

PIONEER NEWS

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF 2/2 PIONEER BATTALION (A.I.F.) ASSOCIATION

VOL. 1 — No. 1

1st JANUARY, 1956

PRICE SIXPENCE

EDITORIAL

Happenings of the Past Twelve Months

Well chaps, we are on the air again. It has been a long time — over 12 months, but during that time we have been through a trying time and even now things are not as they could be.

Here is a brief outline of some of the happenings since our last "Pioneer News" was produced:—

Although we are still at the same address we are waiting to change rooms, and negotiations are still under way with the owners for a new area in the building. But we will keep you posted — you may still address all correspondence to 2/1st, 2/2nd Pioneer Bn. Association, 19 Hunter St., Sydney.

SOCIAL EVENING and DANCE. — In the first half of the year your committee organised a social evening, the second attempt in a few months, and although it was successful socially for those in attendance, the low number of supporters caused a heavy loss financially. Enough of this for the present.

ANZAC SMOKO. — Our Anzac Smoko was held as usual but again, only a faithful few (in comparison to our Association strength) arrived to partake of the evening's conviviality. As this was also our annual general meeting, the President and committee had hoped for a big roll up. But

never mind, we will try and pull our sox up and make the future evenings more attractive.

In another portion of this magazine we will set out our future plans for this paper. We will also set out the immediate problems that confront us and we will tell you how you can help. As we have said before

— it is up to you. If you give us your support, we will try and give you something worth while in a paper that will keep you in touch with other members. If we do not get your individual and collective co-operation, the project will surely fail, and with it will go your Association and your chance of meeting up with your old coppers — the ones that you do not see regularly at present.

MEMBERS ! IT WILL NOW BE UP TO YOU.

President's Message

This year has not been very rosy for our Association, and many troubles have come our way, but I am pleased to say we have weathered them well and we now hope our regular communication with members is restored through the "Pioneer News".

I would like to thank the members of the Committee for their efforts during the year. They have given up quite a lot of time which they could often ill afford, attending the meetings and generally keeping the Association going.

The future of the Association depends on two things: firstly an active committee, and secondly the support and co-operation of the members. I will try to keep the committee work going and I appeal to all the members of the Association to do their bit. When you receive an invitation to a smoko, or other social function, attend if you possibly can, and if you have any news of any other member send it in for our paper.

On behalf of all the Committee and also personally, I would like to wish all members the compliments of the season, and we look forward to seeing you all at our functions next year.

TOM CROSSMAN.

YOUR NEW PIONEER NEWS

IN PASSING...

As you can see, we are in a new form of paper. We have contacted a printer and he has graciously offered to help us on our feet.

The first three issues need a guarantee to our printer of £30 per issue. If you co-operate and help keep up our circulation, we hope to eventually have the magazine paying for itself on the ads. contained. Bear with us through our early stages — that is, ALL except your subscription. We still have some £25 in the "Pioneer News" A/c. so it will at least get this edition under way. We will see what the future has in store. Like the old, song — "It all depends on you"!

—o—

SUBSCRIPTIONS

To get our Magazine on its feet once more it will be necessary to call for subscriptions. We do not wish to make any excessive profits on our efforts but it will of course be necessary to pay our way. Accordingly, we are now calling for your next annual subscription of **2/6 per person**. As you will agree, this is only a small sum, and has not been increased even though our last papers were printed free of cost and now we are paying for this new edition.

We realise that many of our members were very generous in the early stages and donated sums much greater than the 2/6 called for, and to these members, we say once more, thank you. We will honour our original promise and not ask you for any more — at least

Your Association President for 1955-6 is Tom Crossman, your Secretary, Fred Calloway, and your Treasurer —. The "Pioneer News" is to be written and edited by Max Law with the assistance of Frank Cheal. If you have any queries or have any news that may be of interest to anybody in the Association do not hesitate to write to any of the above members and each will do his bit to help you.

★ ★ ★

Our former worthy treasurer, Rod Pegg has not been in good health of late and has had to relinquish the position in our Association. Rod has held this position since the formation of

while we can pay our way. To all others we ask for your immediate co-operation and support of your 2/6 — OR MORE.

We are trying very hard to keep the members of our Association together and one medium is this Paper. We DO need your help, not only in cash but in letters to let us know your approval or otherwise of the efforts of your committee to keep us in touch. It is not an easy job to be on any committee and involves quite a lot of voluntary time. Some of the members of our committee have been faithful from the inception of the Association and others for several years. Show your appreciation by writing to us with any bits of news, along with your comments. You have helped in the past — we know you will not fail us this time. Thank you in anticipation.

the original Association and has been a very stout friend in time of need — having guided the committee through many problems. We wish him all that he would wish for himself. Get well soon Rod.

★ ★ ★

Arthur Luddington tells us that Alec George was in town recently, although the purpose of his visit was rather sad as Alec was down to arrange for his Mother's funeral. Please accept our sincere sympathy Alec.

★ ★ ★

Being the Editor. I will allow myself a little bit of space and tell you about a trip that I had to Western Australia during the year. I had 3 months in the beautiful State and from what I saw, it can be justly deemed the "Sunny State of the Commonwealth." But I am not going to tell ALL of MY doings (I couldn't — because I also visited Rottnest Island for a couple of weekends and any one who knows Rottnest — well!)

I had the pleasure of meeting up with a couple of the boys once more as well as the happy experience of meeting for the first time, someone from the 2/2nd Pioneers with whom I have corresponded in past years. He is Major Ken Kidd, now holding a good position in the Whaling Commission in Perth. Ken made me feel very welcome and offered me the hospitality of his home (I wrote on my return but did not get a reply. Hope you are not ill, Ken).

Then later, I was made very welcome in typical country

IN PASSING (continued)

manner by the brothers Hobley — George and Dick, who have adjoining properties about 260 miles South East of Perth. I spent a very enjoyable weekend with George and family (what a wonderful cook is May).

George and Dick arranged a night out (a very cold one at that) to give me the opportunity of a bit of Kangaroo shooting. We won't go into the score, but I will offer the excuse that it is hard to shoot from behind car lights.

Even the rabbits flocked around after a while, as they knew that they were safe.

Thanks again George and Dick.

I made a few enquiries around Perth and Kalgoorlie, but could not locate the old Val Balding.

After my trip to the West, I stopped over at Adelaide for a couple of days, and after a lot of searching (and taxi fares that at least showed me a bit of Adelaide) I finally located Ernie Hayden who is now a Sgt. in the Regular Army. Ernie is in the pink, although a little heavier than he was in Pioneer days. He also took me home to lunch with his wife and family, but my visit was only short, as after a few drinks with Ernie. I had to leave and fly to Broken Hill that same afternoon.

It was certainly a wonderful experience and as I said, a real pleasure to meet up with some of the boys again.

George Hobley sends regards to all, especially Blue Moxey, Vince Petrick and Sid Jackson (up in Grafton).

Ken Kidd asked me to remember him all round and es-

pecially Col. Davis and Bill Robertson.

If any one else has been roving please write and let us know the details and we will print them as we used to.

★ ★ ★

Met Jack Can out at a well known Pagewood Hotel a few nights ago. He looks well and told me that his address on Wednesday nights is more often than not — the Rex Beer Garden, with his friends, for anyone who may be in the area.

★ ★ ★

Wally (Walter William) Page has had his share of worry during the year. Wall's eldest son had the misfortune to fall from an electric train and lost his right hand, as well as suffering other injuries. For a while, Wal and his good

wife, Lal, spent many anxious hours at Marrickville Hospital but we are pleased to report that all is well. Wal philosophically said that at least it was lucky to be the son's right hand, because his occupation is that of a clerk — and he is left handed. It is typically "Desert Head" Page to be grateful for small mercies. Good luck to you and yours, Wal.

★ ★ ★

Fred Calloway was recently on the North Coast of N.S.W. and met up with well known and congenial Harold Buckland at Lismore. As reported once before, Harold drives a Council car, and is still as jovial as ever. He has promised Fred that he will contact Peter Bell in Kyogle and have

**Can You
Fill
This Space?**

IN PASSING (continued)

him send us an article on the doings of the Kyogle boys. We will keep you up to that Peter old boy (how is the leg?)

★ ★ ★

During the year we had a welcome letter from Wal Baird up at Collarenebri. Firstly, thank you for your generous donation Wal. We will put it to good use helping our Paper back on it's feet.

Wal mentions that he has been lucky with a good season this year up on the land. He also has been in touch with Mick Bye and they have quaffed a few ales together. Keep in touch Wal — we appreciate it.

★ ★ ★

Col. Arnold Brown also wrote in from Scheyville Migrant Centre at Windsor. Certainly it as earlier in the year but we still pass on the news, seeing as we have not had a paper out in the meantime. Col. Brown was layed up with bad legs for a couple of weeks and was trying to dodge another trip to Yaralla. We would be interested to know how you have been in recent months Colonel. Please let us know.

★ ★ ★

Another of the old faithful letter writers is still with us. We refer to James (Muldoon) Field. Jim was up in Maitland after the February floods and gave us a pretty raw picture of the conditions in the area. He suggests that we call for donations for any ex-Pioneers who may have been devastated. Well we are a little late Jim, but it is a good suggestion, nevertheless, and for my part, will keep it ready in case of a similar need in the future. We truly trust that it will not be necessary again to

call for a help — but if that need DOES arise, and we hear of any ex-Pioneer in trouble, we will call for help from everyone.

Thank you again Jim, and keep up your old form.

★ ★ ★

We pass on our congratulations to Norman (Bill) Mace, who recently won a long legal fight. Good luck to you Bill.

★ ★ ★

Reprinted from the 2/2nd "Pioneer Despatch" September issue —

"An elderly gentleman who has been regular in his attendance at our Annual Pilgrimage for many years made himself known at the last Pilgrimage. He is Mr. French, father of Reg French, the Battalion signwriter and popular pianist who died at 55 Kilo Hospital, Burma on 21/8/43.

Mr. French informed us that

his three sons had all died in the service of their country. His eldest son fell in World War I, Reg in Burma and his youngest son was lost in Rabaul."

★ ★ ★

There aren't many of us old bachelors left but a little bird whispers that our number will lessen by another one very soon.

We offer hearty good wishes and congratulations to Brian Kybert who has announced both his engagement and his intention of a wedding early in the coming year.

Make it a big cake Brian and we will send a piece each to all members of the old Battalion.

★ ★ ★

It isn't true that Bobby Lake, being a good Pioneer, always used to call a spade a spade till he tripped on one in the dark.

JOTTINGS OF 2/2

Gone to Malaya with 2nd Bn. as O/C "A" Coy. is Harry Huggard, he was in Sydney on leave, prior to sailing and looked very slim and fit which must have been the jungle training done at Canungra.

★ ★ ★

Word of Padre (Jock) Steele, now at Coffs Harbour, from the C.S.M. of the North Coast C.M.F. Bn. Ken Harrison, who is also at Coffs. Ken says Jock looks well and is still doing as good a job as he always did. Ken's son is also a permanent soldier stationed in Victoria with the Engineers.

★ ★ ★

A little about one of the South West's champion bowl-

ers — Sgt. Arthur Waldy of Cootamundra, who we understand almost lives on the green. It is a far cry Arthur from Hooker of the Bn. rugby league team to kissing kitty.

★ ★ ★

"Speed" Gordon of Warren tells of Billy Barnes, Billy Morris and "Barry" Fowler — four old "D" Coy., all fit and well. Bill Barnes' Holden car was recently stolen from Warren and eventually recovered in Adelaide.

★ ★ ★

Another sportsman Sgt. Geoff Hammond has been playing some very good golf, off a very low handicap and has a cabinet full of trophies won. Congratulations Geoff and we

JOTTINGS—Continued

hope you have to buy more cabinets to keep the trophies stored.

★ ★ ★

News of another ex-Sgt. Kev. Rewood, from Lismore, but of a different kind to the sporting boys, Kev is the father of twins. Congratulations to a very good soldier — we all know he will be a good father.

The old "C" Coy. boys meet regularly at the Hotel Clare, Broadway, organised by Don Lawson, and we are led to understand that the nights they attend, there is lots of beer consumed, lots of marches re-marched, battles refought and lots of absent FRIENDS? Should have burning ears.

★ ★ ★

Anyone requiring venetian blinds — Snowy Dodd claims "Kirsch" is a must.

★ ★ ★

Lieut. Mick Smith is often seen in Sydney on business trips. Mick is the proprietor of a very successful firm from Melbourne manufacturing and selling commercial hot water services and many of Sydney's leading hospitals, etc., have installed same.

★ ★ ★

Congratulations to Mick Bye, who drew a valuable soldier settler's property in the Nyn-gan district and has it running smoothly and well stocked. Another of the "landed gentry" is Wal Baird from Dokataroo, seen in Sydney each year to see his wool clip sold. Jim Commins is still a dairy farmer at Orange, but seems to have holidays several times a year — looking very prosperous.

★ ★ ★

Roy Leadbeater was in Sydney a few months ago, Roy

is still cutting sugar cane and his visit was in between seasons.

★ ★ ★

Lt. Henry Liston is in the Legal profession at Glen Innes. Jack Crouch is a railway man living at Goulburn and he sees many of the old boys on his travels around the South and South West.

★ ★ ★

Kev Heagney, who is in charge of distribution at the "Telegraph" we believe is pleased that "Telewords" have finished as they gave him a very big job of work.

—o—

ADDRESS UNKNOWN

Quite a number of members' cards are stamped "address unknown". These cards are so stamped following the return from the "Dead Letter Office" of circulars to members who have apparently changed their address without notifying the Secretary.

If you know of any member who is not receiving our circulars or this newspaper please ask him to send his address to the Secretary.

—o—

GENERAL MEETING

Held on 23rd April, 1955

For the purpose of information to those members who could not attend our Anzac Smoko, we herein include a reprint of the minutes.

Attendance 175.

Presiding: Mr. R. Pegg.

Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting were read by the Secretary and adopted on a motion by Mr. Garnon, seconded by Mr. Dodson.

Apologies: Maj. Talbury, Col. Graham, Col. Davis, Maj. Allan, Maj. C. Monahan, Maj. J. Monahan.

Financial Statement: The financial statement showing a credit balance of £266/15/8 was read by Mr. W. Robinson. Moved by Mr. Tollie, seconded by Mr. Edwards that the statement be adopted.

President's Address: In addressing the members, the President made reference to the lack of support and attendance at the mid-year Smoko and the Cabaret Ball.

He praised the good attendance at this function and went on to mention the hardships that befell the committee in the past year, being that of the possibility of losing our rooms and the fire causing our newspaper to go out of production.

Election of Officers: Mr. R. Pegg declined to stand for President for the forthcoming year.

Nominations were called and Mr. T. Crossman was elected unopposed on a motion by Mr. B. Holmes, seconded by Mr. A. Carter.

On accepting this office, Mr. T. Crossman thanked Mr. Pegg for the wonderful work he had carried out during his term as President. This was carried by acclamation.

Patron: On a motion by Mr. R. Pegg, seconded by Mr. R. Lawrence, Mrs. O'Malley Wood was re-elected Patron unopposed.

Committee: A committee of 18 was then elected (this will be given in a later edition).

There being no further business the meeting was closed by the President at 8.45 p.m.

Printed by A.B.C. Printing Service—196 William Street, Earlwood, UW 2758

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OFFICIAL ORGAN OF 2/2 PIONEER BATTALION (A.I.F.) ASSOCIATION

Editor: MAX LAW

President: TOM CROSSMAN

Hon. Secretary: FRED CALLOWAY

VOL. 1 — No. 2

1st APRIL, 1956

PRICE: 2/6 PER ANNUM

President's Message

My message on this occasion is to remind all our Pioneers of what Anzac Day means to us. It is a day that should remind us of our friends.

Firstly, the friends we lost during the war. This is important because it ensures that we shall not forget the solemnity of the day and also that we shall not forget the horrors of, or our hate of war.

Secondly, we remember the friends we made during the war. These mates with whom we lived and fought and played we know even better perhaps than our friends of peaceful days.

The job of our Association is primarily to help you to renew these friendships and to get you together with both your army and peace-time mates. We can arrange the hall and the refreshments, both liquid and otherwise, but only you can make reunions a success by attending. So make the effort and come along; you won't regret it and we can promise plenty for everyone.

I look forward to seeing you.

TOM CROSSMAN.

THANK YOU . . .

We are very gratified to know that, despite our somewhat old news in our last issue of the paper, our efforts were well received. Judging by the early letters sent in, the thirst for news of old mates is as great as ever. We have more up to date news for you in this issue thanks to items of interest sent by some of the boys. We do say a very big thank you to each and every one of you who took the trouble to write and give your opinions, (and we are happy to note that all comments were favourable). Please help us once again, and if you have not written so far, put your pen to paper and let us know what you are doing. In almost every case, a donation to help the costs of printing was enclosed, and of course it goes without saying that we are, once more, grateful for that help. However, we do remind you that we still need **YOUR** subscription if it is overdue.

And now for some news...

WEDDING BELLS

We announced recently the engagement of BRIAN KYBERT. Well, now he has proceeded to hang himself. He was married on February 11th last.

Seriously, Brian, I know that the boys all wish you the very best for the future happiness of your wife and yourself.

We hope you get a leave pass for the Smoko.

IN PASSING . . .

Firstly, let us dip into the mailbag, and say "hello" to those who wrote their appreciation of our last "News" soon after they received it.

We had a long and very interesting letter from MICK BYE from Walgett. Thanks very much for your kind remarks, Mick, and also for the cheque enclosed. We can use the money to help us in the future.

Mick told us that he often sees MAX DICKENS who manages a station property at Brewarrina. We have noted the address and will send future correspondence to Max direct. Another of the boys in the area is BOB MOLYNEUX up at Lightning Ridge, also managing a station. Mick and Bob scratched around the old diggings at the Ridge and picked up quite a few opal chips, but Mick says he will stick to sheep. Thanks again, Mick, and please keep in touch. I have passed on your regards to FRANK CHEAL.

★ ★ ★

PETER (Dick) SEDDON from Newcastle was quick off the mark again with a letter and cheque. Nice to hear from you Peter. Your enclosure of the address is very much appreciated. (All other members please copy.) Peter sent down several addresses of Pioneers in the area who have been out of touch lately. We note your remarks about Nap Pelgrave and now pass on the information. Nap Pelgrave was recently married. Our sincere congratulations Nap and we do wish you all of the best for future happiness.

★ ★ ★

We can always rely on Eric Face from Earlwood to support

us with a quick appreciation and early subscription for the "Pioneer News".

For those who may not know, Eric is preaching "The Good News" (as he says) as a Lay Reader in the Church of England, Sydney Diocese, and has been doing so for several years.

Sincere good wishes in your very commendable work, Eric, and please keep up your good work in keeping us posted.

★ ★ ★

We again, as always, have good support from one of our most enthusiastic correspondents — none other than James "Muldon" Field from Fairfield. Not only an interesting letter, but some new addresses and a nice donation to help us on our way.

As we have said before, Jim is an officer of G.J. Coles and travels around the State opening new stores. He was recently in Lismore doing this job.

Thanks again James, — your words are always a mount of encouragement to keep going, and are always appreciated.

★ ★ ★

Another thanks to Committee Man, Alf Carter, for his donation. Not many realise how staunch is Alf in his support of our Association in a practical way, having been on the Committee since its inception, and can always be found working hard at the Smokos.

Alf won't approve of me publicising this fact, but it is about time we told you of some of the sterling work carried out behind the scenes by some of our "regulars" — real "Pioneers".

★ ★ ★

Only short notes, but with a very acceptable cheque in each, from Ken Stuart and Jim

Drummond. Thanks to you both, but how about a few more lines to tell us how you are going?

★ ★ ★

Look through your old copies of our "News", and among those who contribute regularly you will see the name of Monte Reid from Cessnock, and this time Monte was not lacking in a quick letter of kind remarks and a donation.

Monte has not seen many old Pioneers lately, except Geoff Wilson who is now at the Water Board in Newcastle.

We have noted your new house number, Monte. Nice hearing from you again.

★ ★ ★

Jack Laurie from New Lambton (Newcastle) is in touch with several old Pioneers, and here are the names of some of them mentioned in Jack's letter — Reg Hann and Perc Langford in Newcastle, and by letter to Hal Reilly and Des Martin in Victoria, and Jim Hunter in Derby, W.A.

We will take a note of Jim Hunter's address, Jack, and will get in touch with him. Keep up the good writing. We love fan mail.

★ ★ ★

Calling Ron Coyte. It would not have been a mail without hearing from you, Ron. As always, a newsy letter, and a very nice donation. You appear to be going along quite nicely as a Foreman-in-Charge at C.S.I.R.O. (Sheep Biology) at Prospect, and very good luck to you.

We have to withdraw that paragraph last "News" re Mick Bye winning a land block, as you mentioned. Mick told us it was a mistake. However, I hope you ge yours, Ron.

★ ★ ★

Re Ron Irwin, although I have not seen him, I have been

hearing of him, and he is still on the locomotives and still in the Army, this time the C.M.F. He will never learn, but they tell me he is so big now, no-one is game enough to tell him about it. Cherio Ron.

Talking of newsy letters brings us to W. Ireland (Bill, isn't it) from Wardell. Bill Janes of Broadwater who is a painter attached to the Public Works Dept. at Evans Head, Don McGill with the P.M.G. and F. C. Bell on a farm at Myrtleville, near Goulburn.

Your kind remarks are accepted, as is your welcome donation. Let us know any future news, Bill.

★ ★ ★

Short notes from NOEL SCHOMBERG, E. J. REYNOLDS and NOEL PETERSEN. All a bit shy regarding their doings, but well to the fore with early donations. Our thanks to you too, boys.

★ ★ ★

Active Committee Man and Social Secretary, BERT HOLMES, has at long last moved into his new home at Forestville (French's Forest) with his wife and two daughters, after roughing it in several addresses for the past 3 years. We wish you luck, Bert, as we know you deserve it after the disastrous fire in your former home at Botany, which led to your run of bad luck.

★ ★ ★

You all know DES FIELDS in the 2/1st don't you? Or perhaps you remember him better as "TINY" FIELDS of "B" Company. He was the "big fella" who, with FREDIE WHEATON (the Dorriggo Butcher) used to mow down all opposition that tried to take a football away from them.

Tiny, up at Gundagai and

writing regularly to ALF CARTER, sends regards to all. Thanks Tiny.

★ ★ ★

In recent weeks, our beloved patron, Mrs. L. O'Malley Wood, has been very ill with pneumonia and had to go to the country for a rest. We are now happy to state that she is her usual cheery self once more and is back as active as ever. We have pleasure in printing our Patron's message in another part of this issue.

—o—

LAST POST

It is with regret that we announce the death of LEN WALLACE, late of Riverstone, on 8th September last.

Len is survived by his wife and son, Lawrence aged 6, and another son born in October after Len's passing.

The information has been passed on to us by a friend of Mrs. Wallace in a letter dated 8/2/56, and mentions that Len died intestate and his wife is only depending on the Widows' Pension.

★ ★ ★

We are also grieved to record the loss of another member of our Association. Well known CORPORAL TOM LINCOLN, passed away recently after several periods in Yaralla Hospital. Tom was very well known for his modern handling of the piano and spent many hours entertaining the boys wherever a piano was available, particularly perhaps in Queensland where he took great pride in being able to show a few chords and get together with JOHN DOUGLAS, KEN STUART, the late KEITH JONES and the editor.

Secretary, FRED CALLOWAY, has been in touch with

Tom's wife and has expressed the sincere sympathy of all members of the Pioneer Bn. Association.

—o—

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

It is with regret that we announce that the "RED THESPIAN" has sold out! Yes, the now famous Golburn Hotel in George Street, Sydney, is no longer under the command of FRANK DYNON.

With Anzac Day not very far away, the tired (and thirsty) marchers of the 2 Pioneer Bns. will have to congregate somewhere else. Where are you, Frank? We did hear that you were going to Newport. Better come back to town — it is a good headquarters.

—o—

ANZAC DAY GENERAL MEETING AND REUNION

The Annual General Meeting and Smoko of the 2/1st and 2/2nd Pioneer Bns. Association will be held in the Railway Institute Hall (right at the Devonshire Street entrance to Central Station) on Friday evening, April 20th, at 7.30 p.m. sharp, to which all members of the battalions are very cordially invited.

A really good supper has been arranged and beer will be available.

The admission price, payable at the door, will be only 5/- per head, and members may bring friends to the Smoko, which will commence at 8 p.m.

The Railway Institute is very handy, being behind the Dental Hospital and (I repeat) right

at Central Station on the Elizabeth Street side of the line.

(NOTE: Any officer or N.C.O. who cannot lead a party of men to the Railway Institute Hall, having been given the above directions, or who fails to be there at "Start Time" will be publicly de-ranked).

REMEMBER

Place:

**RAILWAY INSTITUTE
HALL**

Date:

FRIDAY, 20th APRIL, 1956

Time:

MEETING, 7.30 p.m.

SMOKO, 8.0 p.m.

Admission: Only 5/- per head

INCLUDING CATERING

SEE YOU THERE!!

ANZAC MARCH 25th APRIL

Details of the march are not yet to hand but starting times etc., will be published in the Sydney newspapers.

It is anticipated that the lining up point will be the same as last year; that is, opposite the Sydney Hospital in Macquarie Street.

Suitable banners and the Bn. flags of both Bn's will be suitably erected.

LILLA O'MALLEY WOOD SENDS LETTER

Dear Boys,

So glad to know that you have again decided to publish "Pioneer News". I do feel that it does a great deal towards keeping alive the old camaraderie of the Battalion, and helping Members to keep in touch with each other.

As you will readily understand, I am always most interested to learn of your doings, and really look forward to my copy of the "News".

On December 15th last, a number of us got together and held a small Cocktail Party at the Feminist Club rooms. From all reports everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and have now decided that this should be a half yearly event, with more time given to the organisation of same, and all Battalion Members invited well in advance. What do you think of the idea?

If you think it a good idea, I thought we may organise another such night about June next.

By the way, I have just learned that our old friend Col. Norm Neal is back in Sydney. He is down on six weeks' leave from Rum Jungle where he has been stationed for some time now. Also that he has been living about 100 yards from

Joe Lang and his wife, whom we also hope to see in the near future.

Though it is a little late, I hope you all had a very happy Xmas, and would like to wish you the very best for 1956.

Cheerio for now — my love to you all,

Sincerely,

—LILLA O'MALLEY WOOD.

REQUEST

Can anybody oblige with the address of BILL STEER? It is required URGENTLY.

HEARD THIS ONE?

There are several forms of capital punishment — income tax is one.

★ ★ ★

Women keep secrets as well as men, but it takes more of them to do it.

★ ★ ★

One reason why girls kiss and make up is because the stuff rubs off.

★ ★ ★

Other planets may not be able to support life. It isn't easy here either.

★ ★ ★

You can't take it with you. It goes before you do.

PIONEER NEWS

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF 2/1 & 2/2 PIONEER BATTALIONS (A.I.F.) ASSOCIATION — PHONE: BW 7482

Editor: MAX LAW

President: TOM CROSSMAN

Hon. Secretary: FRED CALLOWAY

VOL. 1 — No. 3

JULY, 1956

PRICE: 2/6 PER ANNUM

ANZAC DAY, 1956

On this day the several hundred men of our two Pioneer Bns. formed up in their respective places in Macquarie Street, Sydney, and marched along a similar route as in past years.

The 2/1st men were led by Colonel Arnold Brown and the 2/2nds by Colonel Clayton Davis.

The procedure prior to and following the march was much the same as always with a few faces present who were attending their first march for some years, many old acquaintances being renewed, more than a few scratching their head trying to recall a name, the forming up in sixteens, the command of

the C.O. to "Quick March," the swinging into step behind the Pipe Band at a hundred and thirty to the minute, (despite a cadet drum and bugle band right behind giving us about two hundred to the minute), the jangling of medals as the columns split into eights to go down Martin Place, the hushed silence at the Cenotaph as the "Eyes Right" was given, and homage paid to

fallen comrades, the falling out of an occasional marcher as the pace became a bit tough, the finish of the march through cheering crowds and finally the splitting up to go on to the Church services conducted and later to other places where the spirit of revived friendships was carried on.

You have heard it all before, but it is the same procedure that has been followed over the years and we believe that it will not change much in future years as long as there are "Diggers" left to carry on the traditions—

"LEST WE FORGET"

STRANGER THAN FICTION . . .

On Anzac Day, 1955, Casey Brown lost his wallet containing, among other papers, his discharge. After advertising for it and getting no reply, he gave it up for lost.

Came Anzac Day, 1956, and as the 2/1st was going along Macquarie St., a lady ran out and pressed a parcel into the hand of Colonel Arnold Brown. It proved to be the wallet intact. A note also stated that the lady had found the wallet last year and, not being sure where to send it, kept it till this year and would give it to someone in the unit behind the banner of the battalion mentioned on the discharge. Casey got it a few minutes later when it was passed back.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Many Happenings Since Last March

Since the last issue of our little "News-ey" effort in March, quite a lot seems to have happened, what with Anzac Day march, Annual General Meeting and Smoko, and a small influx of country visitors.

During the various get-togethers, a lot of the boys gave me bits of news, names of mates who seem to have returned to the fold, money for donations to the Association, money for subscription to "Pioneer News" and all sorts of reminiscences too numerous to mention.

If I have not included everything that I should have, please excuse me a little as all that I can offer as an excuse is that as the evening wore on at the Smoko and the afternoon wore on after the march I was as hazy as the next one, and I have probably left out something of interest. (Probably some of my informants have forgotten what they told me, anyway.)

But they were two good meetings as far as I could see it. More of that under appropriate headings.

"AT DYNON'S PLACE"

Although, as we reported in the last issue of the News, Frank Dynon is no longer "Mine Host" at the Goulburn Hotel, many of the boys found their way to "Dynon's Place" during the afternoon and we will try and give you just a brief idea of some of those present.

For instance, there was a small bunch consisting of Brian Kybert, Jack Norton, Tom Crossman and others who seemed to be arguing about foreign currency at one stage, at least I think it must have been that as I heard the Indian coin "ANNA" mentioned frequently.

Then there was the "Hearty" (shall we say) group consisting of Bill Tasker (who again did a magnificent job carrying the banner of the 2/1sts in the march) with his other "Dark" mate, Casey Brown, still arguing with Sailor Hall, Mick Dwyer and Frank Gillian (as big as ever) but as you know, that argument has been going on for years. It seems that Casey and Bill are not as black as each other.

By the way, Mick Dwyer tells me that he may be going to Townsville later in the year in his position as meat inspector and will be away for a few months. You had better whip up to Cairns and see Blue Nicholls, Nick.

Not far away were Mick Reilly and Dick Lewis talking over old fights in "the good old days." Unfortunately, both Mick and Dick have had their share of illness over the past few years and it has left its mark on them as they are both a bit thinner than in years gone by.

When Johnnie Clifford walked in, he had to put up with a bit of bantering due to his hair getting a bit thin on top, but he is

still the same John, as happy as ever he was.

Down from Kyogle we had Alwyn Black and he was kept busy answering questions about the boys up North. Kind regards to them all up there, too.

Can't leave out Alan (Snow) Wiseman having a few quiet ones with Scotty Burns.

It goes without saying that Bobbie Lake was there racing in and out of the various groups

ADDRESS

The Association's address is as follows:

2/1st & 2/2nd Pioneer
Bns.' Association,
19 Hunter Street,
Sydney.

Please address your envelope as above to ensure quick delivery, and make all cheques and postal notes payable to the Association.

and generally helping to keep things going in a lively way. You can always count on Bobbie to be there when we want him as he is one of the best supporters that the Association has.

Lionel Bibby joined in during the afternoon. Looking as fit as ever. So is Roy Franks.

One of those not seen very often in previous years and present this time was Rex Kiellerup. Rex is now living up in the Blue Mountains in Bathurst Road, Springwood. Now that you are so close, Rex, you will have to be down every time we have a get-together.

Right up front, of course, was Smiler Byrnes (and he is still smiling). If anyone has lost condition, go along and see our Mr.

Byrnes as he is looking so well that his old uniform would not get near him now.

Vic Whitely and Col Strachan seemed to have a pleasant afternoon in the corner and were kept busy among the groups.

Staff Sergeant E. C. Harps was there in uniform. Don't let the name fool you or the rank either. It is the same Eric Harps and he has been around a lot since WE left the Army. Eric has had a long tour of duty in Japan and Korea and he says that it was well worth the trip. He is now in the Permanent Army out at Randwick.

Well, this is where the brain started to dull a little and I am afraid that I can't remember everyone else that was there but there were quite a few more (One more has just come to light. Rube Wade was there during the afternoon.)

As I stated, it was a good afternoon and although I have not heard anything official, I have reason to believe that a few found their way home to other fellow's places for a meal and did not leave till MUCH later. But then Wifey did not mind . . . or did she?

—o—

ON THE SICK LIST . . .

"Poppa" Mills is still having a bad trot and is back again in Concord Repat. Hospital, Ward 24. If you check with the hospital first, I am sure that Poppa would welcome old friends.

Billy Greenland also had a spell in hospital but I understand that he is on the way back to better health now.

Popeye Edwards has not been getting the best from the health point of view, either, Stick it out, Popeye, you have a lot of friends thinking of you. Glad you made the Smoko.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This meeting was held on Friday evening, the 20th April, at 7.30 p.m., and took place prior to the Smoko in the Railway Institute Hall, near Central Station, Sydney.

The meeting was opened by the President, Mr. Tom Crossman, and the minutes of the last General Meeting were read by the Secretary, Mr. Fred Callo-way, and adopted by the meeting.

After a brief outline of the past year's activities and the reading of the financial statement by the Treasurer, Mr. Harry Townson, an election was held to appoint a Patron and a President for the ensuing year.

This resulted in Mrs. O'Malley Wood being elected Patron and Mr. Crossman the President, both candidates were unopposed.

A committee of twenty was also elected after an appeal by the President for nominations only of those willing to attend meetings and be of genuine assistance to all.

The President thanked the retiring committee for their earnest support and stated that he hoped that the next 12 months would do even more to help bind our Association together.

At the conclusion of business, the meeting was closed at approximately 8.15 p.m.

Mrs. L. O'Malley Wood will be in Dubbo for a month to attend the wedding of her granddaughter and to catch up on a well-earned rest.

AND THEN THE SMOKO . . .

Together with the regulars, the committee were very pleased to see such a good roll up, especially the faces that appeared after a long absence.

As these "new" ones approached the door and paid up their 5/- to our ever faithful

MOTHER'S DAY GIFT

As is usual on Mother's Day each year, the Secretary made a presentation of a bottle of Scotch whisky to our Battalions' "Mother," our beloved Patron and friend, Mrs. L. O'Malley Wood.

This little gift each year is an expression of love and esteem from her "Boys" and conveys some of the feelings as mentioned in letters in almost every mail to the Association.

We wish Mrs. O'Malley Wood continued good health and many more Mother's Days.

doorman, Monty Montague, he ensured that the names and addresses were recorded for future notices and papers. We do not want to lose contact again.

To name a few of the 200 odd present who took advantage of the evening's proceedings and convivialities to spin and in turn

listen to a yarn or two, we saw Major Frank Allen who has always been a friend in need when we have his assistance, getting together with former 2/2nd Major Bill Robertson. Bill, incidentally, is the Postmaster out at East Clovelly and despite his illness over the past months, is also always ready to lend a hand.

"Big" Stutz (Allen Stutchbury) was having a few grogs with Jim McGuirk and Vince Petrich, who is now gradually getting on top after a long run of outs. Vince has a mercery store at Seven Hills now.

Talking of Seven Hills, brings us to Snowie Fowkes and Len Weyman who came along with Vince. Snow is in the Ready Cut Homes business at Seven Hills. He has not changed so very much except for being a little heavier and he still has that Snow hair.

We have not all put on extra weight though. Two that I noticed who seem to have lost it lately are Bert Murray down from Bellatta, and Laurie Fitzhenry. Bert has been very active in the local R.S.L. having been at one stage President and now still on the committee. We hope to hear of an improvement in your health, Bert—and soon.

Laurie is still on the wharves down in the Port of Sydney and does an occasional trip to the Apple State of Tasmania.

Another Sar-Major present was Arthur Luddington. Arthur lives out at Arncliffe and can generally be found at our gatherings.

Can't leave out Gordon Os-

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borne. Still soldiering on as a Major and not long back from Korea, Gordon can always manage to be around when there is a "Do" on.

Of course, talking of Permanent Army, who else can you think of immediately other than the twins Morahan. And they are still confusing the rank and file as to who is who. As the night wore on so it became more confusing. A little furphy that got around was that the twins had a long (and VERY late) Smoko—but I could be wrong.

The Browns made their presence felt. Casey and Bombo were together as usual and finished up having a very pleasant night, so I am told. Hope so, anyway.

Jack Hyde never seems to put on much condition even though he lives in a pub. But he was in good form this night. Must have been practising. Jack is still up with Angus & Robertson.

Thanks for the good wishes and donation, Bill Doney. A few words like that are always encouraging.

Another of the old faithfuls who deserves a mention is Bob McGregor. He and Max Herron helped to get rid of some of our excess(?) bottled stuff. (Don't take me too seriously about that excess. Alf Carter and Ray Lawrence had to go out and buy another ten dozen to help the night. Lucky for all that it was not as hard to get as twelve months ago.)

By the way, the person who was responsible for the supper (and so helped to bring the admission price down to the low charge of only 5/- per head) was committeeman Bert Holmes. He deserves a pat on the back.

Harry Mostyn was there on time and managed to sink "an odd one or two."

Snowie Dodds, Austie Ronan,

Jack Westwood, George Sheehan and many more came along. If YOU were not there, you missed a good night, so come along next time and join in the fun. You won't regret it.

—o— LAST POST

It is once again with regret that we have to publish the following names of our friends who have recently passed on.

* * *

J. Dudley, passed away at his home at Padstow on the 4th January, 1956. We have no other details apart from these as sent in by his wife.

* * *

John Thomas (Tom) Newman. Passed away in Concord Repatriation Hospital on March 24th, 1956, after a long illness. Tom spent the last 6 months in the hospital, and his wife wishes us to let his mates know of her sad loss.

* * *

Major Raleigh Farlow. Our information is that Major Farlow passed away in a private hospital in Melbourne about September last year. We have not any other details but the passing was confirmed to Frank Allen by Major Norm Neal.

* * *

H. Buchanan, NX 28521. The passing is noted from the R.S.L. monthly "Reveille" of April. No further details are available. If someone can help with further information, please write to us.

—o—

JOTTINGS FROM THE 2/2nds . . .

For these notes, we are indebted to Alan McInnes. Thanks, Mac. Jim McFadden who was known for his verse during the bad old days, is now a veterinary surgeon at Randwick. Some of these poems are in the possession

of the editor and will be published in the next issue.

* * *

A good roll up attended the Anzac Day march although there were quite a lot who were missing and who are usually in attendance. From the march, most went on to the annual re-union at St. Peters where a very appetising lunch was provided buffet style. The lunch included baked rabbit, fish and chips, pig's trotters, prawns, and all the trimmings (including a keg). Among those who attended was former C.O., Colonel C. E. Davis.

* * *

A nasty accident happened to Jack Howie on Anzac Day. He slipped from Dick Kennewell's truck and split his head open, necessitating eight stitches, and all this despite the fact that Jack was sober . . . so he claims. However, the only effects suffered fortunately, was a severe headache for a few days and a bit of discomfort. The spot where Jack fell has been marked down for posterity by Pat Cartwright who wrote the following inscription in Jack's blood on the footpath . . . "J.H. 25/4/56."

* * *

Any old boys who now have sons in the National Service should put them on to a good thing. If you know the Sgt.-Major in a strange battalion it seems to help. Well, our information is that Con Thompson is now Sar-Major out at Holdsworthy, he being a member of the A.R.A. (And as stated, it IS handy to know.)

* * *

Former 2/2nd Major Harry Huggard was seen on the newsreels recently when the 3rd Battalion, A.R.A., was presented with their colours in the Sydney Domain. Harry took a very prominent part in the proceedings and seemed to carry out his

role with true Pioneer ability.

After a term in Malaya with the 2nd Battallion, Harry was repatriated home but is now quite well again.

IN PASSING . . .

The Blue Wog (Blue Moxey) was at the march but said that he could not make the Smoko because he had to go to an important meeting on the same night and offered his apologies. It was a Pigeon Club meeting so we understand, Blue. By the way, how are you doing with the birds these days?

Had news of Arthur Schmidt recently. He has just sold out of his bakery business up at Maclean on the North Coast. Cousin Charlie is on the wharves at Sydney I believe.

The mail bag was a bit light on this time, fella's. What about some news? However, we did get some letters and will pass on some of the contents.

From Ron McFarlane of Earlwood, a reminder that the Sigs are conspicuous by their absence from the Smokos. What about that, Sigs? Ron also mentions that the last was his first attendance at a Smoko, and that he thoroughly enjoyed himself. Good for you, Ron, and thanks for your donation.

Thank you for your donation, Gus Daly, from down in Victoria. We have not been hearing much from down there lately, so

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how about a bit of news for the 2/2nd boys up here in the Sunny(?) State, Gus?

Max Herron's letter was long and interesting. Three pages of solid reading and news. Your suggestion re the address has been noted and it will be included in future, Max. Re your request, to send a paper to Les Denham at Port Macquarie, as far as I am aware Les gets his every issue, but I will check for you.

Max mentioned an evening at home with Bob McGregor and Jack Maxwell, where tea was served and Bob did all the talking. I can understand that about Bob, but it is hard to swallow that bit about the tea.

(Jack Maxwell is now working his way by bike to Western Australia.)

A word from Colonel Arnold Brown, enclosing the address of Jim Raine, and apologising for his absence from the Smoko due to attendance as Steward of the local Show. Your reference to the name on the heading is as you say, a printer's error. It should read "2/1st & 2/2nd Pioneer Bns. Association." Thank you for your continued interest, sir.

Ran into K. K. (Keith) Lane recently. Keith is living down at Jannalli and says that if any of the old boys would like to find him, he is in the blue coloured house right on top of the hill.

Being the Editor and as I did in an issue recently, I am giving myself a few lines to tell anyone that may be interested of an anticipated trip that I will be doing soon. All being well, I will be leaving by Qantas plane on Friday evening, June 1st, for Singapore and will be away for approximately one month. On busi-

ness, of course. That is why this issue of the News is being written earlier than usual. If anything happens or mail arrives after that date, it may not be included till the next issue but I trust that you will understand and bear with me. While away. I will try and drop a few lines to Fred Calloway and he may be able to include it before this goes to the printers.

Talking of Fred Calloway, he has had to relinquish the position of Secretary for the next twelve months so as he can devote his time to study for a big exam. The exam is for Local Government Engineer and will take quite a lot of Fred's time as he said that he has to submit a complete drainage system plan for a country town. This plan will take about 6 months to complete, apart from actual study of other subjects.

We wish you well, Fred, and will be interested to hear of your progress.

From way up at Kyogle, Bill Hoffman sent a greeting telegram for a good night at the Smoko. Thanks, Bill. Your thought was very much appreciated. Bill, for the benefit of those who don't know, is manager of the local baths, having been there for quite a few years, and he never forgets to send down his regards to the boys when he cannot visit himself.

A very short note from Alf Ballard. No details but a donation and an appreciation of the "News."

W. TAYLOR

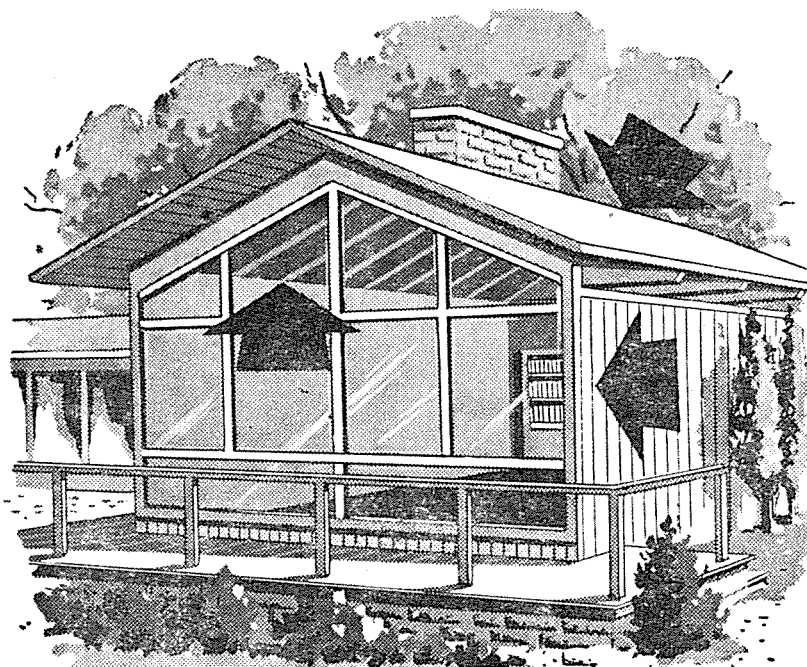
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VOL. 1 — No. 4

1st NOVEMBER, 1956

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EDITOR'S TRIP AWAY

As mentioned in the last issue of the "News," I was almost ready to leave for a business trip to Singapore, departure date being 1st June. My employers (they donated the space on the back page of the last issue of the "News") required that I visit the company's agents and my tour took me to quite a few interesting places. I am not going to set out EVERYTHING that I did (that would take too long), but I would like to tell you of the places visited, including one of particular interest to those of our units who served in Borneo.

I left Sydney by Qantas Super Constellation at night, arriving in Singapore the following morning for breakfast.

Singapore is all that you have read or heard, being a place of contrasts. The clean with the dirty, the old and the new, the different races and creeds, the quiet and the bustle found in all cities.

It is all very fascinating and at first sight, gives one the impression that it would take years to see it all. But after settling down, it becomes like most other places, and once becoming assimilated, the visitor becomes another one of the teeming thousands who seem to be around at all hours of the day and night.

The traffic is a problem as it is in Australia, although, I must say that the system in force in the City of Singapore is something that could be copied by many other places.

The hotel where I stayed for most of the time was on the edge of the city and was a very modern place by any standards. The cost of this hotel was about £4/10/- per day without meals. This cost included a very large single room

with separate mod. cons., shower, etc., and was fully air conditioned — a must in Singapore.

The service in hotels, cabarets, restaurants, theatres, bars, etc., was really wonderful, there being no shortage of labour in this field.

However, the costs of these services was rather high. A small bottle of beer (dozens of brands from Australian to German) was about 4/6 Aust. while a whisky and soda costs about the same. Food was above average, although in the good places, it was costly. Plenty of genuine Chinese restaurants where chopsticks are used — or else. I enjoyed many meals with Chinese business men in these restaurants and found that the actual food is far superior to any Chinese food tasted in Sydney. Of course that is only my opinion, but the facts as given to me were that there is a greater variety of ingredients in the East and of course the difference must be noticed.

From Singapore, I flew up to Malaya, spending several days each in Malacca, Kuala Lumpur, Penang and Taiping.

It was while in Taiping that I visited the area War cemetery and found many Australian graves there. It was the day after my visit, that 3 Australians from our Battalion serving there, were buried as a result of a terrorist ambush the day previously.

On the subject of terrorists, while there is still an "Emergency" as it is termed in the country, their activities are now mainly confined to the actual jungles. I travelled some 60 miles from Butterworth which is on the mainland across from the island of Penang, by car to Taiping and apart from seeing complete villages enclosed in barbed wire and under guard by night, and a few police check points along the road, there seems to be no difference. However, the driver still did about 60 miles per hour all of the way. Occasionally, a sign reading "You are now entering a White area" (meaning that the area has been declared free of terrorists) can be seen along the road, but the conditions seem to be easing now.

After returning to Singapore for a fortnight, my next trip was to Borneo, the first overnight stop being Kuching. There is not much that I can say about this old town as it seems to be as it was many years ago. A small town with very narrow streets and much the same as most other towns in the country.

From there to the island of Labuan for another night, and it was here that I received a very big surprise. Labuan is nothing more than an island

with an airstrip, small hotel attached, a few R.A.F. personnel and a small village. But it is just along the road from the strip to the War cemetery and of course I made my way there. When I first heard that I was to visit Borneo, I made enquiries as to the possibilities of my getting to Balikpapan to see the graves of our Pioneer boys there, but found that it was impossible. You may readily understand my feelings when I found the grave of a 2/1st Pioneer in Labuan War Cemetery.

I found this grave quite by accident and so searched through the cemetery records till I found that all of those killed in any of the Borneo campaigns were transferred to this last resting place. I found all five graves of our boys and I was very disappointed to find that I had not any film left in my camera to photograph the head stones. As it was also getting dark, it was too late to do anything about it.

I was to leave for Seria and the Shell oil fields very early the next morning by plane so that ruled out that day also. Later in the evening I met an Australian Air Force officer attached to the R.A.F. and I told him of my predicament. I was due back in Labuan two days later but was to arrive there at 9.30 a.m. and change planes departing again at 10.10 a.m. This officer told me that if he could not arrange for me to be taken to the cemetery in that time on the day of my return, he would have an Air Force photographer take the photos and forward them on to me. This is where real Aussie co-operation came in. I arrived on time from Seria (Brunei) and as the small 8 passenger "Rapide" taxied in, I saw a R.A.A.F. Holden "ute" pull out from the side and

follow us down the strip. "As soon as I disembarked, I was called to board the car, was taken to customs where everything was arranged for quick stamping, and whisked away down to the cemetery where I found that the Graves Commissioner (another Australian) was waiting to show me the location of each grave. In a matter of minutes I had photographed each grave, also the one of Lt. Derrick V.C., and the general view of the cemetery. Then back into the truck and off to the airport at high speed where I found that the plane was loaded and ready to go. Even the pilot (Australian) had been warned and

SYMPATHY

It is with regret that we announce the loss of his Son due to an accident, of Jack Allan of Darwin, last September.

as soon as I scrambled aboard, the plane took off for Kuching. I am very pleased to say that the photos came out very well despite the rush.

My stay in Singapore was for a further two weeks and then I started South. From Singapore I went to Djakarta for 4 days, then to Darwin for a further 3 days before finally arriving in Sydney just 2 months and 4 days after leaving.

One interesting point that I did not mention. I was fortunate in obtaining permission to see through the two Singapore prisons, Outram Road and the infamous Changi. From Changi I received a very nice souvenir photo album complete with my initials and the date on the cover. This album was made for me by the inmates,

INTERSTATE NEWS

From the 2/2nd Pioneer Despatch published in Victoria, we reprint the following items of interest.

Harry Hook died recently at his home in York Street, Sale, on the 14th July. He had resided in that town for many years and was a builder by occupation.

Harry was unmarried and left an aged crippled Mother and a brother. The funeral took place from St. Paul's Cathedral, Sale, and the Association was represented by Geoff Webster and Gordon Hamilton.

2/2nd Secretary, Bob Conningsby has been in poor health for a number of months and has not been able to take any active part in the Association affairs. He will not stand for the position of Secretary in the future.

Frank Phillips has taken over the Waterside Hotel in Flinders Street, Melbourne and it is now the meeting place of several of the Pioneer Association. In fact, two days after being discharged from Heidelberg Hospital, Hughie Grigg who underwent an operation, was down at the bar having some of that nourishing medicine as dispensed by Frank.

Bill Mummery, after a year and six months in Heidelberg, was discharged in late August and has since sailed for Brisbane where he intends to reside.

Bob Rice, of Rosedale, suffered a painful accident to his arm a few months ago, which may result in the loss of the use of the limb.

all long term types, thugs, murderers, etc., and so I have a permanent record of a most interesting and educational trip.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

It was reported by the President at the last general meeting held in the Railway Institute of the Association's hardship in relation to the eviction from portion of our rooms in Hunter Street, and the legal suit by a Mr. Farr.

For the benefit of our members who did not attend that meeting and for further information to those members who know of this complication, these matters have now been mainly finalised except for a possible further action in regard to the rooms, but the story thus far is . . .

The Rural Bank purchased the complete building in which we, among others, were tenants. Unfortunately a new lift had to be placed in the building and our room was one of a number in the way of the new well, and we were given notice to quit the premises.

Following a number of committee meetings and the election of a sub-committee to investigate the case, the matter was placed in the hands of the Legal Service Bureau with the outcome that we retained our room minus a small portion which was occupied by one of our sub-tenants. Mr. H. O. C. Farr, a Public Accountant, who, we understand, was offered alternative accommodation by the Rural Bank.

Prior to the Bank's purchase of the building, we were receiving approximately £9 per week from our two sub-tenants and paying out £5/10/- in rental. This balance over the years plus subscriptions from members gave us a balance in

the bank of £260 but as this income is now wiped out due to the Association not being allowed to sub-let under the terms of the tenancy agreement with the Rural Bank, we will not have any other form of moneys coming in from outside sources.

The next blow befalling our Association was the receiving of a writ from Mr. H. O. C. Farr, himself an ex-serviceman, claiming refund of all rent paid by him to our Association. (Mr. Farr was given a portion of

ADDRESS

The Association address is still . . .

2/1 and 2/2 Pioneer Bn's.
Association,
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Sydney.

our rooms some years ago when office space was at a premium and was taken in on the plea that, as an Ex-Serviceman he needed offices to carry on his calling as a Public Accountant. At one stage he was Auditor of our Association, being paid for his services.)

Mr. Farr, realising that we had rented him portion of our rooms without firstly obtaining Fair Rental, lodged a suit for £450 as soon as he no longer required the room in our office.

We sought advice from the Legal Service Bureau and from a Barrister (who gave his services free) and we learned that, even though we were victims of circumstances, we were le-

gally in the wrong. In view of our rather low funds, we were advised to offer a sum of £50 for full settlement and this was accepted by Mr. Farr.

As for the "Pioneer News", as long as we get the support of members by hearing of their doings and being able to write about them, our paper will be reasonably self supporting as we sell advertising space to pay for the production. However, we still have to find the money for stamps and paper wrappers, and if subscriptions lag, then the paper must fall. Postage for each issue is about £9. Our books are now in the hands of the auditors but it will be seen that our bank balance will not have much chance of improvement.

As there are still quite a number who have not EVER sent money for their subscriptions, we do not have very high hopes of having a bumper year this time.

Now chaps the writing is on the wall. Our Editor and our Treasurer (Max Law and Harry Townson) and for that matter, all the committee, are doing quite a job and spend a lot of their spare time in keeping YOUR Association going, and the paper is, after all, the backbone of movement these days. But without News and Money, the whole project will surely fail.

The subscription is still at the all time low of 2/6 per annum. That is not a lot to ask, so we are asking.

We need your support.

Thank You,

Fred Calloway.

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JIM McFADDEN'S VERSE

As mentioned in the last issue, we have in our possession some of the original verses by Jim McFadden, and we now

print one of them. Maybe you know of them, so cast your mind back to the times referred to in the poems.

"How Gabbit Hankshaw Got His Jap"

Who will venture in the Kunai
Grass ?

Which man will hunt this
hidden Jap ?

Is anyone prepared to die ?
Who wants a feather in his
cap ?

Who will try and stalk this
stranger ?

Won't someone try to kill
him soon ?

"Who will save us from this
danger ?"

"Sprag" said to 17 Platoon.

From the ranks stepped Gab-
bit Hankshaw,

A saviour in this hour of
need,

He said, "I'll go — but not
before,

I get a damned good feed."

"Sprag" turned as tears formed
in his eyes,

To this hero from his force,
He said, "I'll give you Sarg-
ent's pies,

With Fountain Brand toma-
to Sauce."

Then Gabbit quickly downed
his feed,

And he bade his mates —
Goodbye,

As he went forth to do his deed,
A man prepared to do-or-die.

He stepped into the Kunai
grass,

That was a screen for lurk-
ing death,

His mates thought he was as
bold as brass,

As they stood with bated
breath.

Onward he crept like a hunting
dog,

He moved towards the hid-
den man,

He put his down on a log
Which had been made in Ja-
pan.

Backward he stepped as cool
as ice,

And fired at the Jap by his
side,

Things did not turn out too
damn nice,

As his safety catch was ap-
plied.

But Hankshaw did not say a
word,

As he blasted the foe off the
map,

And that, in case you have not
heard,

Is how Hankshaw got his
Jap.

NOTE: This poem is of an actual event and "Sprag" refers to Patrol Leader, Lt. Ray Harris, 2/2nd Pioneer Bn.

ADVERTISERS

We draw your attention to the fact that several business firms have been good enough to support our magazine by purchasing advertising space. This helps to keep down the costs of production in printing and distributing the Pioneer News to our members. We earnestly request that if you can at any time support these advertisers, please do so and mention the fact that you read

LABUAN WAR CEMETERY

The names of our Pioneers who are now at rest in Labuan and whose headstone photographs are recorded with me are as follows:

Sgt. Roy Smithers.

Pte. W. M. (Scotch) Aitken.

Pte. R. H. (Mick) Duncan.

Pte. Dave Woods.

Pte. Keith Jones.

The Labuan War Cemetery is a credit to the War Graves Commission, being really beautifully set out on slightly undulating ground. At the entrance is a set of memorial gates and arch where can be found the records of all who are buried there.

These records show that there are 3,971 interred in the Cemetery of which some 3,000 are Australians. Of these, 1,700 are listed as "Unknown Australian P.O.W." and 823 listed as just "Unknown Australian Soldier."

The graves of 2 Australian V.C.'s can be found there. They are Lt. Derrick, V.C., D.C.M., and Cpl. Mackie, V.C. (2/3rd Pioneer Bn.).

The Taiping War Cemetery in Malaya, while smaller in size, is still in keeping with the high standard set by the Graves' Commission. A memorial stone fence is actually now under construction and the flowers and trees surrounding the area is again, a really beautiful site.

To visit these War Graves was a moving and memorable experience.

their advertisement in your copy of the News. By supporting our contributors, you are helping to keep your annual subscription to the Pioneer News down to the record low level of 2/6.

IN PASSING . . .

Our mail bag for some reason or other was very light after the last issue, but we will tell you of those people who did write a note to us.

A bouquet from Dick Oades up at Guildford, together with a postal note. A good example for all. Dick apologises for absence from the last "shows" during the Anzac period due to his being on shift work. Don't let it happen again Dick. We will give you plenty of notice next time and you can get the firm to let you off . . . Thanks Dick.

★ ★ ★

From a Post Office Box number way up at Miboo North, we heard from Tom Malone. (Where is Miboo, Tom? Or did we ask that one before?) It seems a long way away. Another compliment and a postal note both of which were very gratefully received. Tom mentions meeting other Pioneers in his roamings in "God's Own Country" (It's around South Gippsland if you really do not know where Miboo is.) One who Tom mentions is former Sgt. Ben Masterman-Smith who has now given up hotel life in favour of producing MILK. Seems to be something wrong there, but that is what Tom tells us.

If you could let us have the addresses of the chaps you meet Tom, we would like to send them a magazine each (And collect their 2/6 also).

Thanks for the letter, Tom

and write whenever you get an opportunity.

★ ★ ★

From one of our best correspondents (and there is no crawling here) we had yet an-

SOCIAL EVENING

An excellent Social Evening will be arranged by the Committee to be held in the Railway Institute Hall (same place as the Anzac Smoko) in late January or early February.

This evening will include dancing to a very good orchestra — Novelty Party Games and a demonstration of the "Rock and Roll" — Your friends are invited.

Each couple should bring a plate (Supper) and your own drinking material (hard or soft) — Glasses will be provided.

Price: 7/6 a double ticket
You will be further advised by circular.

other letter from Colonel Arnold Brown. The Colonel is really one of our most active supporters and is always on deck with any spots of news that he can rustle up. This time he writes of his meeting with Fred Bell (ex Cpl. D. Coy. 2/1st.). Fred was staying a few days at Windsor although his usual address is up at "Hilltop" (as

a "Squatter") at Myrtleville via Goulburn. Fred requests that we send him the "News". It will be done. The Colonel also mentions that Jim Raine is still very ill and is at present in North Shore Hospital. Any one over that way may like to call and see Jim. Thank you as always Colonel Brown. We always look forward to your newsy letters. (I'll get a stripe next war.) But it really is an example to others.

If some of our members wrote one third of the letters written by some of our very regular correspondents such as Colonel Brown, we would have no difficulty in supplying you with news.

★ ★ ★

Another of the really active and very faithful workers of the Association wrote his apology for his non attendance at a committee meeting due to his being in hospital. We refer to Alf Carter who has been having a little hernia trouble, but we are pleased to say that we have heard that Alf is a lot better now. Thank you for the donation also Alf. Hope to see you again very soon.

★ ★ ★

At the Sydney Waratah Festival held during October, a floral display was to be held and it is anticipated that the colours of all units of the Australian forces was displayed in flowers. A circular was received by Fred Calloway and he represented our Association at a committee meeting recently. The colors of both of our

Phone: BL 2535

Alterations and Renovations

H. F. MacINTOSH — TAILOR

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Pioneer Bn.'s was on display. Although this paper will not be distributed before the end of the Festival, it is hoped that the display was seen by many of our members, and we would like to hear from you if you were fortunate in viewing the Flowers.

Fred Calloway has been looking after our interests and advises that we had a very prominent position in the display.

★ ★ ★

Have you heard of a place called Woolgoolga? Well, if my memory serves me correctly it is just North of Coff's Harbour on the North Coast of N.S.W., and from there comes a letter from Allan Crute. Allen says that he received his copy of the last "News" by a very roundabout route, and thoroughly enjoyed it.

Your address is now recorded and we hope that you have no trouble in receiving future issues. The mention you made of Tom Morrow is interesting, he being the only Pioneer in the area. Let us have his address and we will send him a copy also.

A big thanks to you also for your donation. It is good to hear of some one who receives his first copy of our paper and thinks enough of it to write straight away with a donation enclosed. (Forgive us Allan, as we are really rubbing it in to some of the blokes who never get around to writing).

Please write as often as you wish and we will always acknowledge it.

★ ★ ★

Les Denham from Port Macquarie has forsaken the sea and the fishing fleet for a more stable type of occupation (or is it a pastime?). He is now permanent barman at the local R.S.L. Look him up whenever in the district.

Frank Cheal now permanent bank officer out at the Mascot (Sydney) Airport. Frank meets the incoming overseas planes for the Commonwealth Bank and changes the passengers' foreign currency.

By the way, whilst in the middle of moving house, Frank's family copped the measles right through.

★ ★ ★

The Railway Institute Hall has been booked well in advance for the next Anzac Smoko on Friday, 26th April. Don't say that we did not give you enough warning.

★ ★ ★

Don't worry about being behind with your subscription Bill Rodie. That cheque will see you through for quite a few issues yet. It is very acceptable and we thank you as we do all of those who oblige.

It is very pleasing to note that Bill is now Managing Director of a large Public Relations Company, incorporated, I think in America. That is quite a lift Bill and may we wish you well. Your new address has been noted. And thanks again for the letter and the donation.

★ ★ ★

That completes the mailbag. Now down to a few facts dug up by various committee members. Seen in a recent issue of the "B.H.P. Review" from Newcastle. A reference to the son of Dick (Peter) Seddon, who has recently become the youngest 2nd Officer in the B.H.P. fleet. "Young" Peter is only 22 years of age and the article gives him high praise for his work. Peter will be staying with the fleet for a short time yet and will then be going overseas for experience and his Master's certificate. Naturally his parents, Dick and Pearl are very proud of him

and they certainly have good reason to be.

The kindest regards from the boys Dick, and all congratulations to Peter.

—o—

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Of course, we do not like to continually harp on the subject, but there are STILL some members who are in receipt of this paper and yet who have NOT EVER contributed one penny towards its cost of printing, etc., ARE YOU ONE OF THESE PEOPLE?

The annual subscription is ONLY 2/6 per member and this brings you your Pioneer News each quarter with a clear conscience.

We would be pleased to receive subscriptions at any time. We are trying to do our part by sending you the magazine and confirm that, even though some members do not subscribe, we put it down to the fact that they have just forgotten and rather than lose contact with them, we will STILL send them their paper.

This only applies to a very small number of members, so now we ask —

HOW ABOUT IT?

—o—

THANKS!

We thank MAX HERRON for donating all the wrappers and glue for the last issue and possibly future issues of the "News". Many thanks are also due Max's good Wife for the typing of all the wrappers. When you think of 850 separate names and addresses you can imagine that this takes time.

★ ★ ★

Thanks are also due to Bob Lake for the arranging of Letterheads free of cost.

Old—But Interesting...

Here are a few items that were left over from our last issue. The news may be a bit old but it could be interesting to members.

★ ★ ★

From Mudgee a letter from Wal Roberts, and an invitation to anyone in the district to call on him at "Havelock," Cassilio Rd., Via Mudgee. Thank you also for your donation, Wal, and we have pleasure herewith passing on your regards to the boys. (May encourage some of them to write.)

★ ★ ★

Getting back to the Anzac Day March (and the Smith family again). Did you see the interest in Reg Smith marching down Martin Place? Strictly speaking, the interest was in Reg's little son who held Dad's hand and marched with him, dressed very smartly in a sailor's suit. Almost every newspaper photographer in the street took snaps. I did not see any photos in the papers, Reg, but I would bet that you should have a couple of very nice snaps out of it all.

★ ★ ★

Mick Bye is on the ball again with his usual newsy letter. Your good wishes to Mrs. O'Malley Wood are noted with thanks, Mick.

Mick had a few floodwaters to contend with but he tells us that it did not stop him getting to the small township of Goodooga for the Anzac Day march although his original intention of making Sydney was thwarted by the same waters. Eight weeks is a long time to be flood-bound but we are pleased to note that despite this, you still had a good season with the sheep. Many thanks again for your kind remarks on our little effort to keep

a paper going. Your letters are always very welcome.

★ ★ ★

Getting back to Frank Allen again. Frank has recently left his position as manager of a large starch and gluten works, and is now waiting to take up an appointment that may take him across the waters to New Zealand. We will keep you posted.

★ ★ ★

Bill Gamble wrote a long letter. Let me read it to you . . . "Congratulation Pioneer News, Bill Gamble."

Come on, Bill, you can do better than that. I showed the effort to our mutual friend, John Keir. No comment. But thanks sincerely for the donation. (By the way, I saw your good friend, Bud Grieggs, recently and he sends regards. Ask him to tell you about the quid that he found in the local at the Quay one day while I was talking to him.)

★ ★ ★

Thanks also to Peter Craig for the donation for H. A. Leese of Grafton. That sounds like "Joe" Leese to me. We will check on his address. Thanks for your thought and donation too, Peter.

★ ★ ★

One from whom we have not heard lately is Bob McCloskey, however, Bob is on the ball again and this time with a letter and donation to the "News." Mention of the phrase "On the ball," is particularly applicable to Bob as most will remember him being well on the ball in most of the Firsts league games. Nice to hear again from you, Bob.

★ ★ ★

On a recent trip round the North Coast, yours truly made a point of calling on Wal Garner up at Gloucester. Wal is not yet enjoying the best of health but

is kept very busy as a committeeman on the local golf club. He told me that he is also a one man greenkeeper. Thank you for the three addresses, Wal. I hope the people concerned have since received the last issue of the News that I put in the post upon my return to Sydney.

★ ★ ★

The Port Macquarie R.S.L. recently opened new (and I might say, very nice) club rooms.

Les (King Prawn) Denham has at long last forsaken the sea as an occupation. He was on the trawlers in the fishing fleet.

What connection have the two items, might you ask?

Well, Les is now installed behind the new bar in the Port Macquarie R.S.L. as a full time barman. If anyone is in the district, you know where to go. (In Port Macquarie I mean.)

—o—

HEARD THESE?

Small Daughter to her Daddy, "I heard Mummy say that women have much cleaner minds than men. Why is that, Daddy?"

Daddy: "I suppose it is because they change them much more often, dear."

★ ★ ★

Nylons — Sheer today and gone tomorrow.

★ ★ ★

What the cow said to the bull at the Xmas party: "You serve and I'll carve."

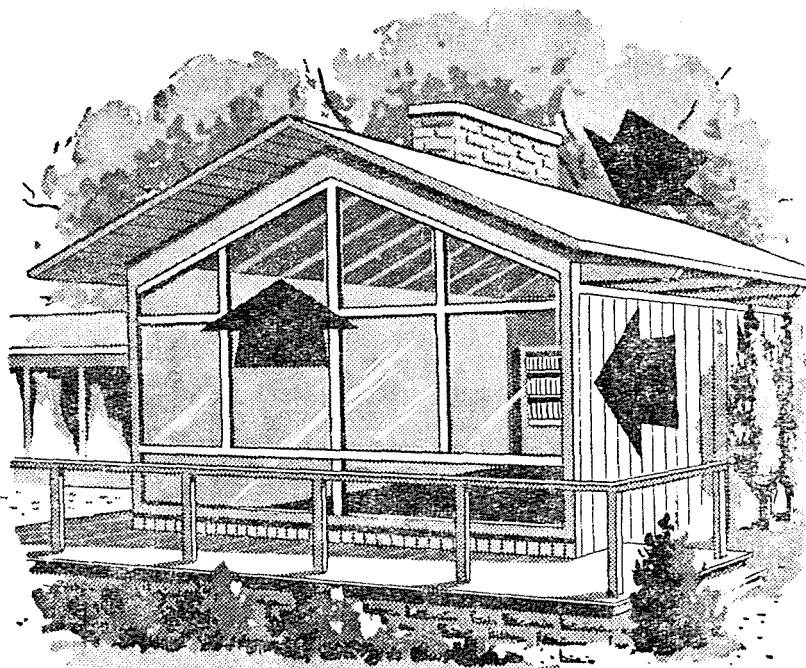
★ ★ ★

The difference between the Coal Board and Old King Cole. King Cole KNEW how many fiddlers he had.

—o—

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