

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 ENOGERA ROAD, BEVERLY HILLS

Hon. Secretary:

MAX HERRON

Editors:

V. WHITELEY and M. HERRON

President:

ALLAN McINNES

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ANZAC RE-UNION

Jack Westwood, our Social Secretary, has worked very hard organising these Anzac functions and the only reward he seeks is to witness a record roll up of members.

WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

TUESDAY, 24th APRIL, 7.10 P.M.

This is the date of our annual Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Cenotaph, a service which was introduced four years ago to pay your personal respects to those of our wartime comrades who made the supreme sacrifice during the war and to those who have passed on since.

This ceremony is growing in popularity each year, so please help swell the ranks and pay your respects also. A wreath will be laid on behalf of both Battalions and the Ladies' Auxiliary.

A bugler will be in attendance to add further reverence to this solemn ceremony.

Forming up point is outside the Association's rooms, 19 Hunter Street, Sydney, at 7.10 p.m. The march commences at the corner of Pitt and Hunter Streets at 7.20 p.m. Your Master-at-Arms, Bob Lake, is in charge of the parade. Please be punctual.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY, 24th APRIL, 8 P.M.

A cordial invitation is extended to all members of the 2/1st and 2/2nd Pioneer Battalions to attend the Annual General Meeting of your Association to be held in the R.S.L. Club's Blue Room, Elizabeth Street, Sydney, at 8 p.m.

Please be in attendance and hear how your Association has been managed during the past year.

The agenda includes the election of officers for the coming year. After the meeting supper will be provided by the Association. Please do your best to be present.

ANZAC DAY RE-UNION

WEDNESDAY, 25th APRIL

Subscriptions are due on this day, boys. Don't forget, because this is the only means by which your Association keeps going. Alf. Carter will collect for 2/1 Pioneers and Jack Henderson for 2/2nds, so be sure to bring your money with you.

ANZAC DAY MARCH

Forming up point for both Battalions as last year, near the Mitchell Library

in Macquarie Street. Our numbers were down last year, so see if you can't make this a record year.

We feel that you are duty bound to attend, realising at the same time that, through ill health, some of you are unable to march. However, the majority of you are still fit and well, so let us see you go all the way round this year.

Immediately after the march, the 2/1st will adjourn to the Sussex Hotel and from 11.30 a.m. till noon a hot meal will be provided free by the Association. Both 2/1 and 2/2 are cordially invited to partake. During the afternoon further appetising food will be on free of cost to you. This will enable you to make a day of it at the Sussex, and a great day is planned. Let's see you there.

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

WELCOME TO OUR OFFICERS

A pleasing feature of last Anzac Day was the increased number of officers at the re-unions, and we hope it will be repeated this year. Gentlemen, you have an appointment this year also.

Time — 11.30 a.m.

Day — 25th April.

Place — Sussex Hotel.

Medals are to be worn at the Wreath Laying Ceremony and at the Anzac Day March.

HOSPITAL VISITATIONS

• **LES. DENHAM**, of Port Macquarie, had a long stay at the Repatriation Hospital, Concord, with blood pressure trouble, but is now back at home convalescing.

• **ERN. CROSS**, of Newcastle, was recently at the Repatriation Hospital Concord, but after treatment for sinus trouble was able to return home.

• **JACK PEACE** had a short stay at the Repatriation Hospital, Concord, with another bout of arthritis.

Welfare Section members, J. Westwood, D. Shearston, Jack Collis, Pat Walsh and M. Herron, visited the above members on numerous occasions and took along parcels of fruit, cigarettes and sweets from the Ladies' Auxiliary.

INTRODUCING OUR PRESIDENT . . .

ALLAN McINNES



Our President, Allan McInnes (photo above) has been a keen committeeman since the inception of the association.

In April, 1959, "Mac" was elected to the position of President, and the continued record attendance of members at Committee meetings speaks well for his leadership.

"Mac" was an early 2/1st Pioneer at Greta, and after a period of hospitalisation for a serious football injury he was sent to a special Pioneer Coy. in Darwin. From here "Mac" was transferred to the newly reformed 2/2nd Pioneers at Seymour, Victoria, as Captain Quarter-Master, and served with this unit in New Guinea, Tarakan and Balikpapan campaigns.

Upon cessation of hostilities, "Mac" went to Nock & Kirby's as a salesman, but later transferred to Paul's, and by diligence and hard work, has recently been appointed manager of their George Street branch.

In private life, "Mac" is a warden in the Civil Defence, and has only recently retired as President of 1st Port Jackson Sea Scouts, although he is still active on the Group.

"Mac" is a very keen gardener and can be found most weekends (when not on Scouting activities) pottering around his rock gardens. After buying and selling several houses since his discharge, "Mac" has now settled down at Balmoral Beach, with his wife, Mary, and three sons, David, Peter and Andrew.

CHRISTMAS OVERSEAS

By GORDON WALSH (B.H.Q., 2/1)

Often I let my mind wander back over the years and recall some of the really funny happenings or those that were to my mind extraordinary. One of these was very definitely our first Christmas overseas. I don't think I'll ever forget it.

Just before Christmas the 11th Pn., B Coy., was engaged in "supervising" the construction of a camp at Dimyra and we had a fantastic situation with coves like myself, Snow Wiseman, Joe Leis, Mick Reilly and many others telling a great bunch of Jews and Arabs how to do their work.

We did it so well that they even poured concrete without cement and many other sly methods of putting one over. Anyway, we at least got on friendly terms with them, so much so that we received one dozen prime turkeys. Real beauties, and promptly we had to put a guard on them. I can still see my very great friend, Harry Spreadborough, mounting the guard, one private, generally "Baby" Crane or Billy Fleming. It would have been suicide to have tried and got away with one of the turkeys.

What a Christmas we had planned! Unfortunately, the platoon was recalled a few days before the great event, so Bob Wilson agreed that we should eat them at once. How I recall the execution and cleaning of those birds and finally the cooking by old Bob Butler.

Who could forget the scene the following morning when at least eight or nine big turkeys, together with great pots of giblet soup, were served up to a joyful bunch of troops. Lord, could some of them eat!

The mystery of what happened to the other turkeys was never really solved, but I have a feeling that the then Major Neal may have known something of them.

CHRISTMAS DINNER INCIDENT

Well, back to camp and finally Christmas. Dinner served by the officers and quite a spread. I can recall one incident which fortunately ended all right thanks to it being Christmas.

The parade was lining through for their munger and I was standing with Jack Westwood. A huge giant of a Nubian in his flowing "white" gown came up and was gazing hungrily at the mess room. I said to Jack: "Blimey, Jack, there's the Ace of Spades himself."

Unluckily, just at that moment, Wally Thompson passed in the queue. Remember Wally—tiny little great-hearted darkey, well liked by everyone. But what a temper that boy had.

Immediately he jumped out of the line, glared round, and waltzed straight up to the late Col. Brown. Up went the dukes and he danced round like a terrier around a mastiff.

"Don't you call me the ace of spades, you b—— b——. Put 'em up and I'll show you."

Brownie didn't know what it was all about and tried to shoo him away, but

Wally kept going till finally someone grabbed him and pushed him back into the line.

"Holy Joe" and I were in absolute fits of laughter and nearly stifled from trying to hold them in. Of course, it wasn't long before we felt a couple of eagle eyes turned our way and we decided retreat was the best move and promptly did so.

Then the festivities began. That canteen! I wonder how much beer was stored there. I know it kept open for a couple of days and my tent alone accounted for approximately 182 bottles.

My team mates as I recall then, were Jack McGahey, Cliff Barrett, Mick Anselem, Johnny Dologan, Jim Smith and Jim Robertson.

TWO-UP BEFORE BEER!

We had just about reached the end of our finances and sent Jim Smith and Mick to get the final few bottles.

In about five minutes they were back with no beer. The fateful step had been taken with Lady Luck by way of the old two-up.

They were promptly ordered out of the tent and by a stroke of fortune, Mick spotted someone who owed him 200 mils. Got it and straight back to the game, won 500, and arrived back at the tent with a chaff bag of beer. Very warmly received as you can imagine.

And that guard on Christmas afternoon. I can still see it marching on led by Jack Trevithick — it looked like a guard of first week rookies.

But what a wonderful time it was. I hope that these few recollections will encourage someone else to put his memories on paper and thus start what could almost be set up in bank form as a record of the Pioneers overseas.

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 guarantee your receipt of the "Pioneer News."

TREASURER TOURS NORTH

Dear Editors,

Just after Christmas the Shearston family had the pleasure of spending a couple of weeks at Ballina on the North Coast and I can quite see why the Pioneers who live up that way are so proud of it, though I will say the weather is somewhat reminiscent of New Guinea in the rainy season. At least, that's the sort of weather they turned on when we were there. Most of the fish had gone five miles out to sea to find some salt water.

While there we spent two very happy afternoons with Nev. O'Connor (ex-2/2 Pnr.), and family. Nev. has a sugar plantation at Empire Vale and what he doesn't know about sugar farming you could write on the back of a postage stamp.

We "city slickers" were amazed by the magnitude of the farm as we sat on a trailer towed by a tractor driven by two of Nev's young sons, around the many acres that the farm comprises.

Unfortunately, the rain had spoiled the young came to a certain extent, but we were able to gauge why Nev. is so proud of his farm — he has reason to be.

He has more reason to be proud of his family, it would be hard to find a nicer person than Mary, his wife, and what man wouldn't be proud of four typical Australian boys and a daughter with eyes that are sure to start many a lad's heart thumping up that way in a few years time.

I had planned to see many Pioneers on the way up, but unfortunately I had to keep going so that we would not be wasting any precious hours of the long-awaited holiday.

Naturally, being an ex-sig., I made a point of calling at Port Macquarie to see Les. Denham, and Alan Crute at Woolgoolga. Unfortunately, I missed Les, as at that time he was very sick and consequently he spent several weeks at Concord, where I finally visited him after I arrived home.

Alan Crute, his wife, Beulah, and young son, made us very welcome with cups of tea and I was rather sorry that the clock wouldn't let us stay longer. Being a banana farmer, Alan wouldn't let us go on our way without taking a few dozen of his choicest. They were so big, one was a feed, two would have been sheer gluttony.

I looked for Alex. Cameron, on the Harewood Ferry, particularly so, for as Treasurer, I wanted personally to hand him his receipt for a very nice donation to the Association, but according to one of his workmates he had gone fishing. I hope he had more luck than I did. At least he should know where they usually are to be found.

I hope next time I am up that way I shall meet some of the chaps I missed, but there are so many Pioneers on the North Coast one would need more time than I could afford to visit them all, so I shall content myself by wishing each and everyone of them the very best for 1962.

DOUG. SHEARSTON.

NOW IT CAN BE TOLD!

Palestine, the "Promised Land," was "a land flowing with milk and honey!"

This was the mental picture most of us had conjured up before our arrival there, but what a rude awakening was in store for many when actually confronted with the reality of that undulating chocolate coloured terrain, with its ever-present clouds of fine powdery dust!

Although this incident is now rapidly receding into the distant past, it only seems like yesterday when "home" was a mud splattered E.P.I. tent on a dusty Palestinian hill.

CANE BED MEMORIES

Memories flood back of cane beds which always collapsed at the most inconvenient times; burgoos; egg powder scrambled eggs; goldfish and marmalade jam. To complete the scene, one must not forget to mention the playing field, the water tower and the cinema.

This description would fit any of the many camps scattered along the coastal plain, but in reality was a place called Hill 69.

It was pay night and we were sitting in the tent yarning and having a few beers. On one side was Joe (Spag) White, holding forth to his own circle of listeners about his pre-war cane-cutting days.

On the other side of the tent was Pat (Lonely) Dwyer, relating to his particular flock his sheep-shearing experiences.

As the night wore on the quantity of liquor consumed increased and so did the general noise and crossfire of conversation.

At last, in sheer desperation, Pat exclaimed in a loud voice: "I'll have to give up. I can't find my sheep for the cane thrash!"

Even this sally had no effect on stopping the irrepressible Joe, who just continued talking, despite the roars of laughter.

So, mates, every time I see sheep or cane I remember that verbal duel at Hill 69 between Joe and Pat, which, in my opinion, ranks as one of the best ever.

—Jack (Banjo) Martin.
NX 46187.

LAST POST

We are indebted to Jack Collis for sending along the following information regarding our former members.

NX 22129 Pte. A. W. Parsonage, 2/1st.
VX 56427 Pte. G. H. Reynolds, 2/2nd.
VX 16994 Sgt. C. L. Warren, 2/2nd.
NX 12508 Capt. R. C. Egan, 2/1st.
NX 18713 Pte. B. P. Snowden, 2/1st.

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

EDITORS' THANKS

We would like to thank John Harnetty, Bill Hoffman, Harry Montague and R.S.M. Talberg for news articles received.

These articles have been placed in our stockpile and will be used in the next issue.

IN PASSING

● **MAX HERRON**, as Group Scoutmaster, trekked north over the New Year holidays to an uninhabited island off Maryborough, Queensland. In company with 48 Scouts and three other Scouters, Max found his three main impressions were . . . firstly, a good time they all enjoyed . . . secondly, the help given by Pioneer Jack Alien during the luggage transshipping period to and from Brisbane interstate stations and, thirdly, the absence of A.W.L. Pioneers on Fraser Island.

● He has not been mentioned to any degree, and no doubt does not wish for it, but do not let us underestimate what a good job our Treasurer, **DOUG. SHEARSTON**, is doing for this Association. Doug. often burns the midnight oil and his exact reports at meetings are most acceptable and gratifying to us as members.

● Any Pioneers in Trundle? Our member, the Rev. **FRED LOVELESS**, has been posted to that fair town, and I am sure Fred would welcome a call from any Pioneer.

● **JACK ROBERTS**, C Coy., 2/1st, lives at Randwick and is a hospital employee at the Prince of Wales Hospital.

● **CHARLIE JOHNSON**, D Coy., of the 2/1st, of Stanmore, reports business is still good in the transport game, and he has now six trucks on the road. Must keep you busy, Charlie.

● **JACK BROWN**, R.A.P., 2/1st, of Padstow, works with the N.S.W. Transport Department, and says he met old friend Mick Rudder in his travels. Jack has strict instructions to tell Mick we do have an Association next time they meet.

● **JACK PRICE**, A Coy., 2/1st, is an ironworker at The Arcos Foundry and lives at Merrylands. Jack mentions he often has a noggin with Jack Brown, Len Weyman and Hugh Green. All four send best wishes to all 2/1st mates.

● **RAY HILL**, D Coy., 2/1st, is now in a lovely new home at Padstow. Ray is a french polisher by trade, but is extra busy these days laying out gardens and promoting the fast growth of the vegetable patch.

● **BRUCE SMITH**, A Coy., 2/1st, now lives at Willoughby and is with an electrical firm at Gladesville. Bruce sends all the best to all old mates in A and B Coys.

● **JOHNNY CLIFFORD**, A Coy., 2/1st, is also in his own home at Frenchs Forest and works with a firm of wholesale grocers. John sends a cheerio to all his old mates and mentions that he still follows Balmain in the Rugby League competition, but he finds little time these days for any personal sport.

● **ALEC. MILLWOOD**, C Coy., 2/1, now of Hurstville, is a brushmaker by trade. Which brings to mind there are few trades not represented in the unit. Alec. sends best wishes to all old friends in C Coy.

● **BERT MOORE**, 2/1st, sent along a short note with an apology for his non-attendance at a recent committee meeting, due to a spell off work with ulcer trouble. Hope your are OK again, Bert, and best wishes for your continued good health.

● **BERT HOOLE**, A Coy., 2/1st, is working these days as a maintenance carpenter at Rosehill Racecourse. Working with him, as a maintenance painter, is fellow Pioneer, **CECIL SALOWAY**. Not a bad combination when you have your own homes.

● **FRED. CALLAWAY**, 2/1st, of Kingsgrove, met **JIM ROBERTSON**, of H.Q. Coy., 2/1st, in Wentworth recently, and had quite a yarn about old times. Fred. was staying at Wentworth doing a project for the Public Works. Jim sends regards to all his mates.

PLEASE FILL IN FORM BELOW

At a recent Social Committee meeting there was a long discussion as to what type of social activities were most acceptable to the members.

This was brought about by the small roll up to almost every function we have arranged, including the Smoko in November, where we expected that almost every Pioneer in Sydney and beyond would have been pleased to come along for a few hours and renew friendships that should never be allowed to lapse.

Below is a questionnaire. Please fill in the information required and add any suggestion of your own and post to the Secretary.

| Function | Yes | No | Would You Attend |
|----------------------|-----|----|------------------|
| Bi-Annual Smoko | | | |
| Anzac Day Smoko | | | |
| Annual Picnic | | | |
| Annual Barbecue | | | |
| Annual Launch Picnic | | | |
| Picnic Golf Day | | | |
| Bowls Day | | | |

Surname.....

Christian Name.....

Present Address.....

Last Address.....

Battalion.....

Platoon No. Coy.....



• **Mrs. DOROTHY EDWARD**, West Ryde, sends a grateful letter of thanks to John Harnetty and the "News" for the article on her late husband, Jim (Pop-Eye) Edward. Your name has been placed on our mailing list, Mrs. Edward, and copies will be sent regularly in the future.

• **ARTHUR STAFFORD**, D Coy., of the 2/2nd, despatched a nice letter — probably the best from a 2/2nd member for some time — and, if the message hits home, it could be the forerunner of further efforts from the 2/2nd. Arthur, in company with his wife and family, recently toured the Snowy Region and Melbourne. Whilst in Victoria, he met Bob Westfield, who is with the M.L.C. Insurance Company, and Bob will receive future copies of the "News." Arthur recalls the time when Bob (pre-war) was a representative Rugby Union player and captained a Union team which visited Japan. Arthur also had news of George Dobson, who was Band Sergeant at Kapooka. George now resides at Garden Vale and, although we have his phone number and the place where he teaches music, we are not in possession of his address — probably Bob could help in this regard. George composed two numbers which their band frequently played — "The Kapooka March" and "Who Put the Poo in Kapooka." To quote Arthur, "George was the champion trumpet player in Australia."

• **FRANK (BLUE) LOCANE**, 14th Pln., C Coy., 2/2nd, writes from Banks-town and passes on news of another Pioneer "we have not seen since we came home." He referred to Neville (Butch) Phillips, now of Greenwell Point. When "Butch" first joined up, he was sent to Dubbo and brought with him his old faithful — a Bengal cut-throat razor. On being issued with an army razor — safety type — he returned to the hut with severe face lacerations and hence the name "Butch." Nev. owns a fishing boat at Greenwell Point. His address has been noted and back numbers already forwarded by our Secretary. (For your information, Frank, "Butch's" christian name is Neville, not Norman. Both brothers were in the same platoon, but Norman lives at Laurieton, on the North Coast. We received a letter from Norm. recently, and he mentioned that "Butch" was at Greenwell Point and was the Phillips you had met up with. Thanks for your letter, Norm., and the explanation).

• **ALAN BLACK**, B.H.Q., 2/1st, of Coolamon (not Dora), was recently in Sydney and, after meeting some of the "city slickers," reckons it is time he became a member of the Association. While in the "Big Smoke," Alan met Gordon Kitching, Austie Ronan, our President Allen McInnes, and renewed

acquaintance with us Editors per the phone. If there are any Pioneers down Coolamon way, Alan., "sign 'em up."

• **NOBBY SMITH**, 2/1st, late of Temora, now resides at Berala in Sydney, and before forsaking Temora had a day out with numerous Pioneers. The address of the chaps you mentioned, namely "Pop" Shoebridge, Jack Myers, Harold Stafford, Harry Baker and Frank Bourke, would be handy to us, Nobby, as they are not on our list. We hope to see you at some of our functions during the year.

• **JAMES STANNARD**, C Coy, 2/1st, sends a welcome donation and a letter of thanks for the "News." "I have met many of the lads in my travels," writes Jim. He mentions Charlie Johnson, Wal. Corrigan, "Tich" Setner, "Bluey" Wade, "Blue" Evans and Phil. (?). Only two of the above are on our mailing list, and if addresses could be supplied, it would save forwarding on your copy of the "News."

• **HUGHIE GREEN**, C Coy., 2/1st, a consistent correspondent and a good Association member, sends news of his trip west at Xmas, where at Euabalong he met Bill McKie, who is a ganger on the Railways. Locally, Hughie sees Con Fitzgerald and Fred Adams (both are railway employees) and concludes his letter by passing on his regards to all Pioneers, particularly 15 Pln., C Coy.

• From **BOB McTAGGART** we welcome a letter and donation. Bob served C Coy., 2/2nd, and has recently returned from a trip up north (as far as Bundaberg). He only met one Pioneer, Eddie Weston of Lismore. Bob was disappointed to learn from Eddie that he had driven past Bill Stewart's house at Nundah, Brisbane. "Stewie" had spent a number of years in Western Australia since the war, but had now settled permanently in Qld. (All C Coy., 2/2nd, would remember "Stewie"). Bob's daughter, Dianna, is now school teaching at Werris Creek. Best wishes to you, Bob, and we hope to see you over the Anzac period.

• **TOM CONNOLLY**, 2/1st, of Wallabadah, has at last got around to writing a few lines, and many thanks for your letter and your donation. Tom mentions that he was recently in Wagga and stayed with Tommy Budd and his family. He also met up with Bill McCarter, who used to play the cornet in the "old band." Bill was over from Wollongong on holidays, and he works for the Dept. of Interior Survey. We would like Bill's address for our mailing list if you have it, Tom, and copies of the "News" will then be posted to him.

• **TOBY HALE**, 7 Pln., A Coy. 2/1st, of Kyogle, sent along a welcome donation to the "News" and news of the birth of a baby son last year, after having been married for 13 years. Guess that event would excuse you, Toby, for forgetting to send your sub. along, and we send our heartiest congratulations, both to you and your wife. Toby mentions that he recently met Harold Buckland in Lismore, and that Harold had been married nine months ago.

• **CLARRIE PAKES**, Q.M.S., B Coy. 2/1st, says many thanks for the "News" and sent his donation to help keep up the good work. Hope to see you at the Anzac functions, Clarrie.

• **Mrs. IRENE HEPBURN**, wife of Frank, C Coy., 2/2nd, of Marrickville, sent along a short note and donation. Pleased to hear from you again, and many thanks for your continued support.

• **BILL HOFFMAN**, 2/1st, of Kyogle, sent along two very nice letters and two articles from members for the "Pioneer News." Thank you immensely for the nice compliments you passed on to our Executive and Committee, Bill. Your inquiries have been noted and will be attended to, Bill.

AWARD OF BRITISH EMPIRE MEDAL TO STAFF SGT. W. W. SMITH

Among the New Year Honour List was the award of the B.E.M. to Staff Sergeant Wally Smith, formerly of B Coy., 2/1st.

The text of the citation was as follows:

"Staff Sergeant Smith has been active in both part-time and full-time military duty for over twenty-two years.

To my knowledge over the last eight years he has unstintingly and beyond the normal course of his duties, rendered diligent, untiring and valuable service in the rank of Staff Sergeant. Prior to this, his service in lower non-commissioned ranks, both in Australian Imperial Forces and Australian Military Forces, has earned commendation and praise.

It is this type of non-commissioned officer who provides the strength of the part-time military forces. The example of steady, accurate and thorough execution of his duties provided by Staff Sergeant Smith has done much to encourage younger and newer soldiers, as well as his contemporaries, to perform their tasks in the same selfless manner."

On behalf of the Association, Wally, we offer our best wishes and heartiest congratulations on your award.

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SOME STRAY THOUGHTS ON THE DAY WE HONoured

The Big Day is over for another year. The Pioneers were out again—thinner in ranks, maybe, but all there in Spirit. There are the local howlers who call us warmongers because we have the impertinence to mourn our dead and rejoice with the living.

The young intellectuals who periodically blood their pens in vitriol to tell us we're a lot of old hasbeens who bludge on the badge for a free day are still active.

Let's be sorry for them! It's easy to chip a man for following a tradition when you don't own any part of it. Of course, it's also easy to tell us Anzac Day is just a day of licence to get full; to play swi in Hyde Park; and pinch bus conductress' bottoms for the sake of a day and a chestful of baubles.

Admittedly, Anzac afternoon is a free and easy time. But the scoffers who count the bar campaigners don't know what's behind the few muted footfalls in slow march past the Cenotaph, the swing-back of years in the hush, broken only by the plaintiveness of the Last Post.

HAPPINESS OF RE-UNION

Only those who've been there can appreciate the recaptured reality of the casual field sketch drawn by a finger in the beer splashes on a bar counter. It's when old hands get together that they know the happiness of reunion with mates who still make the Day and the poignancy of recollection of absent faces.

And that's something you can't share with somebody who hasn't been there to find out what makes a Digger tick on the one Day of the year.

Let's be sorry for them! In the past we've been called "dollar-a-day murderers," "economic conscripts," "escapists," and whatnot.

But the fact still holds that just once a year we remember the basic obligation for which we served—to see that the other bloke gets a fair go.

The main body of us didn't plunge too deeply into the causes of two Great Wars, but all of us had a pretty good idea of the effects.

Tyranny takes many forms. We're confronted with a few types of it now in various places.

But all we can do is remember that it's better to have lived a short span as a man than a lifetime as a doormat.

And, even if this note on the Day sounds like a sermon, it may be what most of us believe.

ANZAC MARCH

Nearly 27,000 returned servicemen and women marched through sunlit Sydney streets in perfect autumn weather to commemorate the Gallipoli landing on April 25, 1915.

Despite the fact that this was the biggest Anzac Day march since 1959, the parade by Pioneers was not up to the numbers of former years.

At their separate assembly points there were one hundred and fifty 2/1sts and seventy-five 2/2nds.

It must be pointed out that the controlling powers had changed the usual assembly point and some mix ups occurred, which kept the committeemen busy rallying members.

LEADERS OF THE MARCH

At the fall in, the Pioneers showed that their old days of square bashing hadn't been wasted.

Colonels Graham and Neal headed the 2/1st early phase of the procession, with Major Gordon Osborne taking over at the Town Hall. The banner was in the capable hands of the Association's master-of-arms, Bob Lake.

Allan McInnes, Don Lawson and Jack Henderson led the 2/2, and their banner was expertly carried firstly by Jim field, then by Bill Nicholls.

OFFICERS' ATTENDANCE GOOD

It was very pleasing 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.

Country visitors were in force from Orange, Newcastle, Wagga, Wollongong, Cessnock, Kyogle, Queensland and Victoria, which all goes to prove . . .

"WE WILL REMEMBER THEM."

BI-ANNUAL SMOKO

At the last committee meeting it was decided, by a slender majority, to hold the Bi-annual in November.

In the two previous years the attendance has been poor, and in consequence we have "gone down the drain" with our finance. Our secretary has previously sent out special reminders to our 400 metropolitan members, reminding them of, and inviting them to, the Bi-Annual, with little response to his efforts.

This year we are catering for those who NOTIFY the secretary they will be in attendance.

HOW? . . .

- (1) In person;
- (2) By 'phone, UL5491; or
- (3) By filling in the slip shown in this issue and posting it to 3 Enoggera Road, Beverly Hills.

It was decided at the May committee meeting to investigate the possibility of finding a more centrally situated hotel for our smoko and Anzac Day function.

Following on this, the social secretary, Jack Westwood, in his usual prompt manner, visited the Castlereagh Hotel with his social committee and found a much improved venue for our Bi-Annual Smoko.

So every time you see a Pioneer, say to him . . .

**SEE YOU AT THE
CASTLEREAGH HOTEL**

(Corner Castlereagh and Park Streets)
**FOR THE BI-ANNUAL SMOKO
ON FRIDAY, 23rd NOVEMBER, 1962
at 7.30 p.m.**

Please Cut Out and Post

I will be attending the Bi-Annual Smoko.

(Print in Block Letters)

Surname

Christian Name

Present Address

Last Address

Battalion

Platoon No. Coy.

EDITORIAL

It's a Pity We're Neurotic!

JOHN HARNETTY, C Coy., 2/1

At a recent committee meeting we were told of the case of one of our members whose nervous resources had suffered so severely through war-caused disabilities that he had been admitted to Yaralla in another of a long and damaging series of breakdowns.

We were reminded that as late as last November, a certain eminent Sydney doctor told a group of his professional colleagues:

"Seventy-five per cent. of the men drawing pensions for nervous disorders have personality defects with which they were born.

"These drongoes have been falsely called neurotics. They're using neuroses as an alibi for their failure in life.

"They don't want the pension for the money it carries, but for the status it gives them.

"They are people who say 'I was never any good'—and they never will be, either!"

It's a matter of history that this gentleman claimed service in New Guinea as a specialist during World War II. I think I'd be echoing the sentiments of State R.S.L. President, Bill Yeo, when I say, "God help his luckless customers!"

It seems a funny thing that war neuroses are well-established as the grounds for Repatriation Department claims, and that claimants for these benefits have to pass pretty stiff Board tests before they qualify for treatment or pension or both.

The doctor just quoted, must have a pretty low estimate of the skill of his colleagues if he suggests that 75 per cent. of the men who qualify are no-hopers just working a lark for any easy bludge on the R.A.S. badge.

PIONEERS PLAGUED BY ILL-HEALTH

Our own Association has its quota of nerve-case pensioners.

Some of them, like the unlucky Dig. mentioned in the introduction to this item, are plagued by ill-health to a degree that makes it necessary for them to have regular recourse to Yaralla facilities.

Others keep going with periodic outpatient treatment.

Some have drifted into Skid Row because they've thrown their hands in, and let Fate's tide wash them where it will — mainly to the bombo bottle and the City Night Refuge.

And it's a melancholy fact that lots of us could slip down the same way, if it weren't for factors such as a wish to box on, or the support of friends, relatives, kindly employers, religion — and understanding doctors!

The critical specialist quoted for you talks about "personality defects."

We all know that it's not hard to simulate symptoms for some ailments. But I'd say from practical

experience that it's no easy task to toss a Board of men, most of whom couple war service with their professional qualifications.

It's reasonable to suppose they can pick out the main body of lead-swingers with a series of examinations of service histories, medical histories, general background and bearing, and other factors.

INGLEBURN SPUD-BARBERS

If these doctors can't pick the com-men, the Repatriation Act may just as well be ripped up and stuffed down the drain.

We know that some of the hard-bitten characters trying to come the Old Soldier stunt remained Ingleburn spud-barbers for the duration of hostilities.

We all know that their only campaigns were the ones in which they sought to flog rationed canteen goods to civvies at the best price the market would bear.

But the blokes we're concerned with are the genuine cases — the ones whose plight now dates back to some organic setback engendered by fright, boredom, blast, constant fatigue, and the thousand-and-one other things that come under the blanket heading of "Exigencies of the Service."

THEY'RE ALL SCREWY

Well, it could be pointed out that Major-General Orde Wingate once suffered such mental torment that he attempted suicide, and nearly left the service because of broken nerves (and I should say that continued battling with the War Office would shatter even the toughest nervous system).

We could say that Winston Churchill suffered a personality defect because he's been a solid toper for his entire adolescent and adult life.

We could claim that any number of leaders — famous and infamous — were screwy from childhood, or babyhood. Montgomery showed all the signs of believing he was driven by a Divine mission. Mountbatten could have been deemed a crackpot because he tinkered with electronics. General Wolfe, the hero of Quebec, was a neurotic all his life, and Lord Nelson seemed to have had an almost psychopathic hatred of the sea.

WE'RE ALL NUTS

Let's face it, boys — we're all nuts to some degree. It's another melancholy fact that it takes wars to bring that degree of nuttiness to the snapping-point!

INTRODUCING CO-EDITOR . . .

Vic Whiteley



Co-Editor, Vic. Whiteley (photo above), has been a very popular figure at Committee meetings since the Association first commenced, and it is indeed a very dull meeting without him — and his "little black book."

For the past three years Vic. has been a co-editor on the "Pioneer News" and has done a tremendous job in handling all the letters for the "Mail Bag."

Vic. was with the 2/1 Pioneers at Greta and Dubbo when it was originally formed and sailed for the Middle East on the Johan De Witte. He served with the unit in the Transport Platoon, H.Q. Coy., in such places as Tobruk, New Guinea and Borneo.

Upon discharge, Vic. took up duties with the Railways Department, where he is at present employed as a clerk at the Darling Harbour garage.

Vic. is a very busy person in private life, as can readily be seen by the following positions he holds:

Co-editor, member social committee, wrapping committee and welfare fund of this Association.

Treasurer of Rats of Tobruk Association.

Group committee member Riverwood and Peakhurst Scout Groups.

Transport sergeant, Railways Army Unit.

Coach, umpire, manager, Penshurst R.S.L. Youth Club cricket and baseball teams.

Vic. is assisted in all these activities by his charming wife, Peg, who is well known to many Pioneers. Peg and Vic. have three sons, Chris, Neil and Keith, and each week-end the family can be found on the sporting field in which they are intensely interested.

But . . .

TALBERG

Wasn't There

Venerable Herbert Talberg, ex-R.S.M., of the 2/1st Pioneers, could not march with us on Anzac Day.

He tried to wangle his way out of Concord to be in on the do, but the sisters at the Hospital told him flatly that the doctors ruled out any appearance by Tal.

The spirit was definitely there—but when you're crocked in the infirmary with a suppurating leg wound, bronchitis, a slightly syncopating pump, and various other disorganised bits and pieces, it's good to lie doggo and do what nurse tells you.

Tal told me he could have made the march—and I feel sure the old bathtub would have tried, even if he'd been allowed to crawl on his hands and knees. But even the most cynical of us will admit, albeit grudgingly, that doctors get a periodic rush of brains to the skull, hence, C.B. for Tal.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO SISTER MUNRO

However, when I saw him he was far from inactive. He was one of a chorus of old sweats singing "Happy birthday to you," in one fine spirit, if not in one key of the tonic solfa.

The occasion was the birthday of Sister Munro—"Darby" to the boys when she was out of earshot.

I met Sister Munro—a charming little despot, obviously adored by the mob. She was the recipient of gifts from all of the boys in Tal's ward, and it was declared by one and all to be remembered by Sister Munro and her charges.

Tal's on the verge of retirement from his job, in which he was deeply respected.

However, when the doctor tells you it's time to concentrate on the backyard asparagus instead of the inward and outward correspondence, you can only do as he says.

It's a certainty that all the mob will wish Tal all the best in the years ahead and those who pass through Bathurst will be warmly greeted by the old blighter. I understand he's a charter member of the local R.S.L. Club, and the Education Office in the city will be glad to give a forwarding address.

I had the privilege of seeing a get-well letter sent up from Tal's old department there. It seems clear that he has quite a stack of cobbles apart from us.

—JOHN HARNETTY (2/1)

BI-ANNUAL SMOKO

The Bi-Annual Smoko will be held on Friday, 23rd November, 1962, so make a note of this date in your diary.

UNOFFICIAL HISTORY No. 1

"Whacko, Me Boyo, For Dingly Dello!"

Once upon a time there was a lousy, flea-bitten disgrace to the Egyptian Navy called the Amiriya Fawzia, and in this animated tin-can was carried the main body of the 2/1st Australian Pioneer Battalion from Alexandria to Sollum.

Now, children, if you don't know where Sollum is, you weren't in the 2/1st Pioneer Battalion at the time of the push by the Sixth Division which gave Mussolini such a jolt.

The way to Tobruk was open and Benghazi garrison was tottering at the knees when the troops landed on this spot—but I'm drifting from the essence of the yarn.

What I meant to say was that transport was so scarce at that time that the Battalion had to wait until enough enemy vehicles could be serviced along with our own wheels to lift the party into Tobruk.

So at Sollum we stayed until this happy situation could be brought about.

You've never had stew made of salt water, camarado? Well, you haven't missed a damn thing!

In the noblest tradition of the First A.I.F., enough Italian and other transport was pinched to lift us. There were trucks of all kinds—massive Lancias and Fiats, and heaven only knows what varied types they embraced.

One of these, a massive mobile workshop, became the temporary home of No. 5 Platoon.

I think Fred Charlesworth was the mukhtar at that particular time.

Anyhow, in the passage of time Battalion headquarters moved on to Ain Mara, and later was located in Derna.

During this time, what with Italian P.O.W.'s working around us and with Arabs who spoke pidgin Italian, it was necessary for the boys to improvise some lingua franca to get the old message across to the "Ayrabs" and the "Eyetalians."

Yours truly, as scribe, managed quite well—remembering the Italian words on the top left-hand corners of music sheets, and the Latin learned at school.

I do remember one night in Tobruk early in the peaceful days before Rommel, being landed with six Italians wearing Red Cross brassards.

They were members of a burial detail at an area on the outskirts of Tobruk called the Cimeterra Inglese, because a lot of Allied dead were interred there.

SNOOTFULS OF ITALIAN CLARET

We put them up in the Battalion headquarters billet and I interrogated them with gestures and ten words of Italian, fortified by the encouragement of Ser-Major Talberg and copious snootfuls of Italian claret.

We got along no end with those Italians. Why, their Sergente-Maggiore even gave Herb. Thalberg his watch — although he didn't know it at the time!

But again we digress! At Ain Mara it was our general duty to scout around and get parade states and all that muck. One day it was decided that No. 5 should be visited to see if they were all present and correct, and to ensure that no bolts or axles were missing from their mammoth workshop.

We had no trouble finding their pad. Somebody had painted up a sign pointing down the track to it. It bore the inscription "To Dingly Dello — No. 5 Platoonio!"

The boys had little to report, apart from one rather grim, if colourful, incident.

I think I have the record straight, but I'm telling the tale subject to correction, mind you!

An Arab woman came into the platoon area with a left hand and arm horribly mangled. By signs and a few comprehensible words, she said she had picked up a stray Italian hand grenade — such pretty little red money-box things — and while fooling with it the grenade exploded and blew her hand off. Some village wiseacre had cauterised the wound by putting her arm in a fire.

The poor old coot was in a pretty dim state.

It was reported that the M.O., Captain Goultsen, did a very good amputation job on the old girl, with some of the platoon boys acting as operating theatre assistants.

The effect of the surgeon's work was so positive that the Arab woman was sitting up a couple of hours later, scrounging cigarettes and tea from the boys.

This story may be topsy-turvy, but that's how I heard it. Perhaps some of the old hands who were there could throw more light on just another incident of the campaign.

JOHN HARNETTY, C Coy., 2/1

EDITORS ACKNOWLEDGE

The Editors wish to thank the following reporters for the articles as mentioned:

HARRY MONTAGUE, Anzac Day March and Wreath Laying Ceremony.

DON LAWSON, 2/2nd Re-union at St. Peters.

ALF. CARTER, 2/1 Re-union at the Sussex.

BOB LAKE, 2/1 News Jottings.

JACK HENDERSON, 2/2nd News Jottings.

2/1st RE-UNION AT THE SUSSEX

Every 2/1st member on parade received an invitation for the gathering at the Sussex Hotel, and an indeed worthwhile afternoon was organised and carried through by the Committee, with hearty assistance of all members.

During the whole afternoon there was plenty of cheerful reminiscence, hot food, cheese, biscuits and beer. The good fellowship made the day well worthwhile.

Committeemen who had seen the previous observances of Anzac Day declared it one of the best ever. Those members who threw their weight into serving food, directing members to their old cobbles, and general liaison work, had a brisk time of it.

They deserve heartfelt thanks for engineering a most enjoyable occasion.

The Association's strength was amply shown by the willingness of the executive members to pull more than their weight, and by the members in giving their heartiest co-operation to make the day a resounding success.

MANY THANKS TO THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE

To the social secretary, Jack Westwood, we say "thank you" for a job well done.

We would also like to express our appreciation to "the little man with the heart of a lion," and that is Alf Carter, who spent many hours on Anzac Day collecting subscriptions. Many thanks, Alf, and also to your assistant, Doug Shearston.

The Roving Reporters Didn't Forget Their Fountain Pens

On Anzac Day at the March and at the Sussex, your tireless reporters noted the following names. And if anybody has been missed out . . . just blame the cholesterol in the fish or the fog in the grog.

● Colonels Graham and Neal were in the van, as they've been year after year, and cut up quite a lot of old touches with the boys in a quiet glass after the march.

● Then there were Gordon Walsh, Johnny Flood, "Porky" Graham, Gordon Finlay, Jack Lloyd, Cyril Morahan, Kevin of the same ilk — and brother John sent his apologies from Malaya. "Pasha" Jackson and Jack Westwood were also welcome faces among the "strength" of the old unit.

● Noel Schomberg, Vic. Whitely, "Dora" Black, Bert Herne, Joe Bird, Joey Barker, "Wassa" Grice, Wally Young, Albert Brown and Bobby Lake spent a good chunk of the afternoon talking about old times in H.Q. Coy. — and with that mob, how could the conversation ever be dull?

● It was good to see Mick Anselme, Clem Moroney, Mickey Riley, Ken McGregor, Tommy Skoyles and his mate, Norm. Cooper, Bill Hoffman and Eddie Beaumont. They came from the south and the north, and it was truly good to see them — as it always is, whenever they can make it!

● Other faces included old Bill McIntyre, who made the special trip down for the day, and thoroughly enjoyed it. Johnny Dolaghan, Beau Hannaford, Bill Tasker, Ron Irwin, Lance Gayden, Bill Doney, Keith Reynolds and Chris. Stevens were among other old familiar faces to join in the fun.

● Jim McGuirk, Mick Dodson, Snowy Morris and Nobby Cooper also chewed the fat over a jar or so, while such characters as Bluey Walsh, Charley Vickers and the indefatigable Monty looked after the commissariat. And no short rations, either!

● Nobby Cooper came up from Wolongong to be with the team — and right welcome he was. The same applies to Smiler Burns, who was a bit late under the wire, but made the distance just the same.

● The days of old campaigns were recalled by Jack Lloyd, Peter Craig, Bill Hodges, Bert Routley, Don Innes, Ken Oliver, Shrewdie Percival and other steady two-handed men. The unofficial history in this section flowed faster than the refreshments.

● There was also a great deal of scrambled code coming from sig. bods such as Wally Parsons, Ron McFarlane, Bob Burnside, Wimpy Cookson and Keith Reynolds. Not unofficial history here — and lots of it could have been better told in Braille in Sister Street!

● Snowy Hemmings arrived late at the do, but made his mark in the same old happy style.

Let us place on record that Snow was slow at the jump-off, but when it came to the main running, he was right up there with the best of the contenders. The same could be said of Sam Lewis, Ivor Garner, Stan Sayers, Jackie Claypole, Ian Kirkwood, George Edman and Jack Kerslake.

● Austie Ronan was playing his usual quiet, straight bat, and swapping yarns with old Don Coy. cobbles, Gordon Osborne, Sid Percival, "Bimbo" Bell, Jack Lamington, Peter Craig, Norm. Baker, Claude McKeig, John Flood, George Talmie, Ray Hill, Jack Glover and Max Herron, which is not bad for D Coy. roll up.

● Casey Brown was in good form. With golf, football and marbles honours behind him, it's been suggested that Casey should take up a violent campaign in ludo.

● Gus Hunter was with Hughie Green, Dukie Shore, Ted Skoyles and Bob Ross as the mob circulated. Brian Kybert, George Bates, Ron Callaghan, Perce Penrose, Jack Hyde, Jack Robinson, Bert Bloom and Nobby Cooper had a small school of their own for a while. Judging by the laughter, some of their old stories would hardly have got past the Board of Censors.

● Norm. Chant, Brickly Wall, Curly Hughes and Charlie O'Neill set a steady pace from the outset, and Bill Wright, Dick Chalmers, Ned Jennings and Jack Lammerton weren't down among the selling-platers, either.

● Jack Hyde created some anxiety because there were fears that he might have become addicted to lolly-water. However, Jack fixed that by sampling the stout, rough old brew of the Sussex — and giving it favourable judgment.

● There was a sad note in the Day for Charlie Smidt, formerly of B Company. His brother, Arthur, also of B Coy., recently lost his wife, and the sympathy of all members goes out to Arthur in his loss. Arthur has six young ones to look after, but we know they are in good hands with their sadly bereaved Dad.

● It was indeed a pleasure to see Norm. Baker, 18 Pln., D Coy., for the first time in years, and it was noticed he had a pair of good earbashers in the form of Max Herron and Claude McKeig. Norm. wishes to be remembered to his friend, Eric Crocker, and hopes to see him next Anzac Day.

● Fred Callaway and Charlie Vickers did a terrific job on the day, selling tickets, and they are to be thanked for their efforts in swelling the funds.

Members please note that Fred and Charlie suggest all members keep their raffle tickets until the NAME of the winner is announced, otherwise tickets are thrown away only to find there is a re-draw owing to the winning ticket being lost.

● As usual, 8 Pln., A Coy., turned up with Tom Pendlebury, Don Slater, Stan. Hampson, Ned Calderwood, Tick Turnbull, Gordon Findlay, Henry Lloyd, Jock McCulloch, George Bates, Nobby Cooper, Joe Moroney and old Monty exchanging a large chunk of yak-yak — but they had to do it without the aid of Harry Allen, who wasn't on parade. However, there's no doubt he'll be there next time.

● Snowy Morris, of C Coy., came down from Bowral for the day. He made a very generous gesture to the Association, of which he is an ardent supporter, and Jack Westwood gratefully took him up on it. We all thank Snowy for his gift — and for his unfailing enthusiasm to see the Association a vitally going concern.

● Curly Bentley put in an appearance this year, looking as bright as a guardsman's buttons and as sleek as a TV advt. for master-cut clothes.

Curly and Viv. Parkinson got their heads together during the afternoon, and it's easy to imagine how the conversation ran.

It's a pity Austie Ronan and John Harnetty didn't join them to tell about how ragged troops should be starved to death in the face of plenty. But then they say the Almighty created human beings and Army quartermasters. You know the old song . . . "I haven't got it, so you can't have it. If I have got it, you're not entitled to it!" So wrap that up in your old AAB83!

(Page five, please)

2/1 Re-union at the Sussex—Contd.

Anyhow, Curly joined up with the Mob, and let's hope we see him often again. Like most old Q.M.'s, he wasn't a bad poor mongrel such-and-such. Anyhow, he and Viv. and many others had a good convivial day — and shortages of pants, shirts, hat KF and boots AB were the least of their troubles. Bill Fyffe and Wally Young, old originals of A Coy., put their signatures on the dotted line.

Both are looking forward to the next bash — and all hands will be glad to see them.

● Joe Bird, Vic. Whiteley and Joe Barker cornered a corner for themselves, and bashed each other's ears freely with tales of H.Q. Coy.

● Bill Hoffman has a standing order to give our good wishes to the Kyogle boys, of pleasant memory. We know there'll be a warm welcome for any of the Association who head northwards through Bill's territory.

Bill is our reporter for the Kyogle area and is doing an excellent job. Each year he comes down for Anzac Day and we consider him a marathon.

● To end these notes, it would take a book to write of all who were there—but, generally, it was a grand day, the best ever. Everybody thanks those who organised the show, and those who joined in with the spirit that made the old Battalion one of the greatest.

We look forward to even better things next time — and the Committee have pledged themselves to give the best that's available in every way to make sure that Pioneers remember the old days — and, in company, remember those good men who are no longer with us to mark the solemnity and happiness of the day.

LARGER MAILBAG NEEDED

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

That means nine hundred and fifty 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.

"PIONEER NEWS"

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

2/2nd Re-union at St. Peters

After the march the 2/2nds held their 14th Annual Re-union at St. Peters and the general comment of the sixty-three members present was . . . one of the best to date.

Another Anzac Day has come and gone and with the day, memories came back to us of the fellows we lived with — of the cobbers with whom we laughed and had hate-sessions with — our thoughts turn to those who have passed on during the war and since, may they rest in peace. All this we look back on as a very special era in our lives.

The main feature of the success of this function was due to the real warmth of friendship prevailing throughout the hall, and to sit back and witness the many groups in animated conversation discussing old cobbers and incidents made one feel good and happy to be one of the crowd.

The other feature of success was due to the untiring efforts of Dick Kenne- well and his charming wife, Sylvia, who carried out all the catering requirements. Also to Dick "Cappy" Christian, who carried out his usual good job as Master of Ceremonies and one with perfect command of the Australian language. To Jack Howie who was in charge of refreshments go our grateful thanks.

ENTERTAINMENT BY PADRE STEELE

Among the regulars were Padre Claughton and Padre Steele, and the ever-popular President of the 2/1-2/2 Association, Allan McInnes.

Padre Steele entertained the gathering with a soft number, which would have brought him fame if there had been a talent scout present.

It makes one realise time is marching on when you see chaps like Jim Field, Pat Collins and George Nicholls present with grown-up sons.

We were indeed very sorry to come to the end of the day and eagerly look forward to Anzac Day, 1963, when all Pioneers will be assured of a warm welcome at St. Peters.

2/2nd NEWS JOTTINGS

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. Many thanks for a job well done, Jack.

COL. SHEA, who has been over from Melbourne twice, phoned his best wishes to all his mates.

ARTHUR KELLY came down from Barmedman and had a terrific day renewing old acquaintances.

JIM COLLINS, from the town of Orange, was made very welcome by the boys and thoroughly enjoyed himself.

MONTY REID was only in attendance at the march, but wished to be remembered to his mates. Monty comes from Cessnock.

NORM. PHILLIPS came from Wagga to see his mates and considers it well worth the trip.

2/2nd REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

Padre Claughton, in conjunction with Padre Steele, will be conducting a Remembrance Service at the Methodist Church, North Rocks Rd., North Rocks, via Parramatta, on Sunday, November 11, commencing at 7.30 p.m.

This service has been attended by members and wives of the 2/2nd for the last three years and is something to make you really remember.

WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

The Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony of the Association was held on Anzac Eve, and a representative contingent of 60 old comrades wore their medals to the parade in Hunter Street before the march to the Cenotaph.

Bob Lake was marshal, and strictly on time, the procession, headed by the wreath-laying parties, moved from the assembly point with police escort, headed towards Martin Place with a precision and smartness that reflected much credit on the old hands.

Bob MacGregor placed a wreath for the 2/1st and Allen McInnes gave the tribute for the 2/2nd. Mrs. Montague laid a floral garland as a tribute from the Ladies' Auxiliary.

Aub. Brazier sounded the traditional calls to mark the beginning and ending

of the Pioneers' solemn salute to the occasion.

It was a good roll up and bystanders were obviously impressed by the bearing of the paraded veterans of both Battalions.

At the break-off, given by Bob Lake, members adjourned to the steps 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 their annual meeting.

The Bi-Annual Smoko will be held on Friday, 23rd November, 1962. Members are asked to make a note of this date and, if possible, to attend the function.

Tobruk Bush Artillery

A visit to the R.G.H., Concord, recently by Bob McGregor and Max Herron to see R.S.M. Talberg prompts "Tal" to write the following memoirs of early days in North Africa.

"You will recall we three discussed the televised attack on Bardia and Tobruk, and we all agreed that the narrator should have made reference to all branches of the services — Navy, Army and R.A.A.F.

No one disputes that the 17th, 13th and 48th Battalions did a wonderful job, but so did many more, and I am of the opinion that the most interesting incidents have been overlooked by the War Correspondents, so called authors, and historians. Why? Because they were not there! I am sure that all the originals will bear me out when I say that "Jock" McAdam, George Gee and myself were the founders of the "Bush" Artillery, and what a wealth of stories could be written about this alone.

Then, again, our unit was turned from a semi-engineering battalion to an infantry battalion overnight. Those boys concerned will recall that every other unit in the perimeter had to hand over to us one bren-carrier each, and I can assure you that the machines handed over to us were not the best. But our lads soon overcame the carriers' eccentricities, particularly the Grafton boys, and it was not very long before they assisted in supporting the strongposts, etc. It can be said that in the heaviest attack by Rommel our boys stood their ground, and I have a copy of the letter Brigadier (later Major-General) John Murray sent to Colonel Brown, eulogising the defence put up by the battalion. I forget the sector, but I have it in my diary at home.

Coming back to the bush artillery. Quite a few will remember the Oxford accented Queen's Own Regiment captain (his name is in my diary) who used to carry a horsehair fly swat. When his C.O. heard of us, he sent him over to stop our indiscriminate fire towards the enemy by laying our "Iti" guns (without sights), by orders similar to this.

We used to climb a telegraph pole and through field glasses observe the bursts. "Telephone pole middle distance, trajectory telephone pole high. One round, Fire!" Three-quarter pole lower or higher, whatever was required, then 20 degrees right or left, and so on, until the target of the Bardia Road was found. Then, when we were satisfied, we would order that the guns be fixed by tying or blocking until orders were given when a staff was on. I understand that the Hun thought were were a properly constituted battery.

We fired the guns so much that we ran out of shells and we used to refill the brass cases. We found the formula and I used to make successful searches among the numerous "ammo" dumps and send it out to George Gee. He used to refill the cases, and this was done so often that a lot of cases became dented and would not go into the breach.

I have a very interesting story about our Queen's Own captain which I will relate some other time.

Then there are the funny and true sidelights of the "Benghazi Derby," and we must not forget our association with H.M. Navy, not only in Tobruk itself, but at Derna and other places.

"Ginger Whiskers" and "Capt. Kettle" were some of the names the boys used to call the liaison officer, but his real name was Commander Duff and he used to dress immaculately in white shorts, shirt, stockings, cap and shoes, with the customary splash of gold, but this did not render him inefficient in the demolishing and other delaying tactics.

Then there were:—

The duties of the Intell. sections in all the units;

The valuable work done by the platoon who struck the "Rats" first medal and who used to make motor springs with the "Iti" workshop pinched by "Pop-eye" from the engineers right under their noses;

The cheroots, cigarettes and stores we sold in Barce;

The bank robbery in the same town; Our swimming exploits in Tobruk and the staging camp, the asps and the pythons;

Our bringing down the Stuka and the capture of the pilot and observer and their interrogation;

The improvised foreign ack-ack weapons;

Our exploit with starting an old gramophone on "Fritz's" wire, forcing him to expend his ammunition;

The Divisional catacombs;

The calico tanks;

The bakery and iceworks;

The 30,000 prisoners we held;

Our "Iti" servants;

Good grog and bad grog;

The wonderful job our M.C. doctor did;

The fig tree caves;

The tank traps and the days we chased them.

So I could go on. What a wonderful script this and other units could make. I think the powers that be should be told that they have only touched the surface when they have told the story of Tobruk."

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!

JOHN HARNETTY — "PIONEER NEWS"

It is with pleasure that we welcome John Harnetty to the Editorial Staff of the "Pioneer News," for, as you all know, John is an Editor with the "Sun-Herald," and it is a shame for such talent to go wasted on just one newspaper.

The change of face with the "Pioneer News" is due to John's vast experience in the world of journalism and we are indeed very grateful to him for his services and the very fine articles he has written for this issue and past issues.

THANK YOU, JOHN.

—Vic Whiteley and Max Herron.

HOSPITAL VISITATIONS

● **ROY BOUNDS**, of Islington, Newcastle, H.Q. Coy., 2/1, had a short stay in Concord Repatriation Hospital recently and when Jack Collis visited him, you can imagine the topic of conversation, seeing they were both in R.A.P.

● **CEC. WHITE**, 2/1, is on the improvement list at Concord Hospital after suffering a stroke. Visited by Jack Collis, Jack Westwood, Vic. Whiteley and Max Herron.

● **R.S.M. TALBERG**, H.Q. Coy., 2/1, of Bathurst, had another stay in the Repatriation Hospital, Concord, and rang to apologise for non-attendance on Anzac Day. He sent his regards to Major Neale and all his mates. "Tal" was visited by John Harnetty.

● **ROBERT BUCKLEY**, D Coy, 2/1, of Corrimal, is at Repat., Concord, for treatment of stomach ulcers. Bob was a cook in D Coy., in Tobruk. Bob was visited by Jack Westwood, Vic. Whiteley and Max Herron.

The above members were issued with parcels from the Ladies' Auxiliary.

SUBS. NOW 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.



• From **JACK CHARTERS**, D Coy., 2/1, we acknowledge a very nice donation for the "News," and many thanks. No news in your letter, Jack, but maybe next time, we hope. In the meantime, we will certainly keep forwarding the paper.

• **FRED WHEATON**, H.Q., 2/1, and of Wheaton Bros., Butchers, Hickory Street, Dorrigo (it's easy, I copied off the letterhead), sends along a donation and an apology for his non-attendance on Anzac Day this year. Don't know why—it's only 600 miles and although Fred had to open shop on the day before and after—all right, apology accepted.

• Travelling further north from Dorrigo to Indooroopilly, Qld., to acknowledge a letter from **JIM IRELAND**, D Coy., 2/1. Jim has recently moved from Wardell, N.S.W., to the Sunshine State, and is now employed in the Repatriation Department. Per medium of his job, Jim has news of various Pioneers and reports the passing away last year of **LES GOW**, ex D Coy., at the Greenslopes Hospital.

Jim also sends news of **THOMAS (Scotty) ANGUS**, also of D Coy., 2/1, who is now living in Brisbane. Scotty's address has been noted and now appears on our mailing list. Max, our on-the-ball Secretary, informs me back numbers have also been forwarded. Keep your eyes and ears open, Jim, you could even become a Queensland representative of our paper.

• Lucky **PETER O'BRIEN** (good heavens, another D Coy correspondent). Peter, at the moment of writing, is in London on a world tour. Leaving Aussie at the beginning of this year, Peter sailed up the eastern coast to Singapore, then to Aden and Port Suez. While handy, Peter also visited Cairo — he reckons the Wogs haven't changed much, and the food still stinks — from there to Greece, Lisbon and finally, Southampton. He is enjoying his tour immensely. We hope for a safe return, Peter, and look forward with interest to hear more of your trip.

• **ALBERT BARTON**, A Coy., 2/1, writes from Yagoona, where he now works for a BP service station. Many thanks for your sub. and best wishes, Alby, and the news that you had met up with Gus Hunter.

• **MAX LAW** sent word along to the secretary that he spent a week in Sydney in June, but as he was on business he did not have a chance to visit any of his friends. He had intended flying to Sydney for Anzac Day, but on the day previous his wife presented him with a baby son, so Max stayed home.

Very pleased to hear from you, Max, and we extend our hearty congratulations to you and Joyce—we do hope you are all in the very best of health.

• When writing up the "Mailbag," we usually have a letter from **HUGHIE GREEN**, C Coy., 2/1, with some news topics. "Old Faithful" came good once again, although on Anzac Day, Hughie had to go home with a bad cold. It was the first time since discharge that Hughie, Ted Williams and Bill Chisholm have had a get-together.

He was also pleased to see Mick Anselme and Mickey Riley (both Queenslanders). Hughie finishes off his letter by passing on best wishes to all Pioneers and families, especially to C Coy., and above all, 15th Pln. (What about the lads in the section, Hughie?).

• **JIM CULVERWELL**, 2/1, wrote a long, newsy letter recently from Bulolo, in New Guinea, and latest news is that "Tiny" is now back in Aussie. Since leaving B.C.O.F. in April, 1949, "Tiny" has been working in the Territory, the first five years with Burns Philp, at Lae, and the remainder of the time in charge of the spare parts store of Bulolo Gold Dredging. Nice to hear from you again, and your kind regards are passed on to the boys.

• **Dr. STAN GOULSTON**, 2/1, sent along a welcome donation to the "News" and his best wishes to the boys on Anzac Day. Dr. Goulston made reference in his letter to the passing of Bob Egan, one time Adjutant of the 2/1, and said Bob was a fine man with high principles. He worked tirelessly for good causes all his life, particularly Legacy, and was beloved and respected by all. His wife, Enid, supported him to the full in all these endeavours. Thank you, Doctor, for your letter and your kind thoughts. As requested, a sympathy card has been sent to Mrs. Egan. Once again, many thanks, Doctor.

• **BILL WRIGHT**, C Coy., 2/1, of Wyoming, North Gosford, recently met up with Jack Hickey, of Lithgow, who was holidaying in the Gosford district with his family. Jack did not know of the existence of the "Pioneer News," so to make sure he will receive copies in the future, Bill forwarded a subscription on his behalf. Thank you for the kind thought, Bill, and we are sure Jack will be glad to get the "News" in future. Also, many thanks for your nice remarks about the Association and the "News," and your best wishes have been passed on to all concerned.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The next Committee Meeting is to be held on Friday, 10th August, at the R.S.L. Club, Elizabeth Street, at 6.30 p.m.

The following Committee Meeting will be held on Friday, 26th October.

• **KEN STUART**, H.Q., 2/1, sent along his "few bob" to help the cause, and apologies for his non-attendance on Anzac Day. Nice to hear from you again, Ken.

• **Mrs. V. OPREY**, of Corrimall, wrote on behalf of her brother, **ROBERT BUCKLEY**, ex 2/1, also of Corrimall, asking if any Pioneers would care to visit him at Concord Hospital, where he is at present being treated for ulcers. Thank you for your letter, Mrs. Oprey, and members of the unit have already paid Bob a visit.

• From **Mrs. K. WYLLIE**, of Wolloughby, also came a letter on behalf of her brother, **HENRY PATRICK McGRODER**, an ex 2/1. Mrs. Wyllie is anxious to trace her brother, but the Association is unable to help her. His last address was at Haberfield, where he was boarding, and if any member knows his whereabouts it would be appreciated if they would contact the Secretary.

• From **GEORGE NICHOLS**, C Coy., 2/1, we have an apology for his Anzac Day absence, but George has hastened his sub. — a week prior to the 25th. He suffers with an ulcer and, according to his own words, is "forced to view the social life from the side-lines." We are pleased to hear you find the news so enjoyable, George.

LAST POST

We are indebted to Jack Collis for sending along the following information regarding our former members.

NX20367, HAYES, Lewis George, Pte. 2/1st.

VX20430 McLEAN, A., Cpl., 2/1st.

VX18670, FOREST, G., Pte., 2/2nd.

To the 2/2nd Pioneer "Despatch," of Victoria, we are indebted for the following information regarding former 2/2nd members.

G. R. (Bluey) COLCOTT, died as the result of an accident at his home at Bentleigh on 5th September.

A. W. HAWKES died on 16th July.

K. H. HAMILTON, at Perth, last year. We have no details of Ken's death.

N. HORSFIELD, at Heidelberg on 1st October.

R. NELSON, on 5th December.

J. B. ROBERTSHAW, of Tynong, on 2nd September.

H. B. K. SADLER, at Geelong, on 8th February.

COLIN SUTTON, at Heidelberg, on Christmas Day.

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

IN PASSING

● **FRANK BURKE**, 18 Pln., D Coy., 2/1., was recently in the "smoke" for a holiday. Frank headed for the Sussex where he contacted Bob Lake and Vic. Whiteley. He is a shearers' cook and mainly works around the Barmedman-West Wyalong district. Frank wishes to be remembered to all, as his contact with the Association has been slight.

● "To the roar of the racing motors, to the smell of the burning oil"—not lines from Banjo Patterson, but the start of a poem written by **ROY JARDINE**, H.Q., 2/1, during the Western Desert days. Roy may submit the complete poem for printing one day, but in the meantime we are pleased to report he is back at work on full time again following on a bad back—no, not THAT sort. Roy's was through an injury at work.

● **VIC. WHITELEY**, H.Q., 2/1, recently did a month's army camp at Brisbane and, naturally, he looked in on **JACK ALLAN**, 2/1, and a few of the boys. According to his very close friend, Bob Lake, Vic. was "only" playing at being an "unwrapped chocolate soldier" by fighting the "Battle of Brisbane" all over again.

Being a Railway Army Unit, I don't suppose they had to pay their way or did they go the "safe way by A.N.A."

Anyway, we are pleased to hear you had a good time, Vic., apart from the hard work of army life.

● Had a long talk to old pal, **IVOR GARNER**, and he told me his proposed trip to England has been postponed for the time being, as he has been detached to the Training School of the City Council. He will take a professional course at Matraville for a few months, and there's promotion at the end of it for Ivor. And once that little job is buttoned up, Ivor and his wife will be heading overseas with the best wishes from us.

● Another of our great pals, **TAFFY LAWRENCE**, intends going to England about the end of this year. In telling me of his proposed trip, he kindly offered to be of any assistance he could to any Pioneer who may be visiting the Old Dart and may have some problems about it.

Taffy has asked that anybody needing assistance, should forward queries to the Secretary, Max Herron, whose telephone number is on the masthead of the "News." Max will be happy to do the rest, and the thanks of all of us go out to Taffy for his kind offer—a typical gesture from one good old Dig. of the old mob.

BOB LAKE reports as follows:

● "Thought it was a very fine gesture on behalf of **BILL JOLLIE** and **FRED WHEATON** to phone the Sussex Hotel just to wish all present a good Anzac

Day, and to inform everyone that they were keeping their end up in Dorriggo. From later reports, did hear that the said phone call cost some thirty odd shillings. For recompense, we must consult our controller of funds, one Alf. Carter, who, given a small chance, would probably charge both chaps another 30/-. Must say, in all sincerity, that the thought was really appreciated, Fred and Bill, and hope that it is the forerunner of, not only phone calls, but perhaps a visit in the near future."

● While on the subject of phone calls, would also like to report the call from **JIM ROBERTSON**, ex-Sig., all the way from Wentworth. This call, on the Sunday afternoon, just about took my breath away. I recognised the voice, but honestly thought some chap must have been in Sydney. Jim was also inquiring about Anzac Day, and he sounded just a little bit pensive when I quoted a few names and some of the doings.

I also spoke to his good wife, Margaret, and wives, please note . . . she did mention that James was perhaps a little homesick on this day for a look at Sydney, and perhaps a few of the old faces. I always knew "Robbo" would pick one of the best.

Congratulations, Margaret, on being a really understanding wife. I suppose really that the wives all understand, but doesn't it take a lot to make them admit it?

● Arriving at the Sussex some four or five days late, one **FRANK BURKE**, ex-Don Coy., 2/1, looking for Pioneers. As I explained, most of them go home the same day nowadays, but I managed to entertain him for a couple of days before he left for home — Barmedman. Appears he struck Paddy Gray who told him of our doings.

● Reporting for **JOE WHITE**, who after Anzac Day, boarded the express for Kempsey, where he stayed a week with his daughter and son-in-law. A few names were quoted, one a certain timber cutter who can lose Snowy Hemmings—this guy has eight girls.

Joe also toddled up to Dorriggo, where he put in a pleasant few hours with Fred and Jean Wheaton. Sorry the fish were not available, Jean. It is whispered that the same couple could be visiting Sydney in the near future, and dances and so forth are being lined up to suit the occasion. Make it soon, "big feller."

Joe missed Bill Jollie at the bank in Bellingen, apparently they give banks holidays for anything, including the Bellingen Show. Joe also reports that Sid Jopson has been transferred from Port Macquarie to Tenterfield, still in the bank. How about a few lines, Sid?

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Association was held at the Returned Soldiers' Club on Tuesday, April 24, 1962, immediately after the Wreath Laying Ceremony.

The meeting was chaired by the President, Mr. Allen McInnes.

Thirty-five members were present.

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

OFFICE-BEARERS FOR 1962-1963

The following are your office-bearers for the ensuing year:

Patron:

COLONEL GEOFF. GRAHAM.

President:

CAPT. ALLEN MCINNES.

Vice-Presidents:

**BOB MCGREGOR and
BILL HOFFMAN.**

Secretary:

MAX HERRON.

Social Secretary:

JACK WESTWOOD.

Treasurer:

DOUG. SHEARSTON.

Editors:

**JOHN HARNETTY, VIC. WHITELEY
and MAX HERRON.**

Publicity Officers:

**HARRY MONTAGUE and
JOHN HARNETTY.**

Auditor:

ARTHUR WATSON.

Hon. Trustees and Advisors:

**GEOFF. GRAHAM, FRANK ALLEN
and TOM CROSSMAN.**

Master-at-Arms:

BOB LAKE.

Reporters:

**2/1: BOB MCGREGOR, ALF. CARTER
and JOE OLLIFFE.**

**2/2: JIM FIELD, DON LAWSON and
JACK HENDERSON.**

Social Committee:

**Messrs. WESTWOOD, BERTRAM,
SHEARSTON, MCGREGOR, HERRON,
WHITELEY, LAKE, CARTER, MON-
TAGUE, HENDERSON, GANNON and
WOODHAM.**

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:
MAX HERRON

Editors: **J. HARNETTY,**
V. WHITELEY and M. HERRON

President:
ALLAN McINNES

Vol. 7. No. 3

1st NOVEMBER, 1962

Price: 5/- Per Annum



SMOKO AT THE CASTLEREAGH HOTEL

In order to provide members with a more central point, the Committee has decided to move from the Sussex Hotel and to hold the Bi-Annual Smoko at the CASTLEREAGH HOTEL, on Friday, 23rd November, at 7.30 p.m.

This is a much improved venue and the Committee has taken this step after so many complaints from the members regarding the standards of the previous hotel.

The CASTLEREAGH HOTEL is situated at 50 Park Street, Sydney, on the corner of Park and Castlereagh Streets.

The Smoko will be held in the Quarter Deck Lounge, on the first floor, and will commence at 7.30 p.m.

This lounge will be opened entirely for the use of Pioneers and friends, so you can be assured of a grand time.

NO CHARGE FOR SUPPER

There will be no charge for supper, as the Social Committee will provide

biscuits and cheese. Reschs beer will be on tap.

The social secretary, Jack Westwood, and his committee have spent many hours of unpaid work on this change-over and the arrangements thereto, and they are quite in order in saying: "If the attendance is not over one hundred, this is the last."

This is not much to ask when the membership shows four hundred and fifty members in the Sydney area.

FRIENDS OF PIONEERS WELCOME

The social secretary extends a hearty welcome to all friends of Pioneers to attend this function. We are proud of the praise bestowed on the Association in the past by visitors at our functions for permitting them to attend, and it is a pleasure to have them with us.

"Come In, Spinner"

TREASURER APPEALS TO MEMBERS

Although we all enjoy reading the "Pioneer News," with its wealth of topics of popular interest to us all, there are many in the Association who don't seem to realise what it costs to produce and post.

To be exact, 751 out of a membership of 1,010 have FAILED to pay their subscriptions this year and it is to these Pioneers I direct my appeal.

Printing of the paper has risen considerably over the last few years and no doubt many would say this could be met if we canvassed for advertising, but very few of us would like to see news replaced by advertising, and I think your editors do a very good job without the added burden of finding people who would be interested in advertising in our paper.

SUBSCRIPTION ONLY 5/- PER YEAR

Your subscription is only 5/- per year, though many members pay more, but it doesn't seem fair that the generosity of these members has to be used to offset the lack of support from those Pioneers who receive and enjoy "Pioneer News" year after year without any thought of what it must cost.

Our financial year commenced on 1st April, 1962, so if you have paid your subs. since then, please accept my thanks and ignore this appeal, but if you haven't you will find the secretary's address on the front of the paper, and don't forget he appreciates any news you might include with your cheque.

DOUG. SHEARSTON,
Hon. Treasurer.

HOSPITAL VISITATIONS

Reported by Bob McGregor

Jack Westwood, Max Herron, Bob McGregor and Jack Collis recently visited the following members while they were "guests" of Concord Repatriation Hospital.

Jack McCracken (12 Pln., B Coy.), of Stockton, has been in and out of hospital so much in the last few years that they are considering keeping a permanent bed for him.

Jack has a spine injury caused through an accident when attached to the 14th Workshops at Cairns, the C.O. at the time being an old mate of ours, the late Arthur Scorey, of D Coy.

Even though Jack was in much pain, he could still laugh over some of the humorous incidents that occurred while he was with the mighty 2/1st Pioneers.

He sent his best wishes to all his mates. Well, Jack, we do hope that by now you are well on the road to recovery and we wish you all the best in the future.

Gordon Glazebrook (10 Pln., B Coy.) was in the same ward as Jack and we had a very pleasant half-hour talking over old times.

Gordon, who is now a T.P.I., had been in Concord Repat. for treatment, and was being transported by car to the Lady Davidson Home for a rest, when the car became involved in an accident. The result of which, Gordon ended back in hospital with a broken shoulder and a couple of cracked ribs.

Gordon considers a stay in hospital a waste of time as he can't pay his regular visits to the "local."

He will be remembered by all members by his nick-name, "All Love," so called after the famous race horse, who, I am told, still holds the Australian record for five furlongs (no arguments, please fellows).

Well Gordon, we hope by now you are fully recovered and able to make your regular visits to the "local" and we wish you all the best for the future.

★ COUNTRY SMOKO

ON SATURDAY, 23rd FEBRUARY, 1963, AT 6 P.M.
AT THE PORT MACQUARIE R.S.L. — SEE PAGE 4

VALE — LES JOHN DENHAM

On Friday, 27th July, my very close personal friend of war years, Les Denham, passed away at the early age of 48 years.

He died in the Hastings District Hospital, Port Macquarie, following a period of illness over the last twelve months, which culminated in his seeking medical care in Concord Repatriation Hospital in January of this year.

With other committeemen, I visited Les at Concord and, although he was a very sick man on admittance, he seemed to improve by each visit and was finally given a clearance to go home after a stay of six weeks.

WELL LIKED BY ALL

2/1 Pioneers will remember Les, or "Denny," as most Pioneers named him, as the little signaller in H.Q. Coy. who had a smile and a joke for everyone. To me, he had "personality plus," and not once did I ever hear Denny criticize or speak harshly of a living soul. He was extremely well liked by all who knew him, and his quiet disposition and likeable nature were admired by one and all.

At each opportunity while on leave from the Army, together with my wife I would head for Port Macquarie and, with only one day's notice, Denny would have even the bridal suite at the Hotel Royal prepared for our arrival.

COURTESY BY THE "LITTLE KING"

Even after the war this same courtesy by the "Little King" was extended not only to us, but also to many Pioneers and friends passing through Port Macquarie.

Our last holiday at Port was spent with Bernie Reiners (Sig. Pln. 2/1) and family, when once again Denny organised our every need—even to the extent of taking both our wives to the Sunday night R.S.L. show while Bernie and I stayed home to look after the children.

Of course, on top of all this Denny would organise our fishing trips to the various spots around—bait was never short, for Denny arranged this, per favour of Radley Bros. On these fishing trips most of Denny's time was spent in attending to the needs of our wives and children—his excuse was, he had seen enough of fish in his time.

I could easily write for hours, singing the praises of the "Little King," as he was so often called by fellow members of the Sig. Platoon, but space does not permit, so instead I will close with a brief description of the day I paid my last respects to a dear friend.

Accompanied by my wife, I attended Denny's funeral on Saturday, 28th July, and the extent of his popularity as a man was expressed forcibly to me by the large attendance of friends and R.S.L. members; in fact, I did hear it was the largest funeral in Port Macquarie for sixteen years.

(REPORTED BY MAX HERRON)

"PORT MACQUARIE NEWS"

REPORT

With the kind permission of the "Port Macquarie News," I would like to quote part of their three column article on the late "Jossie" Denham (as he was known in civilian life).

"The late Les Denham was one of a band of soldiers made famous in the siege of Tobruk.

"Born at Port Macquarie, he lived here all his life, apart from the six years he gave to his country.

"Tragedy befell his family this year. His father died a week ago, on July 23rd. His brother died in Sydney in February this year, one night after visiting Les in Concord Repatriation Hospital.

"The late Les Denham started his working life at Reckless Boatshed and spent 12 years at sea, and for the last eight years of his life he was one of the most popular bar stewards at the R.S.L. Club. He is survived by one sister.

300 ATTENDED FUNERAL

"The funeral on Saturday morning was attended by 300 friends, including returned servicemen, who provided a guard of honour, and after the service buglers sounded the Last Post and Reveille and the R.S.L. burial service was read by D. Steele, president, J. Steep, vice-president, and H. Butler, secretary.

"League delegates were present from Kendall, Kempsey, Wauchope, Telegraph Point, plus two from Dorrigo, Fred Wheaton and Merv. Rees, of H.Q. Coy., 21 Pioneers, and also present was the secretary 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Association."

As a token of respect, the R.S.L. lounge was closed while the funeral was being held, and, on returning, members stood in two minutes' silent prayer. As it was Denny's wish when alive, every member had "a drink on him."

To R.S.L. secretary, Harry Butler, and committeeman, Ken Radley, I would like to extend my thanks for their assistance on the day.

To Denny's sister and his cousin, Mrs. Dolly Latham, I would like to extend my heartfelt sympathy.

A good friend has passed on, but . . .

"WE WILL REMEMBER HIM."

NO MAIL — NO "PIONEER NEWS"

Members have been ringing the secretary, inquiring why there has been no "Pioneer News" since July. His answer to these inquiries is: NO MAIL — NO "PIONEER NEWS."

A newspaper such as ours can only function on the news YOU, as a member of a team, can supply.

Because we were in receipt of only seven letters from 1,000 members up to September, it was decided by the committee to forego the September issue.

BRISBANE TRIP

● JIM FIELD (2/2), of Fairfield, apologises for being a "silent reporter," but goes on to write seven pages of interesting news. Anyway, Jim, you at least did write — while we still await news from nine hundred other Pioneers.

Jim and his wife went on a trip of 1,996 miles to Brisbane and on the way called in to such places as Burrinjuck (where he called on and saw Arthur Daldy (2/2), who sends regards and a donation — thank you Arthur — it was here that Arthur installed a heater in Jim's car). Thence to Orange, Young, Cowra and Blayney. Then on to Tamworth and from here through Armidale, Glen Innes, Tenterfield, Warwick, Cunningham's Gap, Ipswich to Brisbane.

Jim stayed at a modern motel at Chermiside in Brisbane for three days, then travelled north to Caloundra (the boys of H.Q. Coy., 2/2, will remember this place as they marched from Woodford to Caloundra and return).

On his return trip, Jim called in at Surfer's Paradise and found the scenery most interesting (we do not know if Jim is referring to the scenery "usually" found interesting to men at Surfer's, but if it is, we must agree it is good).

On the way down Jim called in at Laurieton and visited Norm. Phillips (2/2 H.Q. Coy.) and his wife. Norm. sends his regards, but is not keeping the best of health. We are very sorry to hear this, Norm., and we do wish you good health in the future.

From here, Jim made his way home leisurely, calling in at various scenic spots.

Thank you very much for your very interesting coverage of your trip, Jim, and we do hope others will follow your example and send in newsy items of their doings such as yours.

LAST POST

We are indebted to Jack Collis (H.Q. Coy.) for sending along the following information regarding our former members:

NX 20337 WEBB, W. G., Pte., 2/1.

NX 177651 WILLIAMSON, C. G., Drv. 2/2.

NX 69941 CROSSLAND, J., Sgt., 2/1.

NX 5673 EVANS, H. G., L./Cpl. 2/1.

NX 19397 MacDONALD, W. A., Pte., 2/1.

NX 69919 St. CLARE-STEWART, W. D., S./Sgt., 2/1.

NX 87423 McLEAN, W. A., Cpl., 2/1.

GUNNER, Robert, 2/1, of Summer Hill.

WHITE, Cecil, 2/1, of Dee Why.

—To the 2/2 "Pioneer Despatch," of Victoria, we are indebted for the following information regarding the deaths of former 2/2 members:

MURRAY, Len, at Alfred Hospital, on February 15.

UPTON, Percy, at Heidelberg Hospital, on May 20.

HOUGHTON, Archie, at Prince Henry Hospital, on May 3.

GODDARD, E., on June 18.

STRATTON, Norm., killed in car accident, July 8.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to the relatives of all the abovementioned members.

2/1st REMINISCENCES . . . BY MONTE REID

Dear Brother Pioneers,

As I read the last issue of the "News" I was taken with a sense of nostalgia for those years we spent around the world together—especially those times in Tobruk, when we, as a unit, assumed our rightful place in the Army—when we grew up, as it were, and became a unit in spirit as well as in name. I wish that many of our boys would send in their contributions about those days, that we might be able to re-live and recapture the atmosphere of our existence as it was then.

As an original 15 Pln., 2/1st, I, of course, have seen many come and go, and there have been those who have made some outstanding impression; and, of course, there have been moments that also live on in the memory when all others have faded.

It was with this feeling in mind that I started to jot down some of my thoughts on the subject. And where better to start than Greta. One night, namely 3rd June, 1941, the time about 8 p.m., into Silver City "marched" a group of very tired and apprehensive recruits after the trip from Sydney. Not only were we tired and cold, but very hungry, for the cut lunch provided by the authorities at the Showground had been very stale and most unappetising to our civilian stomachs. Then, as we came into camp we heard for the first time, "You'll be sorry," and this did not add to our comfort. Then we experienced, also for the first time, the spirit that was to go with us through many days and years together. We were treated to a stew, but what a stew—I am sure that never a stew tasted as welcome as that one. We were able to settle down on our palliases at least with a full stomach, and somehow the Army did not look quite so bad.

And of those days at Greta, one figure stands out, a man whose name I have not seen in print in any issue of the "News." I refer to Sergeant-Major Smith, and who could forget him—certainly none of "C" Coy., for if ever a C.S.M. lived for his company, it was Smithy. Who could forget the way he boasted that HIS company could do anything and how he was always trying to create records that no other company could break.

FINE BODY OF MEN

Greta is over and my thoughts turn to Dubbo. I am sure all 15 Platoon will remember the march through the main street. We were a fine body of men then, at the end of our initial training fit and eager. 15 Platoon was led by that fine young soldier, Kev. Morahan, a man whose keenness certainly was not measured by his stature. Behind Kev. were his three section leaders, Bill Simpson, Bill Broad and Bob Pratt. As these three were each over six feet, it was no wonder the young ladies on the sidewalks made remarks about Kev., much to his disgust, of course.

I wonder how many of us look back on the trip on the "Johann de Witt,"

and remember the days as we cruised through the Indian Ocean. Do you remember the balmy evenings when, as we prepared to be closed down for the darkness in the stinking belly of that ship, we made our way for an hour to the bows and there, as the band played as only our band could play, we listened to our favourite Kiwi, Parkinson, as he sang, "Now Is The Hour," and how we all joined in with the Dutchmen as we sang "Windmills Turning."

DUST STORM AT AMIRIYA

The weeks passed and one could make mention of the mud and the 50-odd nightly guard at Julis, and the dust-storm at Amiriya, as we experienced our first taste of desert; the trip to Sollum, and so on.

Suddenly the air was full of rumours of Germans, and as "C" Company repaired the Derna Road, one day we saw some planes fly over and quite seriously wondered what the black crosses stood for. One day we were innocently filling the hole in the road, and the next the Germans were using the same road and we were safely inside the wire at Tobruk. And then I had the doubtful pleasure of taking out "C" Company's first patrol along the Derna Road. My orders: to go out 3000 yards, across 1000 yards and return to our lines. That was what we did, and every man in our platoon can testify to the fact, as also could the Germans no doubt, that every step we took was heard back in our lines, for we wore our issue boots and the desert was covered with stones. All other patrols, of course, wore sneakers.

It was a few nights later that Laurie Raward met his death on a somewhat similar mission.

INTO THE SALIENT UNDER FIRE

One name stands out very noticeably in the next few months that followed—a man who became known as "Sea Water" Edwards. Some of his eating habits were not of a class that would have been acceptable at Princes, but there was not a man in "R" sector who did not come to admire him and his efforts as, day after day, he laboured to supply each man with a daily ration of sea water, that we might have at least an apology for a daily wash. For many hours each night his truck could be heard toiling up the escarpment with its precious load.

Standing out in this period was Corporal Len Rodda. What a career he had had. Up and down, private to corporal and back to private like a yo yo, yet always with a word of encouragement for us in our time of need. When our platoon advanced into the salient and dug in under fire only to find next day that we were in the middle of a minefield, and when our two supporting Bren carriers were blown up, it was Old Rodda who dashed across to the crew's assistance—alone, coolly and without any hesitation.

BATTALION PARADE, PALESTINE

And so on through the long and unhappy days, until at last we found ourselves back in Palestine and our first battalion parade. Where now were the brave Pioneers who had marched so proudly through Dubbo? We went into the desert about 1,400 in number, on that first parade after the desert I counted approximately 400. And what a sight we were—ragged and virtually unwashed, but at last filled with a sense that there was at last some hope in the world.

And what next? Well, I transferred to the 2/2nd, and that is another story, but I would like to pass on just two names to you—two men who were as alike as salt and cheese, but both left me with a happy feeling that I had spent some time in their company.

The first was Harry Tope. Many times we in the 2/2nd had reason to rebel against him and some of his rulings, nonetheless I feel that every man at least recognised his value in his chosen field of "Q." On our march from Tsili Tsili to Nadzab, Harry organised the loads that each man could carry, and although most of us started out with far in excess of those loads it was not long before we were glad to strip ourselves to our basic requirement, exactly as had been laid down. Vale, Major Harry Tope.

And now for the last name—one Bill Everett. Over in Western Australia we acquired some replacements and one of these was a retired bank manager. We did not know his age, but it must have been great, and he had joined the Army to destroy some Japs on behalf of his two grandchildren, then he was prepared to die happy. We tried to place him in many positions in the unit, until at last he was made a battalion runner. On that march to Nadzab we were short of numbers, so Old Bill was asked to go along. On the way to Nadzab we had to cross a range of very steep hills and all of us crawled up on our hands and knees. As we reached the top, we virtually collapsed, to recover before staggering on. I had the privilege of being behind Bill; he lay for a few minutes on the ground, then, getting to his knees, he looked around at the surrounding country and said: "My word, what a marvellous spot for a golf course." Old Bill, wherever you are now, I salute you.

THOUSANDS MARCHING—INSPIRING SIGHT

And so to Anzac Day, 1962. I see your kind reference to myself in the "News." This year I did not take part in the march, but took my eldest daughter along to see it from the sidelines. This is the first occasion that I have done this, and I consider it one of the most profitable one-and-a-half hours that I have ever spent. I would, without hesitation, recommend that each Association member watch the march at

(Next Page, Please)

least once in his lifetime. We become so used to the idea that we are Pioneers that we tend to lose sight of the fact that we were, after all, only a small part of a mighty whole. If we were proud of our part in the war effort, then we would be doubly so to see what a mighty effort it was on the part of our small country. To stand on the footpath and see the thousands still proudly marching past was an inspiring sight.

Please excuse the typing—if I had written it you would have been in difficulty reading it, but my typing, like my soldiering, is only average. I don't expect to see this in print, but may I say how proud I was that on 3rd June, 1941, I was sent to the 2/1 Pioneer Battalion, how much I enjoyed the years we were together, and how much I have enjoyed putting these thoughts down on paper. Thank you.

Yours for old time's sake,
Monte Reid.

WE WANT JOHN HARNETTY

Many members have written and some have telephoned to say the last issue of the "Pioneer News" was the best to date, and that they thoroughly enjoyed the articles by John Harnetty.

They have stated John's articles have given the paper a lift and they would like to see more of his articles.

The editors will pass this on to John and hope he can help us out once again when he has the opportunity.

1963 PROGRAMME

COUNTRY SMOKO

Saturday, 23rd February, 1963
At Port Macquarie R.S.L.

WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

Wednesday, 24th April, 1963
March departs corner Pitt and Hunter Street, Sydney, at 7.30 p.m.

ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, 24th April, 1963
After the Wreath Laying Ceremony
To be held at the Returned Soldiers' Club, Elizabeth Street, Sydney, at 8 p.m.

ANZAC DAY RE-UNION

Thursday, 25th April, 1963
at

THE CASTLEREAGH HOTEL

50 PARK STREET, SYDNEY

Corner Castlereagh and Park Streets
Meal to be served after the march

The above is the programme for 1963 to date, as supplied by the Social Committee from their meeting held on Saturday, September 15.

Please write these dates in your diary and then you will not miss meeting your friends of war years.

ANZAC DAY DINNER INCREASE

The cost of the meal at the CASTLEREAGH HOTEL on Anzac Day will cost 10/6 as compared with 5/6 per head at the Sussex.

At the last Committee Meeting this caused dissention among the members and the Social Secretary invites the members generally to write to the Editor voicing their opinion as to the best way to overcome this increase.

2/1-2/2 PIONEER BNS. ASSOCIATION

will hold a

Country Smoko

AT THE RETURNED SOLDIERS' LEAGUE CLUB
PORT MACQUARIE

ON SATURDAY, 23rd FEBRUARY, 1963

• DINNER 12/6 — Commencing at 6 p.m.

FRIENDS OF 2/1-2/2 PIONEERS ARE ALSO CORDIALLY INVITED

The Association has had many inquiries in the past as to why they have not conducted a Smoko in the country. To date this has been practically impossible to organise from the Sydney end, until recently when Fred Wheaton and Merv Rees, of Dorrigo, were in the Port Macquarie R.S.L. and discussed the matter with the manager, Mr. Harry Butler.

From here it went before the R.S.L. committee and our own committee, and we are happy to announce that Mr. Butler and his committee are right behind us and will attend to our every need. All we have to supply is the members, and the indication at a recent committee meeting was that nine out of the thirteen members present would be definitely attending.

This Smoko is mainly being organised for our country members, so if nine out of thirteen Sydney members can attend, then the country should roll out in force.

CATERING ARRANGEMENTS

In order to facilitate catering arrangements by the R.S.L., we would like members to fill in the form below and send with their 12/6 to the Secretary before Friday, 25th January, 1963.

The Club is at our disposal for the week-end for other facilities, such as meals at a nominal cost, showers, etc. Sleeping accommodation could also be provided for 30 to 50 persons.

TRANSPORT

If requiring the company of other Pioneers, transport arrangements could be organised through the country representatives of the Association who are listed below.

NEWCASTLE: Jack Bertram, 247 Lawson Street, Hamilton; MACLEAN: Alec Cameron, Wharf Street, Maclean; TAREE: Fred Brooks, Boomerang Street, Taree; COFFS HARBOUR: Allen Crute, High Street, Woolgoolga; KYOGLE: Bill Hoffman, 4 Groom Street, Kyogle; GRAFTON: Harold Leese, 134 Turf Street, Grafton; CASINO: Colin Scholes, 30 Beith Street, Casino; LISMORE: Eddie Weston, 127 Tweed Street, North Lismore; DORRIGO: Fred Wheaton, Cedar Street, Dorrigo; GOSFORD: Alwyn "Nip" Kearsley, Palmgrove, Ourimbah; SYDNEY: Max Herron, 3 Enoggera Road, Beverly Hills, the Secretary, is handling the Sydney train bookings and money for fares would have to be in before 25th January, 1963, to make a block booking. However, individual bookings could be made if desired.

Train details from Sydney are as follows: Depart Sydney Friday, 22nd February, 1963, at 8.15 p.m., arrive Wauchope Saturday, 23rd February, at 5.15 a.m.; Depart Wauchope Sunday, 24th February, at 10.19 p.m., arrive Sydney Monday, 25th February, at 6.40 a.m. Return fare, 2nd Class, as at October, 1962, Sydney to Wauchope, is £4/14/3. (There is to be an increase in November, 1962, so please check before forwarding any money.)

As there will not be another issue of "Pioneer News" before April, 1963, this is the only form of notification for the Country Smoko—so, make a note of it NOW!

PLEASE FILL IN THIS FORM — USE BLOCK LETTERS

Christian Name..... Surname.....

Unit..... Coy..... Platoon.....

Address.....

I enclose 12/6 herewith for catering.....

I will be attending your Country Smoko.....

I will be travelling by Train/Bus/Car.....

I will contact your Country Representative, Mr.....
in order to go in a group.

I will make my own transport arrangements.....

POST THIS NOW, WITH YOUR 12/6



● "God willing and health permitting I will be at the Smoko," writes **IAN KIRKWOOD** (ex-C Coy., 2/1st). Ian resides at Mount Colah and mentions seeing Harry Brown recently. We have not heard of Harry for some time and by the reading of Ian's letter, Harry was in a car accident some twelve months ago and apparently is O.K. again.

News also of Alan Stutsbury, who is the Secretary of the Hornsby R.S.L. Youth Club.

● **ERNIE LUNN** (ex-C Coy., 2/2nd), writes from Carinda, and reports of spending a fortnight with his family at Dubbo. During his stay he saw quite a lot of "Podge" Sullivan. Last Anzac Day, Ernie was at Walgett, and attended both the march and the service. Thanks for the sub., Ernie.

● A letter from **ALLAN McMILLAN** was received inquiring re joining the Association. Alan found Max's address in "The Reveille," and would like news of old mates. Alan is "mine host" of the Commercial Hotel, Werris Creek. Could we have more information, Allan, of the unit (2/1st or 2/2nd), Coy., Platoon, etc., and we do request a sub. to cover the overhead cost (mainly printing).

Should you be able to pass on news of other Pioneers we would be grateful.

● North Essendon, Victoria, means, of course, news from **KEN COLLIER** (ex-H.Q., 2/1st). Ken, apart from increasing his family (total now five), snares a net around any Pioneer who is not an Association member and his latest "catch" is Alex McKenzie (ex-A Coy., 2/2nd), a resident of Niddrie, Victoria. (Back numbers have been forwarded to Alex — our Secretary once again).

Ken, who is a fireman of distinction, is off work with busted ankle. Trust you are O.K. again, Ken.

● **TED JENSEN** (ex-10 Pln., B Coy., 2/1st), has forsaken his Croydon Park address and resides at Doonside.

Ted, you may remember, supplied the cricket gear for our renowned Gosford trip some years ago and has offered to lend the gear any time we so desire it. It could be a thought, too, any member with cricket social ideas?

Ted forwards on his Smoko Coupon and accompanying Ted will be Arnold Vearing, also of B Coy. Arnold is in business at Doonside and conducts a mixed business and fish and chip shop. Ted is with the P.M.G. and recently called in on Reg. Smith, while on duty in the Eastern Suburbs. Ted asks for the address of Les Gavel. Our Secretary informs me he has forwarded the address on. If you want to try yourself out, try and find something Max hasn't tidied up. See you at the Smoko, Ted.

● **FRANK HEPBURN** (ex-C Coy., 2/2nd), writes from Condell Park. His recent address was Marrickville, but Frank is taking over a Repat. home and we hope that Frank, Irene and family make out well at their new address.

● Our Hospital Committeeman visitor Jack Collis called on **JOHN McCracken** during John's stay at the 113th R.G.H., Concord. Since his return home to Stockton, John has written expressing his appreciation of kind visits and attention. We realise and appreciate the value of Jack Collis, John. Now would be as good a time as any in appealing to members to inform us when they intend going or are in hospital.

It is impossible otherwise as no unit lists are available at Concord and the best plan is to write or ring our Secretary.

● In **HUGHIE GREEN'S** second of three letters received, he passes on the address of Percy Fisk, Orange Street, Condobolin. We have noted the address, Hughie, but there is no information regarding unit, platoon or coy. As Percy will be reading this news himself, he may like to pass on the information and possibly news of other Pioneers.

● Long Flat, via Wauchope, is the address of **LEO HOLLIS** (ex-C Coy., 2/1st). Leo forwards a sub., but little in the way of news. Thanks, anyhow, Leo.

● A sub. and a donation from **NORM. PHILLIPS** (ex-5 Pln., H.Q., 2/1st).

Norm, is at full swing harvesting at Cookardinia, via Wagga, and he sends his apology for being unable to attend the Smoko. However, Norm., passes on his regards to Don, Howi, Snow, Blue, Ken, Harris and Mack.

● From South to North — Guyra, to answer a letter from **BOB JULEFF** (ex-2/1st, H.Q. Coy.). Thanks for the sub., Bob, and hope the Diggers' Ball was a success. We would like to see you in one of the succeeding years in Sydney Town.

● **PETER PRIEST** (ex-H.Q., 2/1st) writes from Loganholme, Qld. — apparently it is adjacent to Beenleigh, because this is where Peter is in business, conducting a service station.

Peter left Kyogle about two years ago and requests the address of "Lofty" Mills (ex-H.Q.). "Lofty" is not on our address list, Peter, so we cannot help in this regard. The R.U.M. you mention, Peter, must be some high octane spirit as there is no indication otherwise as to what spirit you sell.

● While in the Sunshine State **PAT LOUGHREN** (ex-C Coy., 2/1) writes from Nambour. Pat is very appreciative of our "News" and wishes to be remembered "to the Boys."

● **BILL TASKER** supplied a photo of the B Coy boys (2/1st) and Porky Graham offered to obtain a reproduction with a mind to making a block for insertion in the "News." On studying the reproduction, which duly arrived, we found it would not stand up to a fine screen block and not acceptable as a reprint. Thanks are due to both the above-named on what could have been a beauty. Porky reckons the photographer grizzled somewhat and he puts it down to reproducing dials like Walsh, Dolligan McQuirk and company. Should anyone require a reproduction they can obtain one by contacting A. L. Guilford, 23 South Street, Edgecliffe, and enclosing 5/-, plus postage. Satisfaction is assured, says Porky.

● From Lakemba we acknowledge a letter from **GILBERT SHORT** (ex-R.A.P., B.H.Q., 2/2nd). Gilbert encloses a donation and wishes to be remembered to all. Not much news, Gilbert, you may manage more next time.

● **Mrs. DOROTHY EDWARD**, wife of our late C.S.M. Jim Edward, writes from West Ryde, enclosing a donation for the "News." Thanks, Mrs. Edward, for your information. It was decided at a recent Committee Meeting not to accept any further donations as you are now a Life Member and further copies of our paper will be assured.

● **NOEL PETERSON** (ex-B Coy, 2/1st), retired this year from the P.M.G. — the year of his 60th birthday. Noel lives at Wyong and looks forward with zest to receiving the "News."

● **HENRY SMITH**, a West Australian member of B.H.Q., 2/1st, has contacted the Association and would appreciate some back numbers (our Secretary has forwarded them on). He is in Melbourne, working at the National Bank of Aust., in Collins Street. How is Henry doing these days? From the letter, I quote: "By the hale and hearty look of Henry it would take a ring full of tag wrestlers to hold him down, let alone to bind and gag him."

● From Berridale, via Cooma, we hear news of **TONY WALTERS** (ex-B Coy., 2/1st). It gave Tony "quite a kick" to read news of Reg. Holland and Tiny Fields, as when Tony called in at Gundagai to see Tiny, he was away leading his famous Gundagai Eleven at cricket. Tony is a member of the Snowy River Sub-branch of the R.S.L. and mentions a fellow member, Fred. Ness (could you let us have the address of Fred, Tony — it is not on our list). "Everyone should see the Snowy Scheme — a great engineering triumph" quotes Tony, and he mentions Lake Eucumbene which is 80 miles around and will carry eight times the volume of Sydney Harbour. Tony forwards a sub. and passes on regards to all.

FROM THE MAILBAG—Contd.

● Consistent writers these Sig. Pln. lads and the latest to keep the good work going is **OSSIE THURLING**. I don't know what sort of a predicament the P.M.G. Dept. would be in without the 2/1st Sigs. Os. is stationed at Broadmeadow on the Installation Staff, after serving with various exchanges in the area. We have a Newcastle "Rep." in the person of Jack Bertram, Os, so if you could contact Jack at 247 Lawson Street, Hamilton, we feel sure he would co-operate in any way as he has a list of the chaps in the Newcastle area. This would be applicable to anyone requiring Newcastle information. Jack was a good and ardent Committeeman before going North and is keen to give a helping hand at any time. Os reports leaving the Btn. at Kairi, where he was boarded and transferred to the 2/106 A.G.T. (Dukws) sig. Section, and further served at Labuan and Tarakan before being finally discharged.

● Another Sig., but not a P.M.G. man, as **JACK MARSHALL** (ex-2/1st) is employed by the Brick & Tile Co., at Glen Innes. Jack passes on the addresses of Jock Rodgers and Eric O'Hara, both of whom live locally. Thanks, Jack, as we did not have the address of either. Jack asks after "Tiny" Culverwell and wishes to be remembered to all.

● We received and acknowledge a letter from **Mrs. I. McDONALD**, wife of William McDonald, who passed away on July 17 of this year. Bill had suffered greatly in the period preceding his death. He thought the world of his C Coy. mates—the Morahans, Bob Stephens, Ned Jennings, "Bluey" Kerslake, Ossie McCurtayne are names which are known to the McDonald family. It was the spirit and courage of the Bill McDonalds which stamped the Aussie name amongst the world's best.

"At the going down of sun and in the morning,

We will remember them."

● **HUGHIE GREEN** requests the addresses of Bill Chisholm and Teddy Williams (Max, our "on the ball" Secretary, informs me they have already been forwarded). Hughie, as we have previously reported, sees Len Weyman, Jack Brown and Don Sweeney at the Parramatta local.

● We wish to welcome **IAN HODGE** to the mailing list of our "News." Ian was in B.H.Q., 2/1st, and at present is maths. master at Casino High School. Being at Casino it could be that you have some of our members' children under your control, Ian.

● **BILL CLOGG** (ex-R.A.P., 2/1st, C Coy.) was ill during the early part of the year. Bill has a butchers business at Marrickville and we trust, Bill, you are O.K. once again.

● **JACK BERTRAM** (2/1st), of Newcastle, writes to say he attended a "Rats" night recently at which Padre McIlveen gave a lecture and showed slides of his trip to Tobruk in 1961.

Jack said Tobruk is a different place now, with fields of barley, gum trees and wattle trees growing around the wadis. Sheep and goats could be seen grazing on the green grass, and in the city, flats had sprung up everywhere. Wot! No fleas or Rats!

IN PASSING ...

● **BOB MCGREGOR** (D Coy., 2/1st) recently had a few drinks with Peter Craig (D Coy., 2/1st), who had just returned from West Wyalong, where he had been wool-classing at a few shearing sheds for six weeks.

Peter's trip was all the more enjoyable after meeting a few Pioneers who gave him a royal time. Peter forwarded names and addresses of these Pioneers he met, but Bob, being an ardent Committeeman, suggested to Peter to drop a letter containing news of his trip and about the fellows he met. This is very good advice for all members to pass on to any member they meet and we thank you Robert McGregor.

● We have heard recently through our secret service, that one of our keenest Committeemen, Bob Lake, is studying for his Junior Referee's ticket in the Manly District. We take this opportunity of wishing you every success, Bob. We hope to see you in charge at the Sydney Cricket Ground one of these days. Also kind regards to Joan. The Social Committee is most appreciative of the excellent time accorded them by the Lake family when they held their meeting there in October. Thanks, Joan.

● **NOBBY COOPER** (A Coy., 2/1st) is now working at the steel works at Wollongong. He wishes to be remembered to all his old mates and hopes to be with them at the Bi-Annual Smoko. Nobby is full of praise for the show on Anzac Day and reckons it's well worth the trouble of coming from Wollongong for it.

● Gardening enthusiast, **JOHN TREVETHICK**, 2/1, recently won the Manufacturers Mutual Trophy for a vase of champion roses at the Killara Rose Festival. Nice work, John.

● A welcome letter from **DES "Tiny" FIELD**, of Gundagai. He is still troubled with indifferent health. Tiny continues,

Jack went on to say he is going to induce all Pioneers in Newcastle to come down to the Smoko on November 23 at the **CASTLEREAGH HOTEL**. Thank you very much for your newsy letter, Jack.

● Our thanks to **Mrs. MURIEL WOOD**, for her letter and donation on behalf of George Wood and Bill and Charlie Henry. Bill's new address has been noted, Mrs. Wood, and copies will be sent regularly.

● From Coryong, Vic., comes a welcome letter from **BERNIE REINERS**, H.Q. Coy., 2/1, and it was nice to hear from you again. Bern. recently met up with Neville Griffiths, B Coy., 2/1, in the "local" at Corryong and Neville passed on a welcome donation to the "News." Many thanks for your donation, Bern., also to you, Nev.

While on the subject of "Pioneer News," Bern. says he would like to compliment all concerned on a really good paper. It's improving all the time, but he would say that the professional stamp was quite evident in the last issue.

as always, to be bright and cheerful. A keen supporter of the Association and a staunch advocate of the "Pioneer News" as the means of binding together the spirit and comradeship of men of the Association. Tiny would like to pass on a cheerio call to all those he played football with, particularly Freddy Wheaton, Nip Kearsley, Ray Horne, Johnny Clifford, Pat Loughren and Casey Brown and also to all his other mates in the 2/1st Btn.

● A very welcome visitor who came down for the Anzac Day celebrations was **EDDIE BEAUMONT** (H.Q., 2/1st). Eddie is an assistant shire engineer these days. He brought word from Bonilbo of his old friend Joe Leis, who is also doing quite well for himself. Joe Leis will always be remembered by the new men who came to B Coy. from time to time, for his many good turns in helping them to settle down.

● **JACK PRICE** (A Coy., 2/1st), of Merrylands, is full of praise for the "Pioneer News" and for the Editors and Committee. He sends best wishes to all his old pals and from Len Weyman and Jack Brown to all the boys.

● Word from our old friend **CHRIS STEVENS** (B Coy., 2/1st), and now of Box Hill. For a long while things were not so good, but Chris is now much more settled and is working at the Riverstone Meat Works. He hopes to see a lot more of his old army mates in the future.

● There came to the celebrations this year, from out of the "Blue" one known to all and sundry as "Appo." Yes, you're guessed it, **ERIC APPLETON** (B Coy., 2/1st), now of Napier Street, Paddington. Eric is a cleaner at Sydney Hospital and still follows his old loves of football and motoring. "Appo" says cheers to all his old mates and we say to "Appo," keep coming now that you have started. The strength of our Association lies in the unity of its members.

● One who made a brief appearance at the Anzac Day "do," and whom we hope to see a lot more of, is **CLEM MORONEY** (B Coy., 2/1st). Now that the boys know you are about, Clem, you will have to make the Smokos a must. That is where the gang gathers to talk over old times.

● Greetings to all his old mates from **CLARRIE GARDINER** (B Coy., 2/1st), now of Vacluse. Clarrie is Australian sales manager of Kolotex Hosiery and is making a big success of this most important position. Thanks, Clarrie, and best wishes to you from all the boys in the Association.

● **RON IRWIN** (A Coy., 2/1), and now working in the Loco Branch of the Railway at Eveleigh, sends a cheerio to all his old mates, reminding Bill Tasker and Beau Hannaford in particular, that it is on again at the Bi-Annual.

● **ARTIE GLEASON** (A Coy., 2/1st), who now drives a bus for the Transport Dept., wants to be remembered to all the boys and hopes to be with them at the next Smoko.