

# PIONEER NEWS

UL 5491

Official Organ of 2/1 and 2/2 PIONEER BATTALIONS ASSOCIATION

UL 5491

Registered under the Charitable Collections Act, 1934-41—Certificate No. 10462

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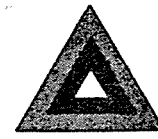
V. WHITELEY and M. HERRON

ALLAN McINNES

Vol. 6. No. 1.

1st APRIL, 1961

Price: 5/- Per Annum



## ANZAC ARRANGEMENTS

Our Social Secretary, Jack Westwood, has very strong ideas on this most important day of the Pioneer year, and not only has he stated them at Committee meetings, but also in the following articles to the Editors.

### WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

MONDAY, 24th APRIL — 7.10 p.m.

"My thoughts on this night are directed toward all servicemen who paid the supreme sacrifice during the two World Wars, and in particular to my own comrades of the 2/1 and 2/2 Pioneers.

"It is because their memory is foremost in our minds that we introduced this ceremony, and you can pay your own personal respects in the solitude of the Cenotaph on this night. A bugler will be in attendance to add further reverence to this very impressive ceremony of laying a wreath for each of the two battalions.

"The march will commence from the corner of Hunter and Pitt Streets, along Pitt Street, right turn into Martin Place, thence down to the Cenotaph. The forming-up place is outside the Association's office, Rural Bank Building, 19 Hunter Street, Sydney, and the time is 7.10 p.m. A cordial invitation is extended to all members, widows and relatives of deceased Pioneers to attend."

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY, 24th APRIL — 7.45 p.m.

"Immediately after the wreath laying ceremony, the Annual General Meeting will be held, and we would be very pleased to see a good attendance.

"This meeting will be held in the Blue Room of the Returned Soldiers' Club, Elizabeth Street, Sydney, at 7.45 p.m. on Monday, 24th April.

"All members of both battalions are invited to attend, voice their opinions, and meet their mates; and as it is our intention to make it a short meeting, there will be ample time for liquid refreshment. Supper will be provided by the Association."

### ANZAC DAY MARCH

"There are no official details to hand at this stage, but we have been told that it is almost certain to be the same as last year—that is, near the Mitchell Library, in Macquarie Street.

"Just the same, it is always advisable to make inquiries at the R.S.L. information centre near the Library.

"Last year it was most gratifying to see so many of our members com-

plete the march, and we request ALL members to do likewise this year. Alf Carter will be doing the honours for the 2/1, and Jack Henderson for the 2/2, so when leaving home allow a 'little extra in the kit' for these two gentlemen."

### ANZAC DAY REUNION

"Immediately after the march the 2/1st will adjourn to the Sussex Hotel, Sussex Street, where the licensee will serve a hot meal, and from then on we can assure you of a good day.

"For the 2/2nds, there will be the usual re-union at St. Peters.

"Medals are to be worn at the wreath laying ceremony and at the march."

### WELCOME TO OUR OFFICERS

"A cordial invitation is extended to all officers to attend the reunions. The boys often ask where do the officers go after the march, and we cannot fail to see why they do not join us on this happy day.

"You are assured of a grand welcome when meeting the boys of your old platoon and having a beer with them."

## SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE

The administration costs of this Association are steadily increasing, and the only avenue to recoup these costs is from subscriptions sent in.

The local lads will be digging deep on Anzac Day, so it is up to those who do not attend the march to send in their subscriptions promptly.

A good intake of subscriptions, plus a roll up of mail, is ample reward to the hard working band of committeemen for their year's labour of love.

So, how about doing the right thing by your mates, who are doing the right thing by you.

All we ask is five shillings per year, and if you are five years behind, well just send along twenty-five shillings and we will continue to guarantee your receipt of the "Pioneer News."

## 2/2 HOSPITAL LIST

The Following members have been patients at Heidelberg, Victoria, since the last issue of 2/2 "The Despatch".

Dave Bush, Geo. English, J. Graham, J. Griffiths, C. Lee, C. Newman, H. Palmer, C. Pye, L. Rodda, Tom Stockton, C. Sutton, Les Warren, Bert Williamson, Norm Windebank, Mrs. Oliphant (widow) and Mrs. Oldham (widowed mother).

Hughie Johnston and Joe Raven are still at Heidelberg.

## Remembrance Sunday Church Service

2/2 Pioneers for the third successive year attended their old Padre's church to take part in the Armistice Service. Padre Claughton has now moved on from Granville to the North Parramatta area, where he is in charge of quite a large district.

This year the service was held at North Rocks Methodist Church, with a warmth and sincerity that made all present really remember our old comrades who have passed on, not only during the war years, but since.

Among those attending, with their wives and friends, were Bill Robertson, George Paris, "Speed" Gordon, Jack White, Frank "Blue" Locane, Ken Ashton, Ken Harrison, Mick Egan, Arthur Stafford, Don Lawson, Gavin Todd and Jim Field.

Gavin (Snowy) Todd read the 23rd Psalm and Jim Field, the message, assisting Padre Claughton during the service. Some familiar faces were missing this year—Jack Howie, Allan

McInnes, Dick Kennewell and Cappy Christian sent apologies because of sickness. They were remembered by Padre Claughton during the service.

An invitation by the Padre for the boys present to visit his home for supper and a yarn after the service was accepted with thanks. Mrs. Claughton, the Padre's gracious wife, was a perfect hostess at a beautiful supper enjoyed by all present.

Those who attended this evening all agreed it was a day to remember, in more ways than one, and will surely join our Padre next Remembrance Sunday, because—

**"WE DO REMEMBER"**

# 1960 SMOKO SUCCESS

On Friday, 27th November, the Association held its Bi-annual Smoko, and with an attendance of 72 members, proved to be quite a success.

The Social Secretary, Jack Westwood, is to be complimented on a fine job of organising. The new Licensee of the Sussex Hotel, Stan Duke, had decorated the bar with purple and white streamers, and this immediately put the gathering in a gay mood.

With Doug Shearston and Alf Carter on the door, Jack Westwood and Max Herron pinning on identification cards, Bob McGregor and Keith Westwood selling raffle tickets, the interests of the Association were indeed in very capable hands.

## REUNION JOTTINGS

By Reporters Alf Carter, Bob McGregor and Jack Henderson

Everybody was pleased to greet Bill Tasker, B Coy. 2/1, who was always one of our best boys. Bill is still manager of the Bexley R.S.L., a big job, which he is handling most successfully. Bill brought along a mate, "Snow" Edwards, who was made very welcome. Thanks for coming, "Snow," we appreciated your company.

Wally Coe, B Coy. 2/2, was down from Newcastle, where he works on the waterfront. Wally brought apologies from Roy Roser, who just couldn't make it.

Alan McHugh, H.Q. 2/1, of Bexley North, and a motor body builder with Dairy Farmers, renewed acquaintance with the boys after a few years' absence, and promised to be more regular in future. Alan would like to be remembered to all old mates in H.Q.

Jock Peace, H.Q. 2/1, now of Chippendale, and a lift driver with the P.M.G. at P.M.G. House, was busily asking the whereabouts of old mates of H.Q. and, of course, sipping one occasionally.

John Dowd, Don Coy. 2/1, now of Pymble, sends all good wishes to the boys of D Coy. John is now working at the Repat.

Bert Moore, also of D Coy. 2/1, now of Kirribilli, and an executive of A.W.A., was very upset to hear of the passing of Dick Hansen. Bert said he often had a noggin with Roy Ellis at Randwick.

Albert Brown, H.Q. 2/1, is now the manager of a dairy farm at Marayong, out from Blacktown, and we are happy to report that the business is doing fine.

Jack Dolaghan, B Coy. 2/1, from Manly Vale, is in business as a plumber, and one of the best, too, says Jack. We believe you, mate, only the best come from the Pioneers.

Ern Walker, H.Q. 2/1, with a fine home of his own at North Ryde and in his own business, says all the best to the boys.

Austie Ronan, H.Q. 2/1, is a tradesman with Advanx Rubber and we are pleased to say, a very able committeeman of this Association.

Jack Lloyd, A Coy. 2/1, now of Coogee, is a stevedore on the waterfront. By way of relaxation, Jack is a prominent member of the swimming club out there.

Old friend Peter Craig, D Coy. 2/1, has now settled down to a permanent position with Elder Smith as a wool classer. A bit of a change after chasing around the bush for so long, Peter, but to our benefit. Peter is on the committee of this Association.

Eric Guthrie, R.A.P. 2/1, of Chester Hill and a clerk with Pyrotex Power Cables, was there bubbling over with enthusiasm. Jack Copeland was to have accompanied him, but was unable to attend, as he was that night to be presented with a fine trophy for winning a golf tournament. Good for you, Jack.

Bob Buckley, D Coy. 2/1, was another visitor from down the coast. He came up from Corrimal. Bob is now retired, so has plenty of time to do all those things we would all like to do. Bob says cheerio to all the Don Coy. boys.

Gordon Finlay, A Coy. 2/1, came down from Liverpool for the "do" and had a fine night with Gordon Walsh, Jack Lloyd and Jack Westwood, among others. Gordon is now a foreman with Marshall Batteries and would like to pass on greetings to all A Coy. boys.

Joe White, H.Q. 2/1, late of Nambucca Heads, was another of the regulars present. Joe is one who thinks these occasions are worthwhile. He is now with the North Sydney Council and, in our humble opinion, would be an asset to that body.

A very welcome visitor to the bi-annual smoko was our old friend and committeeman, Tom Crossman. Tom is Company Secretary for Thomson Scougall, the steel people, and has spent a goodly part of the year travelling inter-state. Tom brought news of another good friend of this Association, Bert Holmes, who was unable to attend due to an injured back. We sincerely hope the trouble clears up quickly, Bert.

Word from Sammy Lewis, C Coy. 2/1. Sammy is doing fine, married with a bonnie boy and a nice home of his own at North Ryde. He is in business as a providore with Griffiths Fruits, supplying hospitals, etc.

"Snowy" Jardine, A Coy. 2/1, one of the solid band of committeemen of this Association, is now with the Yellow Express, driving a big semi-trailer. A big job for a big man.

Ian Kirkwood, C Coy. 2/1, from Mount Colah, is a public servant in the Lottery Office, and doing nicely for himself.

Met up with Charlie Johnson, D Coy. 2/1, now the owner and manager of a fleet of transport trucks. Charlie reports business has never been better. Good for you, mate, and our best wishes to you and your friend, Ray Hill.

Ran into Harry Corby, B Coy. 2/1, and now of East Hills, some little time ago. By sheer determination and hard work (after a bad early spin), Harry has worked his way up to a position as foreman with Ludowici, the leather-goods people. It's nice to see you doing all right, Harry, and thanks for the good wishes to the boys.

"Porky" Graham is still doing fine at Strathfield. He was telling all and sundry how terrific business was, and why not, "Porky," with that mighty personality. "Porky" and Max Herron were giving each other an ear bashing on Scouting, as it appears that at one time "Porky" was Troop Leader in the Scouts.

Ray Lester, B Coy. 2/1, was there to help brighten up the night's proceedings, and he brought along a mate, Bruce Sherif, who was a P.O.W. on the Burma Road. Both had a terrific night.

Arthur Murphy, H.Q. 2/1, of Kirrawee, and working at his trade of brick-laying, was another regular enjoying himself. "Murph" says all the best to the old gang of H.Q.

Bob Long, Ernie Walker and Jim Hadfield, all of H.Q. 2/1, were deep in discussion of the old days in the desert.

George Edmonds, Sam Lewis, Dolly Green, Ian Kirkwood and Ossie McCurtayne, all of C Coy. 2/1, were observed in a tight little group, no doubt talking about the "good old days." Hughie (Dolly) Green is working with the railways at Westmead and has a fine Housing Commission home in that district. Hughie brought word of Bill Chisholm, "Stumpy" Curtain and Justin Solomon, who wished to be remembered to all the boys.

Jack Pearce, H.Q. 2/1, of Fairlight, driving a wagon for the well-known firm of Hoffnuns, was there and in fine form. It's mighty good of you to say such nice things about the Association, mate.

"Nip" Kearsley, A Coy. 2/1, as usual was down from Ourimbah, on the Central Coast, and had a good night. "Nip" is in the cattle business, with an orchard to look after in his spare time. He reports business is booming.

Arthur Luddingham, A Coy. 2/1, now with the Department of Air, and just returned from holidays, brought news of a few hours spent with Fred Wheaton, at Dorrigo, also with Bill Jolley, now managing the Rural Bank at Bellingen. Both send greetings to all the boys.

## 2/2 JOTTINGS

● From Brisbane comes news that Charles Richardson has moved from Lismore and is now in charge of the Radiography Section of the Brisbane Mater Hospital. Best wishes to you, Charlie, from all the boys.

● Harry Huggard is now with L.H.Q. at Canberra, and sees Lindsay Canning, who is also there with Federal Security.

● Bill Barnes has also been on the move, and is now stationed at Warren with the Irrigation Commission. Bill was previously at the Hume Weir, and the move to Warren was in the way of promotion. Good luck, Bill. Let's hear from you when you are settled.

● His many friends will be pleased to hear that Jack Howie has made a complete recovery following a coronary occlusion, and is back at work again. His sickness knocked some weight off, otherwise Jack looks just as well as ever.

● Allan McInnes and Stan Duke, (Licensee of the Sussex Hotel) were at one time workmates together at Nock & Kirby's.

# FROM THE MAILBAG . . .

## LETTER OF THE MONTH

Willoring,

Walgett.

Dear Max,

At long last I have made the effort and have got round to writing to you. I don't know how many times I have started to do so and just never made it, however, there is not much news about this part of the world.

Bob Molyneux is still living at the "Ridge"; Max Dickens has left this part of the country though, I think he is in Sydney somewhere now. Just what he is doing I have not heard.

We have been having a very bad drought here for the past six to eight months. It has broken in some parts, but is still bad for us, however, these are some of the breaks we have to put up with, so we can't be (too) worried.

You may have heard by this that Tom Bye lost his wife some time ago (about two months, I think). I have not seen him, but heard he is picking up again now. He spent some time in Sydney after, so might have contacted "Mac."

I was down at Warren lately and heard that George (Speed) Gordon had left that part of the world to try his hand in the smoke.

I noticed in a part of your paper you say the 2/2nds do not want to let 2/1sts make this Association a one-sided affair. I am afraid it is so, because there are too many 2/2 like myself too lazy to write. I must pull my socks up, because the news in the paper keeps us in touch with old mates, as well as Smokos, etc.

My one regret is that I am too far away to attend some of the functions, and that is why I think it is a pity that more of the chaps living closer in do not make more effort. I realise, being married myself, that a leave pass is not always easy to obtain, but I also remember there were a lot of "lurks" used.

I am late in forwarding my sub. again, so I have fined myself. I hope you do not mind.

All the best for the present.

MICK BYE.

● **Bill Mace** writes from Erina, via Gosford, where he is locating his land legs following a three months' overseas tour. Bill gives little detail of his trip, but mentions that "Tahiti is not a bad place, but not a place to take your dreams." Bill says there is no place like Aussie, and no doubt most of us agree. (Your request regarding the Rats of Tobruk has been passed on to the right quarter, so by now you should have had a reply.) Bill mentions recently seeing Harry Tuckford, who has five children and works on the railway. Harry is badly in need of a home in the Gosford area, so if anyone can assist please contact the Secretary. Thanks, Bill.

● **Frank Cheal** has now transferred to Melbourne, c/o Commonwealth Trading Bank, Collins Street. Frank served with D Coy, 2/2, and was a stalwart in prior days with his good efforts with our "News." We wish you well, Frank, in your new surroundings. Geoff, brother of Frank, is now located at the Bank of N.S.W., Nyngan.

● From Blacktown, **Stan Brown** catches up with his dues. Stan was with D Coy, 2/1 in the Greta days. The "postie" who places the "News" in his letter box is Ron McFarlane, a former sig. in H.Q. Coy, 2/1. According to Stan there are quite a few Pioneers around his town. He also mentions that he is rid of the complaint with which he was discharged and is now in the local branch of the Civil Defence.

● **Albury** was the venue of a re-union of the 2/4 Pioneer Btn., and our correspondent suggests that the 2/2 could hold one just as successfully. The writer, **R. W. Bennett** (what about some christian names!), was with 18 Platoon D Coy., and stated there are a few members in north-eastern Victoria and southern N.S.W. We suggest the organising would have to be done around the Albury district—maybe an advertisement in the Border papers, calling a meeting to discuss the reunion, would test the strength of those eligible. For particulars of the 2/2 Pioneer Association, you would need to contact the Acting Secretary, Mr. J. Hancy, 17 Richards Avenue, Croydon, Victoria. He may be able to give you names and addresses of the lads in your area.

● **Ron McIntosh** (ex A and D Coys. 2/1) is in Concord Repat. Hospital for the fifth time in the past two years. Ron would very much like to see any Pioneers—Ward No. 1 will find him.

● From W. E. (**Jim**) Ireland we have the roll of No. 3 Section, 16 Plt. D Coy, 2/1, which Jim uncovered while sorting out his gear in moving from Wardell. The roll is as follows: Cpl. Flood, L/Cpl. R. Kelly, Ptes. L. Gow, L. Franzway, J. Colliss, R. Thompson, H. Porter, A. Campbell, W. McIntyre, A. Dobson, E. Harps, C. Secombe and J. Ireland.

D Coy. officers at that time were: Capt. Ledgerwood, O.C., Capt. Tunbridge, 2-i.c., Lieut. Gillespie, 16 Pln., Lieut. Copp, 17 Pln. (later to 2/2 Pioneers), Lieut. McAdam, 18 Pln. (P.O.W. in Tobruk). No doubt these names will revive memories, so thanks a lot, Jim.

● Another report on Far North Coast doings from **Bill Hoffman**. Thanks for the information, Bill, it makes it easier writing up this "News," as items of a personal nature are far more interesting to the reader. Bill encloses a newspaper clipping, showing the finish of a trotting event at the Kyogle Show. The winner was Ingle Low, driven by Jack (Banjo) Martin.

Bill reports on the Kyogle reunion, which was held to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the day of sailing on the Johan De Witt. After observing two minutes' silence, the "get together" moved along in fine style . . . a poultry dinner, with plenty of liquid to wash it down.

Clancy Scholes mentioned while on holidays here in Sydney that it could become a yearly event, if fully organised Pioneers would come from near and far. Possibly if lined up with Six-Hour Day, there could be visitors from Sydney. Those present at the reunion were Peter Bell, Jack Martin, Jack McMahon, Ted Felton, Leo Ferris, Jim

Hall, Ces Blanch, Bert Rayner, Toby Hale, Jack Buchanan, Clancy Scholes, Bill Hoffman, Brian Jackson, Ted Vaughan and Ray Smith, an apology being received from Harold Buckland.

As for news of Bill himself, he is baths manager at Kyogle Pool and has been busy with "Learn to Swim" campaigns and swimming carnivals.

● From Committeeman **Jack Bertram** (2/1) comes news of his move from Belmore to Hamilton, Newcastle. We are indeed very sorry to lose you and your wife, Jean, for you have both been wonderful supporters.

We refuse to accept your resignation, Jack, because we know you will have ample time to carry on in the Newcastle area. Keep up the good work and keep us posted with news. Jack and Roy Bounds are discussing a possible sub-branch in the Newcastle area, so there is your opportunity.

We wish you and your wife and family all the best in your new surroundings.

● A letter from **Wally (Bombo) Brown**, B Coy, 2/1, from Brewarrina. Wally is about again after a severe illness which meant several weeks in Nyngan Hospital. Bombo is long overdue for a change of luck, as his health has been indifferent for a long period. Still bright and cheerful, he reports things are booming in the old town and says cheerio to all his old mates. He sends best wishes also from his old friend, Danny Black, B Coy, 2/1, also from Brewarrina.

● One of our regular correspondents from Corryong, Victoria, is **Bernie Reiners**, H.Q. Coy, 2/1, and he's on the job once again. Apart from his letters, Bern is the "local new member rep." in those parts and passes on news of Neville Griffiths—address, Towong, via Corryong, ex B Coy, 2/1.

Neville would particularly welcome news of Jim Edis—however, Jim's address and whereabouts have so far eluded us, and he is not on the mailing list.

Bern. was looking forward to a fishing trip to Lake Eucumbene—hope you found them biting, mate.

● We acknowledge and welcome a donation from Harold Sippel (ex C Coy, 2/1). No letter . . . maybe next time.

● As per information passed on from Harold Leese, of Grafton, we record two more new addresses, although the names are not unfamiliar to many of us—Jack Sherman, Grevillia, via Kyogle; and Doug. Turner, of Duranbar, via Murwillumbah. Our Secretary has forwarded on back numbers of the "News." Both of these Digs. were in H.Q. 2/1, and we remember Jack as a first class shot. Jack has many trophies for his good work with the rifle and included in his collection are three Queen Shoot badges. As for news of Doug., he is the proud father of two girls and a boy.

Harold travels the North Coast as a representative of his firm and mentions meeting many Pioneers—Ray Smith, Brian Jackson, Leo Ferris, Fred Wheaton, Sid Jopson, Jos. Denham and Bill Jolly. Also a mention of Ed. Stratford and Jack Martin.

We request the addresses of both these chaps, Harold, as neither is on the mailing list. (Jack Sherman's ad-

# From the Mailbag... IN PASSING...

dress has been passed on to "Rota," so he should have the application forms by now, Harold.)

● From **Berry Taylor**, at Dee Why (ex B.H.Q. 2/1) comes a welcome donation and news that Berry is occupied seven days per week poultry farming. However, they are gradually building Berry out, so much so that the Taylor house was moved bodily to make way for local progress. "Three Course" Kelly is one local Berry sees often.

● Ex 14 Ptn. 2/2 member **Dick Wakely** writes from c/o Lewis Berger, Sydney. Dick's letter is not very newsy, but we acknowledge and appreciate his contact with the Association and the subscription.

● **Charlie Wilby**, 2/1, writes from "Derna," Crooble, where he has just completed a very much below average wheat harvest. The place looks like 'Ikingi Meruit,' as Cossie used to call it," says Charlie, "as we are in the grip of a drought."

Charlie is pleased to receive the News," as he is out of touch with local Pioneers, and passes on his regards to Bob Lake, Snow Jardine and the rest of the boys.

● We acknowledge a donation from **Clarrie Pakes** (ex B Coy. 2/1). Clarrie was under Repat. treatment some months ago, and as there is no mention of any health report in his short note, we accept Clarrie as being O.K.

● From Marrickville came a welcome donation from **Frank Hepburn** (2/2) in a letter written by his good wife. Thanks, Mrs. Hepburn, for your sub. and good wishes.

● **Gilbert Short** (2/2), of Lakemba, also sent along his sub. and news of Charlie Armstrong, also of the 2/2nds. Charlie has a thriving plumbing business in Tumut and recently purchased a property in that area. He would be glad to see any of the boys if down that way. Thank's Gilbert, for your letter and we will be pleased to put Charlie's name on our mailing list.

● Another welcome sub from **C. Handley**, of Portland, and pleased to hear you had a good time on your long service leave.

## HOSPITAL VISITATIONS

● **Leo Morris**, C Coy. 2/1, had a short stay at Yarralla in November for an operation on his eye, and was very pleased to have a chat about old times. He said Dick Chalmers and Sam Lewis had been in contact. Leo is now fully recovered and back at home.

● **Ron McIntosh**, D Coy. 2/1, is at present in Yaralla and upon our visit he seemed to brighten considerably. Ron is suffering from his old chest complaint and ulcers.

Welfare Section members, J. Westwood, B. McGregor and M. Herron visited Leo and Ron and took along some cigarettes and books from the Ladies' Auxiliary.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**MONDAY, 24th APRIL, at 7.45 p.m.**  
Blue Room, R.S.L. Club  
Elizabeth Street, Sydney

● **Mick Dodson** reports that Joe Taylor has been sick and was some length of time in Yaralla. When we received the message Joe had been discharged and we hope that you are now O.K. once again, mate.

● Our Secretary, **Max Herron**, spent some time of his "annuals" in attendance at the Scout Jamboree at Lansdowne. Max is Group Scoutmaster at Beverly Hills and his duty during the camp was Quartermaster. (I don't know whether he finished with one of those names usually attributed to Q.M's. but, having high regard for Max's efficiency, know that it would have been a job well done.—Vic. W.)

● **Vic. Whiteley** paid a visit to Alex McCallum just prior to Christmas, and met Jim Austin, of Tallangatta. Jim was an instructor at the Pioneer Training Battalion after his sojourn in Greece and Crete, and wishes to be remembered to all Pioneers. Others in the district are Bern. Frazer (ex Major of the 2/2), who has a property nearby, and Bob Jolliffe, of Dora Dora, via Jingellic, who is working on a station. (The above three members have been added to our mailing list.)

● Received some interesting notes and data on the 2/1 Pioneers from **Jack Collis**, ex R.A.P. It is a good chance to mention to all members that have they anything at all in the way of items, stories, cuttings or news of other Pioneers, would you please forward it on and, if stated, personal items will be returned.

Amongst Jack's collection is a "camp concert" presentation by the 2/106 A.G. Transport Unit—dated 20th May, 1943. It features as Item 2, a song by Corporal Clem Moroney; and Item 21, a piano duet by Lieut. Ken Stuart and Cpl. Tom Lincoln. Those in attendance this night might remember a surprise item—one NOT listed on the programme, of a female "Gyppo" dance by Pte. "Three Course" Kelly—an item which brought the house down.

As a feature in the "Pix" of 22nd November, 1941, pages 22, 23, 24 and 25, are devoted to the men of Tobruk. Amongst the photos shown we can readily recognise Bill Douglas, Barry Taylor and Sgt.-Major Talberg—others are shown, but it is hard to distinguish the faces.

● Committeeman "**Monty**" Montague returned to work after his annuals and decided he had not had long enough, so dropped a tyre lever on his foot, which necessitated further time off. However, back at work once again... bad luck, Monty.

● **Max Law**, of South Australia, was recently on holidays in Sydney with his family and wished to be remembered to all his mates. Max said he met Neville Andrews at Enfield, and naturally that entailed quite a chat. Max had also met Col. Geoff. Graham in Adelaide in November, and Geoff. stated he was quite honoured to be the new Patron of the Association. Thanks for the news, Max, we would like to hear from you more often.

● **Allan Black**, H.Q. Coy. 2/1, is now at Double Bay and doing well. Allan is working for the Dept. of Air at Mascot,

and sends best wishes to all his old mates.

● **Des (Tiny) Field**, B Coy. 2/1, of Gundagai, says many thanks to all the boys who offered their good wishes during his recent period in Yaralla. Unfortunately, things did not turn out as well as expected, and the "big fellow" is due in for another spell in the near future.

● **Mick Dwyer**, A Coy. 2/1, hopes to be at the Sussex this Anzac Day. Mick's responsible Government job in the meat industry necessitates a good deal of inter-state travelling and he finds it hard to attend all functions.

● **Neville Woodham**, C Coy. 2/1, and a very able committeeman of this Association, has already made his plans to be with the boys on Anzac Day. Nev. is a taxi driver and will be driving the disabled men into the march, but with this good deed done, says he will be at the Sussex for sure—without the taxi.

● **Danny Sprouster**, A Coy. 2/1, had a visitor recently to his home at Dundas, in old friend, Frank Gillian. You did the right thing, Danny, in putting a good strong padlock on that chicken house.

● We send a goodwill call to **Mrs. McCaffery**, mother of Bill "Muktah" McCaffery, ex A Coy. 2/1, who was accidentally killed in a motor accident since the cessation of hostilities. Shortly afterwards, Mrs. McCaffery suffered the loss of her husband, and recently a daughter (sister of Bill) passed away following an illness. As friends of Bill and as a Pioneer Association, we wish you well.

● During his recent visit to Sydney, **Clancy Scholes** and his wife, Irene, spent an evening with the Herron family, Doug Shearston and Vic Whiteley. Nice to see you again, Clancy.

## LAST POST

We are indebted to "Reveille" for the following information regarding former members:—

NX 22650	Sgt. J. Armitage .....	2/1
NX 19081	Cpl. E. R. Nancarrow ..	2/1
NX 23580	L./Cpl. R. J. Hanson ....	2/1
NX 52113	Pte. F. Spencer .....	2/1
NX 30655	Pte. W. Wiggins .....	2/1

Our deepest sympathy is extended to **Albert (Bimbo) Bell** and his family, on the recent sad loss of his wife.

**Rev. F. G. Pearson** (2/2), Church of England Chaplain at Stratford, died in September last. George joined the battalion in its early days and was wounded in Syria. He was discharged medically unfit in mid-1942 and studied for the ministry. He leaves a wife and four young children.

**C. W. Smith** (2/2) died in hospital in Melbourne late November. He was buried at Nagambie.

It has been reported that **H. Hinge** (2/2) died in June last. We have no other information regarding his death.

**Peter Rossiter** (2/2) died suddenly at his home in Glen Iris, Victoria, on Monday, 21st November, 1960. Peter had been an active committeeman of the 2/2 Association in Melbourne, and has been Secretary since 1956. To his wife and family we extend our sincere sympathy.

# PIONEER NEWS

UL 5491

Official Organ of 2/1 and 2/2 PIONEER BATTALIONS ASSOCIATION

UL 5491

Registered under the Charitable Collections Act, 1934-41—Certificate No. 10462

CORRESPONDENCE: 3 ENOGGERA ROAD, BEVERLY HILLS

Hon. Secretary:

Editors:

President:

MAX HERRON

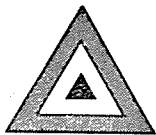
V. WHITELEY and M. HERRON

ALLAN MCINNES

Vol. 6. No. 2

1st JULY, 1961

Price: 5/- Per Annum



## ANZAC DAY CEREMONY

Cloud wrapped Sydney throughout the day, as the city paid tribute to the Anzacs on their 46th Anzac Day March.

The cold, wet weather cut to about 90,000 the number of march spectators — fewer than half last year's total, and only 23,600 ex-servicemen and women participated in the march.

At their separate assembly points, there were two hundred 2/1sts and eighty 2/2nds.

### LEADERS OF THE MARCH

Norm. Neal and Geoff. Graham led the 2/1st, but after passing the Town Hall, handed over to John Gilchrist. The 2/1st banner was very proudly and capably carried by Wally Page.

Allan McInnes and Jim Drummond led the 2/2, and their banner was expertly carried by Jim Fields.

The two standard bearers, at times, were called upon to exert great pressure in order to hold their banners, as strong winds tore at them.

Men in the crowd called out: "Can't you hold her mate? Tack about." But the marchers only smiled.

### GOOD ATTENDANCE OF OFFICERS

It was indeed very gratifying to see a good roll up of officers from the two

units at the Anzac functions. Also to see so many officers and men complete the March right to the Domain.

The 2/2nds. were very fortunate in having their two padres, Claughton and Steele, in their ranks.

Country visitors came from Ballina, Cessnock, Dubbo, Newcastle, Wollongong, Kyogle and Queensland, which shows how much it means to members, when they travel these great distances to renew acquaintances.

The greatest percentage of members attending were regulars, but this year saw more new faces than ever before, and we plead with these "irregulars" to become "regulars."

Taking into consideration the number of new faces in addition to the regulars, the attendance at these all-important Anzac appointments, would have been an all-time record, if it had not been for the bitterly cold winds and driving rain — which all goes to prove . . .

**"WE WILL REMEMBER THEM."**

## WREATH-LAYING CEREMONY

Despite heavy rain, forty-five members from the two units, marched from Hunter Street to the Cenotaph for our Annual Wreath-Laying Ceremony, on Monday, 24th April, 1961.

On turning into Martin Place, members of the Ladies' Auxiliary joined the ranks and marched with the men to the Cenotaph.

On arrival at the Cenotaph, two wreaths, each in the form of the colour patches of the two battalions, were laid; the 2/1st by Mr. R. McGregor, and the 2/2nd by Mr. J. Field.

The President of the Ladies' Auxiliary, Mrs. M. McInnes, also laid a lovely wreath on behalf of her members.

After the wreaths had been laid and the "Ode" spoken, our bugler, Mr. Aub. Brazier, gave a very fine rendition of the "Last Post" and "Reveille."

It could easily be seen, by glancing at the many solemn faces, that the vow taken years ago—"We Will Remember Them" is still honoured and always will be.

### MEETING WITH LADIES' AUXILIARY

The members then adjourned to the shelter of the G.P.O. and spent some time conversing with members of the Ladies' Auxiliary. The ladies then retired to have a meeting of their own and the men made their way up to the Returned Soldiers' Club for the Annual Meeting.

—"Monty" Montague.

## ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Association was held at the Returned Soldiers' Club on Monday, 24th April, immediately after the Wreath-Laying Ceremony.

The meeting was firstly chaired by the Senior Vice-President, Mr. Bob McGregor, and secondly by the President, Mr. Allan McInnes.

Thirty-seven members were present, which was an all-time record.

The President thanked the Executive and Committee for the wonderful work they had done over the past twelve months.

Comprehensive reports from the President, Secretary, Social Secretary and Treasurer were read and the members were unanimous in their praise of the fine work being carried out by these men.

A special hearty welcome was extended to Bill Hoffman, Kyogle; Mick Anselmes, Queensland; and other country visitors.

### OFFICE BEARERS FOR 1961-1962

The following are your officers for the ensuing year:—

Patron: Geoff. Graham (Col.)

President: Allan McInnes.

Vice-Presidents: Bob McGregor and Bill Hoffman.

Secretary: Max Herron.

Social Secretary: Jack Westwood.

Treasurer: Doug. Shearston.

Joint Editors: Vic. Whiteley and Max Herron.

Publicity Officer: Harry Montague.

Auditor: Arthur Watson.

Hon. Trustees and Hon. Advisors: Geoff. Graham, Tom Crossman and Frank Allen.

Pioneer News Reporters: 2/1st, Alf Carter, Joe Olliffe, Bob McGregor; 2/2nd, Allan McInnes, Jim Field and Jack Henderson.

Master-at-Arms: Bob Lake.

To the following new Committee members we extend a very hearty welcome and we look forward to seeing you at the future committee meetings, dates of which are published elsewhere in this issue:—

Messrs. G. Sheehan, I. Kirkwood, M. Dodson, J. Clark, J. Field, P. Walsh, G. Finlay, W. Page, H. Mostyn, P. O'Brien.



## A VETERAN HAS HIS MEMORIES

He was old, gnarled and silver-haired, he was one of his district's most ancient veterans. Three wars he'd seen, and lived through 'em all.

This was 25th April—Anzac Day. The one day in each of his twilight years that brought back vivid memories of mud and pain, shellfire and hunger; of men who had died at his side, friends who had not returned.

*No longer able to march through city streets nor bow his head at the memorial in the park, he sat in the morning sunshine on the quiet front verandah of his suburban cottage and let his memory pay solitary tribute to the fallen.*

Through his reverie and across the garden fence, he watched his next-door neighbour, a young man, no more than 25—"too young for the last show, just ripe for the next."

As he sat and watched, the young man dug over a garden bed, cleaned the windows of his house, hosed his car and, finally, shattered the still, warm air with the sound of a motor mower and trimmed his lawns to perfection.

When he had finished and stood mopping his forehead beneath the shade of a tree, the old man picked up his stick and, frowning, walked to the fence.

"Young man," he said, "do you know what today is?"

"Sure, it's Anzac Day."

*"And don't you know it is more than a day for catching up on household chores. That it is a day for quiet remembrance of the men who fought and died, that you might live?"*

For a long while the young man stood silent, looking straight into the faded blue of his neighbour's eyes. Then, quietly he said:

"Old man, you have seen many wars; a great deal of death and suffering on the fields of battle. Today you have memories of these things that enable you to look back with a personal gratitude to the men who died.

"I have no such memories. I cannot recall how my best friend died in a bomb-wrecked trench, or how a whole platoon of cobbers was slaughtered in bloody ambush. These memories are yours alone to point the way to remembrance on Anzac Day.

"Nevertheless, I know of the thousands who suffered and died in the years before my time, and today I pay tribute to them in my own way.

*"When I pushed my spade into the earth of my garden bed I gave thanks to those men who died that I might dig in peace and not in the fearful terror of a bullet ending my life before I could dig deep enough to shelter from the enemy.*

"I gave thanks that I could dig to plant flowers for the sheer sake of beauty and not for the necessity of growing food to feed a starving family.

"With each turn of the spade I remembered those men who made it

possible for me to dig where I like and when I like in a piece of this country that I can call my own.

"When I cleaned the windows of my house I saw in each pane the reflection of gallantry and valour that were to give me windows to clean.

"In the water that ran down the glass I saw their blood, spilled that I might have windows unshattered by bomb blasts through which to look out on a world of peace.

*"When I hosed the dust from my car I offered heartfelt thanks that it was not a tank I had to clean of mud, or a field surgeon's table of the horrors that follow the wounded.*

"I thanked those thousands who died that I might drive a car through quiet streets instead of a truck through the cacophony of war.

"When the motor of my mower sprang to life, I thought of the petrol pulsing through its carburettor and I picture the countless dead on the bottom of the sea who sacrificed themselves bringing petrol and oil across the world to feed the engines of armies and air forces.

"And as the clippings flew, I remembered only that as each blade of grass was severed, so were the lives and limbs of men who, with unselfish pride, faced battle and death for me.

*"That is how I paid tribute this Anzac Day."*

The old man, who had listened in silence, gently cleared his throat. With a smile of understanding, he thrust his hand across the fence and gripped that of the younger man.

*"Son," he said, "our methods might be different, but I guess we both—Remember Them."*

### BILL HOFFMAN — Vice-President

At the Annual General Meeting, Bill Hoffman (2/1), who hails from Kyogle, was elected to the position of Vice-President.

His first suggestion was to ask members to write in about their army days, and this was met with all-round approval.

In this issue, Bill has started the ball rolling by writing the article "Now It Can Be Told," and we earnestly hope this will be an example for others to follow.

Bill has also written the Editorial for this issue, in addition to sending a letter to the Editor — so we say a big "thank you" to our new Country Vice-President, Bill Hoffman.

### PHOTO OF THE MONTH

(Editor's Note: The following article results from a suggestion by Doug Shearston at a recent Committee Meeting, that each issue we publish a photo and an article on a notable Pioneer. The Committee unanimously decided Alf was the boy for the June issue).

## Introducing...

## ALF CARTER



Undoubtedly, one of the best workers for our Association, is Alf Carter (photo above), so much so that at the Annual Meeting in 1959, he was made our first Honorary Member.

Those of you who attend the Anzac Day March will recall how hard Alf works to collect funds and news for the "Pioneer News," and though it was overheard on one occasion that "Alfie could collect Bucksheesh from a Wog," the writer believes that very few resent his collecting for such a good cause.

Alf was an early 2/1st Pioneer, serving in the Middle East, New Guinea and Borneo, and many will remember him in the Mortar Platoon.

His cheerful nature and whimsical humour endeared him to all of his mates then, and that humour is a feature of the Association's Committee Meetings. It would be a dull meeting without Alf's inimitable way of expressing sound common sense.

He has been a hard working member of the Association since its inception in 1946 and it is doubtful if he has ever missed a Committee Meeting.

### KEEN FOOTBALLER

Always interested in Rugby League, Alf's opinion of present-day footballers compared with those of the good old days when he was player-coach for the Pioneers, is somewhat caustic, but he will concede that there are still some good footballers left. Alf was a very useful scrum-half.

Alf lives at Ermington, a suburb of Sydney. As his hobby is gardening, the grounds of his home are always a picture and Alf is always ready to help others with plant cuttings, etc. He works for the Australian Paper Mills.

—Doug. Shearston.

# NOW IT CAN BE TOLD!

By W. HOFFMAN, Ex-A Coy., 2/1

**GAZA RIDGE!** What poignant memories this place holds for many World War I Diggers, especially those directly concerned with the famous "charge" made by the Australian Light Horse.

However, my narrative does not concern this incident, but one which happened at the same locale, one year later—to be precise, October, 1941.

At the time I was "Patient 31," Ward 20, 7th A.G.H., recovering from a severe bout of diphtheria. Before going to hospital, my eyes had been giving trouble, so before discharge I asked the M.O. (a major by rank) if an eye test could be arranged, with the view of obtaining glasses to relieve the strain.

## STUNT TO SWING THE LEAD

He regarded the request with suspicion and with biting sarcasm made it very clear that he believed it was just "a stunt on my part to prolong the stay and swing the lead."

So convinced was he on this point that he ended the tirade by challenging me to a "100 mils" bet that my vision was normal.

What the foolish fellow didn't know was that I originally memorised the eye chart to get into the Army.

In due course, the test was held and a pair of glasses issued to me.

Before leaving for the 1st Aust. Con. Depot at Kfar-Vitkin, I composed the following verse and left it on the major's desk for him to digest at leisure.

## 100 MILS . . . AND ALL THAT!

Should your conscience ever prick you  
Into feeling honour-bound to pay  
A trifling debit — Remember?  
Made in "20" — one fine day?

Well here's a tip you've often heard,  
And worthy of some thought,  
"Don't ever doubt a Digger's word,  
As such practices, gain naught!"

Although in fun, it was all begun,  
And your hands were rubbed with glee;  
You've lost — my Dr., major, friend,  
For I have won, you see!

A private soldier, poor and broke,  
On very little dough,  
Could do with "extra" money, sir,  
This Christmas — as you know.

The sum is small, won't make or break,  
To me it means — a Christmas cake,  
But for you, I must confess,  
The stakes are bigger—more or less.

So when you're totting up the "bills,"  
Just remember a mere "100 mils,"  
And should you feel inclined to pay,  
Please forward same, without delay.

Many have taken this advice before:  
"Don't gamble, unless you're sure,  
It's bad for the pocket—to many bills,  
Stick to curing people's ills!"

Signed: Your Humble Servant Always,  
"Patient 31."

A few days later when the next bus pulled into the Con. Depot from the 7th A.G.H., I heard someone paging my name. On making myself known, I was handed "100 mils" sent "with the major's compliments." Of course, I wrote a letter of thanks also express-

ing the wish that his New Year be a bright, healthy and wealthy one.

## THE ANTI-CLIMAX

Oh, I almost forgot to tell you the anti-climax of the whole affair came the day after I arrived at the Con. Depot, when I put my glasses down for a moment.

One moment too long it seems, because one of those thieving Wogs "borrowed them."

Back to Rehovet for another pair, but this time I had to pay part cost of same. Sorry to say, much more than 100 mils.

The moral of this story is obvious, mates, don't try to buck the Army or those in authority—YOU JUST CAN'T WIN!

## ANNUAL PICNIC AND BARBECUE

The Social Secretary, Mr. Jack Westwood, is investigating the suggestion of holding an Annual Picnic and Barbecue.

This will take the form of a Picnic for the children on Saturday, 8th October, from 1 p.m., then followed by a Barbecue Tea.

At this stage, one thing is definite, and that is the venue and date:

**ANNUAL PICNIC AND BARBECUE**  
**SATURDAY, 8th OCTOBER, 1961**

**AT 1 P.M.**

Full details as to place and times will be given in the next issue.

## BI-ANNUAL SMOKO

The Bi-Annual Smoko is to be held at the Sussex Hotel on Friday, 24th November, 1961, at 7.30 p.m., so make a note of this date in your diary and be there to see your mates.

## Editorial!

If Shakespeare were alive today he would probably write . . .

"Friends, mates, Pioneers all. Lend me your ears! I have an important favour to ask!"

However, as he is no longer with us this task has come my way instead.

A suggestion was put forward at our Annual Meeting to ask all members of the Association to help provide some news items for the "Pioneer News." It is sometimes difficult to find enough material to complete the paper on time and in this regard, the Editor would appreciate your co-operation.

The idea is to build up a "pool" of short stories for the Editor to use at his discretion when confronted with a news shortage.

During our Army service most of us, from time to time, found ourselves to be the butt of a joke or involved in situations which were humorous, embarrassing, even sometimes pathetic. Some may have experienced a set of circumstances which ended in a strange coincidence! Well, we would like to hear about these personal incidents which would make very interesting reading.

So to each and every Pioneer I say—

"Arm yourself with pencil and paper—sit down—close your eyes for a few minutes—drift back in time to those barmy, Army days—then, when inspiration comes **WRITE IT DOWN IMMEDIATELY** and send to the Editor, 'Pioneer News.'"

Remember, you don't have to be as good as Ernest Hemingway. If unable to write a complete story, briefly jot down the essential facts and climax and your Editor will take it from there.

By giving your co-operation in this matter you will not only be helping our Association, but also will enjoy again those little incidents which made life more bearable.

**PIONEERS!** Get cracking and see what you can do.

**BILL HOFFMAN,**  
**Vice-President.**

## 2/1 Re-Union At The Sussex

A Re-union was held at the Sussex Hotel after the March, and the Social Secretary arranged for all members to indulge in an excellent hot meal, prior to 12 o'clock.

The cost of the meal, which was borne by the Association, was indeed a credit to the new Licensee, Mr. Stan Duke, and his staff, and we do appreciate their fine efforts on our behalf.

Jack Westwood, our very capable Social Secretary, was ably assisted by Bob McGregor in organising the serving of meals. Then at the door he had posted Bob Lake, Nev. Woodham and "Monty" Montague, acting as ushers, so all told, everything was highly organised.

### SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT DESIRED

At the Committee Meeting, held in May, suggestions to improve this, our most important function, were called for, and Alf. Carter came forward with an excellent idea, that we arrange for a further snack to be served at 2.30 p.m. This was readily agreed upon for next year.

We would welcome any further ideas members may have for improving any of our functions—or for that matter, we would like to hear any kind of constructive criticism from members.

### THANKS TO EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEE

The Licensee, Mr. Stan Duke, thanked Jack Westwood for the co-operation of his Executive and Committee. Mr. Duke stated he was more than pleased with the members' gentlemanly behaviour and was most happy to assist.

## 2/1st ANZAC DAY JOTTINGS

ALLAN McINNES (2/2) arrived at the Sussex at 4 p.m. and together with the other 2/2 boys, Hans Hennings, Jack Henderson, Martin Robb and Vince Longmore, was made most welcome.

We do like to see the 2/2 boys along to our re-union, for this function at the Sussex is open to members of the 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Bns. Association — not just the 2/1st.

JACK CLARKE, JOE BARKER, BOB LAKE, AUSTIE RONAN, ALLAN BLACK, VIC. WHITEY and SID KENT (all H.Q.), were sinking a few, and while Bob Lake was not saying "too much," the others were doing a lot of listening. Still, you can bet Bob was on his pet subject—the 2/1 and 2/2 Association.

HARRY O'BRIEN (B Coy.) was late but quickly adapted himself to the situation and in no time was singing a duet with GORDON WALSH. Harry missed his old mate, LEN WAYMAN, who was there early but had to leave for work in the afternoon.

WALLY PAGE (B Coy.), now of Mortdale, and foreman cleaner in the Trust Building, was present at the three functions and thoroughly enjoyed himself.

GEORGE SHEAHAN (A Coy.), now of Kings Cross and driver of a private hire car, was another regular present and happily welcomed old friends.

Another South Coaster who came up for the full round of celebrations was TED SKOYLES, also an original of C Coy. Ted is with the P.M.G. and has a fine War Service home at East Corrmal. It was well worth it, says Ted, and there should be more of it.

A most welcome visitor was TEDDY WILLIAMS, an original in C Coy. Ted works at the steel works, is married and has his own home at Barrack Point, Shellharbour. Ted came all the way up for the celebrations and enjoyed every minute of it. He sends his greetings to all old C Coy. mates.

ALBERT BROWN (H.Q.), now of Marayong, was at the march and smoko. Albert is in charge of a dairy farm and you have to be real keen to attend functions after doing a day's (night's) work while most people are asleep.

DES "TINY" FIELD (B Coy.) was down from Gundagai at Anzac Day time, but unfortunately for "Tiny," they "banged" him into Yaralla Hospital on Anzac Eve, thereby making him perhaps the most miserable digger in Sydney Town on Anzac Day.

"SNOWY" HEMMINGS (C Coy.) burst into the lower bar in his usual boisterous style, screamed hello to everyone, downed a couple of quickies, and before anybody could get their guard up, had started a terrific argument about football and footballers, good and bad.

MICK DODSON, ARTHUR MURPHY and "BRICKY" WALL were mowing them down steadily and swapping yarns of the old days in the desert.

"SMILER" BURNS (B Coy.) arrived late and, in his usual devastating style, in five minutes had the place in an uproar, but quickly settled down to make up for lost time.

BOB MCGREGOR, JACK WESTWOOD, MICK PUNTON and KEN STUART had one or two together, with Ken in fine form and mighty pleased to be again with the boys. Congratulations to Mick Punton from all the boys on his terrific luck in a certain big sweep.

"MAC" McKIBBIN, "BIMBO" BELL, BILL TURNER, JACK LAMMERTON, PETER O'BRIEN and PETER CRAIG were another up and down mob going along steadily, and many were the laughs of the old Milne Bay days with D Coy.

DICKY BLAKENEY, JACK HYDE, BRIAN KYBERT, TOM CROSSMAN, BERT HOLMES, RAY MARSH (all of A Coy.) were together having a couple, but there seemed something wrong, for every now and then the glasses were raised high as if for a silent toast, and

all stared strangely at Jack Hyde, who was downing glass after glass of lolly water. The beer was good and he wasn't about to get married, but the sight of Jack Hyde drinking lolly water seemed to horrify certain characters of A Coy.

Another group enjoying themselves were JIMMY GRAY, JIM MCGUIRK, "SNOWY" MORRIS, ALAN STUTCHBURY and JEFF BATES. Good steady going here, and I don't think Jimmy was telling them of his escapades on the old trams either.

ROY DWYER, JACK LEWIS and JOHN SLATER were listening patiently to FRANK GILLIAN, who never says much for five minutes in every hour—the rest of the time he never stops. But besides Frank, the beer flowed steadily, so that made up for it all.

JACK COLLIS, JACK NORTON and RON CALLAGHAN were in animated conversation and the subject was? No, you are wrong! It was the West Indian cricketers and their fine performances.

BILL WRIGHT, GUS HUNTER, GEO. MARTIN and BILL DONEY were bending their elbows steadily and the talk was of the good old days and happy times spent on leave.

CLARRIE PAKES, MICK ANSELMES, NOEL TREFONI and BOB STEVENS were sipping steadily, with Clarrie as usual the life of the party, while Mick was trying to explain the 79 ways one could cook bully beef.

MICK DWYER, CHARLIE SMIDT, RAY HORNE and WALLY PAGE were in a corner deeply discussing something — and the subject was . . . football.

FRANK GILLIAN (A Coy) laid the law down at the smoko and most fiercely denied that he tried to pinch DANNY SPROUSTER'S chicken's. Frank said he was only noting what a fine strong lock it was and admiring its workmanship. And in any case, he forgot to bring his sugar bag with him.

MICK ANSELMES (B Coy.) came all the way down from Ipswich, Queensland, for the Anzac Day celebrations. Mick is a loco fitter with the railways and issues an open invitation to any Pioneer passing through that way to call in and stay awhile, Mick, who finished up a Sergeant Cook, still takes a pride in his cooking and reckons his plum puddings were the best ever made in the army, and he says if you don't believe him, ask Alf Carter, who was his best customer.

JEFF GRAHAM, NORM NEAL, GORDON WALSH, OSSIE MCCURTAYNE, CYRIL MORAHAN, KEV. MORAHAN, GEO. SHEAHAN and JACK LLOYD were noticed having a drink together, prior to getting around among the boys, and their happy, smiling faces were sure signs of the good day that they anticipated having, and the boys were very pleased to see all these officers in their midst.

A notable event at the Anzac Day Smoko and a true indication of the spirit and comradeship of the men of this Association was the gathering together at one part of the afternoon of 13 members of the original 8 Platoon

(Continued on Page 5)



**2/1 RE-UNION AT THE SUSSEX**

(Continued from Page 4)

A Coy. Having one together were ROD PEGG, GORDON FINLAY, "JOCK" McCULLOUGH, STAN HAMSON, TED CALDERWOOD, JACK HILL, HENRY ALLEN, JACK WINDBANK, "MONTY" MONTAGUE, DON SLATER, "TICH" TURNBULL, NEV. SELLWOOD, GEOF. ROBINSON. A mighty effort, boys, and we trust it will be repeated at the next and all other smokos. Take notice, other platoons and companies.

In the top bar was the greatest gathering of "Sigs." since the war — in the form of BOB BURNSIDE, WAL. PARSONS, PAT NOONAN, DOUG. SHEARSTON, MAX HERRON, KEITH REYNOLDS, RON McFARLANE and HARRY MOSTYN. Will wager the morse key was being over-worked.

A welcome visitor to the wreath laying, the Annual Meeting and the Anzac Day Smoko was Bob Burnside (Sig. Platoon 2/1). Bob, who by the way was wounded in Tobruk, is now with the Customs Department, is married with two children, and has his own home at Como. Bob sends his greetings to all the boys of the Sigs.

PAT NOONAN, also of the Sig. Platoon 2/1, now with the Dept. of Navy and living at Bellevue Hill, wants to know where the remainder of the Sig. men are these days, and says cheers to all old mates in H.Q. Coy.

BILL TASKER sent long his apologies for non-attendance and a generous donation. Bill was suffering from the effects of a boil on his ear. Very sorry you could not make it, Bill—many of your mates asked after you. Many thanks for the donation and your kind regards, Bill.

CHARLIE VICKERS did a terrific job selling the raffle tickets and made a nice profit for the Association. The winning ticket was D62 and was unclaimed. Many thanks for your fine effort, Charlie.

HARRY ALLEN (A Coy.) was seen blowing down Monty Montague's ear and it seems each year he cleans out Monty's ear, saving him a trip to the ear specialist.

JOHN HARNETTY was made most welcome by the boys and we are greatly indebted to him for the wide publicity he gave us in the "Herald." Thanks once again, John.

BILL HOFFMAN called into the Sussex to bid farewell on his return to Kyogle that day. Bill extends a big welcome to any Pioneer visiting Kyogle. Thanks to you, Bill, for your attendance and kind regards.

VIV. PARKINSON was at the Sussex with his son, Ted, and mates, Bob Cowper and Bob Yates. Viv. is still with the Transport Department, and he is endeavouring to make it pay after their substantial loss last year.

RON MORRIS, who comes from Bowral, was another welcome visitor and having one side of the bar to themselves showed he and his mates had a terrific time.

(Reported by Alf Carter and Harry Montague)

**2/2 Re-Union at St. Peters**

As has been the custom for 13 years, the 2/2nd, after the March, assembled at St. Peters for the usual dinner and get-together.

As previously, the function was opened with "Ode To the Fallen" and "The Queen," and each of the functions held has always been improved by the one succeeding.

It had been thought that last year the function could not be improved on. However, this year our Committee once more excelled and the result — the best function ever, acclaimed as such by all present.

One cannot give enough praise to the Committee for such a terrific day and special mention must go to Don Lawson (President), Jack White (Secretary), Dick Kennewell and Jack Howie (in charge of food and drink), and Cappy Christian (Master of Ceremonies).

We can't mention all the others who worked so hard to make Anzac Day such a success, but all present appreciated the pianist and the artists who performed so ably.

The Committee say that the success of Anzac Day virtually must be credited to Dick Kennewell who does all the hard work, assembling and preparing the food and seeing that liquid refreshment is available in sufficient quality and quantity to suit all, including hard and soft.

The food and drink were of Chevron Hotel quality and appreciated by the boys—the only complaint — What! No Champagne.

A lot of new faces present this year included Norm Dalla, Monty Reid, of Cessnock, George Lamb, Jack McIntyre, formerly of the North Coast, Bill Kenwood, Ossie Carter, formerly of the North Coast, Dick Wakely, Bill Hart, Apples McKay, Col. Nichols, Bert Laughton, Charlie Gatehouse, formerly of Adaminby, Bert Beasley, Bluey Hepburn.

Another very pleasing feature of this function is the annual attendance by our two padres and the boys appreciate the fact that our padres give this day to the old boys and the fact that even Cappy Christian hasn't frightened them away.

**ANZAC EVENING**

(By George Parry)

After a wonderful day at the March and Re-union, it was decided that anyone who could make it would take their wives and give them a night out.

The rendezvous was the Coogee Bay Hotel, and led by Don and Mrs. Lawson, Don Lawson, Jnr., Frank and Mrs. Locane, Ken and Mrs. Ashton, George and Mrs. Perry, Nev. and Mrs. O'Connor, Horrie Sedges, Jim Croke and Brian Neberthick, the hotel was attacked, captured and consolidated.

Drinks were served from 2000 hours, dancing was enjoyed, time found for supper, and 2400 hours came all too quickly.

It was decided that each year this event be put on the programme—the wives present were delighted—so next year come along, bring your wives and join the happy gang.

**2/2nd NEWS JOTTINGS**

(Reported by Allan McInnes)

A very nice feature of Anzac Day was the presence of certain members' sons at the Re-union with their Dads.

Col. Nichols (son of George, from Wollongong), Jim Field had his boy, and Don Lawson, Jnr.

NEV. O'CONNOR, from Ballina, came to Sydney for Anzac Day for the second successive year, and tells us news from the North Coast. Eddie Weston doing well in Lismore; Pat Malone still at Evans Head R.S.L. Club; Kev. Raywood at Lismore, selling more real estate than anyone on the North Coast. We believe Ken has a Jag. now.

MONTY REID, from Cessnock, for Anzac Day and it was with pleasure that friendships were renewed with Monty after ten years' absence.

CHARLIE GATEHOUSE has moved to Sydney from Cooma. Charlie went to Cooma when the Adaminby Dam was built and his former residence is now under water.

JACK MCINTYRE is now at Drum-moyne, having moved from the North Coast to educate his family in Sydney, but tells us it is not permanent—he is going back North.

HANSENS HENNING, an original 2/2nd, missed the March, and ended up at the Sussex Hotel where he was entertained by the 2/1st boys. He was specially looked after by Ken Roper, brother-in-law of Max Herron.

JACK HENDERSON carried out his usual task of collecting subscriptions on Anzac Day and we are indeed very grateful to him for his interest in Association matters. Thank you, Jack, for a job well done.

MARTIN ROBB came from Melbourne to Sydney for a few weeks, but has decided to stay. Martin was in a little group with Jack Henderson (2/2), Vince Longmore (2/2), having dinner at the Sussex with the Association Executive, before proceeding to St. Peters. Thanks for addresses, Martin.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE**

The Association's financial year commences on 1st APRIL and ALL subscriptions are due on that date.

Be a financial member and help your Association have a bumper year by sending your subscription NOW.

# IN PASSING

JACK HARVEY (H.Q. 2/1st) is with the Electricity Commission at Pyrmont and has a fine home at Ramsgate. Jack says: "Any of the boys welcome at any time."

MICK DOBSON (A Coy. 2/1), now of Fairfield, is doing fine as a Railway Caretaking Officer.

ALF GREEN (B Coy. 2/1). Alf has the rather unique job with the Railways of "Fire Lighter," whatever that is. Alf mentions he often runs into RON IRWIN, who is, now an engine driver with the Railways.

NORM. McEVOY (H.Q. 2/1), now of North Woodburn on the Richmond River, sends greetings to all his old mates in H.Q.

HUGHIE GREEN (C Coy. 2/1) is in a lovely home at Westmead and now working for the Railways Department at Clyde. Says cheerio to all the old C Coy. boys.

PETER O'BRIEN (D Coy. 2/1). Everybody will remember Peter, now of Kings Cross. Peter is with the Grain Board, working with TED SULLIVAN (A Coy. 2/1) and BARRY STEVENS (D Coy. 2/1). They say: "All the best to everybody."

LES JAMES (Jimmy) (D Coy. 2/1), now in the Department of Navy and a regular at the Gladesville R.S.L., where he often has a drink with ALWIN SMITH, REG. HALE, GEORGE McFARLANE and ROY JARDINE.

JACK CATCHPOLE (original C Coy. 2/1), now married and in a fine home of his own at Matraville. Jack works for the Randwick Council.

JACK LAMMERTON (D Coy. 2/1) is still in the army at 101 Infantry Workshops at Ingleburn after 18½ years. Jack still thinks it's o.k., so maybe there is something in it after all.

DICK BLAKELEY (A Coy. 2/1), now of Lane Cove and working for Johnson & Johnson, is in the motor racing game in a big way. Dicky enjoys his share of success, having won a number of races at the various country circuits.

KEN STUART (Mortar Platoon, 2/1), now of Turrumurra and an executive with Qantas Airways. Ken has the job most of us dream about, for it necessitates his visiting many countries. He has flown over 80,000 miles in the past nine months.

WALLY CORRIGAN (C Coy. 2/1), married and with a fine home at Guilford, sends greetings to all his old mates at C Coy.

VINCE CHRISTENSEN (B Coy., 2/1), now of Gladesville, married, with eight grandchildren, is working at the Gladesville Hospital as an outdoor attendant. With him are NEV. SCHAFER and TOM SLEEMAN, who also send best wishes to all the boys.

HARRY MOSTYN (an original of B Coy. 2/1) is at Beverly Hills and has a nice job on the staff of Sunbeam Industries.

JIM McGUIRK (B Coy. 2/1) - Jim is with the Transport Department, on light duties at present. He has had a most unfortunate spell of ill health and has been an inmate of R.G.H., Concord, three times in eight months. Despite this, he remains his bright and cheerful self and is really happy to meet any of the boys.

PADDY GRAY (M.G. Platoon 2/1), late of Kyogle, now a ganger on the railway at Barmedman, sends his best wishes to all his old mates of H.Q. Coy.

Our Secretary, MAX HERRON has recently spent a few days in bed with the 'flu, but is up and about again now.

JACK WESTWOOD (popular Social Secretary) has also not enjoyed the best of health, and to these people and to all who are sick, we offer our sympathy and hope for a quick recovery.

Thanks are due to ALF CARTER for these notes, most of which were gathered on Anzac Day. The Association would not function the same without you, Alf.—Editors.

SID KENT (2/1), who has been Secretary of the Rats of Tobruk Association for many years, has been made their first Life Member.

ALAN STUTCHBURY, Secretary of the Hornsby R.S.L. Youth Club, sends out a challenge to any youth club who cover most sporting events as they do. For further information, ring Allan at JU2169 (Club) or LW4013 (private).

RUSS (Bluey) MILNE, C Coy., 2/1, recently paid a flying visit to Sydney from Grafton.

Whilst in Sydney, he paid a visit to Jack Kerslake, at Collaroy, and stayed overnight at Ian Kirkwood's residence at Mt. Colah.

Ian had not seen "Bluey" since 1943, so you can well imagine the ear bashing they gave one another, and it continued right up to the time Ian saw him off on the Daylight Express at Hornsby.

"Bluey" is doing quite well at timber sapping with the broad axe around the Grafton area.

JACK BERTRAM, 2/1, was also on a short visit to Sydney during June and called on the Secretary. Jack and his family have now settled in Newcastle, and quite enjoying their new surroundings. He is teaching at Tighes Hill.

By the way, subscriptions were due in April. It is only 5/- per year to enable you to ensure receiving your copy of "Pioneer News." Do it now while you think of it.

## Letter To The Editor

Kyogle, N.S.W.

Sir,

May I have a few lines of space to express my sincere thanks for the wonderful welcome given by the Committee and various other Association members, during my brief visit to Sydney for the Anzac celebrations.

After such a lengthy lapse of time, it was most gratifying to experience the warm hand of friendship extended, not only by my personal mates, but also by those chaps I met for the first time.

To the many country and city members who have not yet attended one of these functions, I strongly urge you to make every effort to do so next year, and experience for yourselves that wonderful feeling of comradeship, which exists just as strongly today as it did in those bygone years.

From now on it will be marked on my calendar as "a must," and I shall be down at every opportunity.

Yours sincerely,  
BILL HOFFMAN.

## THANKS TO REPORTERS

The Editors would like to thank the "Pioneer News" reporters for their support in compiling this, our largest issue each year.

The mailbag was not up to expectations this time, but the reporters came to the rescue with their contributions.

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The next Committee Meeting is to be held on Friday, 11th August, at the R.S.L. Club, Elizabeth Street, at 6.30 p.m., and the following Committee Meeting will be held on Friday, 20th October.

## LARGER MAILBAG NEEDED

The Editors would like to see an increase in the mail received, as in the past four months only fourteen members sent in letters.

That means nine hundred and forty-two members were not pulling their weight to make this Association of YOURS function efficiently.

If each member even wrote one letter each year, we would have two hundred and forty letters per issue. So how about dropping us a line.

You may not realise it, but your mates are very interested in not only your doings, but your occupation, number in family, R.S.L. attended, social interests and other Pioneers met.

When writing, please state your Platoon, Company and Unit, also PRINT your christian and surname.

THANK YOU.

—The Editors.



• From Lamington Terrace, Namboor, Queensland, comes news from PAT LOUGHREN. Pat forwarded on some snaps of Julius, Palestine, together with a nice donation. Thanks, Pat.

"Any of the boys coming north are always welcome and anybody in town will tell you where to find old Paddy," writes Pat, who sends his regards to all, especially 13 Platoon C Coy.

• Well, we made the grade! VIC. DONALD, of Glencoe, writes: "After five years of the 'News' I have decided to become a financial member." The first five years are the worst, too, Vic, so its up to us in the years to come to show something to save your regretting your decision. Vic also invites members to look him up if in the vicinity.

• A letter and donation has been received from Dr. STANLEY GOULSTON, of the Royal Prince Alfred Medical Centre. He wishes to be remembered to members.

Dr. Goulston, as 2/1st Medical Officer, was awarded the Military Cross for his services in the Middle East and carries a deep respect of all Pioneers.

• An interesting letter from ERIC FACE (ex 18 Platoon D Coy), who writes from Camp Wannawong, Sixth Avenue, Loftus, Sydney. To quote Eric: "It is a real treat to read through these columns and revel in the good spirit of comradeship which lives in your publication. It gives to us all an opportunity to share in the perpetration of memories which we love and are proud of. Thanks, Eric, for the appreciative words and sorry you could not make the Annual Meeting."

• From ERNIE LUNN (ex C Coy. 2/2) we acknowledge a newsy letter and also subs. Ern's letter is written on his own letterhead paper and shows Ernie as Auctioneer, Stock Saesman, Property Agent, and Agent for various farm machinery, at Carinda.

On a copy of "Table Tops," dated 16th August, 1945, Ernie has names and some addresses of C Coy. 2/2. On the front page of this edition it had printed "IT'S ALL OVER" in large red letters, with the words, "SUNSET EDITION."

Here are the names of those of the 2/2nd who signed the souvenir at Balikpapan, Borneo:

R. Fairbairn, E. R. Thomas, F. Gatehouse, Tom Wood, D. Nicholls, H. McSweeney, S. Rg. Read, J. A. Daw, G. Pattison, E. W. Carr, H. N. Sullivan, J. Lockyer, G. Walker, R. J. Mumford, J. Barry, L. Graham, P. Donovan, F. Thomas, N. G. Rose, W. E. Wood, J. Stephenson, H. G. Ray, D. (Bluey) Meppan, H. J. Morgan, S. Hadley, J. Cox, H. Conway, J. Lancaster, G. Buller, Pat Cartwright, N. Dalla, F. Rowe, T. Lindsay, M. Maunder, W. Roy, G. Todd,

B. Boulton, R. Milford, A. Diamond, C. Williams, Len Brown, F. Wilkinson, N. McEvroy, Lt. Wison, W. Johnson, Joe Allport, Charlie Griffith, P. Beafort, D. Robinson, Con Thomas, L. Bobbin, T. F. Nolan, G. Post, R. Schwab, J. Mayne, J. White, J. Morrison, Sid. Lane, L. Nelson, A. J. Watson, R. T. Bush, D. L. Bicham, G. Murphy, Capt.-Adj. T. L. James, Red Calverley, G. White-law, R. Downs (C.S.M.), G. Wilson, W. Holmes, R. J. Monks, L. Spruce, R. F. Matthews, G. T. Tuckwell, R. J. Letta, J. Williams, J. Fagerholm, G. Watson, A. M. Dickenson, J. H. Phillips.

• An ex 12 Platoon B Coy. member, J. McCRACKEN, writes from Stockton, Newcastle, Jack forwards on his subs. and sends his regards to B Coy.

This is a good chance for a reminder to all to finish ALL letters with both CHRISTIAN and SURNAMES — it saves our hard-working Secretary valuable time and also makes letters easier to answer.

• From Ward 120 Concord, we have word from SAM BRITTEN. Sam did not state his sickness, but was unfortunate to spend Anzac Day in hospital and thus missed the reunion. But, as Pioneers, we trust Sam is o.k. by now.

• TOM PENDLEBURY (ex A Coy. 2/1) was another hospital inmate at the time of writing and we hope for more pleasing news of Tom next time.

• JOE HICKEY (North Lambton) sends on his subs. and regards, but forwards little news of his doings and other northerners.

• ERIC REYNOLDS (Bombo), (ex D Coy. 2/1) also forwards subs.

• Whilst NOEL PETERSON, of Wyong, informs us, through his "Private Secretary" (we cannot do without wives, can we Noel). Anyhow, the Petersons have located another Pioneer at Mannering Park who so far has escaped our far flung membership. Noel works with the P.M.G. and frequently sees NIP KEARSLEY. What about a general rouse-up of those Central Coast members, Noel.

• From Lyndhurst we received a note from ANDREW McCLOSKEY. Andy encloses subs. and states how he enjoys reading the "News."

• From Lyndhurst to the North Coast town of Woolgoolga, to acknowledge a nice letter from ALLAN CRUTE (ex H.Q. 2/1). Allen's son, Dennis, was the guest of Max and Peg Herron during the Jamboree period and, according to reports, Dennis hasn't stopped talking about it yet.

Allen and his wife are greatly interested in the Scouting Movement and at the time of writing, Allen was interested in taking out a Scouter's warrant, Beulah already being an Assistant Lady Cubmaster.

• MURIEL WOOD, wife of GEORGE, mentions in her letter that CHARLIE HENRY came up from Bodalla to see his brother, BILL, and consequently she enrolled him as a member and duly took his subscription. Charlie passed on the news that RAY STUBBS is also in Bodalla.

Muriel considers "Pioneer News" is a terrific medium for discovering news, for in our last issue she read of WALLY (Bombo) BROWN being ill. Brewarrina is also Muriel's home town and Wally turns out to be her cousin.

Thank you immensely for your very newsy letter, Muriel and we hope you can keep us posted.

• ALLEN STONE (D Coy. 2/2) writes in to say he had a visit from GUS PIKE, of Tamworth recently. Allen and his wife toured by car to the Atherton Tablelands, as far as Ravenshoe, then down the coast to Mossman.

Parts of the highway were bad and Allen advised members to contact the N.R.M.A. before proceeding to these places. All told, Allen did 4000 miles in a fortnight, so he certainly moved about. Thanks for your letter, Allen, and for your subscription.

• HUGHIE GREEN (C Coy. 2/1) was full of praise for the Executive of the Association in his letter, and goes so far as to state it is the best Association in N.S.W.

The Secretary was so pleased with your letter, Hughie, that he read it out to the Committee meeting on 27th May. Thank you immensely for your praise, Hughie.

He mentions seeing the following in Parramatta quite a lot: LEN WEYMAN, JACK BROWN, DON SWEENEY and SCOOTTY MCGIBBON.

Hughie met all his mates on Anzac Day, but was sorry not to see Stumpy Curtin and Bill Chisholm.

• SID ABERCROMBIE (A Coy. 2/1) sent along a donation and kind regards to all his friends.

• NEVILLE WOODHAM (2/1) enclosed five new members' addresses in his recent letter, which is quite an effort and an example for others to follow. Thank you very much, Nev., also for your kind regards.

• IRENE HEPBURN, wife of Frank (Nobby) Hepburn (2/2), sent along a very newsy letter.

Frank's health has not been A1 since his discharge, in fact, he was too ill to even celebrate his silver wedding anniversary on 18th April. BUT we notice he was able to celebrate Anzac Day at St. Peters.

Thank you very much for your letter, Irene, and for your interest in the Association. We do hope Frank's health improves after his stay at the R.G.H., Concord.

## Ladies' Auxiliary

Members of the Auxiliary attended the Wreath-Laying Ceremony and placed a wreath on the Cenotaph.

After a "meeting" with Association members on the steps of the G.P.O., they retired to a restaurant for a tete a tete and a cup of coffee.

The Auxiliary have supplied parcels to the following members in hospital:

TOM PENDLEBURY (2/1), who is at the R.G.H., Concord, and sends regards to all his mates.

JACK COLLIS, (H.Q., 2/1), who was at the R.G.H., Concord, being treated for asthma.

JOE TAYLOR (2/1), at R.G.H., Concord, wished to be remembered to all Pioneers.

GEORGE EDMAN was also at the R.G.H., Concord, but hoped to be back home shortly after the visit.

SAM BRITTEN had gone home only two days when we made our visit and we were sorry to miss you, Sam.

DES (Tiny) FIELDS was at Concord for an operation on his leg and nose.

BOB MCGREGOR was visited at his home and found to be on the compensation list with a sore back.

FRANK (Nobby) HEPBURN, 2/2( was a patient at the R.G.H., Concord, and only the day prior to our visit was operated on for hernia.

Jack Westwood, Vic Whiteley and Max Herron assisted the Auxiliary by making these visitations and distributing parcels from the Auxiliary, and we are grateful to them.

## "PIONEER NEWS"

"Pioneer News" will be published in the months of September and November and copy must be delivered to the Editors by 1st September and 1st October.

## CONTRIBUTIONS INVITED

Members of this Association are invited to submit letters, constructive criticism or news for publication in "Pioneer News."

### ● REMEMBER

THIS IS YOUR PAPER — YOUR VOICE — USE IT!

### LAST POST

RAY (Pee-Wee) PHILIPS, D Coy., 2/2, was killed in an accident recently.

BRIAN LORD, 2/2, of Penshurst, passed away recently after a short illness.

Our sympathy is extended to relatives of the above members.

We would also like to extend our sympathy to members:

CHARLES RICHARDSON, 2/2, on the loss of his dear wife.

JOE OLLIFFE, 2/1, on the loss of his dear mother.

We are indebted to "Reveille" for the following information regarding our former members:

NX 73790 Pte. M. J. Greaves, 2/1.

NX 58943 Pte. R. J. Rowe, 2/1.

## 2/1-2/2 PIONEER BATTALIONS ASSOCIATION

### GENERAL ACCOUNT — Statement of Income and Expenditure for Year Ended 31st March, 1961

EXPENDITURE			INCOME		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
By Picnic—			To Picnic—		
Paddle-Pops, Prizes	2	4 0	Sale of Surplus Cordial	1	5 0
Drinks, Sweets, etc.	6	19 6	To Bi-Annual Smoko—		
		9 3 6	Door Receipts	16	15 0
" Bi-Annual Smoko—			Raffle	6	14 1
Postage and Notices	2	7 6			23 9 1
Catering, Sussex Hotel	25	10 0	" Rent		612 0 0
		27 17 6	" Collection, H.M.A.S. Watson		4 12 3
" Rent	492	18 4	" Donations		176 8 0
" Wreath, Cenotaph	6	6 0	" Bank Interest		5 17 10
" Bugler, Wreath Laying	1	1 0	" Refund—Advance Welfare Fund		
" Audit and Accountancy Fee	15	15 0	Stamp Duty	2	0 6
" Honorarium, Secretary	26	5 0			
" Honorarium, Treasurer	10	10 0			
" Telephone	1	6 8			
" Anzac Day Dinner	33	0 0			
" Hire of R.S.L. Board Room	4	0 0			
" Hire of Rats of Tobruk Hall	2	2 0			
" Refreshments	4	5 0			
" Wreaths—late Mrs. O'Malley-Wood					
late J. Laurie, late R. Gregg, late					
M. Hanson, late Mrs. Herron, Snr.	9	3 0			
" Presentation, Mrs. Herron	8	8 9			
" Printing and Stationery	8	7 3			
" Contra, H.M.A.S. Watson Appeal	4	12 3			
" Index Tabs for Addressograph	7	3 5			
" R.S.L. Reveille Subs., Advtg.	5	4 0			
" Petty Cash—					
Telephone	3	12 0			
Postages	8	15 11			
Printing, Stationery	5	10 6			
Fares	1	15 0			
		19 13 5			
		697 2 1			
" Balance, being Excess of Income					
over Expenditure, carried forward					
to Balance Sheet	128	10 7			
	£825	12 8		£825	12 8

### GENERAL ACCOUNT — Balance Sheet as at 31st March, 1961

	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Accumulated Funds as at 1/4/60	226	2 11	Cash at Bank	352	1 3
Plus Excess of Income over Expenditure			Petty Cash in Hand		2 12 3
for the period as above	128	10 7			
	£354	13 6		£354	13 6

### WELFARE FUND ACCOUNT — Statement of Income and Expenditure for Period Ending 31st March, 1961

EXPENDITURE			INCOME		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
By Art Union No. 1—			To Sale of Art Union Tickets	302	3 0
Printing Ticket Books	10	0 0	" Bank Interest		3 6 11
Postage	28	1 9			
Printing and Stationery	3	15 6			
Telephone	10	5			
R.S.L. Subscription	1	1 0			
Prizes	63	2 3			
Advertising Results					
S.M.H.	3	1 4			
Refund Advance General Account	4	10 6			
		114 2 9			
" Balance, being Excess of Income					
over Expenditure, carried forward					
to Balance Sheet	191	7 2			
	£305	9 11		£305	9 11

### WELFARE FUND ACCOUNT — Balance Sheet as at 31st March, 1961

	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Accumulated Funds as at 1/4/60	34	3 7	Cash at Bank	225	10 9
Plus Excess Income over Expenditure					
for period as above	191	7 2			
	£225	10 9		£225	10 9

### "PIONEER NEWS" ACCOUNT—Statement of Income and Expenditure for 12 months ended March 31, 1961

EXPENDITURE			INCOME		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
By Newspaper	56	7 6	To Subscriptions	80	2 6
" Balance, being excess of Income			" Bank Interest		2 6 1
over Expenditure carried forward					
to Balance Sheet	26	1 1			
	£82	8 7		£82	8 7

I report that I have examined the books and accounts of the 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Battalions Association General Account, Welfare Fund Account and "Pioneer News" Account for the year ended 31st March, 1961. I have obtained all the information and explanations I have required and in my opinion the foregoing Income and Expenditure Accounts and Balance Sheets are properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of affairs of the Association, according to the information supplied to me.

A. WATSON, A.A.S.A.

# PIONEER NEWS

UL 5491

Official Organ of 2/1 and 2/2 PIONEER BATTALIONS ASSOCIATION

UL 5491

Registered under the Charitable Collections Act, 1934-41—Certificate No. 10462

CORRESPONDENCE: 3 ENOGGERA ROAD, BEVERLY HILLS

Hon. Secretary:

Editors:

President:

MAX HERRON

V. WHITELEY and M. HERRON

ALLAN McINNES

Vol. 6. No. 3

1st OCTOBER, 1961

Price: 5/- Per Annum



## BARBECUE SOCIAL EVENING

On Saturday, 21st October, the Association is holding a Barbecue Social Evening at the 3rd Mosman Bay Sea Scouts' Hall, opposite Mosman Bay Wharf, commencing at 6 p.m.

A barbecue tea will be available (adults 5/-, children 2/6) and liquid draught refreshment will be on tap, as well as soft drinks for the children.

### ENTERTAINMENT FOR CHILDREN

At 8 p.m. a social evening will be held in the hall, with dancing and singing for young and old. A compere and piano accordionist has been engaged, and entertainment will also be provided for the children.

If you cannot come along for tea, do come along for the social evening.

Everyone is assured of a warm welcome.

Plenty of parking space is available, and for those coming by ferry Mosman Bay Wharf is only a few minutes from the hall.

All Pioneers, children and their friends are cordially invited, so come along and join in the fun.

It would be appreciated if you would notify the Secretary (3 Enoggera Road, Beverly Hills. UL5491) of your intention of attending, in order to arrange catering.

## LETTER TO THE TREASURER

Worthy Treasurer,

I must mention with regret that I haven't received a "Pioneer News" since Noah was a cabin-boy, and am feeling more than somewhat bereft thereof.

I am a character of financial parity, having weighed in with my half a nicker before the march started last Anzac Day—receipt number 949.

I feel sure you would have been to press 'ere this, so if by some mischance my name has been expunged from the mailing list, will you whip in the necessary 1A to restore it?

Many kind regards to your good self and to Max and to old Monty, as and when they run athwart your hawse.

I shall look forward to hearing—or rather reading—news of the rest of the mob in the forthcoming issues of the old paper. And speaking of said paper, I should like to declare, as a professional pressman myself, that it's an example of chatty, cheerful, useful information to all Pioneers.

Having read the efforts of a few other Associations, I should say we have the brightest around. And if it isn't the brightest, I'd say it was right up there among the contenders!

Cheers, and don't forget to write.

Fraternal greetings from

John Harnetty.

(Thank you for your kind remarks, John, and one of the main reasons you have not been receiving the "News" is because we were not notified until April of your change of address. The June issue was definitely posted to you, but must have gone astray at your office. However, the Secretary has rectified this by posting you the last four issues by first class mail.—Editor.)

## PIONEERS VISIT H.M.A.S. PARRAMATTA

Four 2/1 Pioneers appeared in photos in the Sydney newspapers and on the front page of "Reveille" when they visited the H.M.A.S. "Parramatta," in July.

They were Vic. Whiteley, Sid Kent, Eric Guthrie and Jack Pearce. They were in a party of eight Rats of Tobruk Association members and their families being shown over the newly-commissioned frigate. This replaced the old one, which escorted supply ships to Tobruk and was sunk by a German submarine in 1941.

## 2/2 NEWS JOTTINGS

**DON LAWSON**, D Coy., 2/2, is at present spending part of his long service leave on a six-weeks' trip to Cairns. Don hopes to look up some of the old places in his travels.

**PAT MALONE**, 2/2, from South Woodburn, on the North Coast, has been on holidays in Sydney, and extended a warm invitation to any Pioneer going north to look him up.

**JACK CROUCH**, D Coy., 2/2, was down from Goulburn and paid a flying visit to see Allan McInnes.

We are indebted to the "Pioneer Dispatch," Victoria, for the following items:

**COLONEL WILLIAMS** was appointed early this year by the Australian members' committee of the World Veterans' Association as their delegate and councillor-elect to attend the ninth general assembly of the Federation held in Paris from May 5 to 12. The Colonel left Sydney by Qantas Boeing early on May 5. Delegates from 45 countries, representing 162 organisations of over 22 million members, met at the assembly.

**SAM WRIGHT**, of Benella, left on a trip to the U.K. during May. He has planned to return this month.

**CHARLIE POULTON**, President of the Burwood Branch of the R.S.L., is the instructor of the Shamrocks, the under 15 years marching girls. The Burwood R.S.L. teams journeyed to Griffith, N.S.W., during May and were successful in winning nine awards.

We congratulate **RAY MEAGHER** on his re-election as the Member for Mentone in the recent State Elections, and on his obtaining Cabinet rank in the Bolte Government. Ray, who has been appointed Assistant Chief Secretary, was for some years the Government Whip and Parliamentary Secretary to the Cabinet.

**BRUCE STEVENSON** is at present overseas on a business trip for his firm. He intends to visit the U.K., Europe and the U.S.A.

**BILL SHARROCK**, who has been a member of the staff at the R.G.H., Heidelberg, was married in London on March 30 last to Miss D'Alton, formerly of Melbourne. Bill's wife went to the U.K. about 12 months ago and Bill went over six months later. We have no news whether they intend to return here.





**BILL THOMAS**, H.Q. 2/1, writes in to say there is an open invitation to Pioneers to visit him at the Palm Beach R.S.L. Bill is the Secretary of this Club, and from our roving reporter in this area we hear he is doing a mighty job. He sends his regards to all the boys, and we thank you for your letter and donation, Bill.

**DOUG WATSON**, 18 Pln. D Coy. 2/1, of Bellambi, asks for information regarding the whereabouts of Tom Ledgerwood. If anyone can assist, would they mind sending it along to the Secretary. Doug mentions in his letter of working with Ron (Snags) Sinclair at the Water Board, Wollongong. Bill Howson and Bob Buckley are also around that way and he sees them occasionally.

**JACK COLLIS** (R.A.P. H.Q. 2/1), of Auburn, writes thanking the Committee and the Ladies' Auxiliary for visits and comforts while an inmate of Concord Repat. Jack appreciated the sight of the old faces and said it made his stay more bearable. He is now an ardent Committee member and looked his usual bright self at the last meeting.

**ARTHUR BROWN** (D Coy. 2/2), from "Quigley," Gilgandra, was hoping to come down on Anzac Day, but things didn't turn out as expected and he did not make it. A few weeks ago Arthur was down through Wagga and met Les Pridmore (A Coy. 2/2). Les is a carpenter by trade and a member of the 2/2 Association in Melbourne. Then in Leeton, Arthur met Ron Stevenson (D Coy. 2/2) and a few ales resulted. Ron is a soldier settler in the district. Arthur frequently sees George Tomlinson, who is farming in the Gilgandra district. Thanks for your letter, Arthur, and your kind regards to all members in hospital and best wishes for a speedy recovery are passed on through these columns. We are pleased to write up news of 2/2nd members, but what of addresses? If you can let us have addresses of Les Pridmore, Ron Stevenson and George Tomlinson, they would be welcome.

**BILL BARNES** (D Coy. 2/2), of Warren, writes: "Allow me to offer apologies for having dwelt so long amongst the ranks of those who enjoy receiving the 'Pioneer News' but so seldom write in with any news ourselves."

Well spoken, Bill. Surely all ex-service personnel have something to relate at some time or another—if not news of themselves, let us have news of others.

Bill is with the Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission and travels much of the north-western districts, and next trip to Carinda intends looking up Ernie Lunn.

Around the Warren district are "Bonny" Fowler and Bill Norris, both of D Coy. 2/2. Other 2/2nd chaps Bill has struck recently have been Gordon Hackney, of Dubbo, and Geoff. Cheal, who is with the Bank of N.S.W., at Nyngan. Gordon has a stock and station agency.

Speed Gordon (D Coy. 2/2), moved from Warren to Panania, Sydney, eight months ago, and has written to Bill, saying he often has a three-cornered bout over an ale in the Revesby Hotel with Frank Bradley (D Coy. 2/2) and Sid Booth (2/2).

Another two 2/2nds Bill sees are Arthur Brown (see previous letter) and Snowy Tomlinson, who are both married—Arthur with five kiddies and Snowy with four.

Bill states he was very sorry to have missed the Anzac Day reunion, but is going to make a determined effort to be there next time. How about making it a family holiday, Bill, and bringing your wife and two little girls?

Your suggestion of an organised film evening of members' 35 mm. slides is an idea—what do others think?

Thanks, Bill, for your newsy letter. If you get a chance, would you send us the address of "Bonny" Fowler, as we are very keen to obtain the names of all 2/2nd boys residing in N.S.W.

**BOB JULEFF** (H.Q. Coy. 2/1), writes from Guyra to say how pleased he was to receive the "News." Bob was originally in the Hygiene Section, then transferred to be a cook while the unit was in Tobruk. He is now an active member of the Guyra R.S.L., who are working very hard to start a social club.

The subscription to the "News" is 5/- per year, Bob, so your cheque covers you for 1961. There is no joining fee to become a member of the Association, so if you contact any of the boys just tell them to send along 5/-, with their CHRISTIAN AND SURNAME, address and unit particulars.

Bob wishes to be remembered to all the boys and the mere mention of names like Bob Burnside and Pat Noonan bring back happy memories to him. Our kindest regards are extended to you and your wife and we welcome you to the Association.

**VIV. "Big-Hearted" PARKINSON** (B.H.Q. 2/1), of Bondi, sent in a very newsy letter, telling of his recent northern holiday. Viv. called on Bill Jolly, at Bellingen, and at the local R.S.L. talked of old times over a few drinks. Bill asked Viv. to convey his best wishes to all.

Nobody can call through Dorriggo without seeing Fred Wheaton, apart from his size, of course, as Fred makes

all welcome and usually finds time for a "spot" and a talk. Viv. and his wife and Fred and Jean Wheaton spent a pleasant evening at the local R.S.L., both Viv. and Fred enjoying looking over old snaps taken in the M.E. and N.G. Fred sent his best wishes to all his friends in the unit.

At Saratoga, Vic. met Jim (Tiny) Culverwell (2/1), who is now with the Bulolo Dredging Co., in New Guinea. "Tiny" was on leave, a privilege he enjoys only every three years or so, and he passed on his regards to all the boys. Yes, Viv., we will forward copies of the "News" to "Tiny" in future and hope he enjoys reading it while having a tot of his favourite rum.

**TICH YOUNG**, of Waterloo, sent along his donation and praise of the "News," which he considers is doing a very good job. He also enclosed subs. for Danny Gardiner, "Baby" Crane and Billy Sutton. Thanks, boys.

**JOHN BANNISTER** (A Coy. 2/1), from Bellerive, Tasmania, hopes one day to make a trip to Sydney for one of the reunions to renew old friendships. Thanks for your donation, John, and for your remarks about the paper.

**GEOFFREY ROBINSON** (8 Pln. A Coy. 2/1), of Turrumurra, sent along a generous subscription to cover the years 1947-1960. He states and we quote: "In 1961 the subscription was wrung from me by displays of force and blood-chilling stories concerning the fate of those who default. I might also add the nudge about subscriptions in the April issue of the 'News,' plus an admission by the Editors that they laboured for love, and not as a result of it, also encouraged me."

Thank you for the sub., Geoff, and we hope your remarks may bring forward the many members who also have not sent along any subs. to date.

The reason the Treasurer requested your last address, Geoff., was because we are in the process of streamlining our address index system and we came across a card for your Wollongong address. Would all members note that when forwarding a change of address, please include the old address, for with our large circulation it does help and saves duplication in our records.

**MICK HOLLIS** (Sig. H.Q. Coy. 2/1), of Wauchope, wrote in to say he was prompted by Pat Noonan's query in our last issue as to where all the Sigs. had gone to drop us a few lines about former Sigs.

Arthur White returned to Comboyne recently from Sydney because of his wife's ill-health, and pleased to see Phyllis is improving. Fred Brookes is a foreman with the P.M.G., stationed at

## From the Mailbag (contd.)

Taree, where he lives, Les Denham works for the R.S.L. at Port Macquarie, and Mick mentions he is a foreman with the Forestry Commission of N.S.W. and is stationed near Wauchope.

Mick mentioned that he made a hurried trip to Sydney for the last Anzac March, the first in ten years, but was not conversant with procedure and consequently missed seeing quite a few mates. Next time you propose to come down, Mick, let us know and we will send you all particulars.

**GORDON WALSH** (B.H.Q. 2/1), of Ryde, sent along a few lines and mentions Fred Wheaton blew in to see him recently and they had quite a yarn about old times. Fred looks extremely fit, despite his bad back.

Thanks, Gordon, for the donation from Nev. Schaffer. We apologise for placing the wrong interpretation in the paragraph about Nev. and Tom Sleeman being with Vince Christensen. The paragraph was originally written for Anzac Day jottings and was meant to portray that Nev. and Tom were with Vince on the day. Neville has his own business, Tom works with the Water Board, and Vince works at Gladesville Hospital—very sorry, boys. Thanks for your letter, Gordon.

**MAX LAW** (12 Pln. B Coy. 2/1), of Beaumont, South Australia, writes to say he really enjoyed reading all about the Anzac March and confesses he spent a very lonely Anzac Day, watching the local march on TV and then working in the garden.

Max was particularly pleased with Bill Hoffman's articles in the "News" and says he is to be congratulated on the good work he is doing.

At the time of writing, Max had just returned from Port Pirie, Port Augusta and Whyalla, where he had been looking around his firm's sales areas. In the near future he hopes to be going to Alice Springs and promised to send along some news items. Thanks, Max, for your kind thoughts, also for your generous donation.

We were very sorry to hear of the death of your mother and your wife's father, both within a couple of hours, Max, and would like to extend to you and Joyce our very sincere sympathy.

**GUSS PIKE**, (D Coy. 2/2), sent along a short note, saying how pleased he was to get the 'News,' and would be glad to see any of the 2/2nd boys any time they are up around Tamworth. Guss has travelled around a lot since he left the army, but has now taken on a steady job at Tamworth Golf Club.

**BERNIE DALY** (18 Pln. D Coy. 2/2), of Dumaesque Island, Taree, sent along his donation and news of having recently met up with Bernie Allen, of Mullumbimby, who can still sing a good song; and Alec Lowe, who has a store at Brunswick Heads. Bernie says Alec keeps a good brew of coffee and Aspros and his store is situated on the highway, three doors south of the Police Station.

Alec and Bernie Allen were both in 18 Pln. D Coy. 2/2, too, along with Pat Allen, who now lives in Brisbane. Copies of the "News" will be sent regularly to them in future, Bernie, and perhaps you may be able to get Pat's Brisbane address for us. We are sorry to hear that they lost their mother early in July.

**LEO FERRIS** (H.Q. 2/1), of Kyogle, sent along a welcome donation to the paper and the address of Jack Marshall, of Glen Innes. Thanks, Leo, we were very pleased to catch up with Jack, and his name has been placed on the mailing list. Leo and his family visited Jack earlier in the year and spent a day and night with them.

Jack's family is very musical, and the Ferris' thoroughly enjoyed their visit. Jack himself is a bird lover and has a very fine collection. Your kind regards are passed on to the boys, Leo, and many thanks for your letter.

(If we have a social function near Glen Innes, we must remember to invite the musical Marshall family. Kind regards from Max Herron, who remembers many happy days in Jack's company.—Editor.)

**ALBERT (Alby) BARTON** (2/1), of Yagoona, has returned from New Guinea and sent along a newsy letter and donation. After ten years among the quiet, slow-moving natives of N.G., Alby finds the last few months rather

### PHOTO OF THE MONTH

(Editor's Note: The column three article results from a suggestion by Doug. Shearston at a recent Committee Meeting that each issue we publish a photo and an article on a notable Pioneer. The Committee unanimously decided Max was the boy for the September issue.)

difficult adjusting himself to the fast pace of "civilisation." He is with Hastings-Deerings, pushing Falcons around.

Alby was sorry to have missed the Anzac activities, but was glad to read of the activities and news of the boys. Best wishes to you and your family.

**ERIC HARPS** (2/1), now W.O.2 with School of Survey, at Balcombe, Victoria, recently met up with an ex-B Coy. member, A. Chaloner, who is working for Caltex in Victoria. Thanks, Eric, for sending on his sub. (and your own) and his name has been added to the mailing list for future copies.

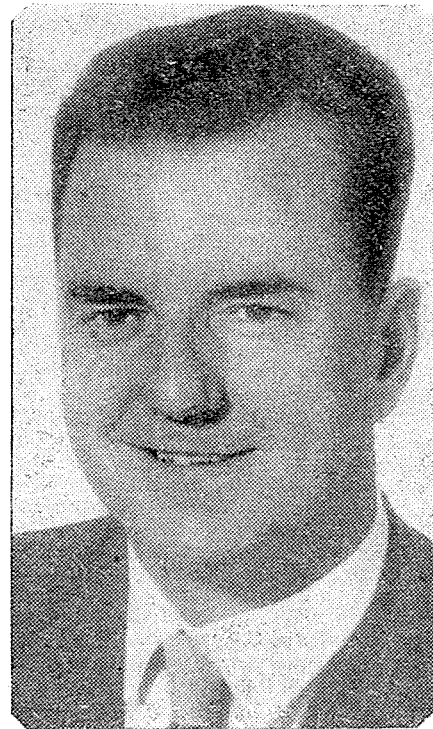
Bill Hoffman's articles on incidents in those balmy army days brought a couple of humorous lines from Eric.

He remembers in Palestine, after coming out of the desert, the time when Cpl. Reg. Lowry, of B Coy., was in charge of a guard looking after the tents vacated by the 7th Div. On awakening in the morning, it was found that about seven tents were missing and even the sides of the tent the guards were sleeping in. Poor old Reg.

Then there was "Three Course" Kelly, who, whilst in Moresby, was making quite a bit of money on the side with a laundry business, but sold out to a chap one week before the mobile laundry took over. He certainly got the "good oil."

Introducing...

## MAX LAW



Our second Honorary Life Member, Max Law (photo above), was originator and Editor of the "Pioneer News" until 1959. Prior to this, Max was Secretary to the Association for a number of years, and during this period saw the real need of an Association paper to hold the interest of all members.

Max was an early 2/1st Pioneer, serving in the Middle East, New Guinea and Borneo, and many will remember him as a Sergeant in B Company.

Upon discharge, Max returned to his former employer, Nock & Kirby, but after a few years transferred to Sisalkraft. He has travelled widely for this firm and while in Borneo in 1956 he was able to visit the graves of five Pioneers at the Labuan War Cemetery.

### ADELAIDE BRANCH MANAGER

Max is now the Manager of the Adelaide Branch of Sisalkraft and has a new home at Beaumont, in the lower foothills, overlooking Adelaide, and can be found every weekend trying to level his block of land. (This is reminiscent of the days when Max and the remainder of the unit were reputed to have shifted the hill known as Port Moresby 9 Mile Quarry from one side of the road to the other).

Most members have met Max's wife, Joyce, and their daughter, Karen Lesley, who is now three years old.

Up to the time of his move to Adelaide, Max was a keen committeeman and spent most of his spare time in furthering the needs of the Association, and it was indeed a sad loss to us when Max finally moved away from Sydney.

# IN PASSING

• News from **WALLY "Bombo" BROWN**, B Coy. 2/1, is that Wally works as a linesman for the P.M.G. and his depot at present is Bourke. But, as Wally says in his letter, he is now well out in the "never never," two hundred miles west of Bourke and about forty miles from Tibooburra.

A wonderful winter climate exists, but it is right away from any amusements, and that includes "pubs." Wally spent part of his annual holidays fossicking for opals at Lightning Ridge, but says the only thing he found was a threepence in the dust in front of the pub, and a terrific headache after he left the place (the pub he meant).

"Bombo" sends greetings to all his old mates throughout 2/1.

• **JACK WESTWOOD**, A Coy. 2/1, our ace No. 1 Social Secretary, has had a serious illness during the past few months, but is now feeling more his old self. The members of the Committee in particular, of this Association know what a mighty job he has done and are glad to hear Jack is on the mend. These sentiments will be echoed by his host of friends in the Association.

• Had a yarn with **JOE BIRD**, H.Q. 2/1, recently. Joe lives in the Manly district and is a bus driver for the Transport Department with their Brookvale Depot. He is President of the Brookvale Institute, with a membership of over a thousand, and it requires a good deal of skill and good judgment to keep everybody happy. That Joe is equal to the task is proven by the fact that this is his third year in the job and the finances of the Institute are flourishing.

Good luck to you, Joe, from the boys and keep up the good work. Hope to see you at the Barbecue at Mosman Sea Scout Hall on Saturday, 21st October.

• **JACK HENDERSON**, 2/2, is still on deck as a committeeman of this Association. Over the years Jack has done a mighty job for his pals of the 2/2. Keen and willing, with the one thought that the task attempted be successful, Jack has won many friends over past years in the Association.

• **CHARLIE SMIDT**, B Coy., 2/1, reports that his brother, Arthur Smidt, B Coy. 2/1, is doing very well in business at Maclean and sends greetings to all his old mates in that Company.

• An outstanding committeeman of this Association for many years, **BOB LAKE**, H.Q. 2/1, has once again been elected Master-at-arms. A noteworthy feature of one part of Bob's Job is his superb timing, and when he says "now, gents," the wave of enthusiasm that sweeps the room is only exceeded by the quality of the goods provided.

• **BILL HOGAN**, B Coy. 2/1, now on the staff of G. J. Coles Ltd., says many thanks for the newspaper and hopes to be present at the Bi-annual Smoko. He sends best wishes to all old friends in B Coy.

• **DES "Tiny" FIELD**, B Coy. 2/1, has returned home to Gundagai after another long spell in Concord. "Tiny"

thanks all members of the Association for their kindness during his stay in hospital and sends a special thanks to the Ladies' Auxiliary for their parcel and their kindness in visiting him.

The "big fella" sends news of old friend, **Tommy Budd**, B Coy. 2/1, now of Wagga. Tommy is married, with a family, and doing a fine job as yard foreman for Hardy Bros., the big hardware firm in that town. Tommy sends his best wishes to all 2/1sts.

• **CLARRIE PAKES**, Q.M.S. B Coy. 2/1, who is as popular and well known on the waterfront in Sydney as he was in the 2/1sts, says many thanks for the unit paper, and is lavish in his praise for those people who produce it. Clarrie is looking forward to the Bi-annual Smoko. Don't forget to contact some of the other boys, Clarrie, including Laurie Fitzhenry, Jack Brown, Charlie Smidt, "Sailor" Hall and Tommy Hugo.

• Among the many people who have been only too pleased to help at our smokos, picnics and functions is **PAT "Bluey" Walsh**, B Coy. 2/1. "Bluey" has carried out every task allotted to him, so it is with a sigh of relief that we can now give him these jobs officially, as he has been snared on to the Committee.

The Association has need of good men and we welcome you with open arms.

• Another very welcome addition to the new Committee of this Association is old friend, **JACK CLARKE**, H.Q. Coy. 2/1. Knowing the difficulties with shift work, we appreciate your efforts to help, Jack, and hasten to assure you that we are happy to have you at our meetings at any time you can make it.

• **DAN BLACK**, B Coy. 2/1, now of Brewarrina and working for the P.M.G. in that area, sends, per Wally Brown, his greetings to all his old mates and says many thanks for the newspaper.

• **CASEY BROWN**, A Coy. 2/1, of Bondi Junction, a footballer of note and a keen follower of Rugby League, has given the game away and has taken up golf. Casey is secretary of the local golf club and doing a fine job. The boys wish you every success, Casey, but don't forget our smokos. We look forward to seeing you there.

• It is strongly rumoured that **FRANK GILLIAN**, B Coy. 2/1, who has taken such a liking to poultry during the past months, is to receive a presentation from his many friends at the next smoko. It is said to be a dozen day-old chickens, fully paid for and purchased at enormous expense. The present is said to have been heavily subscribed to by certain characters who run a few fowls of their own.

• **MICK DODSON**, 2/1, prior to going on holidays to Perth recently, was one of many Pioneers who visited the late Joe Taylor regularly during his stay in hospital. Thank you, Mick, we do know Joe appreciated your visits.

• **JOHN PAUL**, D Coy. 2/1, of Eastwood, is a new member on our mailing lists, thanks to our keen committeeman, Peter Craig. Peter met up with him lately and John was surprised to hear the Association existed. John is married and is a carpenter by trade.

• **GORDON FINLAY**, A Coy. 2/1, of Mt. Pritchard, works at Marshall Batteries, and one of his customers recently was Stan Jones, 2/1, of Hurlstone Park. Stan is Shire Engineer with Marrickville Council and is looking extremely fit. Gordon is now a staunch committeeman and has joined the Scouting fraternity of the Pioneers—by virtue of the fact that his daughter is a Lady Cubmaster.

## HOSPITALISATION

**NORM PHILLIPS** (5 Pln. H.Q. 2/2), of Laurieton, was a patient at the Repatriation Hospital at Concord, suffering from stomach ulcers, and was very pleased to be visited by Jim Fields and Bob Lee, both from Norm's company.

Jim was informed by Norm's son that his father was in hospital and Jim, being a staunch committeeman, would like the fact emphasised that if the Association knew of members' intended trips to hospital, assistance could be given where needed.

In this case, Norm arrived in Sydney early in the morning and had no means of transport. Jim would have been only too pleased to assist, had he known Norm was coming.

Thank you, Jim, for your suggestion and many thanks to both you and Bob for visiting Norm.

Hope you are now home, fully recovered, Norm, and best wishes from the Association.

## LAST POST

We are indebted to "Reveille" for the following information regarding our former members:

NX25262, Pte. D. Crouch, 2/1.  
NX122420, Sgt. J. J. Dibley, 2/1.  
NX51918, Cpl. F. G. Hall, 2/1.

**JOE (Harold) TAYLOR**, 2/1, of Paramatta, passed away after a long illness.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to the relatives of the above members.

We would also like to extend our sympathy to the following members:

**GILBERT SHORT**, 2/2, on the loss of his beloved daughter, Sandra, on the 25th June, aged 19 years.

**ROY JARDINE**, 2/1, on the sad loss of his father, early in August.

## BI-ANNUAL SMOKO

FRIDAY, 24th NOVEMBER, 1961

To be held at the Sussex Hotel  
at 7.30 p.m.

An excellent supper will be provided at a nominal charge of 5/-.

Be there and see your old mates.

# PIONEER NEWS

UL 5491

Official Organ of 2/1 and 2/2 PIONEER BATTALIONS ASSOCIATION

UL 5491

Registered under the Charitable Collections Act. 1934-41—Certificate No. 10462

CORRESPONDENCE: 3 ENOGGERA ROAD, BEVERLY HILLS

Hon. Secretary:

Editors:

President:

MAX HERRON

V. WHITELEY and M. HERRON

ALLAN McINNES

Vol. 6. No. 4

1st DECEMBER, 1961

Price: 5/- Per Annum



## SOCIAL EVENING A SUCCESS

The Barbecue and Social Evening held at Mosman Sea Scouts Hall on Saturday, 21st October, was enjoyed by the 75 adults and children attending.

The Social Secretary, Jack Westwood, and his Committee, are to be congratulated on their part in organising this function.

We are grateful also to the Ladies' Auxiliary for their assistance on the night; Allan McInnes, Bob Lake and Vic. Whiteley, as cooks; Jack Westwood on the keg; Doug. Shearston on the door; "Bluey" Walsh, entertaining the children; Alf Carter, Max Herron and Harry Montague, as mess orderlies. To all these energetic workers we say thank you for a job well done.

### MIXING IT WITH THE YOUNG ONES

The highlight of the evening was the Barn Dance, in which the whole gathering participated, and it was very pleasing to see stalwarts like Wally Page, Joe Olliffe, Jim Drummond, Jack Henderson, Peter O'Brien, Peter Craig, Sam Lewis, Roy Jardine, George Paricos, Eric Face really mixing it with the young ones.

—H. Montague.

### A MERRY CHRISTMAS

The President and Committee would like to extend to all members and their families a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

### EDITOR'S NOTE

The following article was sent in by one of the Pioneer wives present at the Barbecue Social Evening.

"The 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Bns. Association must gather strength while their families come together and enjoy an evening such as was held at the recent barbecue.

Everyone enjoyed themselves and it was particularly noticeable how all Pioneers present were most courteous and attentive towards the ladies and children.

All age groups were catered for and everyone was able to join in the fun; it was very gratifying to see the younger generation joining in at all times.

The actual organising of the function was so well performed that no one could complain of having too many tasks, and this equal distribution of jobs allowed everyone to have a really good night.

In order to cut down costs, I would suggest the purchase of a few dance records, rather than paying a musician, and in this way we could have more frequent evenings for Pioneers and their families.

I do feel, now our children are older, more of these family functions can be held and enjoyed by all."

—Observer.

## BARBECUE JOTTINGS

By ALF. CARTER

PETER O'BRIEN (D Coy., 2/1), now of Kings Cross, is an executive with the Grain Board, and is also a new member of the Committee of this Association.

Peter commences long service shortly and proposes to take his wife and son on a world tour. We would like to wish you a very good holiday, Peter, and we do look forward to those news snippets from you and your wife.

"BLUEY" WALSH and "MONTY" MONTAGUE, as usual, the perfect hosts, spent most of their time looking after the ladies and children, and at times were assisted by Wally Page.

ERIC FACE (D Coy., 2/1), of Loftus, was seen in earnest conversation with Peter O'Brien. Eric is a despatch rider with M.G.M., and part of his job is the sending of films to all country centres and at times to Interstate centres.

"SNOWY" ROY JARDINE and BRIAN KYBERT (A Coy., 2/1), were present with their wives and enjoyed the night, but were very sorry that more Pioneers were not present to enjoy the proceedings. Actually, on a percentage basis, there were more 2/2nds than 2/1sts, which speaks well of their interest in the Association recently, and this could be contributed to that very able Committeeman, Jack Henderson.

JOE OLLIFFE (H.Q., 2/1), of Kingsford, is feeling much better these days after a spell in R.G.H., Concord. Joe is a very keen Committeeman and is always on the job at our functions. His many friends sincerely trust his health continues to improve.

MICK ANSELEM'S name was mentioned by Bob Lake, whilst cooking at the Barbecue, as to one who would really enjoy one of these functions. Mick was a Sergeant Cook, and is now at Ipswich, Qld. He was a master in the art of camouflaging bully beef.

GEORGE PARICOS (Ex-C Coy., 2/1, later 2/2), has a fine place of his own at Burwood. George is a clerk with Pater-son, Laing and Bruce Ltd., and occasionally has a drink with Norm. Della, 2/2, and Frank Locane, 2/2, at the Summer Hill Hotel. George sends greetings to all his mates in both the 2/1 and 2/2.

JIM DRUMMOND (Ex-B Coy., 2/1 and later commissioned with C Coy., 2/2), of Pymble, was another welcome visitor with wife and family of three girls. Jim is a N.S.W. advertising executive with British Paints and sends best wishes to all his mates.

## 2/2nd REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

On Sunday, 12th November, thirty 2/2nd Pioneers and families attended their yearly Remembrance Sunday at the Methodist Church, North Rocks.

By ALLEN McINNES

Padre Claughton officiated at the ceremony and as well as his usual service he read extracts from his war diary. This took us back to eighteen years ago, remembering comrades with us then but not now. The Padre was assisted by Jim Field, who read the Lesson.

After the service the gathering was entertained at the Church Hall by the Church Committee, Mrs. Claughton and the Ladies' Auxiliary, who provided a very nice supper.

Present in the gathering was Mr. Beverly, who, during the war years,

arranged a continuous supply of records to Padre Claughton from Palings. We passed on our thanks to Mr. Beverly for his fine war effort on our behalf. Many of the boys had often wondered where all the records played over the loud speaker system in the lines had come from—well, now we know.

"Cappy" Christian thanked Mr. Beverly in his usual bright fashion; Don Lawson and Jack White thanked the Church Committee and Ladies' Auxiliary.

Our heartfelt thanks to Padre Claughton for another memorable Remembrance Day.



## Introducing the late . . .

**JAMES "POPEYE" EDWARD****WHAT A CHARACTER!**By **JOHN HARNETTY**  
(Ex-C Coy., 2/1)

**Does anybody in the Association remember Warrant Officer II James Duncan ("Popeye") Edward? Back comes the howl from the mob . . . "Could anybody ever forget the old custard?"**



Brothers, we have here a thumbnail sketch of a man who was beloved, reviled, booed, cheered, esteemed, condemned, admired, and subjected to the ripe old raspberry at all stages of his career in World Wars I and II, and with the Troop Transport arm of the British Commonwealth Occupation Force in Japan.

It seems fitting at any time to recall old Jim, God rest his soul, because he was the original typical Digger of the first stoush. Jim wasn't quite the Digger of romantic fiction or the stylised Hero of the Front that you see immortalised in bronze or stone on war memorials.

He was stocky, sparse-haired, a born Tale-pitcher, and as a perpetrator of divers stragems, he was outstanding. Truly, as a master tactician, when God created Jim Edward he busted the mould!

**SALTED WITH PHONUS BOLONUS**

Jim's eye could be both benign and calculating. In outlook, he coupled the loving kindness of a Salvation Army Court-pleader with the purposeful rapacity of a tiger shark.

From Jim's recollections of his activities in the old Third Pioneers in World War I—and it's pretty certain they weren't too heavily salted with the old phonus-bolonus—Jim must have been quite a character.

He must have been the original scruffy Dig. of war history, official and unofficial.

One could imagine him as a young man in the line looking like one of the Irish Troops of whom the Duke of Wellington once said: "You ask me if they will instill fear into the enemy? That I know not! But, before God, sir, they terrify me!"

There are many anecdotes about Popeye. Does anybody remember how, when we camped in Julis in 1940, Jim's gilded tongue conned a truckload of sawn timber from a dump at El Majdal by the pitching of the tale to a flint-hearted Tommy Conductor of Ord-nance?

Does anybody remember how he hiked over the Owen Stanleys, according to report, looking like a cross between a biblical patriarch and Sawny Bean, the bandit who ate his victims? Does anybody remember his activities at the L.T.D. in Marrickville after he'd been "E"-classified? The writer was able to wangle a couple of extra days, thanks to Pop-eye's judicious wheedling of the staff.

Not many of the old herd will recall Jim's activities in deep-sea transports going to Japan. Because of his beret and a facial resemblance to the famous victor of El Alamein, Jim was re-christened "Monty"—and I think even General Robertson called him that.

**HANDS SOLED AND HEELED**

Jim's descriptive powers were unusually sound. He told me that a major operation on one of his hands was simply a matter of "going into Yaralla and getting her soled and heeled."

And does anybody remember those gentle wordy interludes which passed between Pop-eye and the late Charlie Mayne? It used to be quite good fun to be in H.Q. Coy. Orderly Room, until Charlie did the quince and started to throw things.

Jim has gone to his reward—and when we all go to the Final Reunion we'll probably find Jim flogging the halo polish. He didn't qualify for a section of the official histories of World Wars I or II—but when you think of Jim Edwards in all his moods, you realise that sainthood isn't always the birthright of the holy, and that in comparison with Jim, Ned Kelly was only a selling-plater as a horse thief!

**BE PREPARED, PORT MAC.**

**WAL. PAGE** (T.A., H.Q., 2/1), of Mortdale, intends leaving Sydney on 12th January, to travel North and he intends making his stop at Port Macquarie (that is about as far as he will go if Les Denham and Sid Jopson see him). Wally will be driving a red and cream Vauxhall, so look out for him up North.

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

Dear Max,

Like John Harnetty, I have lost touch with the Association, due maybe to the fact that I am so far from the city (Bathurst) and that I very rarely visit the "Big Smoke." Also, my steps are becoming shorter and my capacity is almost nil. After one middy I will tell you my life's history.

It is indeed refreshing to receive a copy of the "News" and, as John puts it, it is cheerful and full of information.

Please convey my best wishes and regards to "Monty." We had very happy moments from Greta to the Perimeter.

I can recall on one occasion worth mentioning that Monty and I were eating welsh rarebit and tea outside my dug-out, when John Murray, the then brigadier, happened along. Monty jumped up and said: "Care to join us, Sir?" The Brig. replied that he would be delighted; sat himself down on an up-turned kero tin and enjoyed Monty's rarebit as much as we did ourselves. Incidentally, I met the General at the "Carrington," Katoomba, before he died, and over a few pots he remembered this and other incidents.

I was particularly delighted to read John Harnetty's breezy contribution in the October issue. It was a repetition of the old days.

One could not be dull when he was around. In case you don't know, John was my interpreter (as well as the bat-talion's). He was particularly good when the "Senosies" (I hope the spelling is right) tried to sell us a "bint," and when we were on those strenuous patrols exchanging dried tea for arak (home-made), eggs and chooks. Our combined efforts eventually placed us on visiting terms with a number of "Itie" families, where we partook of "very mucha de sparget" and other tasty dishes.

This was, you will recall, the period when it was a lovely war, and although it appeared a waste of time with our meanderings, one family directed us to a lot of mines and a tremendous ammunition dump.

When B.H.Q. was at Derna, I can recall John and I, after the "terrific strain" of orderly work and marching the Grafton boys in before the C.O. for cutting half of poor old "Pop-eye's" moustache off, go around to a place which John called the "House of 1000 A—" and partake of a concoction of tea with a dash of mint sauce.

I would appreciate it if you could supply me with John's address, I would love to contact the blighter.

Looking forward to the next issue and wishing you all the success you deserve.

Sincerely,  
"TAL,"  
(Sgt.-Mjr. Talberg)

**THANKS TO CONTRIBUTORS**

We would like to thank the following contributors for articles sent along, which will be held over until the next issue. Messrs. Gordon Walsh, Sgt.-Maj. Talberg and Jack Martin.



## BI ANNUAL SMOKO

Despite a week of bad weather the roll-up to the Smoko on Friday, 24th November, was a good one, and it was pleasing to see quite a few new faces, especially those who had travelled long distances.

Actually a larger attendance had been expected because five hundred notices were sent out at a cost of £11; also notices were inserted in all city newspapers, but still the response was no greater than last year, at seventy members.

The only quiet moment of the evening was at 9 o'clock, when lights were turned out and the President said the "Ode," which was indeed observed very reverently by all.

Those who were not able to attend, missed a very good night, but of course, it will be on again next year. So make sure and come along.

The Social Committee and the Social Secretary did a marvellous job in organising this function and they are to be congratulated. Your attendance is their main reward — so how about the future?

### SMOKO JOTTINGS

By H. Montague and A. Carter

It was indeed very pleasing to welcome Col. G. Graham, who was one of the few officers in attendance.

The manner in which he moved around the bar to talk with one and all, indicates to us the thoughts he still holds for his men and the high regard the men have for him.

Considering the Colonel spends less than half his time in this State, we consider it a very fine gesture and we really did appreciate it.

"Bluey" Walsh was in good form, leading the boys in community singing, with the assistance of his friend, Les Kieble, on the banjo.

Ted Skoyles was a welcome visitor from Port Kembla; Arthur Pratt from Queensland; and Nip Kearsley from Gosford, were just a few long-distance travellers.

Taffy Hurst (8 Pln., A Coy.), made his debut, but stated he would be a "regular" in future.

Cecil Saloway (1 Pln., H.Q. Coy., 2/1) was another first-nighter, but stated he would be along to more of our functions in future.

Bob Lake (H.Q. Coy., 2/1), arrived at the Smoko late, as he had been to visit his wife, Joan, who had an operation that day. We do wish you a speedy recovery, Joan.

8 Platoon, A Coy., 2/1, was again well represented at the Bi-Annual. The seven of them present were: "Nip" Kearsley, Gordon Finlay, "Taffy" Hurst, Stan Hanson, Johnny Clifford, Bruce Smith, and "Old Faithful," "Monty" Montague. They had a couple together for old time sake, then split up to yarn with their other numerous friends.

Sid Cooper, Alby Brown, Bob Burnside, John Peace and Geo Cosgrove, all of H.Q., 2/1, were knocking them over smartly and the talk was how they helped "Lofty" Barlow "booby-trap" Derna. All agreed it was nice to be able to talk about it, now.

## IN PASSING

**ALLAN BLACK** (2/1), of Coolamon, spent a holiday in Sydney recently and was able to renew acquaintances with Allan McInnes and Austie Ronan. Allan was in the Q.M. Store with Frank Dynon and was quite pleased to hear of all his mates when he rang the Secretary for information.

**RAY (BIGGA JOE) LAWRENCE** (H.Q., 2/1), of Kogarah, has been an absentee at our functions of late, but Ray could be a starter for the Bi-Annual on the 24th. Ray is employed by the Railways Department at Darling Harbour and a regular at Kogarah R.S.L.

**ALLAN (DORA) BLACK**, ex-Kyogle, has been a regular "city slicker" for some time now, and is employed by Ampol. We may see more of "Blacky" now we have his address — anyhow, we hope so.

**ROY JARDINE** (H.Q., 2/1), recently had the misfortune to have his car "written off" following an accident. Roy is still with Yellow Express, and to our knowledge, has been so all his working life. Roy lives at Gladesville and is the proud father of two grown-up daughters.

A message per **JACK COATES**. Would Jim Purse contact George Mills, of Bugaldie (Gwabegar Line) re his silver medal from the Bugaldie Comforts Fund.

**COL. STRACHAN** (D Coy, 2/1), is in the Public Service. We see little of Col., although we do hear from him around "sub time." (If you cannot attend functions in person, we do like and require your help financially). Col. lives at Artarmon and has two sons.

**BOB SCOTT** (H.Q., 2/1), has forsaken the Costa Brava Hotel and can now be contacted at the Gosford Leagues Club.

**JOHN "BLUEY" CHASE** (H.Q., 2/1), now in a fine home of his own at Cammeray on the North Shore. He is in business as a newsagent. "Bluey" has a most interesting hobby of rearing budgerigars.

**DANNY GARDINER** (B Coy, 2/1), now of Waterloo, sends word saying many thanks for the "Pioneer News," and congratulations to those who run it. Danny hoped to be present at the Bi-Annual Smoko, but couldn't make it. In the meantime he would like to say cheerio to all his old mates in B Coy.

**MICK EGAN** (C Coy., 2/2), now of Bexley, and a warehouseman in the city, often meets up with "Bluey" Locrine, Don Lawson, "Snowy" Todd, "Cappy" Christian and Jack White, who all wish to be remembered to their old mates.

**GEO. COSGROVE** (H.Q., 2/1), now of Petersham, and getting along on a pension, is an ardent cricket fan. Hopes to see all the big games this Summer. George spends a bit of leisure time at the Newtown R.S.L., where he would welcome any of the boys.

**TOM FAWCETT** (H.Q., 2/1), and now of Bankstown, is in the R.A.A.F. Stores, Regents Park. Tom says cheers to all the boys.

Had a yarn with old friend **DANNY SPRUSTER** (A Coy., 2/1), and now of Dundas. Danny, who could not attend the barbecue owing to a prior engagement, is working his way up the ladder with the "Sun-Herald." Danny says cheers to all his old pals, including Frank Gillian, Mick Dwyer, Brian Kybert and Tom Crossman.

**DES. GRATTON** (B Coy, 2/1), now of Leichhardt, is a mechanic at the Randwick Bus Depot. He would like to be remembered to all his old mates and mentions that "Mac" McGregor (batman to the late "Granny" Braddon) is also at the Randwick Bus Depot.

**TED WHITFIELD** (B.H.Q., 2/1 Pay Sergeant), of Earlwood, is a new member co-opted on to the Committee by Joe Olliffe, and we were very pleased to welcome Ted into our midst. He did not even know the Association existed, so intends taking a keen interest in our affairs in order to make up lost ground.

**JOE WHITE** (H.Q., 2/1), has just installed himself and family in a new flat in that huge block in Devonshire Street, City. Says they have everything. Joe is a ganger with the North Sydney Council and meets many of his old mates at the North Sydney R.S.L., including Frank Dynon, Ray Lester and Sid "Shrewdie" Percival.

## BATTLE HONOURS AWARDED FOR THE SECOND WORLD WAR

### 1st PIONEER BATTALION

North Africa, 1940-1943.

Defence of Tobruk.

The Salient, 1941.

South-West Pacific, 1942-1945.

Borneo.

Note: All the above Battle Honours have been approved to be borne on Colours or Guidons.

Notified in Army Orders, 29th September, 1961.

(Editor's Note: We are indebted to Geoff. Williams for sending the above item to Col. Graham, who, in turn, sent it to the Editors. Thank you very much for your kind thought, Geoff.).

### VALE, HARRY TOPE

It is with regret that we learn of the death by drowning of Major Harry Tope (2/2nd).

Padre Claughton, at the request of the family, officiated at the service, and the following Pioneers were present:

Colonel and Mrs. Jeff. Graham, Frank Allen, Gordon Osborn, John and Cyril Monahan, Hec. Page, Jim and Mrs. Drummond and Allan and Mrs. McInnes.

To Mrs. Tope and family we extend our sympathy in their recent sad loss.



**JACK MARSHALL (H.Q., 2/1)**, of Glen Innes, is full of praise for well-known 2/1 member, Leo Ferris, who introduced Jack to our "Pioneer News," and subsequently, the mailing list. Jack wishes to be remembered to all his old Sig. mates and said that the "News" brought back many happy memories. Jack is married with a daughter and three sons—the eldest boy, John, is married and living in Warwick. His youngest, Marlene, is 16.

Jack left the Shire Council after 23 years and is now employed at the local brick and tile company, where he has been for the past four years. Locally known are Jock Rogers, who is hale and hearty, and Eric O'Hara (ex C Coy.).

We request the addresses of both, Jack, as neither of them are on our mailing list. Jack also sees Vic. Donnell and his brother, Bob, who both hail from Glencoe, some 14 miles distant.

This Beadesert place (Qld.), must have something on other places, as we have to acknowledge two letters from different Pioneers . . .

**ROY ELLIS (ex D and H.Q. Coy, 2/1)**, writes stating he has now taken up residence in this particular part of the "Sunny State," having recently moved from Engadine, N.S.W. All the best in the new location, Roy, and thanks for the sub.

**RAY (JOE) BLANCH (2/1)**, is our other correspondent in this town and is to be found at the local Caltex service station. Joe requests news of Noel Schomberg and Jack Richards, but on this score we cannot help as they have both been out of touch. Jack did rejoin the army and apart from knowing he was stationed at Moorebank (Sydney), we cannot help further. Joe requests any lads travelling North to drop in. (With an empty petrol tank for preference—Editor).

**JOHN McCracken (B Coy., 2/1)**, was an inmate of R.G.H., Concord, recently and is now back at his home in Stockton. Sorry we missed you at the hospital, John, and to hear that you have not been well since you returned home. Our thanks to your wife for her letters. Perhaps we may see you if you have to make another trip to Sydney in the near future.

**JACK BERTRAM (2/1)**, from Hamilton, writes apologising for his non-attendance at the barbecue. Seeing that you reside approximately 100 miles away, Jack, we will accept your apology and you did miss a good night. Our good wishes to both Jean and yourself. Hope to see you on your trip to Sydney.

**KEN REILLY**, from Boondall, Brisbane, or better known to B Coy, 2/1, as "Mick" Reilly, writes to say he enjoys

reading the "News" and hearing of chaps he knows and knew in "the best unit in the A.I.F." A visit to Ipswich by Mick brought results as he went to see Mick Anselem after reading of his whereabouts in the "News." On a recent trip, Mick visited Cunnamulla, Western Queensland, and while being shown over the local 'roo factory, he met Paddy King (B Coy., 2/1), and at Roma, on the way home, bumped into Rocky Watts (C Coy, 2/1). Both these lads wished to be remembered to all. Mick (now T.P.I.) closes on the hope that he will be in Sydney for next Anzac Day.

We acknowledge a letter from **MRS. PHILLIPS**, wife of Ray (Pee Wee) Phillips, 2/2, who died recently. Mrs. Phillips had hoped to be present at the barbecue to meet some of the 2/2nds who knew her husband, and we were sorry that she could not attend.

**HUGHIE GREEN (C Coy., 2/1)**, writes from Newtown and sends addresses of W. Prophet and Con. Fitzgerald, who are now on the mailing list. Hughie mentions seeing Dick Chalmers, Snowy Folkes, Leo Read and Keith Reynolds, all members of the Wentworthville R.S.L., and Lennie Weyman and Jack Brown, who are both at the Parramatta Hotel. Thanks for your two letters, Hughie, and we have noted your new address.

**JACK COLLIS (H.Q. Coy., 2/1)**, of Auburn, has recently returned from a holiday at Ettalong, where he said he had the good fortune to run into co-editor, Vic. Whiteley, who was also on holidays with his wife, Peg, and family. Jack and Vic. met Jack Coates (Up the Tigers!) who is a staunch local R.S.L. member. Although we see little of Jack Coates in Sydney, he is as keen an ex-army follower as you could find. Better drop down one function, Jack.

**ERNEST DIVE (A Coy., 2/1)**, writes from Ward 12, Bloomfield, via Orange, sending best wishes and thanks for the paper. Ernie expects to be discharged in a few months time. Cheerio, mate, best of luck and good health.

**DES. (TINY) FIELD (B Coy., 2/1)**, of Gundagai, in a letter to Alf. Carter states that despite two serious operations, and many weeks in the R.G.H., the old knee is not the best. But, with his usual cheerful resignation, the "big fellow" says things could be worse. "Tiny" sends best wishes to all his old mates, particularly to Fred Wheaton at Dorrig, and "Nip" Kearsley, of Ourimbah, and the boys from Kyogle.

**WALTER ROBERTS (B Coy., 2/1)**, "Havelock," via Mudgee, sent along a welcome donation for "arrears and advance subscriptions, just in case the wool market isn't too clever next year." Thanks, Wally, for your good wishes.

**BILL HOFFMAN (2/1)**, of Kyogle, wrote conveying apologies for not attending the Bi-Annual Smoko. Bill would have liked to have been there, but distance made it an impossibility. He has been very busy at the Kyogle Baths lately, as they have a big inter-town carnival coming up. Will write to you shortly, Bill, with Max Law's address. (Thank you for the personal message from the Downes' family, Bill, and please pass on to them best wishes from the Herron family.—M.H.).

**JACK CLARKE (H.Q., 2/1)**, of Rockdale, has recently spent an enjoyable holiday on the North Coast and has sent along a letter with news of former Pioneers he met on the trip. Alex. Cameron (2/1) was still working on the Harwood ferry and looking well. Thank you for the donation, Alex, which Jack has handed on to our Treasurer, and the photo of the football team will be returned to you shortly. Jack also met up with Don McGill (D Coy., 2/1), Tom Loy, of Harwood, and Bill Payne, an original who transferred from the 2/1sts early in Tobruk. Bill would like to hear from Sgt. Andy McCloskey. (Bill's address is Storekeeper, Maclean).

Jack made two appointments to see Arthur Smidt, but as Arthur was on night shift, Jack did not catch up with him. However, Alex. says Arthur is doing well.

**COL. GEOFF. GRAHAM, M.M. (2/1)**, Double Bay, wrote in to say he had a visit from Major G. Patterson, O.B.E., whilst he paid Sydney a hurried visit recently. Major Patterson, who is the Australian Government Senior Trade Commissioner in Hong Kong, hopes to be in Sydney next July for a lengthy period and so meet all his friends. Col. Graham, also enclosed a letter from Major Geoff. Williams outlining the Battle Honours awarded to the 2/1.

Thank you for your kind thoughts on our behalf, Col. Graham, and we were indeed very pleased to hear from you.

**REG. BUTTSWORTH (D Coy, 2/1)**, of Chippendale, in his recent letter, apologises for not attending the Smoko, but at that time he was entering St. Vincent's Hospital for a heart operation. We wish you a speedy recovery. Reg, and thank you for your regards.

### LAST POST

We are indebted to "Reveille" for the following information regarding our former members:

NX18042, Pte. N. P. Dalton, 2/1.

VX24510, Pte. G. M. Lorimer, 2/2.

James Hadfield (2/1), who died as a result of a car accident.

Harry Tope (2/2), who died as a result of a boating accident.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to the relatives of the above members.