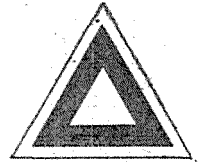


# The



# Pioneer News

ASSOCIATION ROOMS:

Room 2, 19 Hunter Street, Sydney

*Editor and Secretary:*

**MAX LAW**

*President:*

**ROD. PEGG**

*Co-Editor:*

**FRANK CHEAL**

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

January of each year conveys to us in the free world that we are commencing another year — a "New Year". It means that we can look back over the past 12 months and ponder over our gains, and losses, our misgivings — and allows us to make every effort to look to our New Year to see what we, as individuals, can do to improve our lot and the lot of others in the coming 12 months.

So it is with our Association. Our New Year commences after our April General Meeting with a committee of willing workers doing their bit towards helping our comrades.

As President, I can only hope to emulate my worthy predecessor, Hector Page, and trust that with the help of my committee, so do my bit towards justifying the faith you have placed in me. I earnestly urge you all to help us by doing whatever is asked of you, such as attending re-unions when possible, and supplying any items of news to our own Association paper.

By co-operation, we will go forward and so help to cement the good work put up over the past years.

R. PEGG.

## EDITOR'S CORNER

The Editors sincerely regret that due to many circumstances, the usual March issue of the "Pioneer News" was not printed. As most of our readers realise, the paper is written in our spare time and with annual holidays coming up, the writing had to be postponed till the end of February.

This, of course, was the first delay. Then, as our printing is donated free and is done on a Saturday afternoon, our schedule was again thrown out by the Easter and Anzac holiday weekends. It was then decided that as the issue could not be posted until early May, and the news contained in it would be too late (Anzac re-union and March arrangements), also, a further issue would be due in June, we would incorporate the two issues in one. Once again, our apologies.

## ANNUAL MEETING AND RE-UNION

The annual general meeting and Anzac re-union was held in the 30th Bn's training centre, North Sydney, on Anzac Eve, commencing at 7.30 p.m. The President, Mr. H. J. Page, opened the meeting and welcomed all present. The minutes of the last Annual Meeting were read by the Secretary and the Treasurer presented his financial report.

The President addressed the meeting, outlining the committee's work for the past 12 months.

The election of President for the next term resulted in our former Treasurer, Mr. Rod Pegg, being elected unopposed.

The former committee were all returned to office to carry on as before.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Mr. Page passed on to all a message of love from our Patron, Mrs. O'Malley Wood, and a member then asked that the sincere good wishes of the Association members be conveyed to Mrs. O'Malley Wood in return.

By about 8.30 the number present was about 150, and as the supper and refreshments were brought on everybody seemed to settle down to a good evening.

Among those present, it was pleasing to see John Seufert getting around old friends, John Morahan (just back from Korea), Viv. Parkinson, who brought along his son (also back from Korea with the N.Z. Forces), Nev. O'Connor down from Ballina, Harry Fitzgerald from Girilambone, as well as many of the "regulars" like Bobby Lake, "Bluey" Locane, Arthur Luddington, Vince Petrich, Tom Crossman, Brian Kybert and many others too numerous to mention. Proceedings went along very well till about midnight, when everyone started to disperse. We have it on good authority that in many cases those proceedings did not finish there but were carried on at various places such as private homes and in the case of one group who left with a quantity of beer between them, in a local park.

However, everybody present seemed to enjoy themselves and many words of thanks were passed on to the organisers.

## THE ANZAC MARCH

The march through Sydney was one of the largest held for many years, and the Pioneer Bns. were not the exception. The weather was at its best for the main part and the crowd watching gave the marchers a very

enthusiastic reception. Although, in answer to a request from the R.S.L., a short history of the two battalions was supplied by Frank Allen (2/1), and Hec. Page (2/2) for broadcasting, the actual mention was very short.

The 2/1st was led by former Major Norman Neal, who has only recently been discharged from a Sydney hospital.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO—

Gordon Osborne, a Major in the Permanent Forces, who has been made a member of the Victorian Order by Her Majesty the Queen, in recognition of his work on the Liaison Staff of the recent Royal Tour of the Commonwealth. Gordon's decoration was admired by many when he wore it in the Anzac March. We might also add that Gordon is also under movement orders to a post in Korea with the 4th Battalion, R.A.R. We wish you Bon Voyage, Gordon. Please keep us posted while you are away, as we know that the boys here will be very interested in your experiences.

### IN PASSING

Frank Dynon is in training for car racing and recently took part in the holiday races at Orange. He had bad luck as he had to retire due to a busted petrol tank. Frank was at the re-union for a while but stayed on the water wagon.

The "Pallomollowor Kid", Charles Wilby, seems to be doing all right for himself in the field of wheat growing. He has also acquired himself a few more little tax deductions in the form of four boys and two girls since his discharge in 1945. Good luck to you, Charles.

Bigger, brighter and better than ever is Freddie Wheaton, who with his wife and family, spent his holidays in Sydney. Fred was present at the re-union and certainly seemed to have a lot of fun with some of his old mates.

John Trevethick is now a Major with the 17/18th Bn. C.M.F., and was recently given command of a Company that is not very close to home. John's Company is at Gosford and this entails his travelling from Sydney every Wednesday night. (Others in the same unit include Jim Drummond). But getting back to John. In a recent parade in Gosford, he led the marchers past Brigadier Cameron, who took the salute.

Thank you for your very interesting letter, Bill Hoffman. Bill tells of the very heavy damage in the recent floods in the Kyogle district and, at the same time, has a number of questions that he would like answered. Only too happy to oblige, Bill. Firstly, we have not any move afoot as yet to get a Battalion History of the 2/1st. Main reason is that after enquiry, it was found that the cost would be too high at the present time. However, we hope that one day it will be published. Secondly, as you may read elsewhere, there was not any March issue of the "Pioneer News" (It's nice to know that it was missed). Thirdly, the 2/2nd Pioneer Bn's. history is available at £1 per copy, post free. Apply to The Sec. (Room 2, 19 Hunter St., Sydney). Regards to all in the district, Bill.

Also from Kyogle is a letter from Peter Bell. Peter also mentions the disastrous floods and said that it upset all plans for the boys in the area who had intended coming to Sydney for the Anzac week-end. Those affect-

ed were Ray Smith, Jim Hall, Allan Black, Ted Felton and, of course, Peter. We know that every member of the Association joins with us in hoping that you boys were not too badly affected by the damage, and we certainly trust that everything goes well with you in the future. Your kind regards will surely be passed on to Mrs. O'Malley Wood and to "Frank at the 'Coulburn'."

Calling A. E. Mallett, from Lismore. Yes, Albert, we did receive your last letter and you are financial. You also will now know why you have not received your copy of the "News" for March: Thanks for your appreciation of the gifts sent to your children at Christmas.

Down from the country, Jim Robertson, from Wentworth, where he is a P.M.G. man. Jim was on annual holidays that took in Anzac week-end and, of course, he was at the re-union and March. Believe you had a couple of "nights to remember", Jim. Serves you right. Still, we know you had no regrets. Hope to see you again next year, Jim. All the best.

Another stranger in from the never-never over the Anzac period was Mick Anselm, well known in the 2 bar one. Mick hails from Booval way up in the Banana State. He still looks much the same with his big wide grin, although his hair does look just a little greyer. Anyway, it was a pleasure meeting you again after all these years and we hope it won't be long before we see you again. You will hear from us regularly now that we have your address.

### IN PASSING

Secretary, Max Law, is back on the job again (rather reluctantly, we think), after cruising around the Pacific on a luxury holiday aboard the

liner "Oronsay." Ports of call were Suva and Auckland, and reports to hand are that it was a "wonderful holiday." Even miles out at sea, a seat around a bar will always open up a conversation. One day, so Max tells, he was sitting quietly in the lounge and began talking to a chap who was also "just sitting." A couple of drinks later, it transpired that both were in the army, what's more, both in the 2/1st Pioneers. We won't keep you in suspense as the other chap turned out to be Tom Culkin, a former Lieut. in "C" Coy. up in Balik. Tom is now at 134 Bourke Street, Dubbo, and can show visitors a decent bit of boating and fishing. Welcome to the "gang," Tom.

Hats off to a very courteous Association member, Arthur Gleeson. Arthur's photo was in a Sydney paper along with his conductor, a New Australian, for being continuously polite on the job of moving some of Sydney's tram patrons. Keep it up Arthur, it's a bright spot in an otherwise impolite city, and please pass on the congratulations of our Association to your conductor.

Dick (Peter) Seddon again comes good with a few lines for the boys in Newcastle, and at the same time, including their News subscriptions. You should be able to make the next Smoko, Dick, as we are holding it during Anzac weekend especially for you chaps "out of town." Please pass on regards to the boys (and just in case you forget, they can read it themselves in their own copy of the "News").

Thanks for your letter, Harold Eastwood, of Victoria. It will be our pleasure to send you all future copies of the "News." It is very gratifying to know you like our efforts. (Harold would be pleased to hear from any

old friends from N.S.W. His address is, 101 Winmallee Road, Balwyn, E8).

Congratulations to Jack Hyde and his bride. Jack was recently married in Sydney and although we have not yet had the pleasure of meeting his new "Boss," we are sure that they will both be very happy. So far, Jack and his wife are still suffering from accommodation trouble, and we now appeal for the help of any of our readers who can help with this problem to please contact Jack at FA4116, or by letter to Angus & Robertson, Sydney.

Any type of accommodation, temporary or otherwise, with cooking facilities will be very gratefully received. Good luck, Jack.

Committeeman Bert Moore has caught up with R.S.M. Smith's batman, Ron "Sarge" Sinclair, who would like to join the Association. Right, Ron, you have just joined it, and your first fatigue will be to attend the Anzac Smoko in April.

While racing through town recently, we came across Phil Cramsie, just back from travelling up the coast to Cairns (seems familiar). Phil does that trip reasonably regularly, and of course came across a couple of the boys. Up in Cairns in the Fire Brigade (phew!) he found Albert Brown, in the Mount Isa Mines Tom Welsh and in the Paratroopers at Williamtown, Major H. Nicholls, M.C. and Bar (reported in an earlier edition). Any more names in the meantime, Phil?

In our last issue, we told of Harry West now in New Guinea, and now we have news of yet another of our old mates who has forsaken the amenities of the city for a life in the wilds. With his wife, former "A" Coy. 2/1st, Cpl. Albert ("Albie")

Barton is doing a fine job in the hills around Wewak as a missionary with the South Sea Evangelical Mission. Albie's letter is a very interesting one and we really regret not being able to publish it in its entirety. One thing though, he tells of how he still finds old 3in. mortar bombs lying around in the old 16th Bde. area. Keep us posted Albert, and all good wishes to your good wife and self in your magnificent job.

George Gibson writes in from Yass (Where, according to George), a Pioneer Association sub-branch could be opened. George requests news of the following—Tommy Brabin, Billy Lewis, Ray Burroughs, Gordon Sheen, Jack Laurie, Dave Hill and Bob Philpotts. We can give a little help with Gordon in the Custom's Department, Jack Laurie at 9 Ridgeway Avenue, New Lambton. Can anyone else help?

Thanks for your letter and donation, Les James, Leeton. Here is your message as written. "If ever you see Bert (do you mean Frank?) Gilson or Jack Monger, ask them if they still grow ginger moustaches as they did in Balikpapan?" Maybe Frank and Jack can answer that, but somehow I don't think so (or would they)?

As a result of our para (last issue) on Vince Digges, we had a letter from Vince with his full address, although as he says, his wife maintains that the Bowling Club should be his proper address. Keep the other boys up to their word, Vince, as we would like to hear from them.

If you are looking for Bill Jollie in Mudgee, you won't find him there now. He tells us that he has been transferred to Bathurst and is still available for interviews by old Pion-

eers, though not necessarily in his place of business. Bill hopes to be down for the Anzac Smoko, but says that, unlike last year, he won't be indulging in any all-night party. If I remember rightly, Ron Merriman might have something to say about that, Bill. How about that, Ron.

We don't know if we scared you or not, but although we reminded you in our last issue of the yearly subscription for your "Pioneer News" being due as from now, our mail dropped down to a very low level. The subscription is still only 2/6 per year, but it is necessary to have it in if you still wish the "News" printed. Ladies, stand over your husbands and make them drop us a note (with 2/6 enclosed) otherwise we will be short of news.

Down to Victoria again to answer a query for T. L. Malone. Mr. Malone asks for information of one "Rocky" French, late of 6th Platoon, "B" Coy., 2/2nd. The only name on our files that may answer the question is W. French, Woy Woy Bay, N.S.W. Could anyone else furnish any further information? If so, please write to Mardan Road, Mirboo North, Victoria.

Robert Bally has asked if we could drop a hint to 2/1st men in Victoria to join up with the 2/2nd Pioneer Battalion on Anzac Day for the march through Melbourne. This is quite a good idea, and we know that the boys of the 2/2nd would be only too glad to welcome 2/1st Pioneers on that day. Incidentally, for any information of the 2/2nd Pioneer Battalion Association, please contact Secretary, R. Conningsby, 39 Puckle Street, Moonee Ponds, Victoria.

Mick Bye tells of seeing a few of the boys from time to time, in fact

one, Wally Baird, has a block of land close to Mick's, and they often manage to adjourn to the "Imperial" in Walgett for a drop of the "doings". Thanks for your nice remarks and generous donation, Mick.

Active committee-man, "Monty" Montague, has told of meeting one of the Army sisters who accompanied the original 2/1st Pioneer Battalion, away on their first venture overseas, aboard the "luxury" liner (?) Johan de Witte, back in 1940. The Sister was Sister Tidd, no doubt still remembered by many of the boys. Sister Tidd is still carrying on in noble profession, being in charge of Ward 37 at Concord Repatriation Hospital. With her in the same hospital is Sister Hamilton, who is in Ward 530. Other names brought to mind along with these two ladies are Sisters Hamilton and Malone, but we have not any word of their whereabouts. However, no matter where they may be now or in the future, we wish them all well in their wonderful job of helping those of us who need them. Indeed, those who were looked after by them will never forget them.

The look of relief on Treasurer Rodd Pegg's face lately is due to the fact that his wife is well on the way to recovery after a serious operation. We send regards to your good wife, Rodd, and trust that Mrs. Pegg will suffer no ill effects in the future.

We told you several months ago that we would keep you posted on the movements of George ("G.R.B.") Patterson. Well, latest news to hand is that George is now Senior Trade Commissioner in London. He is certainly moving around in this world.

It is regretted that we have to add the name of Major Norman ("Nug-



get") Neal to our sick list. Major Neal is at present in Lewisham (Sydney) Hospital awaiting an operation and we all wish him a very speedy recovery. We will keep you posted.

## SHORTS

"Darky" Dalton is now listed, and had better turn up at the Anzac Smoko. Jim Ferguson, an old original, 2/1st, now taxi-ing around Sydney. Ross ("Slim") Thompson, now doing display work in the branches of a large chain store.

## 2/2 PIONEER WAR HISTORY

There are still a few copies of the 2/2nd Pioneer War History available for sale at a reduced price. To clear them out, we have received permission from the 2/2nd Pioneer Battalion Association in Victoria to sell these very interesting books for £1 each, post free. If you have not yet received your copy, write in to the Secretary, 2/1st, 2/2nd Pioneer Battalion's Association, Room 2, 19 Hunter Street, Sydney.

For those who have only recently re-joined the Association, we state that the 2/2nd Pioneer War History is a book well worth reading and owning. It is the story of the unit from formation to demobilisation, through Syria, Java and the Island campaigns, and contains many interesting tales of the individuals who made up that Battalion. The book is published by the unit Association in Victoria. If you have not read it, send in your £1 immediately while we still have a few copies left. **DO IT NOW.**

## ADDRESSES

We publish hereunder a list of names and last known addresses of members who have moved and have failed to notify their new address to our rooms. If any other member knows of the members listed and their present whereabouts, please jog their memory or else drop us a line. (When it is considered that this number is an average each quarter, you may realise the hard job entailed in keeping the record straight. Please help us to keep track of you.)

W. Hodges (Stanmore), J. Henry (Bondi Junction), C. Brown (Bondi), Cliff Barrett (Chatswood), W. Nicholson (Yagoona), K. Curtin (Sydney), Reg. Holland (Coff's Harbour), Mr. R. McTaggart (Forest Reefs), H. Brown Conductor (North Sydney), G. Gummer (Woodford, Q'ld.), R. Bolliger (Toukley).

## THE "HYDROGEN" PROBLEM BY "F.J.A."

The recent announcement describing the unexpected range of an exploded Hydrogen Bomb, must certainly cause us to think more about the future of the world.

It would appear that we are faced with two main problems.

(1) What would happen if a fanatical dictator gained such a power?

(2) Do our scientists know just how far they can go to keep this power under control?

Problem (1) is a problem beyond all doubt, for when we consider the unknown possible range of a Hydrogen Bomb and the fact that it does not discriminate between its victims, nor isolate a target, countless thousands of innocent lives could be oblit-

ated by one explosion. It seems easy to imagine what Hitler would have done when, in his lust for power, he was unable to "crack" England, became frustrated and ordered the indiscriminate bombing of that Island. Had he had the use of a weapon such as the Hydrogen Bomb, England would now be past history, and a lot of other countries with it.

Therefore, we have to face up to the question of the future, "What would happen if the Bomb was in the hands of a fanatical aggressor?" Let us hope, also, that while we have the Bomb, we also remain with Democracy, for while the people govern, countries with different politics are safe, as long as they are not aggressive.

Problem (2) must also be given considerable thought for, since the last test explosion in March '54, the effective range of the weapon proved far in excess of calculations.

To me, it is essential that our scientists know the limit (plus a margin for contingency) of the Bomb before it is exploded, rather than let off and then find its effective range was larger than they anticipated.

As an individual, I feel that the scientists of the world must be brought together to study and discuss the potential of the "Hydrogen Bomb," and to make public their findings to allay all fears, and without any frills. Having done this, it would then be up to the governments of all countries to weigh the Scien-

tists findings and act in accordance with them.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

To Association Vice-President, Roy Roach and Lois, a boy, Peter, born 25th March. Statistics are approximately as follows, weight 8lbs., height 22in. Congratulations to Lois and yourself, Roy, and we know for a fact that two boys in the family is not the limit, so we wish you success

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