make a special effort to come to Sydney this week-end and attend the reunion and March.

If accommodation bothers you, let the Secretary know, and we will endeavour to make suitable arrangements.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DONATION.

REPATRIATION B E N E F I T S

BY "C. E. D." *Ed. Clayton & Son*

It was inevitable that, during their military service, a proportion of our members suffered wounds, injuries or illnesses, which have resulted, it is felt, after the return to civil life, in some enduring degree of incapacity.

It is to them that these remarks are specially addressed, though I think it is useful to all our members to have some knowledge of the benefits, under the Repatriation Act, - whether by way of free medical treatment or of War Pension - open to all who have been engaged on active service.

There are numbers of cases when members felt perfectly fit on discharge from the Forces, but have since then felt prejudiced by the existence of a war-time disability, which, it may be, has prevented return to the pre-war occupation, or has led to changes in occupation with financial loss, or has proved a bar or disadvantage in leading a normal recreational or social life out of working hours.

They too should be eligible for Repatriation benefits.

If the disability itself is directly attributable to war service, or, having existed before service, was aggravated by the conditions of war service, then the member is entitled to free medical treatment upon acceptance by Repatriation. If incapacity has resulted, he should also become entitled to a War Pension. This applies too if the incapacity results from any occurrence happening during war service.

It is, I think, a wise precaution to apply to the Repatriation Department for acceptance of any disability, which the members genuinely believes should be an accepted war disability on any of the grounds above stated, whether or not there is any real incapacity resulting from it at the present time.

If accepted, this is a form of insurance that medical treatment will be made available without expense to the member, and, should the disability become troublesome later on, that a War Pension would be paid. The main worry is to get the disability accepted as due to war service.

In order to lodge a claim with the Repatriation Department, a member who lives in Sydney would have to call at the Medical Section (9th Floor - Room 901), Grace Building, where he would fill in the necessary forms and be examined by a R.M.O. Medical investigations, as necessary, would follow

and a decision be made in due course by the Repatriation Board.

In a country case, the member should either himself send a letter to the Deputy Commissioner of Repatriation, Grace Building, York Street, Sydney, or should first contact his local Repatriation Committee or R.S.L. Sub-Branch, which would forward his claim to Sydney. A local medical examination would follow, and, if a series of tests were required, these would be arranged for in the nearest big town, or the member might have to attend in Sydney, depending on the nature of the disability. On completion of the investigation, a decision would be made by the Repatriation Board in this case also.

Assuming that the claim is allowed, the member would be notified and a list of local Medical Officers supplied by the Department, and the doctor selected by him would then treat him for the accepted disability free of charge.

The Repatriation Board, in accepting the War disability, would decide whether the disability warranted a war pension and on the rate of war pension.

If the member is dissatisfied with the decision of the Board, he has, within three months of notification of decision, the right to lodge an appeal to a War Pensions Assessment Appeal Tribunal.

The Tribunal will decide on all the facts of the case, whether the member has a pensionable degree of incapacity arising from all his accepted war disabilities, and, if so, on the degree of incapacity resulting, and will take into account the extent to which his ability to lead a normal life in every way has been impaired.

In the event of the Repatriation Board rejecting the disability as being not attributable to war service, all the member has to do is to lodge a letter with the Department notifying that he desires to appeal against the decision.

This letter would be treated as an appeal and a decision reached in due course on the question attributable to war service by the Repatriation Commission.

There is a final right to appeal against a rejection by the Repatriation Commission of the disability to a Tribunal called the War Pension Entitlement Appeal Tribunal. But before appealing against rejection I think it would be wise for the member to discuss his case with a service Organisation or with the legal Service Bureau and to adopt their advice. (Should you have any particular problem in this regard, write to us and we will endeavour to obtain the answers. - Ed.)

LAST POST

We regret to announce the death of Ernie Wall (ex A. Coy. 2/1 Pioneer Bn.) at Canberra shortly before Christmas. The sympathy of all is extended to Ernie's family.

The name of another Pioneer, Jim Donelly, is recorded on the Honour Roll. Jim, a member of the 2/1 Battalion, was recently accidentally drowned at Casino and our Sympathy goes out to his family.

IN PASSING

While we are handing out our appreciations for "Pioneer News" mail, we would like to mention and thank Neville O'Connor (2/2) who is now up at Ballina. The thanks are for the very acceptable donation Nev, but your very bright letter was also well received. It is noted that Neville, this year sent down the names of his four children, mentioning also that next year he will try and have five names on the list. Apparently you are forming a tanglefoot section Nev. We normally do not advertise, but here is your plug -- "Eat more Sugar."

Mick Bye was seen at the Xmas Party with his brand new wife, no heir with them, but next year we hope to see one. Mick is on the land out Dubbo way -- just another of the landed Aristocracy. It is said that Mick no longer shoots 'Roos with his nip L.M.G.

'Kewpie' Beggs of Narrandera was in town recently, another rich country fellow sniffing the smoke. Believe it or not, 'Kewpie' is a leading light in that town, was even a President of the local R.S.L. Club and is now famed for the 'entertainment' he offered one of the ex 2/2 Captains. Tch! Tch!

We hear Frankie Howard is hard at work around The Entrance although if anyone can work hard at that spot - I'll go" Anyway all you holiday makers look him up, he's always good for a 'brew' if nothing else.

While working down in Port Kembla recently, Laurie Fitzhenry heard of the address of a former and very well known identity of the 2/1st, namely, ex R.S.M. Smith. Some may remember him better by a nickname, but we are sure you know who we mean. Sar-Major Smith's name and address have been recorded and he will hear from the Association in future.

A letter was received from Bill Jolley (2/1) in our magazine mail - in fact it was one of the first two letters received since the magazine was posted. Thanks for the very prompt reply Bill, and above all, for your very generous donation which will ensure your receiving of future "Pioneer News" for several years to come. (Aren't we optimistic?) Bill mentions in his letter (incidentally ~~his address is C/-~~ Rural Bank, Mudgee for anyone passing through that area) that he has met several former Pioneers recently and was very pleased to see them. Could you record and send in their addresses Bill? Thanks again.

The second early reply in the mail was from Ron Maher (former C.S.M. 2/1.) Thanks for your very acceptable donation Ron, and we are very glad to hear from you once again. Ron is now "pounding the beat" at Curlewis, (Tweed Head ??) (Is there a "beat" there Ron?), and sends his regards to all of his old cobbbers.

We are pleased to announce that John Flood, who in our last issue was reported as an inmate of Yaralla, has now been discharged and is well on the way to recovery, in a convalescent home.

Shorts.

Fred Calloway, now Plant Engineer with Burrangong Shire (Young). Frank Bradley, more stout, Department of Customs, Sydney. Pat Parkhill manoeuvres buses in Sydney's traffic chaos. Freddie Wheaton, butchers on at Dorrigo. 'Count' MacDonald will shortly count pennies at Commonwealth Bank, Broadway. Col. A. Brown is C.O. Migrant Centre Scheyville, Windsor, and Doc. 'Death' Putland wields his knife in Macquarie Street.

ADDRESS YOUR SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE SECRETARY.

STOP PRESS

We are pleased to report that our last Committee Meeting was opened by our able President, Hec Page, who has been discharged from Hospital and is now recuperating. We wish Hec. a speedy recovery to his former self.

Seen recently in a Hobart paper - a photo of John Morahan helping to cut the Xmas Cake of a company of the 3rd Bn. -R.A.R (of which he is 2.I.C.) in Korea. Twin brother, Cyril, has completed his tour of duty in Korea and is now 2.I.C. of No.1. Reinforcement Holding Unit in Japan.

G.R.B.(George) Patterson, who has been Trade Commissioner in South Africa for some time has now been recalled. We have heard a whisper that the reason for George being recalled is that he is in line for something bigger and better - we will keep you posted.

ACHIEVEMENTS.

Hec. Page, our President has announced the birth of a son and heir, Nigel, on Monday 23rd February, 1953. Nigel has an excellent start in life, weighing 8½lbs, a reach from head to toe of 23½ inches, and so should prove a tough little fighter. The congratulations of all are extended to Mrs.Page and Hec.

Another little Pioneer has been recorded for the next Xmas Party in the name of Peter David, newly born son of Mr. & Mrs. Frank Cheal. Peter's record shows 25" head to toe and weighed 7 lb. at birth. Congratulations Barbara and Frank.

We hope you all notice the increased size of the paper this issue. Cost is still the same - 2/6d donation. Don't forget if you haven't already forwarded your donations, do so, and be sure of your copies of the "News".

ATTENTION!

The general reaction to our newsletter has been most gratifying and the response from two points of view has been very satisfactory. Firstly, this, YOUR paper has been the means already of greatly increasing the membership of our Association, which I would like to stress is FREE, but on this point I would point out that the success of this paper in the future, depends on your support, particularly as to new members and to news items of interest. Secondly, this paper, unfortunately, costs money to publish and distribute, and whilst financial response to the call for subscriptions has been fair, there are still quite a number who have not assisted financially, therefore I urge you to lend your support in whatever way you can.

In my message to you in the last issue of this paper, I mentioned that our Association provides us with the means to preserve our association of the war years and I would draw your attention in this respect to our next "SMOKO".

These "Smokos", held two or three times a year, provide us with just such an opportunity to get together, relax and reminisce; so prove that you are interested in your Association by coming along on such occasions -- and please remember that your committee has to arrange the catering, etc, and this cannot be done very well by guesswork -- so please advise us of your intentions.

This year we are looking forward to having large numbers attend the Anzac Day Services and March, and I appeal to each and every one of you to come along and march behind the banner of your old unit -- and to remember "Lest We Forget".

Hec. Page,

BATTALION HISTORY 2/2 PNR. BN.

Melbourne advise that the printers of the history have, unfortunately, taken longer than was anticipated to complete the printing. However, it is quite possible that the book will be distributed prior to the issue of this paper as it is expected that distribution will be made sometime in March.

The publishing committee regrets the delay, but the causes are outside their control.

SMOKO

We repeat - the Smoko will be held at:-

- (1) N.S.W. Scottish Bn. (30 Inf.) Bn.,
Training Depot,
Carlow Street,
NORTH SYDNEY.

- (2) Time: 7.30.p.m.

Movement Control.

Take an East Lindfield or Northbridge Bus from York St., Sydney (near Wynyard Station), or a Balmoral, Taronga Park Zoo, Cremorne or Spit Junction tram from Wynyard Station, City.

Alight at Tram Stop No.10 or opposite North Sydney Oval.

Carlow Street is opposite the North Sydney Oval, and the North Sydney Hotel is situated on the corner. Journey up Carlow Street, and there will be found the 30 Inf. Bn. Training Depot.

BE THERE!

If you are attending, please complete the following by printing, and return to the Secretary, at 19 Hunter Street, Sydney. The return of these forms is necessary to ascertain the number for catering purposes.

The Secretary - I will be attending the Annual General Meeting and Smoko to be held at the N.S.W. Scottish Bn., Training Depot, Carlow Street, North Sydney, on Friday, 24th April, 1953.

NAME.....

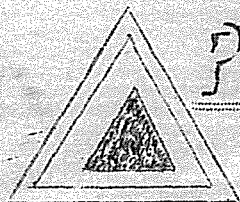
ADDRESS.....

.....

(please print.)

ULTIMATUM.- NO MONEY - NO PAPER

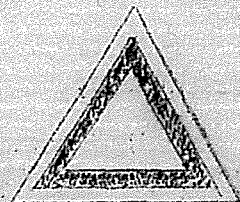
Annual Subscription - 2/6d.



PIONEER

2743012374

NEWS



June, 1953

No.3.

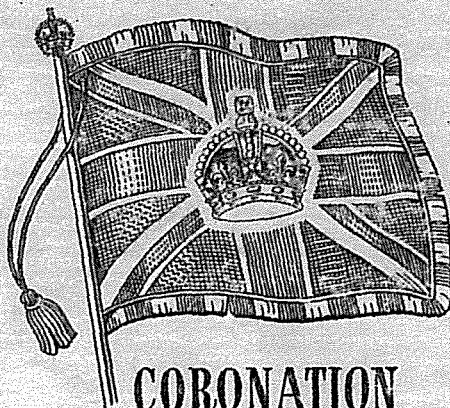
OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE 2/1 2/2 PIONEER BNS'. ASSOCIATION

19 Hunter Street,
SYDNEY.

EDITORS

M. Law

F. Cheal



CORONATION
1953

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Gentlemen,

Unfortunately this message will not reach you until after Coronation Day, but that will not prevent us paying our humble tribute to our new Sovereign, Her Gracious Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

On the 2nd June, 1953 she set a new precedent and linked herself even closer to our lives than any previous Sovereign when she was specifically crowned as Queen of Australia.

Her Majesty, in her Christmas Broadcast, said inter alia,

"Many grave problems and difficulties confront us all, but with a new faith in the old and splendid beliefs given us by our forefathers and the strength to venture beyond the safeties of the past, I know we shall be worthy of our duty. Above all, we must keep alive that courageous spirit of adventure that is the finest quality of youth, and by youth I do not just mean those who are young in years.... On this broad foundation let us set out to build a truer knowledge of ourselves and our fellow men".

Those words of Our Queen typify our own desires and are of great encouragement from a young Sovereign to a young country such as ours.

With such sterling leadership setting an example of selfless devotion to us let us all strive to achieve that unity among ourselves which is exemplified by the Queen herself.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

EDITORS' CHAT

Thanks once more for the many letters of appreciation for the "News", and to those who sent in donations, an extra big "THANKS".

We use the word "donations" as many members have kindly sent in more than the required subscription of 2/6d and we in turn are glad to know that our readers appreciate our efforts.

We are also very happy to note the number of members who have not previously attended smokos and who were present at our April Re-Union, mainly due to renewed contacts with the Association through our "Pioneer News".

A lot of our members are writing in with a slight bewilderment as to how we have obtained their addresses after having lost contact with the Association over the last few years. Well, the editors spent many hours by candlelight delving through old records of all sorts, with the idea that we could send magazines to these addresses and if they did not return - we had a new member !! Also many members have gathered addresses and forwarded them to us. The result has been a rise from approximately 300 to 600 in the last twelve months. Our target is 1,000 !! Can you help ??

NOTE

PLEASE ADDRESS ALL MAIL AS UNDER ---

The Secretary,
2/1 2/2 Pioneer Bn's Association,
19 Hunter Street,
SYDNEY.N.S.W.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND REUNION

A BRIEF REPORT

This very successful function was attended by over 200 members on Anzac Eve, making it one of the most enjoyable evenings held since the war.

The meeting was opened by the President, Mr. Hec Page who welcomed all present, especially the large influx of country cousins.

The election of President and Committee resulted as follows:-

President - (for 2nd term) Mr. H. Page.

Committee - Messrs. W. Robertson, F. Cheal, M. Law, R. Lawrence, J. Edwards, A. Holmes, W. Holmes, H. Mocre, R. Roach, J. Henderson, H. O'Brien, L. Hope, Col. C. E. Davis, M. Egan, Col. G. J. Graham, M. Montague, R. Pegg, G. Findlay, A. Carter.

After the meeting our Patron, Mrs. O'Malley Wood, was made welcome and moved around the gathering renewing many old friendships.

Although the attendance was much higher than anticipated, the catering arrangements seemed to just stretch out, and everybody appeared to be well satisfied with the evening.

Among those present were some of our members from many miles away, and quite a few who have not been seen since the war years.

To mention a few --

Jim Kerr and Karl Drum from Melbourne,

Bill Jollie from Mudgee

Ron McTaggart - Gosford

Jim Rhodes - Young

? McRees - Dorriggo

Lofty Broad - Condobolin

Ron Merriman - Yass

Freddie Wheaton - Dorriggo

Colonel A. Brown - Windsor

A. Daldy - Cootamundra

Arnold Vearing - Goulburn

To those who were not present we extend our regrets for you missed a really good night.

The Anzac Day March showed another large attendance and a good turn-out.

Several radio stations are known to have commented favourably on both of these points.

After the March, the 2nd (unofficial) re-union was held at Frank Dynon's Hostelry in Goulburn Street, and once again a very large attendance was noted. Frank and his staff are to be complimented on the way supplies of "tonic" were kept up (along with a very acceptable counter lunch at Frank's expense).

So closed a very memorable Anzac week-end, one that undoubtedly stood out to make 1953 a year to be remembered.

SPECIAL — STOP PRESS

It had to happen ! Popeye Edwards has been retired from the Army after 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ years. We don't think he is exactly happy about it but even Generals have to retire sometime, Popeye. However, we welcome you on the Committee of the Association once again.

ACHIEVEMENTS

"Desert Head" does it again !! Walter William Page proudly announces that Lall has presented him with another bouncing boy - "Ross Edward". Page Juniors now tally three boys and one girl. Keep it up Wal; although you told us at the smoko there will not be any more, did we notice a "tongue in the cheek look"? Congratulations to Lall and yourself, and we will keep a space open in the "News" next year !!

Another achievement comes from Trevor Beckett, but as yet we do not have any particulars. Best of luck Trev to your good wife and self.

" There are two kinds of women
At ninety or ten:
Women with women,
And women with men! "

PRESENTING THE SECOND OF OUR FEATURE ARTICLES -WAR PENSION ENTITLEMENT APPEAL TRIBUNAL

- G. J. G. -

(Col. Graham)

An Entitlement Appeal Tribunal is a body set up under the Statute to adjudicate an appeal between the Repatriation Commission on the one hand, and the appellant on the other. The Tribunal is, in its adjudications, absolutely independent of the Commission which is a necessary party to every appeal.

An appeal to the Tribunal is lodged with the Deputy Commissioner for Repatriation in this State on the prescribed form.

Proceedings before the Entitlement Appeal Tribunal are very informal. The issues are to be gathered from the official files, which record the history of the case, and the decision appealed against, and from any further evidence presented at the hearing. A Summary of the Service and Medical Documents, together with the material evidence contained in these files, is prepared for every appeal before the hearing, and a copy made available to the appellant, or his representative, and the members of the Tribunal. The original files from which the précis is prepared are also available at and before the hearing. This is an extremely useful provision, as it enables the appellant to prepare his case before the hearing, and in many cases obtain a medical opinion from a doctor after having perused the Summary, with the possibility of associating the subject of the appeal with a condition occasioned by War Service.

If further evidence is presented by the appellant at the hearing having a substantial bearing on the claim, the case is referred back to the Commission with the further evidence for reconsideration. If after such reconsideration fresh issues are raised, the appellant and/or his representative is given an opportunity to comment. The Tribunal then considers the fresh evidence, the Commission's reconsideration and the reply of the appellant or his representative, and decides the appeal.

Where the Tribunal has decided a case adversely to the appellant, he may afterwards - at any time - submit in writing, further evidence to the Commission. This should be in the form of a Medical Opinion, or any evidence that has not been previously considered by the Commission.

If the Commission does not consider the further evidence material and substantial, the appellant is entitled on application and within 12 months of notification of the Commission's decision, to have its materiality and substance determined by the Tribunal. If the Tribunal decides that it is material and substantial, the appellant may appeal to the Tribunal for a reconsideration of the case, it then being treated as though it were an original hearing of an appeal.

The majority of Ex-Service Organisations, and the Legal Service Bureau in this State, have a number of Officers employed exclusively on pension matters, and have trained Advocates to assist appellants in their claims. There is no payment for these services.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

This issue will be the last in its present form.

DON'T PANIC, however, Roy Hoach, who this year became one of our Vice-Presidents, has successfully negotiated to have the "Pioneer News" printed professionally.

Although any increase in cost is not substantial, we will be unable to despatch copies to any unfinancial members.

It is now up to you. If you require a continuance of the "News", then all you have to do is send 2/6d to the Secretary, and ensure copies till March 1954, when further subscriptions will be due.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Anyone who has changed his address since the last issue of the "News", would he please let the Secretary know as soon as possible.

LAST POST

Once more, we regret having to announce the death of a former comrade. Robert (Bobbie) Hollister (B & H.Q. Coys 2/1 Bn.) succumbed in March after a very long illness. A wreath was sent to the funeral conveying the deepest sympathy of the Association to Mrs. Hollister and family.

MAILBAG EXTRACIS

The Editors, once again, were very pleased to receive an abundance of mail from a wide circle of addresses. We regret that space will not permit acknowledging all letters, but we have selected a few at random.

Ken Newling (formerly H.Q. Coy 2/1) tells us he often sees ex-Pioneers in his travels. We would like you to let us have any addresses Ken, so we can post them a "News". For anyone going through Scone, call at Firth's garage where Ken is foreman, and he guarantees a good reception at the local R.S.L.

Another call to one of our country cousins, - George Bateman, way up at North Bingara. Thanks for your very generous donation George, and also for your letter, and don't worry, your address is registered and you will hear from us in future. Your three children will also hear from Father Christmas at the right time. Thanks again George.

Jack Collis (former R.A.P. 2/1) writes to give the address of Cliff Secombe (Cpl - R.A.P.). Jack tells us Cliff is down at Yerranderie (via P.O. Camden) way out in the scrub and asks if we could forward all literature and magazines to keep Cliff in touch. It has been done Jack and thanks for the address. At the same time "How are you, Cliff? Hope to hear from you".

" A driver who steps on the gas, can often say his feet are killing him".

SHORTS

Jack Allison sends a very welcome donation and we are sorry you couldn't attend the smoko Jack.

From Kyogle way - Bill Hoffman. Thanks for the newsy letter and donation Bill.

Bill Tasker (R.S.L. President at Rockdale) sent apologies for non-attendance for Re-union and enclosed a very acceptable donation.

Mick Basket with an early letter from Moruya.

Don Crooks doing well at Tighes Hill - Newcastle. (Very glad to see you at the Re-union Don.)

Noel Petersen from Wyong with appreciations for the "News".

From Melbourne - L.R. Saddington, who is taking the "News" to the 2/2 Pnr. Bn. Association.

Jack Crouch wrote from Goulburn, and came to Sydney for Anzac week-end, staying with co-editor Frank Cheal.

A long newsy letter from "Muldoon" James Field, now an assistant manager of Coles Stores.

Cyril Amies who had to get his wife to write a letter (shame on you Cyril).

Ken Watt of Warragrah - Boggabri expressed his obvious appreciation of the "News" (evident by his large donation).

OFF THE RECORD

We won't mention names, but at the Sept., 1953 smoko a collection of 2/6d per head was taken to start off the "Pioneer News". Two certain members present were recorded for their 2/6d. That in itself isn't startling, but it may be news to know that both have forwarded additional donations since the 2nd issue, - one apologising for the delay and saying that the ultimatum of - "NO MONEY - NO PAPER" jolted his memory. It must be a good brew at the smokos!:

IN PASSING

From our paper you will gather than many Pioneers are still in the Army, irrespective of our war-time convictions. As witness, Major David Coleman, who is now attached to the Australian Legation in Washington. We are forwarding a "News" to him and will publish any news received from him.

Former 2/1 Bn. Captain - Geoff Williams, is now O.C. of the 6th Cadet Corps at Anglesea Barracks, Hobart. We received a clipping from a Tassie Paper with a photo and caption stating that Geoff has just returned after doing a two year staff corps course in London, and is now a Major. Nice going Geoff, and best of luck.

Another such, is Capt. H. (Harry) Huggard dispensing as Captain (Q) Victoria Barracks. Probably still buying the equipment as all "Q's" do.

John Trevethick is also soldiering-on as a Company Commander with the 17/18 Bn. (North Shore Regiment).

Even Frank Cheal has just completed three weeks camp, during which he was promoted to W/O 11. Congratulations Frank, but it's a far cry from the Pioneers to the Army Medical Corps.

Len Hope passed on the last edition of the News to Tom Morgan who in turn sent in a very acceptable donation. However, although Tom lives at "Hillview" Tuggerah, we understand he has been in Yaralla for a turn. Our best wishes for a quick recovery Tom, and thanks for the letter and donation.

Former C.S.M. (2/1) Bert Murray is now in the Moree district working for the Housing Commission. Over the past twelve months Bert has had considerable bad luck, starting with the complete loss of his house and contents by fire at Como, and since moving to Moree, the serious illness of his wife who is now in a Sydney hospital. Bert philosophically looks to the future for better things and says that he "will get by". Better luck to you Bert, and we would like to hear from you.

Although David Austin could not get leave from Jindabyne Dam in time for our Anzac Re-Union, he was present at the March. Dave also sent a very acceptable donation, for which we are grateful.

"Kewpie" Beggs has forsaken the Bush and is to become the Proprietor of a Milk Bar at Parramatta Road, Croydon, which is to be illuminated by a distinguished neon, so watch for that sign when travelling that way. (We don't charge for initial ads "Kewpie".)

We have not previously mentioned that Ben Bray may be found as steward at the Yass R.S.L. Club, and from reports is not averse to sharing a drop of ale with visitors.

Although we haven't much information about him, we have at last contacted Harry Mostyn. Harry came along to the re-union and was noticed enjoying himself meeting many old mates.

Our last issue of the "Pioneer News" included a copy sent to Hobart, Tasmania. This was to Lindsay Gale, (better known as "Lofty" - remember he is 6'2"). On behalf of "Lofty" we pass on his kind regards to all of his old friends and his regrets for not being able to meet them on Anzac week-end, due to the long distance he would have to travel. He also issues a very kind invitation to any Pioneers who may be visiting Tasmania to call on him and they will be assured of being made very welcome. His address is - 15 Wattle Street, Moonah, Hobart, Tasmania.

We have had several Pioneers in the "big money" in the State Lottery, the latest being Ron Coyte. Good luck to you, Ron.

A letter received just as we were about to go to press shows how widely read is our magazine. The letter is from Padre Laing, now over in Japan as a Senior Chaplain. Padre tells that he has been in touch with several ex-Pioneers over there, also passes on that Fred Ness is now a Staff Captain at Duntroon. Thanks for the letter Padre, we will now contact Fred Ness. (How are you Fred?)

A FREE SERVICE

Are you in business ? If so, provide the details, and members of the Association will be notified of your wares per medium of this paper.

There will be no charge for this service.

By this means we hope to persuade our members to patronise other members of the Association, who we know will always provide that "fair deal" which is so elusive these days.

TO COMMENCE.

Consult our President Hec Page, WM2089 for all classes of wrought-iron work. We guarantee a First Class job.

Buy your Postage Stamps from Bill Robertson, the popular Postmaster at Clovelly West, - all Postal orders attended to.

A PAT ON THE BACK

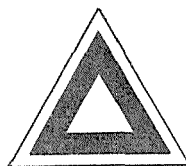
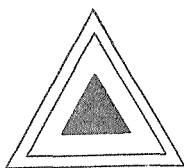
The 30th Bn. Adjutant contacted the Secretary and expressed his appreciation of the behaviour of those present at our Anzac Reunion and passes on his thanks for the clean way in which the hall was left. THANKS BOYS !

Do you find this hall satisfactory for future Reunions?

September, 1953

No. 4.

Registered at the G.P.O., Sydney, for transmission by post as a Periodical.



The Pioneer News

ASSOCIATION ROOMS:
Room 2, 19 Hunter Street, Sydney

Editor and Secretary:
MAX LAW

President:
HEC. PAGE

Co-Editor:
FRANK CHEAL

President's Message

GENTLEMEN,

This issue marks the end of operations for the first year and simultaneously begins a new phase for our paper.

Concurrent with this news is the hope that, with the cessation of hostilities in Korea, a new phase may also begin to take shape in world affairs.

Whether it be as an active participant in the wars or as a member of the community engaged in peaceful pursuits, many members of both battalions have played a notable part in the creation of today's circumstances whereby we may be permitted to express the hope that tomorrow we will be able to go about our business and live our normal lives without that constant threat of war which has hung over our heads ever since the end of the 1939-45 war.

I think that I express the fervent hope of every one of us when I say that our real desire is to be allowed to lead a full peaceful life devoted to the development of this nation of ours.

In this way it may be that a new phase is beginning for us all in a new community of nations with Australia playing an ever increasing part in the leadership of this community.

By taking an intelligent interest and by, wherever possible, taking an active part in affairs of state, we can all play some valuable part in the moulding of that main desire of ours.

*Presenting . . .***THE NEW "PIONEER NEWS"***As announced in our last issue the printing of our magazine is in new hands**At this stage, the two gentlemen who are responsible for this gesture prefer to remain anonymous. However, the editors are very grateful for our printers' offer and trust that you, our readers, approve of our new form. We would greatly appreciate your comments. Thank you.***APPRECIATION**

Miss Pat Neal. Although unknown to you, Pat is the young lady who has been responsible for the typing, setting up and actual printing of our previous issues. This effort involved an average of **three successive evenings** each issue, till around midnight. We cannot find adequate thanks for Pat, particularly for her early help in getting our first issue under way in such a worthwhile manner for the pleasure of all who read and enjoy this magazine.

SMOKO

The Association's next Re-Union Smoko will be held on Friday Evening, 16th October, 1953 at 7.45 p.m. in the Army Drill Hall (N.S.W. Scottish Regt, 3 Carlow Street, North Sydney. Once again an excellent supper has been arranged and amber fluid will be available. If you missed the big Anzac re-union this year, don't miss this one.

Full particulars will be sent in our "Reminder Circular" which will go out approximately 10 days prior to the 16th of October.

Please fill in the enclosed form and return with haste so as satisfactory catering arrangements can be made.

SHORTS

John Haydn (Captain Jack) writes from Orange with three new addresses including brother Ernie's. Sorry can't help with address of A. J. Hool, John, as we have no record.

Fred Calloway now back in Sydney.

ATTENTION!!

In previous issues we suggested that unless we receive a subscription of 2/6 per member, we will be forced to print only sufficient copies for those who are financial. Now we have softened.

We feel that after building up the association membership to its present strength, we would not want to lose contact with any one for the sake of 2/6 so we leave it with you. If you feel it is worthwhile to keep the magazine going and you have not previously sent in a subscription, the cost is only 2/6 per year. We are leaving it to your conscience gentlemen!

Due to a requirement of the Post Master General's Department, to be eligible for the reduced rate of postage as a Periodical, it is necessary for us to be able to produce books showing 75 per cent. (at least) of financial members in proportion to magazines printed. Therefore, as from March 1954 issue, a complete new subscription list will be open. We request you to "do your bit" and send in your subscription. For those who have already sent donations of more than 2/6, you will be credited accordingly.

SHORTS

Short notes were received from Johnny Gilchrist, Kev Raward, Wal Roberts and J. Bird. All enclosed welcome donations and judging by lack of comment to the contrary, are all suffering good health — we hope so anyway (Thanks Gents)



My Dear Boys,

The links made in war are stronger than steel, just as the monuments raised by the deeds and sacrifices of our boys will outlast any wrought in bronze or stone.

So we, who help to keep the home fires burning, have long, long, memories which will not fade or fail while life lasts.

The war is over, but the peace is not yet won, indeed the conditions in which the war years have left us have been overshadowed by a bewildering array of problems and complexities which make the future very uncertain.

To preserve our links in these circumstances is supremely necessary. This can be done in many ways—spiritually we will always remember—but there must be a living, radiant contact in the field of living, being and doing.

To this end, we are once again organising a Christmas Tree and Party which we hope will be even better than last year. However, this will not be possible without your help. Prices have risen still more—many of you have increased your families—and I am afraid these parties now cost real money.

We intend conducting another Guessing Competition and will be sending each of you 10/- worth of tickets which I trust you will do your best to dispose of. Also we will be asking for the names and ages of your family so that we may either have a present on the tree for them, or in the case of our country children, post a parcel to them.

As you can imagine there is a great deal of work attached to sorting out the presents and making sure that each child received something really suitable—so you will understand just how important it is to let us have particulars of the number of children in your family, their names and their ages.

Another thing, boys, I do want you to know that we are here to help in any way we can. Recently we discovered, too late, that the wife of one of our country members was a patient in a Sydney Hospital, and being so far from home would have appreciated visitors. I would be grateful if, at any time, you hear of such cases you would let me know early.

My love to you all, and radiant good wishes for health and happiness,

Yours sincerely,

Lilla O'Malley Wood.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Having read the appeal of our Patron for support of this year's Children's Christmas Party, we urge you to help wherever possible. We trust you may remember these few facts that we put forward to you, when you are deciding what you can do to help.

Firstly:—The guessing competition is to help pay for the presents sent out to all children whose names we receive, and with our ever increasing membership, the number of children is getting proportionately larger. Only **one** book will be sent to each member and all that is required to be returned is 10/- with the butts. If every member sells **one book only**, it will pay for the presents.

Secondly:—Your association committee work very hard to help in the manual labour involved and know as well as many parents who attended the two previous parties, the enjoyment the kids get out of this party, complete with Santa.

Thirdly:—The value of each present given (not to mention all of the afternoon tea, ice cream, sweets, etc., purchased) averages more than the 10/- we are asking for.

What can you do? Sell one book only, that is not a lot to ask for the kiddies who look forward to the party is it? Address all butts to "Ladies Auxiliary,"

2/1 and 2/2 Pioneer Bn. Assoc.,
19 Hunter Street,
SYDNEY.

To register your child all you have to do is send in the following particulars of **each** child to the above address. Name, Age and Sex. Register Now!

IN PASSING

Mick Dwyer called in on this Editor recently (on business of course) and introduced his charming wife Win and their two children. Mick is a really settled down family man now and appears to like it very much. Mr. and Mrs. Dwyer have just moved into a flat at Bronte.

Mick passed on the address of George Hobby ("Nyabying" East Katanning, W.A.) and George has now been registered for future correspondence.

We mentioned in our last issue that Ex-pioneers could be found in the best of places. This time we are referring to Major Gordon Osborne (now at Victoria Barracks). Gordon has been appointed Public Relations Officer for the forthcoming Royal Tour of Australia. If you get your photo in the papers Gordon we will pick out the best and endeavour to have it reproduced.

Jim Commins blew into the big city on holidays from Spring Hill. Jim looks well and appears prosperous as all our landed cousins are these days. He appeared to enjoy a drop of the ever popular "fluid" at one of our leading hostelrys with one of the Editors.

A regular patron of our last few smokos has been Mick Reilly (C.S.M. "B" Coy 2/I after Bert Murray) Mick has not been in very good health lately but can still smile over an occasional beer at our evenings. Whoever requires any shrubs plants, etc., for their garden, consult Mick at his nursery out Bankstown way. See you on October 16, Mick.

Another of our former Pioneers

soldiering on in Korea is Eric Harps (2/1)—Eric, a staff Sergeant, has been in Japan and surroundings since World War II. We know he will be glad Peace is on over there.

One of our most energetic reporters is back in town. Laurie Fitzhenry has been plying his trade on the Hobart wharves for the last few months and is now back in Sydney to give a hand on the Committee. Welcome home Laurie.

One other to have a run of bad luck lately is Vince Petrich, who has been establishing a new business at Seven Hills and as we know, working hard to make it a success. Vince was burgled recently losing several hundred pounds worth of stock, a lot being uninsured. A bad blow Vince but keep the pecker up.

It has come to notice that Major K. B. Kidd has recently spent a period in Hospital in W.A. Our best wishes for a quick recovery "Kiddie." The Major is connected with the Whaling Commission in Perth so any who are in that direction and do look him up are sure to be in for a big Blow.

Perc. Langford and Jack Laurie are two who have made Newcastle their home. We have found out that Jack has a fine collection of photos of the 2/2nd Battalion in New Guinea and Borneo much, we understand, to the chagrin of Major Eddie Aitken and even now we don't think Eddie knows where those precious "I" photos went.

The name of Viv Horder was brought forcibly to the notice of the Editors when perusing the addresses, his address is recorded as "Long Bay Penitentiary," however, there is need to wonder how he got there as Viv is the Chief Goal Recorder. We only mention this for the future reference of those of us who find there is always someone in "high places" who can prove helpful in times of dire need.

We often wonder whether Capt. Geoff Williams realises that one of his erstwhile Boy Cubs is Co-Editor of the news. However Geoff wasn't a bad Horse as "Akela" and no doubt his early training enabled him to manage his Company competently.

Any Ex-Pioneer who travels by train between Goulburn and Sydney should look out for Jack Grouch (2/2nd) who now brings up the rear of passengers trains on that route.

Harry Tope, we understand is holding down a rather important job with Warringaah Council. Even though he does wear civvies he still appears the same and we can be assured that there is one Council in Sydney that is well cared for.

Don't forget to notify your change of address. You have to notify the taxation Dept., your insurance, the transport licence board and many others, so include the Pioneer Battalion's Association on your list and we will not receive a returned magazine marked "Left — address unknown."

Robt. Bally writes from Victoria after having several addresses around Australia over a couple of years in service with the P.M.G.'s dept. Bob also has two children in his family and is now settled in Hawthorne, Victoria. Thanks for your donation Bob and would you send the address of Dave Jones?

The secretary was very pleased to make the acquaintance of (Major) Gus Daly who recently visited Sydney to arrange for distribution of the 2/2 Pioneer War History. We are sure that these visits help to keep alive the comradeship of our two associations. Major Daly, incidentally, played a large part in the production of the War History and for that part is to be warmly congratulated along with Col. E. Aitken, for such a fine effort.

IN PASSING

Former President, Frank Allen has had his share of worry and all in one week. Firstly, his daughter Bronwyn, who is aged 5, had an operation on her eye and on the same day Frank's mother fell down and broke her arm. Consequently, Frank has been doing quite a lot of running around. Both patients have since been reported as "satisfactory."

Peter Peil left these shores recently for a trip to America via England and intends to call in on Washington, not to see the President, but to try and contact Major David Coleman (reported in our last issue as being in the Australian Legation there. Peter was farewelled by our publicity officer, "Monty" Montague, who wished Peter a pleasant trip.

Geoff Lloyd has recently launched out in the building field. He has started off by doing three homes for the War Service Homes Division of Repat.

Trading as the Lloyd Bldg. Co. he is available for a good conscientious job at UU 2093.

Another of our regular reporters, Neville O'Connor, from Ballina, sent in a bright seven page letter with quite a few names and addresses complete with a brief history of each man. Unfortunately we haven't the space to give all of Neville's news but we will contact all mentioned. Keep it up Neville, it was an excellent effort and your letter has been read by several of the boys down here. Hope you don't mind, but you would have been pleased to hear the comments. Thanks again.

Arthur Kelly (the man with the least hair in the 2/2) wrote from Barmedman. Thanks for your cheque Arthur, it is very much appreciated. Arthur's eldest daughter

was stricken with polio two years ago, but is now reported progressing very slowly. Our sincere good wishes for her complete and speedy recovery, Arthur, and I am sure that feeling comes from all of your old mates.

Cyril Morahan has arrived back from service in Korea and has now taken over the appointment of Staff Captain, 2 Div. Welcome home, Cyril. The long arm of coincidence takes over in Cyril's new job. Twin brother John has taken over Cyril's job in Japan while Cyril takes over from former Pioneer, Major Huggard, who, incidentally, is being transferred to Southern Command Melbourne. Conspiracy it would seem.

A very interesting letter arrived from Murgon (Queensland) signed by none other than "Bisto" (Geoff Gummer). Geoff's address was recently given through Jim (Popeye) Edwards and we forwarded our last Pioneer News to Murgon and the very warm and sincere letter arrived soon after. We are glad that you like the "News" Geoff and you will certainly receive all future copies. Will show your letter to Popeye and hope to see you in Sydney one of these days.

From the Commonwealth Bank at Crookwell we hear from Bill Hood. We have passed on your regards to Hec Page, Bill, and thanks for your donation.

Many thanks for your kind remarks to the "Pioneer News" Bluey (Frank) Locane. Blue asks for information of Roy Stubbs, (Moruva), Vince Diggs (Coonamble), and Harry or Podge Sullivan (Dubbo or Trangie). Sorry we can't help Frank, not having any of those people recorded. Can anyone else help? Frank also issues an invitation for any members to visit "the best Sub-branch (R.S.L.) in the country"—Bankstown, where he is an active committeeman.

Thanks also to Bobbie Gales for sending in the address of Arthur Scovey. We have sent a paper to Arthur, Bob. Also thanks for your donation.

Greetings to former Lieut. "Pasha" Jackson now residing in Goulburn. Your letter along with your very generous donation was well received and we are glad to find news of interest in the "News". "Pasha" is also soldiering on, being Acting (unpaid?) 2 I/C "B" Coy in Goulburn, and earnestly wishes he had some former Pioneers to help him as they are desperately short of N.C.O.'s and Officers. (The old Pioneer Boys could not have been too bad after all.) Anyway you have a former Pioneer in Arnold Vearing, who, we believe, is a Sgt. (A.R.A.) in your drill hall; don't be greedy Pasha, and thanks again.

Our casualty list contains the name of Dick Alchin, who has been suffering from hands scalded in boiling fat. Sorry to hear of it Dick, and hope your local R.A.P. at Dalton is as good as your former battalion tent? It was bad luck you couldn't be with us at the last smoko but remember the 16th October and we hope you can make it. Thanks for your donation.

A regular correspondent is Eric Face. Keep it up Eric, your letters are always welcome. We have passed on your regards to our beloved Patron Mrs. O'Mally Woods, and we certainly agree with your praise of that grand person. Hope you like the photo in this issue.

Former 2/2nd Battalion member. A. C. Frost is up in Junee. You have no doubt received your copy of the War History by now and we are sure you will agree it was well worth waiting for.

2/2 PIONEER BN. WAR HISTORY

We are very pleased to announce the receipt of "The Story of the 2/2 Pioneer Bn.", and print hereunder a report prepared by Bill Rodie (2/2) based on an article in the "Sydney Daily Telegraph" of Saturday August 1st, 1953.

The Story of the 2/2 Pioneer Battalion has been warmly received in metropolitan newspapers throughout Australia.

In the Sydney "Daily Telegraph," famous war correspondent, Ronald Monson—whose frontline reports of every campaign from the Spanish Civil War right through to Korea have appeared in Australian and London newspapers—wrote of Australia's "soldierly tradition that goes back to the Boer war, but gained its clear definition on Gallipoli, and has since been enriched on scores of battle fronts on land, sea and in the air."

And, Monson continued, in The Story of the 2/2 Pioneer Battalion, E. F. Aitken (the unit's last C.O.) "tells how a cross-section of Australian civi-

lians entered into that tradition, were moulded under its influence into a superb fighting force, fought — and often died—according to it.

"In this simply told story the author uses scarcely an adjective, attempts no imaginative flights, seeks after no effects. He devotes as much detail to the training of the battalion as he does to accounts of its toughest battles and its vicissitudes in captivity.

"But from it emerges the picture of a magnificent soldier, possessed of strong battle discipline, highly adaptable, ever-loyal to his mates, proud of his unit, cool in crises, dependable at all times, and endowed with more than his share of plain 'guts'—a typical Australian fighting soldier . . .

"For the Second Pioneers, Syria was the testing ground—and a bloody campaign that was, despite its brevity. The first action of these mostly untried soldiers was to assist in a frontal attack on Merdjayoun Fort, the key to the central advance in the Syrian campaign. The fort, on a commanding hill, was manned by crack troops of the French Army, under Vichy control. The attacking companies of the Pioneer Battalion had to advance in daylight up a steep slope under a hail of machine-gun, rifle and mortar fire. They fought their way to within 80 yards of the fort and held on, as their casualties mounted.

"In the attack, as in all attacks, individual soldiers and groups of soldiers, were called on, or volunteered, for action making great calls on their initiative—and these Pioneers were not found wanting. . . .

"The battalion, now blooded, moved on to the attack on Damour, and was present at the final victory in Syria. In the five-weeks fighting the battalion had lost 73 officers and men killed and 102 wounded. They had paid in blood for their first battle honour—but they emerged a proud unit. Many of their number had won awards for bravery in the field, and all had acquitted themselves well.

"The battalion was one of the few Australian units ordered to Java, to take part in that lost cause. Fighting a rearguard action, under new conditions, in a campaign already lost, the men behaved with splendid gallantry. Even after the Dutch had capitulated the Pioneers were launching attacks on the advancing Japanese. Sometimes a handful of men were fighting it out in the jungle at close quarters with a horde of the enemy. Their orders had been to hold on until the last.

"'A' Company of the Battalion was attacking when the High Command ordered a general capitulation and was cut off from the remainder of the force. The lost company was still blazing away after the surrender, out of all communication with their unit and the world.

"Then the battalion went into imprisonment for three and a half years—years of starvation, disease and unremitting toil on the Burma railway and elsewhere in South-East Asia. They were bitter years, but the men's spirits were never broken. Illness and starvation ate into the ranks of the Pioneers. When the haggard remnants were gathered together after the war it was found that of the 865 members of the battalion who had been captured 258 had died.

"Back in Australia, after the battalion went into captivity, the unit was reformed from a nucleus who had not got to Java. The reformed unit fought with great distinction in New Guinea and Borneo.

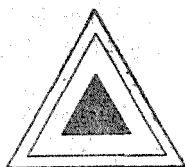
At the war's end the reformed unit helped in the search for P.O.W.s of the old battalion.

"Writes Aitken: 'The men wanted nothing more than to recover their comrades in arms, and then return to their homes as speedily as possible.'

"Mateship, which had sustained them through years of danger and hardships almost beyond endurance, ran strongly to the end.

"These were typical Australian soldiers—the sons of the Anzacs, the elder brothers of the men in Korea."

(Editors' Note:—We have obtained 100 copies of this history and should you require a copy, the Secretary will forward one upon receipt of 25/6 (postage inclusive). The book is an excellent well-bound volume and a worthy acquisition to any library. Be Sure of Yours—Do It Now!



The



Pioneer News

ASSOCIATION ROOMS:

Room 2, 19 Hunter Street, Sydney

Editor and Secretary:

MAX LAW

President:

HEC. PAGE

Co-Editor:

FRANK CHEAL

No. 5. December, 1953.

Price: 2/6 per annum

President's Message . . .

GENTLEMEN,

I have before me a Christmas Greeting card which contains what I consider to be an almost perfect summing up of the present festive season:—

*"Never a Christmas morning,
Never the old year ends,
But somebody thinks of somebody,
Old days, old times, old friends."*

The thought expressed in those words is particularly applicable to all who have been comrades in arms; we, who are left, growing a little older and noticing a gradual thinning of our ranks, will turn our thoughts back on such an occasion to remember the "old days, old times, old friends."

Those thoughts are followed by:—

*"Today will be gone when tomorrow's here
So let us do to-day
All the little things that will bring good cheer
To others on their way."*

... which allows me to say thank you for the really marvellous response to my letter seeking your assistance in helping to provide some little thing that will indeed bring good cheer to others on their way — our children. The happiness which your act of to-day has brought to those children ensures that the true Christmas spirit is maintained.

May I now take this opportunity of sending to you all my best wishes for a happy Christmas and trust that you will enjoy the coming New Year to the utmost.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

On Sunday, 20th December, our annual Children's Christmas Party was held at Moore Park Army Training Centre, and was attended by about 400 children and parents.

The Party commenced at 2.15 p.m. with Christmas Carols, led by the singing of Harry Sedger. This was followed by a display of magic and a "Punch and Judy" Show, and these entertainments were eagerly accepted.

At 3 p.m. Santa Claus arrived, and proceeded to give presents to the

SUBS. NOW DUE!

children who crowded around the tree, waiting for their names to be called.

During the proceedings, ice cream, soft drinks, cakes and sandwiches were given out to all.

The distribution of the presents took about two hours, and when he left, Santa was a very hot and weary gentleman.

Many of the parents present praised the work put into the party by the Ladies' Committee, especially by their leader, our Patron and friend, Mrs. L. O'Malley Wood. Her work and thoughts for the welfare of "Her Boys" is carried on each year for the benefit of the children of our members.

On behalf of the President and Committee, we extend once more our very grateful thanks and admiration for the untiring efforts of Mrs. O'Malley Wood and her band of helpers, for making our party of 1953 another overwhelming success.

GUESSING COMPETITION RESULTS

The draw for our annual guessing competition was made at the Christmas Party by Colonel G. J. Graham, and resulted as follows:

1. Radiogram: Mrs. J. Garrington, 6 Karoola Crescent, Caringbah.
2. Basket of Wines: W. A. Corri gan, 72 O'Neill St., Guildford.
3. Electric Iron: Mr. Woolridge, 218 Port Hacking Road, Miranda.

The Ladies' Committee wishes to thank all members whose efforts in our competition helped to make the party the success that it was.

NOTE.

Normally this issue of the "News" is due in December, but due to holidays, it could not be printed in time.

SPECIAL NOTE

We have learned that a former member of the 2/-st is now an inmate of Ward "G", Repatriation Section, Callan Park. He is former Pte. Jack Wood, H.Q. Coy., and is suffering from war neurosis. His mother, Mrs. Wood, tells us that Jack looks forward to reading this magazine, but it also makes him a bit unhappy as he does not ever get any visitors of old mates. We realise that this would not be generally known, so we are taking the liberty of requesting that anyone who can do so, please visit our former comrade and help him to get back on his feet. Mrs. Wood also tells us that he is not a bad case and can see visitors. How about it, chaps?

EDITOR'S CORNER

Our membership is still growing steadily, and once more we welcome ex-Pioneers who, until recently, have been posted "Missing." To answer the usual question, we are pleased to say that there are no membership fees for the Association. Your name and address is all we require. However if you like this magazine and wish to continue receiving it, all that you have to do is to send in an annual subscription of 2/6, payable in March of each year. (If you wish to send an amount over 2/6 we will accept it very gratefully.)

If you have the name and address of any former member of either the 2/1st or the 2/2nd Pioneer Bns., and you know that they are not in receipt of our correspondence, let us have their address.

We now take this opportunity of wishing all of our readers a very Merry Christmas and good health and prosperity for the coming year of 1954.

Keep up the mail to us and we will endeavour to keep up a standard of reading that you may like. Remember, your former mates would like to hear all about you, so, you give us the information, and we will see that it is passed on in the "Pioneer News."

Thank you for your co-operation in the past year.

MAX LAW, FRANK CHEAL.

SHORTS

2/2 R.M.O., Doc. Chenoweth, practising on in Mackay, Queensland . . . Bill Lewis ("T" Section, 2/2) recently promoted in banking circles, and transferred from Commonwealth Bank, Sutherland, to Bexley . . . Gordon Sheen (still in a hurry) is a boarding officer in Dept. of Customs.

IN PASSING

In our last issue, we told you of receiving the address of George (T.) Hobley (Kattanning, W.A.). Well, it only took George a matter of hours to write a very welcome answer to say how very pleased he was to know that we had a very active association over here. George told of passing on the three back issues that we sent over, to brother Dick, and by all accounts they had quite a time reminiscing. We will always welcome a few lines of news from over there, George. (For those who immediately think of another well-known "Sand-groper", we regret to announce that George has not any recent news of his (and our) old mate Val (Baldy) Balding.)

Remembering that a lot of old Pioneers came from around the Irrigation Area, we wrote to several local papers, asking them to run a few lines asking ex-Pioneers to contact the secretary. As a result, we had a letter from Phil Mahy, who gave us a bit of news of a few of the boys in the Area, and in a further letter, gave us no less than ten addresses for our record. To mention a few, Andy Collins, Alf Sheather, Paddy Walsh, Jack Purcell, Mick Roberts (local barber and authority on golf) and Les Gavely (remember, always late on mess parades). Thanks a lot, Phil, we appreciate your splendid effort, and we certainly hope to hear from you in the future (and also letters from some of the other boys around there).

Also, as a result of the same paper ad., we had a letter from Joe Wilson (Griffith). Joe only wrote a short letter, but he gave us a couple of wel-

(Continued on page 4.)

come addresses. Thanks to you too, Joe.

Ern Nancarrow (2/1) dropped in one day recently after a session down at Repat. (Ern is not in the best of health, having a weak heart). During the course of conversation, Ern told me of an interesting experience that he had after being sent away from the 2 bar 1 Bn. as "B" class in 1944. After a lot of wrangling, Ern managed to get himself on a little-known draft that finished up in, of all places, India. At the end of the war, Ern was over in Singapore helping with the repatriation of P.O.W., and was one of the first free Aussies into Changi. Who do you think was one of the first people that Ern met? Colonel Arnold Brown, who was also there in a similar capacity. It was good to see you at the smoko, Ern. Hope your health keeps on the "up".

Calling Arthur Kelly. The answer to your problem is "Have you an Uncle Sam?" He is the one who, according to Fred Calloway, sent in the particulars of your family. I hope this relieves your curiosity, as it has mine. By the way, Arthur, we hope that you had good news on your trip down to Sydney with your daughter.

We cannot go any further without mentioning Mrs. Peggy Herron, wife of Max Herron. Why? Well, because we like to mention as many of our correspondents as we can. Mrs. Peggy wrote for Max and went on to say how much she enjoys reading the "Pioneer News," as she remembers many of the boys (having been a wartime member of the 2/1st Younger Set). Not only a letter, but Mrs. H. sent in several new addresses, including that of "King Prawn" Les Denham. Our very grateful acknowledgments, Mrs. Herron, and write as

often as you like. (It's O.K., Max, it's purely business.)

In town from Parkes, where he is in the Commonwealth Bank, former 2/1st Lieut. Steve Clarke. You would not read about it, but haven't we been telling you for months that you will always find ex-Pioneers in the best of places? Well, Steve arrived in Sydney, not having been in touch with our Association for several years, and was on one of our up to date trams wondering how he could get in touch with some of the boys, when (Steve swears it true) he noticed the tram driver trying to catch his eye. Although he could not immediately recall the driver's name, Steve got into the driver's cabin and found — a Pioneer, who directed our visitor to the secretary's place of employment. As a result, Steve met up with a few of the boys. We will see that you receive our future magazines, Steve.

The editors hope that "Pioneer News" readers are remembering to keep all editions of the paper where they can easily find same. Our reason for mentioning this is that many of the country boys write and give an invitation to any old Pioneers to call on them when in the districts, and we pass it on for your information. So, whenever you travel, look up your "News" and do a spot of visiting. When you eventually arrive home, write and tell us about it.

Talking of invitations, we have one from "Dusty" Fensom, at Mitta-gong. "Dusty" can be found at the "Limestone Haulage Depot" and says he would welcome the opportunity of meeting any of the boys whenever they are in the district. Thanks for your letter, "Dusty."

Reg Smith, one of the Smiths of

"B" Coy., 2/1st, has been transferred by his employer to Katoomba — a nice cool place — but then Reg has one of those jobs that needs cool wealth. He is an undertaker.

Almost forgot to mention that George Hobley told in his letter of going through West Wyalong recently and calling on former Lieut. (2/1st) lively John Douglas. We understand that John has a store in the town and is still the same as ever, not looking a day older than when we last saw him in Balikpapan. Cheerio, John, and I hope we can induce you to drop us a line to say "Hello." (This editor, particularly, would like to renew acquaintance next periodical visit you make to Sydney.—M.L.)

Sid Jopson wrote a letter to our Ladies' Committee and enclosed his raffle butts. That was quite O.K., but to give your news, Sid, you will have to drop us a line. However, we received it from Mrs. Grant, so we will let you off with a reprimand this time. Sid tells us that he has been transferred from the "Wales" Bank at Kyogle to the branch at Grafton, and also invites old mates to look him up at that address. Good luck to you, Sid.

Another to be moved around is Jim (Robbie) Robertson, who is now down on the Victorian border at Wentworth, near Mildura. Already has Jim found a former Pioneer, and where better than behind the bar at the Royal Hotel. The ale dispenser is Cyril Moore (2/2nd); so we can take it that Jim and Cyril can soon think of an excuse to talk about old times. Isn't it marvellous how talking makes you thirsty, Jim?

We have another J. Robertson on our books, only this one is like a lot

of us — a city slicker — residing at 55 Bay St., Botany. We mention this because if any one requires any kind of brick or furnace work, then contact our friend at this address, and we know you will get a "fair go".

Merv. Rees, in the Dorrigo district, is another farmer who is hard at it. Merv. has been married seven years and has three children — a boy and two girls. Thanks for your letter and donation, also the address of Jack Baldwin and Eddie Tyler. Hope to see you down at our next Anzac Smoko, which, we hope will be held during that week-end.

"Poppa" Mills (ex "B" Coy. 2/1) is a patient at Repatriation Hospital, Concord, and may be there for some time yet. We trust that many of his old friends may be able to visit him. To you, "Poppa," we wish you well and trust your recovery will be speedy.

RE-UNION SMOKO

Friday, 16th October, was the night of our last re-union smoko and it was attended by over 100 members. The doors were opened at 7.30 p.m., and it was only a matter of minutes before, after getting a supply of beer, various groups settled down to their job of enjoying themselves.

After allowing everybody to find their seat, the President, Mr. Hec. Page, called for order and read out several items of interest. These items included the request that members who had not sent in the names of their children for the Christmas Party do so as soon as possible.

Also, it was pointed out by the President that difficulty had been experienced in getting a suitable hall on a Saturday close to Christmas for

(Continued on page 6.)

use by our Ladies' Committee for the Christmas Party. Accordingly, a vote was taken as to the desirability of holding the party on a Sunday. It was decided almost unanimously that direction be given to the Ladies' Committee to arrange for the party to be held on Sunday, 20th December.

One dozen bottles of beer were raffled, the proceeds of which were to be used for decorations to Ward 5 of the Repatriation Hospital, Concorn, over the Christmas period. The amount raised was £4/17/-

(Editors' Note: Last year the Association became aware of the fact that Ward 5 had lost its sponsor for Christmas decorations to help brighten the Ward over that period. The Association committee made available an amount not exceeding £5 for this purpose. Our President was a patient of that Ward at this time and on reporting later, told of the difference the decorations made to the Ward, also of the appreciation of the Sisters and patients. As a result, we are maintaining our effort to help make Christmas a little brighter for the boys who are not as fortunate as the majority of us.)

The smoko proceeded through supper till about 11.30, when the gathering broke up and everyone proceeded on their merry (?) way home, after agreeing that a good night was had by all. The President wishes to thank all members of the committee who worked so hard and well to make the evening another success.

The President welcomed to the October smoko the two gentlemen who print our "Pioneer News". Ted Miller and Geoff Vale were the guests of the committee, and appeared to have a good night; in fact, they had

such a good night that when one of them started out to drive the other one home they found themselves at Artarmon. As any City-ite knows, this is nowhere near Manly, their ultimate destination.

LAST POST

Two more of our comrades have answered the last roll call. Since our last issue, Dave Carberry (2/1st) was fatally injured in a road accident in Sydney. This information was not known till some time after the event, but, after confirmation, a message of sympathy was conveyed to his family by the Secretary.

A funeral notice in a Sydney paper announced the passing of Sydney Byron Warren (2/1st), on the 29th November. A letter of sympathy was forwarded on behalf of the Association, to his family.

SHORTS

Ex-Major Norm (Nugget) Neal is doing administration up at Rum Jungle. . . . Jack Richards up at Mt. Kuring-gai; not long back from Nambucca Heads where he met Joe White . . . A short note from Bob Wilson (Fairymeadow) after receiving his first "Pioneer News" . . . Thanks for your letter and welcome donation, Cec. Handley (Portland); always glad to hear from you . . . A letter signed "The Monster", and containing six (only) lines including regards, is known to come from Duntroon Staff Captain Fred Ness . . . Calling Keith Boyle; the address you asked for is Robt. Bally, 121 Glenferrie Rd., Hawthorn.

ACHIEVEMENTS

To Fred and Mrs. Calloway, a son, Martin, born mid-October. No further details available, except to say that Martin is the third of a line of heirs, the first being Gregory (7) and the middle man, Trevor (4). Our congratulations to your good self and your wife, Fred, and we pass on your message to Ron Maher and Tom (D.) Crossman to "Get cracking".

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We wish to acknowledge receipt of a very interesting letter from former 2/2 Padre, Rev. Stanley Claughton. Padre Claughton has been very successful in the years following the war, having collected an Honours degree in Arts at the Sydney University, and was awarded the Frank Albert prize in Anthropology. Besides having been attached to H.Q., Victoria Barracks for several years past as Senior Chaplain of 2nd Military District (C.M.F.), the Padre is editor of a Church monthly magazine ("The Spire") and is in association with the very well-known Rev. Alan Walker, of the Waverley Methodist Mission.

Thank you for your letter, Padre, and despite your pressure of work, we sincerely hope that we will hear of, and indeed, from you, regularly. Hope you enjoyed the 2/2 War History.

Another 2/2 correspondent from the country is Ken Wilson, of Lismore. Ken wishes to be remembered to all former "C" Company boys, and says that he would like to see any of them visiting Lismore. He can be found at 63 Coniaba St.

In our last issue, we asked for news of several of the boys (on behalf of "Bluey Locane.") Now we are pleased

to say that a letter from Eddie Lunn, of Carinda, N.S.W., brings to light some news. Harry and "Podge" Sullivan are to be found as linemen for the P.M.G. at Dubbo (or at the Commercial Hotel around 5.30 p.m.). Thanks for your help, Eddie. Ed is a stock and station agent at Carinda and invites anyone visiting that area to call on him, and he guarantees to show where there are pigs to be shot and fish to be caught.

Also Jack Lawrie rose to the occasion with news of Vince Diggs. Vince can be found at the Coonamble Bowling Club, and Jack says that this address should find him. Jack also says that Vince hasn't changed much, as, like so many of us, he (Vince) always was old anyway.

The addresses of Harry, "Podge" and Vince have been recorded on the Association file, and will get all news in the future.

SUBSCRIPTIONS . . .

We remind all readers that the subscriptions for the ensuing twelve months, are now due.

If you still wish to have the "Pioneer News" delivered each quarter, please send in your postal note as soon as convenient.

The amount asked for is only 2/6 (although if a larger amount is forwarded, it will be credited for the corresponding period.

To help us keep our books in order we urge you to

DO IT NOW!

PERSONALITIES

Up in the wilds of New Guinea among the headhunters is Harry West (2/2), now a District Officer of Civil Administration at Kainantu. Harry visited Dumpu by plane recently, exactly 10 years to the day that the 2/2's landed there, and he tells us that he was so unimpressed that he had his pilot take off within 10 minutes. How many wish that they could have taken off like that ten years ago. Incidentally, Harry is mentioned in Colin Simpson's book, "Adam With Arrows," and should no doubt have quite a few experiences to relate. We would like to hear from you, Harry, and will gladly pass on to our readers any of your news.

Jack Purcell arrived down from Lecton, where he is on the land, to spend a few weeks in the big city. He told me how pleased the boys in the Irrigation Area were to hear from the Association (mentioned earlier in this issue) and like all of our country cousins, offers a very welcome invitation to any who call in for a very good time. Jack is on the committee of the local ex-service club, and tells me that this club is very modern, with a membership of around 2,000.

We must tell how Jack gave us the "good oil" about a horse that is in the family and was brought down especially to race at Gosford. Well, it was on its own all right, as Jack put it, dead last. Regards to you and all the boys, Jack, and hope to see you on your next visit.



ROYAL TOUR

On February 3, 1954, our Gracious Queen Elizabeth II, together with the Duke of Edinburgh, will arrive in Sydney to begin the tour of the Commonwealth.



We, as loyal subjects of the Crown, hereby affirm our loyalty to the Empire and give sincere wishes for the continued good health and happiness in peace to our Royal Family.



GOD SAVE THE
QUEEN.

