

PIONEER NEWS

UL 5491

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

UL 5491

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CORRESPONDENCE: 3 ENOGGERA ROAD, BEVERLY HILLS

Hon. Secretary:

MAX HERRON

Editors: J. HARNETTY,

V. WHITELEY and M. HERRON

President:

ALLAN McINNES

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ANZAC RE-UNION

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

With the 2/2nds

The following are the arrangements for the Anzac functions as organised by the Social Secretary, Jack Westwood.

By Don Lawson, 2/2

WREATH LAYING CEREMONY WEDNESDAY, 24th APRIL, 7.10 p.m.

This is the date of our Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Cenotaph, where we will pay our respects to those who have paid the supreme sacrifice.

Forming up point is outside the Association 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. Please be punctual.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WEDNESDAY, 24th APRIL, at 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, Blue Room, Elizabeth Street, Sydney, at 8 p.m.

ANZAC DAY RE-UNION THURSDAY, 25th APRIL

Subscriptions are due on this day, so don't forget, because this is the only means by which your Association keeps going. Alf Carter collects for the 2/1 and Jack Henderson for the 2/2nd.

ANZAC DAY MARCH

Forming up point for the 2/1st is in Phillip Street, between Martin Place and King Street, facing north to Circular Quay.

Forming up point for the 2/2nd is in Macquarie Street, facing north, head on Martin Place.

This information was supplied to us on Monday, 18th March, by the R.S.L., but we would suggest each member make inquiries on the day as to the exact spot.

Immediately after the march, the 2/1 will adjourn to the Castlereagh Hotel,

and from 11.30 a.m. until noon, a hot meal will be provided by the Association. Both 2/1 and 2/2 are cordially invited to partake.

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

WELCOME TO OUR OFFICERS

We were very pleased last year at the roll up of officers at the Re-unions and we hope to see you again this year.

DO NOT MAKE A MISTAKE

IT IS AT . . .

THE CASTLEREAGH HOTEL,
50 PARK STREET, SYDNEY
(Corner Castlereagh and Park Streets)

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

THE "LAKE" LOOK

The Editors of Pioneer News are indeed very grateful to Bob Lake and family for the magnificent effort they put into compiling the Mailbag, In Passing and the Port Smoko for this issue of Pioneer News.

Vic Whitely had to go to Queensland with the Army Railways unit and Bob Lake "volunteered" to carry on. Bob has two daughters, Gail and Eileen, and fortunately for us they can both type.

We say fortunately because Gail was half way through the copy when (in Bob's words) "some 'crumb' came and took her out." To Bob that seemed a catastrophe, but it was here that Eileen came to the rescue.

Thank you very much Bob, Gail and Eileen, for you have done a mighty job and we are certain our readers will appreciate your efforts also.

The 2/2 Pioneers once again attended the Remembrance Service on 11th November held at the North Rocks Methodist Church, where Padre Rev. Claughton officiates.

On this occasion he was assisted by another of our Padres, the Rev. Steele, who was invited to give the sermon, one which held the attention of all, including even the heathens such as "Cappy" Christian and Dick Kennewell.

Rev. Claughton reminisced, with the help of his well-thumbed diary, of old times with the Pioneers. It certainly fitted in with the reason for this particular service, bringing back to mind old comrades who have passed on, and also old friends with whom we have been out of touch for many years because very close.

When the service ended it is certain all who attended had no doubts that now and in the future: "We will remember them."

After the service all were invited to the church hall, where the ladies of the congregation entertained with a beautiful supper, to which the Pioneers did true justice. Alan McInnis thanked the Padre and the congregation for the privilege of attending their service, and he was followed by Dick Kennewell and "Cappy," who gave thanks to the ladies for their hospitality. We are sure to be back again next November.

In Passing

• To JIM FIELD and KEN HARRISON, congratulations on seeing you around once again after a long spell of illness.

• AN APPEAL TO ALL 2/2 PIONEERS . . . how about some news for this fine paper of ours—no matter how small, it will be of interest. (This appeal is made by Don Lawson, 2/2.)

SEE YOU AT 11.30 A.M. ON ANZAC DAY IN THE QUARTER DECK LOUNGE, 1st FLOOR . . .

THE CASTLEREAGH HOTEL

EDITORIAL

Are We In For Another Dose?

By JOHN HARNETTY (C Coy., 2/1)

It's a long time since Diggers hiked up the Owen Stanleys, but are we to fear there's a second dose coming up? It's close to 20 years ago since the Japanese occupied Australia's attentions. Now is it to be Soekarno's turn?

There's been all this rumpus about Indonesia and Malaysia, with Macapagal of the Philippines moving in for his cut

If it comes to a slice of stoush, a third generation of Pioneers may be involved in it.

All of us, with Anzac Day so near, have thoughts about the risk of a third World War. Our own rather pitiful state of unpreparedness for anything more than a two-acre police action must strike us pretty forcibly.

We have the nucleus of a couple of Pentropic Divisions. With regulars and C.M.F. troops, those divisions still are at no more than brigade strength, if that.

We are in the middle of an Air Force switch, our current force covering nothing more substantial than outmoded Sabre jets and Neptunes, with the odd Canberra or so.

In contrast, Indonesia has been borrowing arms by the stack from the Soviet Union.

Whether she can use them with any skill is a doubtful factor.

But they look awfully menacing on paper . . . and they'd be a real menace backed by the same substantial number of Soviet "technicians" now being wheedled out of Cuba.

Indonesia now, they say, has submarines, surface ships and aircraft. Perhaps the Indonesians know how to use them effectively.

Even if they can only field them for a short time, they can still make a damned nuisance of themselves.

Australia has some American equipment, the SLR-762 rifle, a handful of superbly-trained troops and a service potential of about half a million men, if the red light goes up.

It's not much against the masses which Soekarno could command if he dropped the handkerchief for an Asiatic war.

There's one thing to be thankful for . . . Soekarno's in much the same position as Mussolini was.

He has the manpower, and he has some of the guns, but without foreign help it's doubtful if he could field an army for very long.

But with a jumping-off point in West New Guinea, he might be some nuisance value on his own, and if the Red Empire gives him a hand, the position would be just a bit dim.

But since hostilities are in the air, let's take a gander back about a quarter of a century.

Do you remember the days of 1940 when the Pioneers were being formed?

War had been in the air for three years, and the shame of Munich, the rape of Czechoslovakia, and the Russo-German treaty were the headlines of the dreadful period.

But when we marched in, what was the score? We didn't see '38 web equipment until we got to Egypt.

The first Bren guns were issued to us in Palestine, uniforms were a shoddy travesty of the 1914-15 issue.

Then there were the soothers.

THERE WILL BE NO WAR

In 1939 about a month before the outbreak, a Sydney radio commentator was heard to say "Commonsense must rule, and we have no need for alarm. There will be no war!"

An improbable RAF type with the equally improbable name of Brooke-Popham told Australia, "The Japanese have no fighting aircraft fit to fly. Our fighters in Singapore (Wildebeeste biplanes and sluggish Brewster Buffaloes) will be more than a match for anything the Japanese can put up against them."

This, after the accurate bombing of countless Chinese cities, and the obliteration in three minutes of a USN gunboat!

We've been through all the preliminaries. Before World War II, we had the insults to Europeans by Japanese troops in Shanghai and actual bodily attacks on tourists by groups of Fascist-inspired thugs in Italy. (We didn't notice much of a repetition of that violence in the Western Desert.)

Now we have sabre-rattling by Soekarno, a bit of lofty patronage from his foreign minister, a bit of infiltration into Brunei and warnings about the "intolerable insolence" of tiny Malaya.

3/1 AND 3/2 PIONEER BATTALION

If you look through the yellowed newspaper files of twenty-five years ago, doesn't it all follow a similar pattern? Are we yet to see the formation of a 3/1 and a 3/2 Pioneer Battalion?

IN PASSING . . .

• Hope this finds KEN ASHTON and GEORGE PERRY improving in health.

• How did CYRIL MONAGHAN finish after spending an evening at the Clovelly R.S.L. with an old mate, Bill Robinson? Shame on you, Bill.

LAST POST

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

NX33603, Davis, G. C. Sergt., 2/1.
NX18210, Ward, H. Pte., 2/1.
NX22207, Madden, M. A., Pte., 2/1.
NX28432, Foote, W. G., Cpl., 2/1.
NX36156, McGarvey, J. M., Pte., 2/1.
NX91788, White, H. H., Pte., 2/1.
NX103560, Carter, G.A., 2/2.
NX58971, Boreland, R. L., 2/1.
White, Jack, C Coy, 2/2.
Bedson, H. R. (Benno), 2/1.
Col. Charker, H.Q. Coy., 2/1
NX 22207. Arthur (Mick) Madden, 2/1
Jack Moran, 2/1
Cross, Athol (Monty), A Coy 2/1.

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

VALE, JACK WHITE

All members of 2/2nd will be deeply grieved at the news of the passing away of Jack White.

As a Corporal in 13 platoon, C. Coy., Jack showed exceptional qualities of leadership, friendship and loyalty and was very much liked and respected in this regard by all ranks.

Jack joined the battalion when it was reformed and took part in every action thereafter.

Jack was English by birth and a true Aussie in his army career and post army career.

It was thanks to Jack and a couple of his friends that the 2/2nd have been so closely united since the end of the war in that he organised the Anzac Days held at St. Peters for 15 years, always had sufficient money in kitty to run same and kept records of members.

At the Remembrance Sunday service Jack never missed attending with Mrs. White and family.

All 2/2nd will indeed miss this wonderful person as he put more into life than most others.

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."

The Castlereagh Hotel Smoko

By H. MONTAGUE

The new rendezvous for Pioneers in the Quarter Deck Lounge of the Castlereagh Hotel, proved a wise selection for the Smoko held on Friday, 23rd November, 1962.

Eighty members were in attendance and they were unanimous in their praise of the improved surroundings and of the fact that seating was arranged for all.

The supper provided by the association was very well received and the social secretary, Jack Westwood, and his committee are to be congratulated on the fine job they did on the night.

It was surprising to see the number of new faces and some came from as far afield as Newcastle, Gosford, Port Kembla and Canberra, so if you were not able to attend you missed a good night and we strongly recommend this function to you in the future.

CASTLEREAGH SMOKO JOTTINGS

By ALF CARTER

● **TOM McGUINNESS** (B Coy, 2/1 and later of the P.I.B.) is now in his own home at Bankstown. Tom is a plasterer with the Public Works Dept. and has taken up bowls as a hobby. "Not a bad lurk," says Tom.

● **CHARLIE STANLEY** (C Coy 2/2) now with a nice property at Windsor. Says cheers to all old mates of C Coy., 2/2, and mentions he often sees "Smoky" Forrest, "Cappy" Christian and Jerry Short.

● **TOM KELLY** (Stretcher Bearer, 2/1) now in a lovely home of his own at North Manly, and in charge of the Lottery Office in Anthony Horderns Building in George Street. Sends his best wishes to all his old mates and especially to Rube Wade and "Mac" McKibbin of Brisbane, Queensland.

● **BOB LAKE, JOE OLIFFE** and **JACK WESTWOOD**, as usual, the perfect hosts, moved around from group to group and saw that everything was in order, as well as obtaining a little useful practice in elbow bending.

● **GEO. EDMAN** (C Coy., 2/1), a committeeman of this association, was taking things quietly at the Smoko. George has not been in the best of health lately. He sends greetings to all his old mates in C Coy and to Frank Allen.

● **JIM McGUIRK** (B Coy., 2/1) was another who had a thoroughly good night at the Smoko. Jim, whose health continues indifferent, brought a cheerio from George Bates and Arthur Gleason to all their friends in 2/1.

● **"BRICKY" WALL**, now of Bellevue Hill is with the Corps of Commissioners at British-Aust. Tobacco Co. "Bricky," who is a regular at our smokos, thinks its great to relax for a couple of hours having a drink and a yarn with the boys.

● **ALAN BLACK** (H.Q., 2/1) was down from Coolamon, where he is a steward with the golf club. A right royal welcome awaited him. As Alan said, "The company was grand and the night all too short."

● **ROY BOUNDS** and **DON CROOKS** (both of B Coy., 2/1) came down from Newcastle for the do and spent a grand night re-newing old friendships. They brought greetings to all the boys from:

Ivan Pepper, B Coy.

Bill Nicholas, B Coy.

George Perkins, Don Coy.

who could not make it themselves.

● **HUGHIE GREEN**, C Coy, 2/1, was another who had a most enjoyable night. Forever on the bustle to see that everyone was comfortable and happy, Hughie did his usual good job.

● **"BLUEY" WALSH** did a terrific job with the raffle tickets. He is always on hand to do any job required. "Bluey" is certainly a big asset to our committee.

● **DOUG. SHEARSTON** and **"MONTY" MONTAGUE** did their usual one hundred per cent. job with the books.

● **JACK BROWN**, R.A.P., 2/1, now of Padstow, and working with the N.S.W. Transport Dept., would like it published in the "News" that if Cliff Secombe, of Thirroul, should read this and if he is ever in Sydney town, will he contact Jack Collis, 22 Fisher Street, Auburn.

● **TED SKOYLES**, C Coy, 2/1, as usual came up from Wollongong for the do. Ted never misses a smoko. Always has a wonderful time, and just can't understand why fellows stay away from them. Thanks for your help in preparing the supper, Ted.

● A great welcome awaited **BILL TASKER** and his mate **"SNOWY" EDWARDS**. Bill, who is secretary-manager of the Bexley R.S.L., assures a grand time to any of the boys who find their way there. Bill was telling the crowd of a holiday trip out West recently, when he ran into Wally (Bombo) Brown in Bourke. The occasion was suitably celebrated.

● Also there after a long absence, was **"TINY" CHAPMAN**, Don Coy., 2/1, a real giant with a happy-go-lucky manner that quickly gathered a circle of friends, including Peter Craig, Claude McKeig, Bert. Moore, "Snowy" Jardine, Jock Peace, and so there were tales to be told and the cup that cheers to be sipped and great night was had by all.

● **PAT NOONAN**, "BLUEY" CHASE and **BOB BURNSIDE**, H.Q. Sigs., were tucked away in a corner having a few and chatting of the special things that Sigs. talk about before making their way among the boys.

● **RAY LESTER** and his friend, **BRUCE SHERIFF**, came along and brought a message from Frank Dynon, now secretary-manager of the North Sydney R.S.L., wishing the boys all the best and trusting the smoko would be the success it deserved to be. Ray was delighted to find his old mate, Eric Appleton ("Appo" to you) present. Steps were taken immediately to celebrate the occasion.

● **JACK HYDE**, **TOM McGUINNESS** and **"APPO" APPLETON** mowed them down steadily all night and there was much to talk about. This, coupled with the fact that there was always someone coming across to say "hello," ensured there was always a supply of the old thirst quencher on the table. Jack would like to say "cheers" to Tom Crossman, Frank Gillian, Mick Dwyer and Bert Holmes, while "Appo" would like to know what's become of Frank Harpley.

● The officers of both battalions were represented by **ALAN McINNES**, **JACK WESTWOOD**, **GORDON FINLAY** and **PORKY GRAHAM**, who thoroughly enjoyed their night out with the boys.

● **MICK DODSON**, **JIM McGUIRK**, **BILLY ARTUR**, **BERT MOORE** and **HENRY ALLEN** were going along in great style. When one looks at these little groups from the sidelines, as it were, it is grand to see how really happy the fellows are to see each other and to have a drink together. That is the one big thing that makes the Smokos worthwhile.

● **BRICKY WALL**, **IAN KIRKWOOD**, **JACK COLLIS**, **TOM KELLY** and **JACK BROWN**, while still interested in wrapping and bandaging, the dosing of medicine, pills etc., were quite content to sit back and gargle a few noggins of the amber ale.

● **TAFFY LAWRENCE**, son **DES LAWRENCE** and **BERT HUMPHRIES** were noticed having a quiet drink together. "Taffy," now of Fivedock and retired from the City Council, sailed for England on the 30th January, for a visit to his beloved Wales after 35 years absence.

● **PHIL HOWELL**, **BLUEY MOXEY**, **WALLY PAGE**, **MERV. HANSON** and **JACK CORKISH** were in a quiet corner sinking them down steadily, with Bluey Moxey stressing the virtues of pigeon racing. It is strongly rumoured that Wally Page is about to take up the sport.

● **MICK EGAN**, **JACK HENDERSON**, **BOB McGREGOR**, **JOHN DOWD**, **CHARLIE STANLEY** and **ALAN McINNES**, all of the 2/2, were having a steady session at the bar, and as is the case with all old soldiers, there was always a yarn to be told, and plenty to talk about in between drinks.

● A merry crowd gathered together were **GORDON FINLAY**, **SNOWY HEMMINGS**, **HUGHIE GREEN**, **SAM LEWIS** and **JACK GRAHAM**, all of C Coy., 2/1, and they included in their party the one and only Casey Brown. Before this party split up to mingle with their numerous friends, Gordon Finlay almost had "Snowy" and "Casey" set for a quick dash up the lounge. Thank goodness nobody had a football there.

PORT MACQUARIE DINNER

By ROBERT LAKE

To the Port Macquarie R.S.L. Club, the secretary manager, president, members, the staff and the Ladies' Auxiliary, we of the two battalions thank you for the wonderful co-operation shown to us on the week-end of our first country smoko. That the event was a success needs no saying, and to you, all credit must be given. Once again, "thank you."



Sitting in front (left to right): Fred Brooks, Allan Crute, Max Herron, Joe Blanch, Bob McGregor, Jack Griffiths, Jim Hall, Jack Bertram, Brian Jackson and Peter Bell.
Kneeling, second row: Bruce Mitchell, Bob Lake, Fred Wheaton, Ted Felton, Harold Leese, Merv Rees, Alec Cameron and Gordon Finlay.
Standing: Tom Morrow, Sid Jopson, Nev O'Connor, Bern Daly, Cecil Blanch, Allan McInnes, Doug Shearston, Jeff Luvis, Bruce McNaughton, Mark Digman (visitor), Roy Jardine, Claude Campbell, Keith Moxey, Jack Tattam, Jack (Bluey) Moxey, Ray Smith and Ted Jensen.

As a reporter on the country smoko, February 23, the trip to Port was uneventful. A convoy of three vehicles made the trip together—Max Herron and party, "Snow" Roy Jardine and party, and Bob McGregor's nephew Mick, supplied the third vehicle.

What a thrill it was when we arrived at the R.S.L. to see the faces of the fellows there. Some we had seen since the war, and others had never made the trip to Sydney. There was lots of talking, a little drinking and hundreds of questions being thrown in all directions at once from the 60 members attending.

The parade outside the R.S.L. at 5.45 p.m. and the march to the cenotaph for the laying of the wreath in memory of the fallen was most impressive, and showed to all just how much "We do remember them."

R.S.L. MANAGER ADDRESSES MEMBERS

The ceremony over, we returned to the dinner and to the lighter things, when, after a really wonderful meal provided by the Ladies' Auxiliary, and while at the table, the president, Allan McInnes, proposed the toast to the Queen.

One minute's silence to our departed comrades followed and the secretary-manager and the president of the R.S.L. delivered short addresses; then country members were put into the picture as to the doings of the executive and committee of the association.

Apologies were received from Messrs. C. Duncan, C. Wilby, B. Hoffman, L. Ferris, J. Martin, E. Fallon, T. Loy, E. Weston, T. Leslie.

The financial statement provided, I thought, quite a few good and, perhaps, pointed comments. This small impromptu meeting declared closed, the country representatives were then asked to speak on behalf of their districts.

Both Peter Bell and Ray Smith said a few words on the Kyogle contingent, and they were ably, very ably, supported

by Joe ("And-as-I-say") Blanche, ex-Kyogle and now residing at Beaudesert in Queensland.

DORRIGO/TAREE—100% ATTENDANCE

Harold Leese, of Grafton, also replied and spoke in glowing terms of another event in the Grafton area (It's before the board, Harold!) Fred Wheaton, on behalf of the Dorrigo clan, reported a good effort from Dorrigo—one hundred per cent. attendance, plus a visitor. Fred was being complimented on the Dorrigo effort when Fred Brookes, of Taree, also claimed a hundred per cent. He was there and the only Pioneer now in Taree.

Jack Griffiths and Jack Bertram, from Newcastle, were also given a round of applause for a few well-chosen words. Others members did speak and I must apologise that I could not keep up with the pen, especially as the prawns were on the table. However, all spoke in glowing terms for the continuation of the "News" and for future efforts for country get-togethers.

At approximately 7.45 p.m. we abandoned the dining room and adjourned to the bar and to the lawns at the rear of the R.S.L., where conviviality was once again the order of the night. Bob Lake was soon deep in conversation with Ted "Nobby" Felton and Cec. Blanche (both H.Q. 2/1), two chaps he had not seen since 1945.

At the far corner of the room was a party of chaps being entertained by the "Prince of Songsters," Sid Jopson—definitely for male members. Sid was, and still is, a master when it comes to rendering "Jimmie Johnson" and the like.

The weather was perfect and many of the lads had moved out to the lawn, where, as "Brian Jackson" was heard to remark, "So much artillery was in action that the 'Hill of Jesus' was only a kids' prank."

(Next Page, Please)

● SYDNEY TEAM

Kneeling (left to right): Bob Lake, Max Herron, Ted Jensen, and Doug Shearston.

Standing: Jack Westwood, Allan McInnes, Mark Digman (pilot), Bob McGregor, Wally Page and Roy Jardine.



PORT MACQUARIE SMOKO—Continued**PETER BELL PARADES SHEEPSKIN RUG**

As is customary with the Pioneers, the inevitable raffle was soon introduced, the prize being a very nice sheepskin rug, acquired by Bob McGregor for the occasion. Some sixty-odd tickets were sold and, as a rep. of the 100 per cent. district, Fred Wheaton was called on to draw the lucky number. A cheer went up when Ray Smith, of Kyogle, was declared the winner. It seemed quite fitting that Kyogle should win, as I suppose that, apart from the city, they would have had the largest numerical attendance. Peter Bell looked quite chic as he paraded the same rug later in the evening.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Personalities, as we saw them at the Port:—

• Who was the big strapping joker who claimed a South Sydney football sweater as part of his dress? Does the same fellow expect a transfer fee next time he comes to Sydney?

• **GEOFF LUVIS**, from the Dorrigo. It's been a long time, Geoff! Now, perhaps after a taste we may see more of you.

• It would seem that **GORDON FINLAY** made a mighty job as a reporter and it would seem that he specialised in 2/2. He quotes **ALAN STONE**, of Comboyne, behind Kendall; **BERNIE DALY**, Taree, **NEV O'CONNOR**, Ballina, then brings a special message from "Heartthrob" **BRIAN JACKSON** for **ALFIE CARTER** . . . ? ? ?

• We do hope that the man who averaged 33/- a head for hamburgers never regretted the night at the Port.

• How was it possible that **MACGREGOR** stayed, played and never payed for a beer all Saturday night—or so he tells us.

• Who was the 2/2 Pioneer that the Port admitted: "It would have been better to give him a poker machine than let him play them."

• To our lone soldier of Wyong, **NOEL PETERSON**, who made the journey via Comboyne (plus a flat tyre), we salute you. Don't forget, Noel, your first Anzac Day in Sydney will not be long now. We guarantee to place you on the night train—that's a promise, Noel.

• Telegrams were received from **BILL HOFFMAN**, and also **VIC** (pear shape) **WHITELEY**, who is, at time of writing, soldiering on. Telegram posted at Markets, Brisbane—looks like Whiteley made the Q Store. It was reported that Bill Hoffman made 60 phone calls, rounding up the Kyogle boys for the Smoko. Thank you, Bill.

• At about 9.20 a.m. on the Sunday morning a Churchillian remark was made by one, **JOE HICKEY**, ex Newcastle, that the Newcastle mob would leave for home about "half past." After much arguing by **DICK SEDDON**, **JACK GRIFFITH** and **JACK BERTRAM**, who all wanted to know who made Hickey the captain. Joe was heard to reply, "I only said about half past; I never quoted any particular hour."

• **JACK TATTAM** (2/1) announced two great events, one on top of the other. Number one: to Jack Tattam, a new edition to the family; and number two, our country smoko. Don't know whether your wife will appreciate this double event, Jack, but you can rest assured that the association wishes your family the very best.

• **JACK** (Bluey) **MOXEY** travelled with the city team to the Port, where we adopted brother Keith (local Port man). Did not see a great deal of either Jack or Keith after Saturday night—seems like he went up and did a bit of fruit picking for brother Keith. City members did show a profit, as our staple diet on the trip home was beer and bananas.

• **JACK COLLIS** deserves an extra mention! As Jack gets car sick, he made the trip on Friday night on his own . . . per The Safe Way. Jack was well known to all members of the 2/1 for his ability and understanding in the R.A.P. As the years roll on, Jack has never relinquished his calling, as to-day he is always to the fore when visits to Concord are made. One could always say that Jack joined the ranks of the leaders—first into the Port, last out, still travelling The Safe Way (railway).

• To those members of the Sydney contingent who slept on the beach, one must say that **JACK WESTWOOD** and his voice of command must be recognised all over the surfing front of the Port. When **BOB MACGREGOR**, nephew Mick and Jack went to bed the lights from the surf club were shining where our Jack decided to lay his head. With a word of command such as only Jack could issue, came the demand: "Put out that ? ? ? . . . ? ? light!" And they did.

Many thanks to Mrs. Mary McInnes and Mrs. Peg. Herron (president and secretary of the Ladies' Auxiliary) for their visit to the boys at the Port Smoko. They were most welcome.

The following members were present but were not photographic minded:—

Gordon "Mick" McGregor, Jack Casson, Steve Stephens, Peter Seddon, Jim Rickenberg, Jack Collis, Ken Radley (R.S.L.), Harry Butler (R.S.L.), Allan Stone, Dud Bensley, Ted Skoyles, Ian Kirkwood, Peter Craig, Alex Durie, Arthur Luddington, Gus Pike, Joe Hickey, Noel Peterson, C. Dixon, Perc. Heath, Bill Paine.

IN PASSING

• **JOHN HARNETTY** (C. Coy., 2/1) has sent along four articles for publication and we are very pleased to see you are once again helping out. Two of your articles have been held over for future publication, John. Many thanks from the Editors, John.

The committee would like to congratulate all Pioneer children who passed their leaving, intermediate and primary school examinations.

• **MAX HERRON** and family spent their annual holidays at Xmas touring to Burleigh Heads and on the return journey called in to Glen Innes to see Jack Marshall.

From all accounts, the family had given Max strict instructions "NO PIONEERING AND NO SCOUTING," but he could not miss the opportunity of seeing his particular friend Jack; at least just for ten minutes. This turned out to be two hours.

Jack Marshall is now working at the largest store in Glen Innes, Mackenzie Ltd. He is very proud of his lovely daughter Marlene, and fine son Doug, whom Max was fortunate to meet. Jack has a friend, Royce Fox, staying with him who breeds all types of birds and it was here that the Herron family spent most of their visit.

Jack also sent along the sad news of fire destroying the sawmill of Leo Ferris at Lynch Creek, on November 18, 1962. We are indeed very sorry to hear of your loss, Leo.

Thank you for all your news Jack.

• **BILL EDGERTON** (18 Pln., D. Coy.) rang the Secretary to apologise for non-attendance at the Bi-Annual Smoko. Bill is a happily married Pioneer with one daughter and two sons. Bill plays in a band and occasionally sees a few Pioneers, but although unable to come along to our functions, he welcomes very much the arrival of the Pioneer News. Thanks very much for ringing us, Bill.

• **MAX LAW** was in Sydney recently and rang the Secretary to make contact with the boys. Max intended calling on Jim Robertson at Wentworth on the return journey. Best wishes from all your friends, Max.

SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE!

The association's financial year commenced on 1st April and all subscriptions were due on that date. Be a financial member and help your association have a bumper year by sending your subscription NOW!

GILLESPIE! . . .

Whaur's Yer Troosers?

By JOHN HARNETTY, C Coy., 2/1

It's to the writer's unceasing regret that his postwar wanderings have never brought him up against William McIntosh Gillespie, one of the few tamed Gaels boasted by the Battalion.

In passing, one of the others was John McAdam—but he rates a chapter all to himself.

Jock Gillespie joined the battalion early in the piece, along, if I remember rightly, with Gordon Osborn, Johnnie Gilchrist and a number of others who came in from the 30th Battalion, the Sydney Scottish.

They proceeded to prove that what they had learned in a crack peacetime mob was very useful in wrapping around the sinews of war.

As orderly room stooge at Ingleburn, Greta, Dubbo and divers other places north, south, east and west, I bumped Jock fairly frequently hither and yon, and so am fairly well placed to give him a little publicity.

Jock was long resident in Australia before we all met up in a combined form at Greta, but he had never lost the Doric brogue which is an essential ingredient in the proper recital of Burns's "Ode to a Haggis."

In consequence of this, he suffered the good-natured jibes of his confreres more than somewhat, because it's the fate of the Scot to be ribbed about his accent in every part of the world but Scotland.

Here, one learns, one is likely to be boffed on the bezer if one indulges in sly digs about the Scottish use of the Queen of Tongues.

There's the quite delightful tale told about Jock aboard the "Johan de Witt," when one night somebody sarcastically remarked that Scotland was a spent force, since there were more English than Scots in the auld hame.

Jock took this quietly, and surprisingly agreed, so the story runs.

"Moreover," he said, "That's right, and there's one place in Scotland which has a greater density of English population than any equivalent area in the whole of the British Isles."

Naturally, somebody asked: "Where's that, Jock?"

Jock, still just as quietly, rejoined "At Bannockburrn! We buried the lousy Sassenachs twelve deep there!"

ITALIAN AND GUM ARABIC

During the desert days of the Lovely War, to quote Herbert Talberg's recent letter to the "News," Jock was work-boss between Derna and Cirene.

Because of my miniscule knowledge of Italian and Gum Arabic, I got a job as his part-time interpreter, and had many an interesting little swan around the joint when Jock took the pay around.

I remember one night being summoned around to Jock's office on the other (harbour side) part of Derna, to do a job with some Senussi head men who were wanted for a labouring job.

The establishment was quite a pleasant one, inhabited by officers and senior N.C.O.'s of the R.A.S.C.

The household staff included a number of rather comely, if seasoned, Italian signorinas, and I wondered how the beauty chorus had got there to do the cooking and washing-up.

I heard afterwards they were some of the filles de joie riding in red-painted Italian regimental transports cut off by the Long-Range Desert Group at Beda Fomm, and scattered over the North African Command as unusual P.O.W.'s.

It must have looked odd to see Jock and myself touring around, because my five-foot-six compared ill with Jock's six-foot-several.

I won't quote his nickname for me, but it carried the imputation that I suffered from hereditary duck's disease. However, I have long since forgiven him!

And if anybody knows the whereabouts of the gent, information would be appreciated. Or perhaps he has migrated back to Scotland to see if it's true what they say about Sauchiehall Street on Saturday nights?

HOSPITAL VISITATIONS

By JACK COLLIS

• **NORM. PHILLIPS**, 2/2, was very sick for some time and had to spend the festive season as a patient in Concord Repat. Hospital, but was discharged in January.

• **SID JOPSON**, 2/1, had a few days in Ward 19 at Concord.

• **HUGH GREEN**, 2/1, was in Ward 610 for a few weeks at Concord.

• "Take it away" **JOHNNY WHEELER**, 2/1, had quite a long spell as a patient at Concord Repat. Hospital after a serious throat operation in St. Vincent's. Johnny wishes to be remembered to all his friends.

• **IVOR EVANS**, 2/1 was a patient in Ward 12 at Concord Repat. Hospital with an injured back. Ivor was also visited by Jack Westwood, Max Herron and Bob McGregor.

• **BOB MCGREGOR**, 2/1, Vice-President of the association, was an inmate of Concord Repat. Hospital in March for an operation to his foot. We wish Bob good health and a speedy recovery—it is to be hoped this ends the chiropodists' bills for you, Bob.

MAILBAG

• **CHARLIE WILBY**, 2/1, of Crooble, sent along an apology for not attending the Port Smoko because his two big sons were on holidays and Charlie had to stay home and look after the property, which was unfortunate, for he has a holiday home near Port Macquarie.

Jack Hueston called on Charlie recently and naturally it ended in an all night session.

Thanks for your newsy letter and your subs., Charlie.

• **MICK ROBERTS**, 2/1, of Leeton, sent along a very newsy letter and subscription. Thank you for both, Mick. He was assisting in conducting a 7th Division Re-Union on 16th March, and our Secretary displayed the poster and gave full details to all members at the Port Smoko. We do hope you had a good roll up Mick, for we know, with John Douglas as guest speaker, you couldn't help but have a good night. **JOHN PURCELL**, **JACK PAINTER**, **LES GAVEL**, **PHIL MAHY**, **NORM MULCAHY** and **JIM RHODES**, send their regards to all their friends. Would you send Jim Rhodes' address to the secretary, please, Mick.

All the **LEETON BOYS** would like to be remembered to Max Law, "Nicco" "Sailor" Hall, Jack Robbo, Ern Cross, "Saccy" Jack, "Logs" Clarke, Trevor Beckett, "Tommo" and all the rest of B Coy., 2/1. They invite any Pioneer passing through to call on Mick and the boys.

• For twenty years **VIV** (troop starver) **PARKINSON** has made Bondi his hunting ground, and has now seen fit to move countrywise to Caringbah and anyone calling that way . . . well, what's the use, you'd still starve anyway.

• **JOE BARKER** (H.Q. Company) sends his best regards, but what is the trouble, "One-Round," you don't get around much any more.

• **ROY LEADBEATER** (D Coy. 2/2) was known as the Richmond River boy—always dabbled as the cane-cutter from Mossman. Roy travelled possibly all over Queensland cutting cane, and then he would go south for the fruit seasons.

Suddenly, up comes Roy with a pub at Rockhampton (more startling to those who knew him) and a wife. As most of his fellow men said: "Trust Leady." The wife provides the inside work and takes charge of the "peter" in business hours. Not content with just a pub, but does the right thing by giving a nudge to the Queensland Golden Casket, roughly worth about 7,000 pounds. To you, Roy, we of the Pioneer Association, wish you the very best. One of your friends gave us this information and we hope that you will appreciate the spirit in which this was written. Good luck, Mr. and Mrs. Leadbeater.



● From **JOHN HARNETTY**, now residing at Wollongong, pleased to receive your letter and more than pleased to know that you are still available for contributions to our "Pioneer News." Looking forward to your next letter, John.

● From Grafton, N.S.W., news of **HAROLD LEESE**. Harold writes of considerable support for the country smoko from his part of the North Coast. Can assure you, Harold, that we in Sydney really appreciate your whole-hearted support in our venture. Also, congratulations on your acceptance as a country representative. Six copies of the "Pioneer News," plus a full list of all members on the North Coast, should be in your hands when you read this edition.

● With regret we heard of the death of "old" **JACK MORAN**, ex 2/1. His daughter's letter was received and, as always, her express wishes shall be adhered to.

● From Condobolin comes news of **PERCY FISK** (D Company 2/1). He sends his regards to all the boys and marvels how by just glancing through the paper, names that were long forgotten keep cropping up. Percy also sends news of another 2/1, Bill Edmunds, c/o Newlands Station. Will make sure that Bill also receives a copy of the paper. Many thanks for the sub., Percy.

● From **JAMES FIELD** (2/2) comes a donation for Norm Phillips, of Laurieton, N.S.W. (2/2 Pioneers). Would seem that when Jim visited Norm at Concord, his wish was to keep in touch with the "News." Jim Field emphasised the point that the womenfolk must be made to realise that it is up to them to notify the association of any illness or hospitalisation of their loved ones. Many thanks, Jim Field, for a very good point well stressed.

● **TOM AMEY**, of Mullaby, N.S.W., many thanks for your donation. Tom sends £5, but, Tom, no letter, no information, no knowledge as to his married life, family (if any), or platoon, company or unit. Bear in mind, Tom, such personal little notes help to give your fellow members some idea of your civil life after our service.

● From Delungra, N.S.W., news in the form of a two-page letter from **JACK TATTAM** (2/1). Jack speaks well of the idea of the country smoko and quotes that farming is a lively operation that does not allow for many visits to Sydney. With regard to our paper editions, Jack, three months may seem a long time to you, but it is most difficult when our letters from members

are sometimes so few and far between. Sorry to hear of the machinery troubles and the wet season, but hope, for your sake, that the ground after the wet may even grow Cadbury's chocolates for you. Jack also mentions Claude Campbell and Sid Jobson in his newsy letter. Many thanks, Jack—your subs. also noted.

● Another quartermaster of some renown, one **CLARRIE PAKES**, of Erskineville, wrote. How are things on the waterfront, Clarrie? Bob Lake used to see you quite often, but it's been a while now. Your subs. and donation received and all "B" Company wish you the same prosperous New Year ahead.

● On to Dorrigo and one's mind immediately jumps to **FRED WHEATON**, some 19 stone of grace and beauty—ex. "Hollywood Len" to his football mates and Headquarters Company. Fred writes of Merv Rees and Geoff Luvis, and talks of high times on the 23rd of February at Port Macquarie. Subs. noted, Fred, congratulate your son on his Intermediate success.

● **CLAUDE E. KNIGHT** writes from Umina Beach, wishing all and each a prosperous New Year, much laughter, cheers and plenty of beers. Hope your wife doesn't think all we do is drink, Claude. Your donation gratefully received and now in the hands of our treasurer.

● **SID ABERCROMBIE** (A Company, 2/1) writes from our far-western neighbour, Western Australia. We know full well that even though you would be regarded as a country member, we can hardly expect to see you at Port Macquarie. Your donation received, and we can assure you that the "News" will be on deck for many years to come. Apparently, Sid, your wife is like most wives of Pioneers, I suppose the next thing they will be scrapping, will be us old blokes.

● **VIC. KING** (C Company, 2/1) writes from Redcliffe, Queensland. No doubt our boys hop about a bit. Vic. quotes some hospital treatment and was then declared T.P.I., apparently his old ticker plays up a little. However, we know that that old heart will still beat as strong as it did twenty years ago in spirit. Vic. talks of perhaps seeing some of the old boys about April. If that is so, I should imagine that his kicker's days, as he seems so proud of, will be more than welcome. Treasurer acknowledges Vic.'s subs. for a year.

● **DICK SEDDON** (B Company 2/1) and also a very active member of the Rats of Tobruk Association, writes from Hamilton, Newcastle. This was a really

newsy letter, with firstly the information regarding Sid. Jobson being an inmate of Concord and a request that we visit Sid. Dick, this letter was received and immediately Doug. Shearston and Jack Collis visited Concord on the following Friday, with Bob MacGregor and Jack Westwood, but Sid. Jobson had been sent home the previous week.

In Dick's letter Dick also mentions Geoff Braye (12 Platoon 8 Company), and Geoff wishes to be remembered to all the boys. He speaks also of Ted Simpson, Jack Griffiths, Jack Bertram, Joe Hickey, Bruce Mitchell and Fred Hannan. He mentions Ted Simpson as having been on the sick list; Fred Hannan making a visit to Concord, but is home again and looking reasonably fit.

Joe Hickey has his ups and downs, but is always ready for a small snort and a talk. We accept your apology for missing the smoko in November, but we know that your misses are few and far between for any function we hold. Your guilty feeling with regards to subs. much appreciated. Treasurer smiled and entered same in the good book.

● **GUS DALY** writes from Essendon, Victoria. Thanks for the sub., Gus, and we would remind you and all members to include in correspondence christian names, platoon and company.

● Also from **JACK BERTRAM**, of Hamilton, via Newcastle, more starters for the country smoko. Thanks a lot, Jack, we need them all.

● **FRED BROOKS**, Boomerang Street, Taree wrote. Well, you say it's too b—— late, and I would say that 18 years is too b—— late, and that is how long it is since we have heard from you. Still, I suppose we'll frame this letter as something to be hung up in the "hall of fame."

● **BERNIE DALY**, Cundletown: what happened to the "cuddle" in Cundletown. Hope you've got dry feet for Port Macquarie.

● **TOM MORROW**, Woolgoolga (where the blacks throw their boomerangs backward), thanks for the subs, Tom, we'll collect your news at the smoko.

● To **JACK BROWN** (C Coy.), now residing at Lidcombe, very nice letter, Jack. Your mention of nostalgic memories brings back many names to the editors of this paper also. Mention of Syd "Sluggo" Sweeney and his brother, Reg., who resides at Manly, brings back numerous memories to us.

Hughie Green and Jack Price, two chaps we often hear of but never see,

From The Mailbag-Contd.

always create an interest to the ex-troops. You also speak of Albert Brown, ex-Kyogle, a couple of times; Jack Downie, from Blacktown (ex-2/2 Pioneers), must be a bit of a problem keeping the peace with such fighting men in the one pub. Subs received and most gratified to you, Jack.

• **JACK GRIFFITHS**, "Glido" to all who knew him, your letter to hand and many thanks, Jack, for your support. Seems like you've got any early start and reconnoitred the position at Port. Knowing "Glido" and the drunken mob he's taking with him, namely Dick Seddon, Jack McCracken, Joe Hickey (No. 1) and Jim Rickenberg, can quite believe it should be a lively old week-end. If it were only possible that we as a battalion could have undertaken your trip.

What memories may have been relived in towns like Guyra, Glen Innes, Inverell, Moree, Narrabri, Gunnedah and Tamworth. Nobody could ever want to get to Dorriggo when Wheaton would be "bashing," there's enough trouble there at any time.

• **BOB DICKSON** (2/2) writes from Merrylands, N.S.W. Your subs. to hand and well aware that subs. are always only a slip of the memory. Can assure you, Bob, that the paper will always be posted on time—it just helps that subs. are in. Your reminiscences of incidents by Monty Reid and also Jim Field are always worth of a mention. It is letters of this description that enable the editors to really put to print some worthwhile reading to all members.

• **HUGHIE GREEN** (C Coy) writes from Concord. Pleased to hear from you Hugh. Sorry that so far you have seen none of the Pioneer Battalion visitors. Visitors attend the hospital as often as possible and now they know will most certainly be visitors at Ward 610. Will certainly let you know of any other Battalion members who may be hospitalised at Concord.

• From Maclean, news of one **ALEX CAMERON** (what a footballer). Late entries always better than no entry whatsoever. Bill Paine's address has been listed.

• **TED JENSON**, Doonside, writes of being a certain starter at Port Macquarie; also includes a mate from Smithtown. Ted speaks of a wonderful holiday and if the beer lasts the way he hopes, we can't possibly see him reaching Port Macquarie. Such goings on with Don Crooks and Bill Nicholas will cost and cause much trouble, I think. However, see you at the Port, and Bill Nicholas's address has been entered on the mailing list. Your remarks as to the four Pioneers who went to Bexley R.S.L. with Bill Tasker are noted, but would better be forgotten.

• Doctor **GEOFF DYNON**, your letters are always welcome, and, Geoff, please would you bear in mind that we are not all chemists, and so find it most difficult to interpret your scrawl (Bob Lake speaking). Knowing full well your ability to work, we appreciate the subs.,

but, Doc., if we supply ice-cream and squash just one hour some Anzac Day would be more than appreciated. Peter Bell sent a personal message to you, Doc, from the Port. Good luck, good health and keep sober.

• Again from **FRED WHEATON**, this time to nominate a further starter at the smoko—one Steve Stevenson, dentist of our Quarry fame. Welcome to the dentist, Fred, see him at the Port. May get a few calls for him through the night.

• **JOHN PAUL** (D Coy. 2/1) sends his address and a sub. to the "News." Thanks, John, but I suppose under this heading the most suitable lines would be: "No news is good news."

• **JOE OLLIFFE**—subs, no letter, but did enclose quite an endorsement for Sgt. Ted Whitfield. Ted, it appears, has quite a position in the public service, Industrial Registrar, and has also been successful in the Electricity Commission. Congratulations, Ted, maybe a letter from yourself would give the "News" some likely information.

• **TED SKOYLES** (14 Pltn C Coy) posted his entry for the smoko. Why not a little bit of news with it, Ted, you must see some of the lads down Corral. Wollongong way occasionally.

• **KEN NEWLING**, of Scone, really must have had the treatment—two letters from Ken within eleven days. Ken, as you all would remember, was our original Fitter Sergeant, and, as seen by his letterhead, has never deserted the motor field. Ken remarks that in Scone his garage is not hard to find, and any Pioneer travelling that way could always find time for an ale or two, while in the event of car trouble, would always see the boys on the right way.

It was with regret that in Ken's second letter he passed on the news of Col. Charker's death (ex H.Q. Coy), and to his wife and two children we offer our sincere sympathy.

• **RAY SMITH**, of Kyogle, posted in a donation to the "News" and wishes all a successful 1963. Not much other news in Ray's letter, still will probably see him at the Port and get more information.

• **PHIL RUBIE** writes from Clisdell Street, Surry Hills, and quotes that his paper is still being re-addressed. One up to you, Phil, the committee apologises for overlooking the change of address which you forwarded. However, we can assure you that same will be remedied for the next publication. Phil explains that business keeps him fairly tied up, but, Phil, perhaps, say, one day a year could be squeezed in.

• **J. D. RAINE** (James) (2/1 Don Coy) writes from McMasters Beach. A pleasant note, and he writes of good reading in the "News." Well, James, you, too, can always help in this regard with an occasional letter concerning any of the lads you may contact at any time.

• **EDGAR "Ted" STRATFORD** writes from Lismore, and, as he quotes, "it's been a long time." Certainly, Ted

we remember you and especially the reinforcement company that sailed on the Johann De Witt. Your mention of those first few months at "Julis" brings back many memories—George McGuire, of whom you speak, has a business out towards Botany, Sydney, while mention of Parky is already in the column. Jack Henderson and Arthur Luddington are active within the association, however, of "Whacker Back" I can forward no news. Ted, as he informs us, however, has not been idle and his services to the local R.S.L. and as co-founder and vice-chairman of the board of the "Ballina Ex-servicemen's Rest Home," speaks volumes for his integrity to all servicemen. Many thanks for your very newsy letter Ted, and hope to receive many more items of such interest from you in the future. Subs. to the association, Ted, are left to yourself, and any donations towards the same are acknowledged through the "News."

• **SID JOPSON** writes from Inverell with a wealth of visitors for the smoko at the Port. We must admire Sid that he shows good judgement as a bank manager, as his visitors consist of Army, Navy (spud run), Air Force, and the rest Pioneers.

• **NEV. O'CONNOR**, Ballina, decides that he has had enough of the cracks that appear in the "News" and he really got cracking. Four pages of a letter, and a good one. Enclosed a couple to square the ledger. Does not help to know that you were in Sydney (even though in one hell of a hurry). Nev. is going to Port, providing that the floods do not tie him down, as they have done in previous years.

Dick Walker's (2/2) address has been noted for the next edition of the paper, and hope that all good things come the right way at North Creek. Alec. Lowe (2/2) has retired from the land and is now a storekeeper at Brunswick Heads. Anyone on the way to the Gold Coast should call at all times. Alec. can give many reasons why Brunswick Heads is always better to visit than the Gold Coast.

EDITORS' REQUEST

To assist the editors, would all correspondents please write on each letter in **BLOCK LETTERS** the following particulars?

- (1) Christian name in full.
- (2) Army nickname in brackets.
- (3) Surname.
- (4) Battalion (2/1 or 2/2).
- (5) Company and platoon.
- (6) Full address.

Thanking you in anticipation.

PIONEER NEWS

UL 5491

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

UL 5491

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CORRESPONDENCE: 3 ENOGGERA ROAD, BEVERLY HILLS

Hon. Secretary:

MAX HERRON

Editors: J. HARNETTY,

R. LAKE and M. HERRON

President:

ALLAN McINNES

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TO THE TRAMP OF FEET— A STRING OF MEMORIES

(By JOHN HARNETTY, C Coy., 2/1st)

Anzac Day has come and gone and there was the usual polishing of medals and recollections of last year, with the same old faces around again this year.

And don't worry about it, brethren! We got the same sort of mingled reception from traditionalist and hypocrite that we get every year.

The traditionalist is a person who wants to see the day observed as it always has been—with reverence first and a bit of gaiety afterwards.

The hypocrite is the one who wishes to see the old Digger spirit squashed into a dismal pattern—or suppressed altogether.

Every year about April people rush into the public prints about the awful drunkenness of Anzac Day.

We hear pleas about keeping it a sacred day—well, what is it now? Is it the prospect of a gutful of beer that makes Diggers travel often hundreds of miles to be with their old mates?

Is it the prospect of a day out on the town that makes Anzac Day such a drawcard?

Let's look at the thing in a proper perspective.

If a man finds his life cut in half—or terminated abruptly and horribly—by "the dreadful arbitrament of war" (as Chamberlain once said), is the occasion one to be forgotten, tucked away in some corner for permanent discard?

We gather to mourn the dead and rejoice with the living. The way in which we do it is our own affair.

It has nothing to do with the pacifists, the Bible-bashers, the fogheaded phoney intellectuals.

ACCUSATIONS OF DRUNKENNESS

Last year, in a few odd thoughts about our big day out, I commented that we've been accused of drunkenness, rioting, bludging on the badge, creating a public spectacle, scandalising the public weal and making ourselves and the day a travesty of ceremonial, a carte blanche to lust, licence, whoredom, riot, and anything black you care to nominate for the field.

That, we know, is not so. But it's hard to convince a lot of people of that.

For condemnation or approval of the way in which we celebrate the latter half of Anzac Day, we have to look for the regulars who visit the Dawn Service, the regulars who cheer from the sidelines, the souls who say "Good on you, Dig."—and mean it—if a slightly sloshed Digger wavers as he weaves his way home.

Most of us are getting up in years now. We're developing the bifocal glint, the off-the-face face, the various phases of fallen arches and "brewer's goitre."

But I ask you brethren, even if you hack off twenty years and dry-clean our whiskers a bit, do we look like a bunch of brutal and licentious five-bob-a-day murderers?

Let the calamity howlers shoot off their faces till they're black in 'em. Let the intellectuals tell us we're a disgraceful example to the young. Let the beatniks and hipsters and surfies and rockers and other zoological specimens deplore our very existence.

There's an old proverb that says: "The full man never understands the hungry."

THEY WERE NOT INVITED

WE know why we march in hushed regard past the Cenotaph with our hats on our chests.

WE know the meaning of the Two Minutes' Silence, the empurpled wreaths, the flags, the medals, the off-faded panoply that is hidden away for 364 days of the year.

WE know the meaning of the hours of yarning, the tactical plans drawn in pools of spilt beer, the songs, the reparation, the bull-shooting.

WE know all about it.

THEY know nothing about that bit.

THEY weren't there — nobody bothered to invite them!

ANZAC MARCH

About 24,500 ex-servicemen attended the 43rd March to Commemorate the landing at Gallipoli, 48 years ago.

Despite rain and fog in the early hours, the weather improved, and was reasonably fine most of the day.

The new 2/1st assembly point in Philip Street was advertised in all city newspapers and although one paper published the starting point as the "King Street end of Hunter Street," no inconvenience was caused.

At their separate assembly points there were one hundred and ninety 2/1sts and sixty-eight 2/2nds.

Committeemen were particularly active at both unit points, interviewing as many members as possible, checking addresses, collecting subscriptions and seeking tidings of fellow Pioneers.

LEADERS OF THE MARCH

When the order "fall in" was given, all present very smartly lined up in sixteens and were shortly on their way.

Colonels Graham and Neal headed the 2/1st on the early part of the procession, with Major Gordon Osborne taking over at the Town Hall.

The 2/1st banner was expertly carried by committeeman Walter Page.

Captains McInnes and M. Smith led the 2/2nds, with the 2/2nd banner in the capable hands of Jim Fields.

A contingent of unattached ex-servicemen from Clovelly R.S.L. Club were escorted by Clem MacDonald, of D Coy., 2/2nd.

MARCH COMPLETED TO DOMAIN

The Social Secretary was very pleased to see so many members complete the March right to the Domain, also to see such a good roll up of our officers from both units.

OBITUARY

All members of the 2/1sts will be sorry to hear of the passing on July 18, of Mrs. Betty Horne, wife of Ray Horne, A Coy., after a long illness.

Ray is well known to all Pioneers and we extend to him and his young daughter, Judy, our very sincere sympathy in their sad loss.

PHOTOGRAPH OF THE MONTH . . .

JACK COLLIS, Welfare Officer

To all those who have been in receipt of the "Pioneer News," no doubt the name Jack Collis will ring a bell.

Jack as you know, is our voluntary Welfare Officer, and there is no job too big or too small that Jack will not only have a go, but will succeed at it.

Jack joined the 2/1st early in 1940, and sailed on the "Johan De Witt," with Barry Taylor, Eric Guthrie and Cliff Secombe.

Jack is a keen sportsman, having played cricket with the Waverley Blues when they won the premiership. After this, he tried his hand at baseball for a few seasons and did quite well.

Jack is now a member of Cabramatta Golf Club and has won a silver monthly medal and several trophies.

Jack and his wife, Gwen, are very proud of their son, Brian (aged 18), who is doing very well playing baseball for the Granville Lions.

On the business side, Jack is a coach painter at BP Aust. Ltd., and being the sociable type, is the golfing representative on their Social Committee.

[Editor's Note: Thank you, Gwen, for your assistance in providing the above information].

DOCTOR "DEATH'S" RIGHT-HAND MAN

To the men of the 2/1st he will always be remembered as our doctor's right-hand man in the R.A.P. Jack was always there with the aspro, the small glass of water and in "3-Course" Kelly's case, the triple dye for his dermatitis.

Nothing at any time was ever a trouble to Jack and the same applies today with the progress of our Association.

Ever willing at all Committee Meetings with no job a problem to Jack who would be one of our strongest and best working members. The Executive and Social Committee and your fellow members thank you, Jack, and hope that your continued support and enthusiasm will remain ever thus.

Please Note: Notification of members in hospital is to be made direct to:

JACK COLLIS,
22 Fisher Street, Auburn.
Phone 648-1509.

This saves time and means for our member an earlier visit, so we do ask you to take note of this fact.

**BOB LAKE
Editor-in-Chief**

At the annual meeting in April, Bob Lake was elected as an editor for "Pioneer News." This followed upon the resignation of Vic. Whiteley.

The executive is very grateful to Bob for filling the breach in our hour of need, and we know every member will give him his full hearted support.

Bob needs no introducing, as being a driver with 2/1, he was well known with all companies. We are also grateful to his wife, Joan, and his two daughters, who are right behind Bob in his task of producing copy for the "Pioneer News."

Many thanks to all the Lake family.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Association was held at the Returned Soldiers' Club on Wednesday, April 24, 1963.

The meeting was chaired by the president, Mr. Allan McInnes.

Thirty 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, of Kyogle, and Eddie Beaumont, of Bonalbo, and other country visitors.

OFFICE-BEARERS FOR 1963-1964

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

Patron:

Colonel Geoff Graham

President:

Capt. Allen McInnes

Vice-Presidents:

Bob McGregor, Bill Hoffman
Gordon Finlay

Secretary: Max Herron

Social Secretary: Jack Westwood

Treasurer: Doug. Shearston

Editors: John Harnetty, Bob Lake and
Max Herron

Publicity Officer: Harry Montague

Auditor: Arthur Watson

Hon. Trustees and Advisers:

Geoff Graham, Frank Allen and
Tom Crossman

Master-at-Arms: Bob Lake

Social Committee:

Messrs. Westwood, McInnes, Shearston,
R. McGregor, Herron, Lake, Carter,
Henderson, Montague, Garnon, Wood-
ham, Finlay, Page, Dodson, Todd, J.
McGregor and Lawson.

EDITORIAL

Another Anzac Day has passed, for many of the readers, twenty-three years since they first signed on for army services. To the members of the Association the progress has been steadily increasing to that of a small, self-contained and financially sound body, for which thanks must go to the executive officers and the committees, both present and previous, for the excellent work and unstinting time necessary for success.

As Editor, it is my opinion that too many members are complacent, with the thought of "Oh well they are doing alright." I would like to attract the attention of all those members who receive the "Pioneer News" and are not physically handicapped by saying that the greatest way to show appreciation is to attend at least one of the functions which are provided for members throughout the year.

Attendance on Anzac Day at the march was approximately 200 and on the Bi-Annual, only about 70. The Port Macquarie Expedition attracted only 16 of the city and suburban members.

Not really record-breaking results when you take into consideration that there are approximately 600 copies of the "News" posted each edition to the city and suburbs.

How about it, chaps, **JUST ONE ATTENDANCE** on one of the occasions and help to make your association something that others speak of with "esteem."

R. LAKE, Editor.

COUNTRY SMOKO AT GRAFTON

Following upon the success of our Smoko at Port Macquarie, Harold Leese has made inquiries at the Grafton R.S.L. for the next one to be held on their premises.

This venture appealed to their Committee and it readily agreed to Harold's proposal and it appears all the lads on the North Coast interviewed by Harold, over the last six months, are of the opinion it will be a terrific success.

The venture was discussed at our recent Committee meeting and although members stated they would assist in every way from this end, they said it was too far and costly to expect many Sydney members to travel so far to Grafton. Only three Committee members said they could attend.

This Grafton Smoko is being organised by country members for country members, so please write to Harold Leese, care of the South Grafton R.S.L., and inform him of numbers attending, and if you can assist in arrangements beforehand or on the date.

Upon notification of numbers interested, Harold will go ahead and make the arrangements as to date, cost, etc.

WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

On Anzac Eve, the Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony of the Association was held and despite rain which had been falling continuously, there was an attendance of forty-five members.

With the command of "quick march" from marshal Bob Lake, the company moved off very smartly, with both battalion banners and wreaths to the fore.

On arrival at the Cenotaph our members were joined by members of the Ladies' Auxiliary for this most sacred ritual. Mrs. J. Olliffe placed a floral tribute on behalf of the Ladies' Auxiliary, while Allan McInnes (President) placed a wreath on behalf of the 2/2nds, and Bob McGregor placed a wreath on behalf of the 2/1sts.

The "Ode to the Fallen" was recited, followed by a rendition on the bugle by Aub Brazier, then a few moments of personal, silent prayer and meditation.

Immediately on breaking off to the G.P.O. steps, the rain commenced to fall very heavily, and after conversation with members of the Ladies' Auxiliary, we proceeded to the R.S.L. for the Annual Meeting, while the ladies retired to their own meeting.

Although the members were affected by the rain, it could also be seen they were affected by this solemn occasion and were, in fact, "Remembering Them."

LAST POST . . .

It was with deep regret that we learnt of the death of Jim "Tiny" Culverwell on June 14.

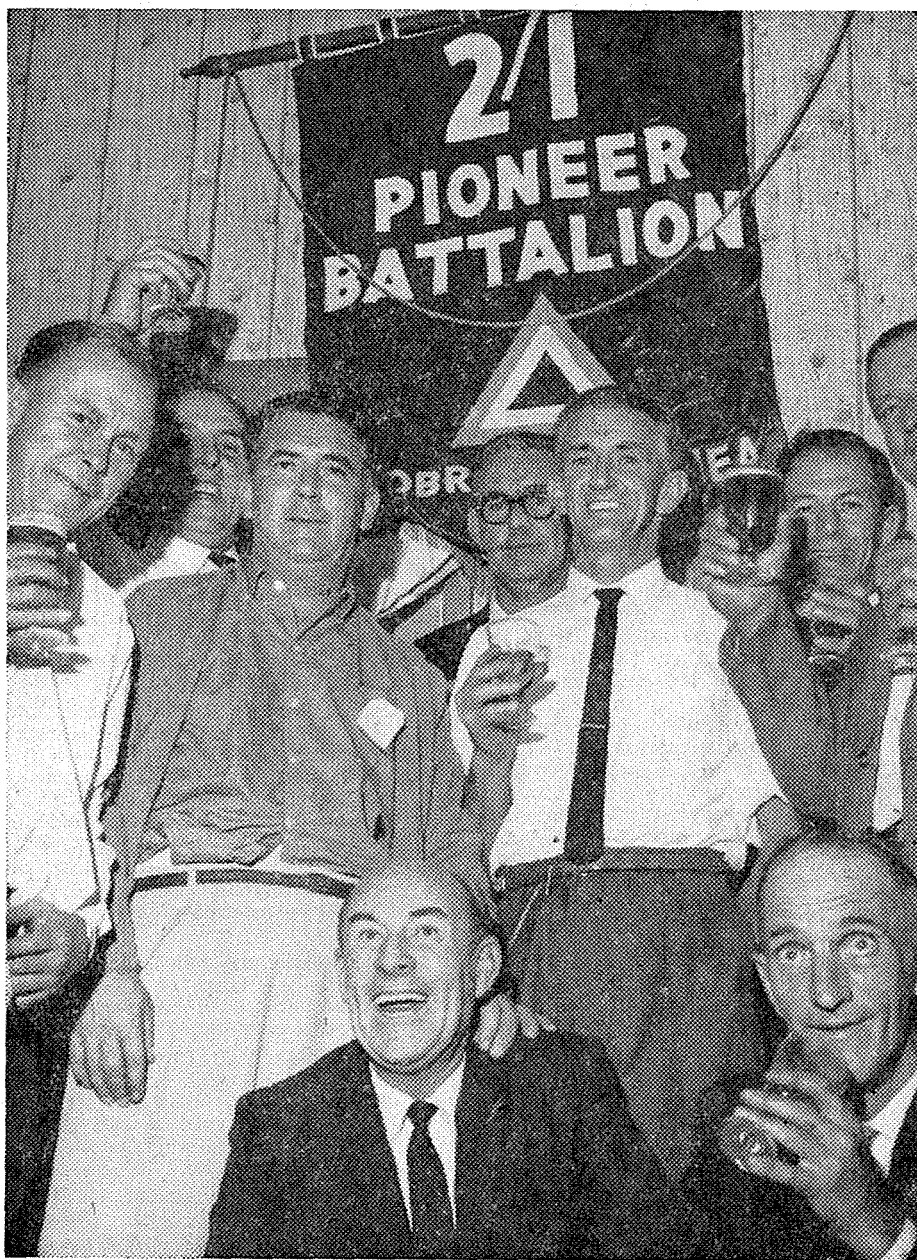
Jim was in good spirits and health on Anzac Day at the Re-union, and the news came as a great shock.

After the war, "Tiny" spent 13 years in New Guinea, including five years with Burns Philp & Co., and three years with Bulolo Dredging Co.

To his parents and family we extend our heartfelt sympathy, for he, too, was a mighty man.

Our President, Allan McInnes, attended the funeral and paid our respects.

● ANZAC DAY AT THE CASTLEREAGH . . .



From left, standing: Bob Lake, 2/1; Allan McInnes, 2/2; John Maund, 2/1; Gordon Walsh, 2/1; Gordon Finlay, 2/1; Ray Harris, 2/2; Mick Smith, 2/2; Kneeling: Joe Olliffe, 2/1.

You too may be in the Picture if you attend the . . .

BI-ANNUAL SMOKO

At a recent Social Committee meeting it was decided to hold another Bi-Annual Smoko.

The Social Secretary was not pleased with the roll up of only 80 members at last year's function, but has decided to give it another go.

There will be no charge for supper as the Association will provide biscuits, cheese, fish cakes, fish and chips.

This function is for members of both battalions and their friends, so make a note of the following particulars:

CASTLEREAGH HOTEL

QUARTER-DECK LOUNGE, 50 PARK STREET, SYDNEY
(Corner of Park and Castlereagh Streets)

ON FRIDAY, 29th NOVEMBER, 1963

From 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

2/1st RE-UNION AT THE CASTLEREAGH

Prior to the march, each 2/1st member interviewed by Alf Carter, was handed an invitation to the Anzac Dinner at the Castlereagh. These invitation cards were also handed to 2/2nd members at the door of the Castlereagh, and to members who were not present at the assembly point.

All told, 133 members availed themselves and partook of the meal before commencing drinking. At 1.30 p.m., Wal Page, with counter in hand, officially counted 146 members in the two lounges, which is quite a record of all our members together.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE CONGRATULATED

The social secretary and his committee are to be congratulated on their fine effort in organising this function. This is summed up in a letter from Mrs. E. Lamberton, who is the licensee of the Castlereagh Hotel.

We quote: "I would like to take this opportunity of thanking you and your committee for the wonderful way in which the Anzac Day function was supervised and carried out generally. On an occasion such as this, with so many present, it would be understandable if some spirits ran a little high, but I have never seen a more decorous party of this size.

"I hope that every member enjoyed himself and I hope also to see your members at future functions."

We would also like to extend our thanks to Alf Carter and Doug Shearston for the many hours they spent on Anzac Day collecting subscriptions—it was a mighty effort.

REPORT BY ROVING REPORTERS

Our roving reporters on Anzac Day noted the following names, and if anybody has been missed out . . . just blame the person who invented alcohol!

ANZAC DAY JOTTINGS

By ALF CARTER

● Phil Howell, B Coy., 2/1st, now of Willoughby, sends greetings to all the boys of B Coy.

● "Bluey" Chase, H.Q. Sigs., would like to be remembered to his old mates and fellow Sigs. Keith Reynolds and Wally Parsons.

● Don Crooks, B Coy., 2/1st, now of Newcastle, and working at the Commonwealth Steel Co., would like to be remembered to old mates Len Weyman, Gordon Walsh and Des Field. Don recently had the misfortune to lose his thumb in an accident at work.

● "Bluey" Moxey, B Coy., 2/1, now of Miranda, is in the building trade and he is doing quite nicely. "Bluey" would like to be remembered to all his old mates in the 2/1st. His great hobby and sport is pigeon racing and he has had his share of success. Two of his latest being first in the Gympie-Sydney race and first in the Rockhampton to Sydney race. Good for you, "Blue," but

it is a well-known fact that Pioneers make a success of anything that they tackle.

● Ivor Evans, C Coy., 2/1st, now of Sylvania, and a contract plasterer by trade, had a great day with the boys and was doubly happy as daughter, Kathleen, lived up to her promise at running. She is freely predicted as a future champ.

● Roy Bounds, B Coy., 2/1st, now has a very good job on the waterfront in Newcastle and says for any of the boys visiting Newcastle, to look him up and he guarantees a whale of a time at the local R.S.L.

● Leo Morris, who is Treasurer of the R.S.L. Sub-branch at Wollongong, mentioned at the "Do" on Anzac Day at the Castlereagh that he would like to meet all 2/1st and 2/2nd Pioneers residing at Wollongong and district.

● Charlie Smidt, B Coy., 2/1st, and now of Belmore, conveyed the thanks of his brother, Artie, to the boys for their kind thoughts on the sad loss of his wife. Artie held the family together and they are all doing well up at Maclean.

Best wishes and good luck, Art, from all the fellows and we will pass on the word that anyone making their way through will be assured of a right royal welcome.

● Tom Pendelbury, just recently out hospital, and we trust on the way to one hundred per cent. good health again. Keep the old chip up, Tommy.

● Mick Basket, B Coy., 2/1st, and now of Moruya, brought word of George Bell, B Coy., 2/1st, who is at Batemans Bay, having located you, George. Cheers from all the boys and we hope to have you at the next Smoko.

● Sam Lewis, C Coy., 2/1st, just back from a business trip to Port Moresby, Rabaul, Lae and Wewak, has some nice snaps including some of Bomana Cemetery, Port Moresby, which he is passing on to the Secretary of the Association. It must have been a mighty trip, Sammy, and many thanks for the negatives and best wishes from all your old mates.

● Tommy Crick, A Coy., 2/1st, now of Five Dock, was at the "Do" and I thought he looked his happy, smiling self. However, Tommy, unfortunately, has been in and out of hospital for many months. Best wishes and cheers from all your old mates, Tommy.

● Bill Tasker, B Coy., 2/1st, secretary-manager of the Bexley R.S.L., again gave a most generous donation to the Association. We would like you to know, Bill, the Association is most appreciative of your kindness.

● Mick Anselme, B Coy., 2/1st, again came down from Queensland. Mick says he can't keep away, it's become a habit.

He brought word from Mick Riley (who could not get away this year) of a cheerio to all his old mates and again leaves word that anyone passing through Ipswich, Queensland, to be sure to look him up per the R.S.L.

● News that old friend, Bob Baldwin, is not in the best of health. Bob, who is at present at 166 President Avenue, Kogarah, would welcome anyone of the old unit passing near for a chat about old times.

● Down from Murwillumbah for the "Big Day" was Lloyd Butcher, now with the P.M.G. and recent winner of the bowls championship of the district. Lloyd brought greetings to all the boys from old friends, Doug Turner, Len O'Connor and Harold Buckland.

● Clarrie Pakes, B Coy., 2/1st, received a terrific welcome from the boys at the smoko — always popular, his many good turns for the troops have never been forgotten by his old army mates.

● Down in the far corner of the lounge were a group of twenty-two Don Coy., 2/1st, and some fine tales were being told, judging by the gay laughter and expressions of good fellowship. We consider this to be quite a record from one company. They included: Gordon Osborne, George Tolmie, Ray Gardiner, "Bimbo" Bell, Jim Gray, Jack Lamerton, "Shrewdy" Percival, Jack Glover, Eric Face, Ray Wiseman, Bill Turner, "Bluey" Jones, Peter O'Brien, Max Heron, Jack Collis, John Flood, "Bluey" Walsh, Ken Oliver, "Tiny" Chapman, Bob Gratton, Charlie Johnson, Bert Moore.

● That mighty lump of man "Tiny" Chatman, Don Coy., 2/1st, now lives at Rozelle, and works in the boiler house at Unilever Ltd. Tiny sends greetings to all those old mates in Don Coy. he did not see at the Anzac Day functions.

● Lloyd Butcher, Jed Skoyles, Eddie Beaumont, Bill Hoffman, "Bombo" Boyd, Bill Wright and Mick Basket came down from the country and Mick Anselme came interstate for the Anzac Day festivities.

● It was nice to see old friends, Tommy Hugo, Hoot Gibson, Ces Peak, Harry Robey, Ken Oliver and Harry Olde. We hope they will keep up the good work and become regulars at our functions.

● A cheery, happy group — Ted Calderwood, Henry Allen, Tich Turnbull, Jock McCulloch, Stan Hampson and a visitor, Kevin Buckley. Kevin reckoned it a mighty "Do" — better by far than any of his own air force functions. Thanks a lot, Kev.

● Once again many thanks to Colonel Graham for a most generous donation to the funds of the Association.

● A bunch of fellows who were really enjoying themselves were: Mick Basket, Bert Holmes, Tom Crossman, Ray Marsh and Dick Blakeney. Maybe, it is just as well they couldn't find a place to sit down — they would never have gone home.

Continuing Castlereagh Capers...

● Bending the elbow steadily in a little group were: Len Weyman, Johnny Flood, George Stafford and Vince Petrick. Each one, happy to meet old friends, after a long absence.

● Ray Lester and Eric "Appo" Appleton had a couple to celebrate old orderly room days, and Ray brought best wishes to everyone from Frank Dynon.

● Mick Dobson, Gordon Finlay, "Bluey" Walsh, Charlie Vickers, Bob Lake, "Monty" Montague and Jack Collis again did a wonderful and one hundred per cent. job with their Anzac Day duties.

● Roger Coogan, B Coy., 2/1st, was happy to be there with the boys. He reckoned it was the first Anzac Day in 16 years he had been allowed out.

Knowing Roger, we do not take for granted all the stories he tells, but we are happy he had such a whale of a time.

● Harry Brown, Roy Furness, Bill Arthur and "Bluey" Scott were toppling them over steadily and thoroughly enjoying the good company.

● "Bricky" Wall, Bob Burnside, "Bluey" Walsh, Bob McGregor and Wally Page were enjoying a very steady session at the end of the bar and like all gatherings of old soldiers, had plenty to talk about in between noggins.

● Noticed having a couple together, before splitting up to meet and greet other old pals, were: Mic Anselme, Eric Guthrie, Rex Dorrough, "Jock" Copland, Jack Brown, Bill Wright, Bill Doney and John Harnetty.

● Colonel Graham, Colonel Neill, Gordon Osborne, Rod Pegg, John Flood and the three Morahan brothers, John, Cyril, and Kevin, called in during the afternoon. A gesture much appreciated by the boys who gave them a hearty welcome.

● In the smaller room having a fine old time swapping yarns, singing songs (army style), and, of course, having a jug occasionally, were Roger Coogan, "Tiny" Culverwell, Brian Kybert, Don Barracough, Brian Blume, Jack Robinson, John Norton, Roy Franks, Keith Garland, Jack Brown and Bert Garland.

● Noticed Joe Oliffe, Bob Lake, Vic Whiteley, Joe Barker and "Snowy" Jardine having a couple together for old times sake before getting around among their numerous other friends.

● Eddied Beaumont, Bert Herne, Sam Rundle, Albert Brown, "Hoot" Gibson and Bob McGregor were going along in great style and with plenty of the old thirst quencher available, a happy time for all was assured.

● Again, late arrivals, those two thunderbolts, "Smiler" Burns and "Snowy" Hemmings, in the blink of an eye they had the place in a turmoil, but someone woke quickly and a glass in each hand stopped them, for if they can't wave their hands they cannot talk.

● Having one or two together were noticed Clarrie Pakes, Perc Penrose, Harry Robey, Charlie O'Neil, Charlie

Smidt and Jack Harvey, and all agreed it was a grand day.

● One of the happiest groups sighted on this great day was Mick Dobson, Gordon Finlay, Geoff Robinson, Bruce Smith, Gordon Walsh, Jim McGuirk, Rod Pegg and Allan (Dora) Black.

Steady elbow bending, lots of talk about, good and bad times to remember and the pleasure of good company. No wonder the boys said "what a day."

● Going along in a quiet steady session were "3-Course" Kelly, Bob Long, Arthur Murphy, Ted Dolling and Ned Jennings, and, in between, occasionally tossing one down "3-Course" Kelly still seemed to have yet another plan or scheme to explain.

● Happy to meet each other and with much to talk about, an enthusiastic gathering of C Coy., 2/1st old-timers were gathered in a group, including Ivor Evans, Dick Chalmers, Sam Lewis, Billy McIntyre, Danny McDevitt, "Bimbo" Bell, Don Watson, Ted Skoyles, George Edmans and "Snowy" Hemmings, and with old friends continually coming along to say hello, there was always a good supply of the amber ale to keep the dryness out of the old throat.

● The Signals Platoon was in a corner sending messages to one another in the person of Keith Reynolds, Wally Parsons, Bob Burnside, Max Herron, Ron McFarlane, "Bluey" Chase and Pat Noonan.

● A nice happy session was had by Arthur Burns, "Appo" Appleton, "Snowy" Wiseman and "Dora" Black for there was plenty to talk about and a few noggins to knock over.

CASTLEREAGH CAPERS

By H. (Monty) MONTAGUE

● It certainly was a most pleasant surprise to see Captain George Patterson again after such a long while. Globe trotting as Trade Commissioner for the Commonwealth certainly kept up his health and he looked particularly well after the experiences and travel. George, after living in suits and over-night bags for many years, has now retired and is living permanently at St. Ives. George has always displayed a great interest in the Association and so we hope to accept him as an active local member.

● Eric Pendlebury, A Coy., was in Concord Hospital for quite a spell, but managed to achieve his ambition to be discharged on Anzac Day eve, allowing him to march with his old pals of 8 Platoon on the big day, which he considered the best remedy for all complaints.

● That little fellow from Kyogle, Bill Hoffman, was with us as usual at the Wreath Laying Ceremony, the March and at the Hotel. What a trojan this man is to come so far just to pay respects. If any of our readers happen to be at Ipswich or Kyogle at any time, remember to always try to call on our Billy as a mark of reciprocation for the very kind thoughts and interest displayed in the Association.

● During my travels around I stopped very abruptly, thought for a moment I was looking at TV, watching the serial

"Steptoe and Son," but a further view beyond proved it to be Len Rodda and Jock Ferguson, having an argument. Len will be 80 next month and very much on the alert and is always thrilled to meet the old coppers, while Jock has taken on the job of troop starving, to wit, Jock is a chef at the Little Sisters of the Poor at Drummoyne. Congratulations to you both, may your birthday be a happy one, Len, and to you, Jock, we know you will always be able to please the palate.

● Harry Allen, the renowned 8 Pln. ear-cleaning specialist, was, as per usual, in extra fine fettle, and he cleaned, drilled and most thoroughly bashed anybody's organs of hearing he could get close to.

I think it was Harry who described the surgical operation performed on him some time ago, and he described so vividly even Doctor Ben Casey could have learnt a few things. In fact, when they did eventually cut out this, put in that, substituted something else, I got lost, but eventually they sewed up the incisions and when it was all finished, Harry walked out while some stirring voices began to chime "it all sounds like — to me."

● Alf Jones came to the Castlereagh after much conniving with telephone calls and taxi cabs, but we think the noise of the crowd in the room helped his recovery very speedily. Alf "Bluey" mentioned watching the march on television and then the urge became too great, so hailing a taxi, he proceeded, broken foot and all, forthwith to the Castlereagh. Wishing you a speedy recovery, Alf, and hoping that you will be available for the next show whatever it may be. Alf also tendered an apology on behalf of Captain Stan Jones, who could not make it this year.

● Tommy Mutton, from Bega, another welcome visitor to the show. So glad to see you, Tom, and we look forward to many more visits.

● Ted (Dorothy) Dolling, ex-H.Q. Coy., again showed up after a long time. Ted is an executive with a very large bakery firm and made some very generous suggestions to the Association. Thank you very much, Ted, it will be completely discussed at the next committee meeting and we can assure you that words cannot express the appreciation the Association offers you.

● The Newtown Wonder, "Cossy" Cosgrove, was with us on the two occasions and has been indisposed for quite some time. However, the cheerful manner, is as usual, and his endless growls are as was.

● Snow Morris, C Coy., has moved to St. Ives after residing at Bowral. Snow will be remembered mainly for his efficient management of the "swy" game throughout the Middle East and in Australia. Snow, too, has made a generous offer for the next function whatever it may be to our Social Secretary. No doubt our Social Secretary, "Holy" Joe, will be vitally interested and your goose is now virtually cooked. Good luck Snow, and thanks a lot.

2/2nd RE-UNION AT ST. PETERS

After the march the 2/2nds adjourned to St. Peters for their 15th Annual Re-union, and with 70 members present a good time was had by all.

The real success of this function was due to the untiring efforts of Dick Kennewell and his charming wife, Sylvia, who carried out all the catering arrangements.

This left no room for criticism, but, nevertheless, it was forthcoming. Many thanks to Dick and Sylvia and may your shadows never grow less.

PADRES CLAUGHTON AND STEELE

It was very nice to see Padre Claughton, our patron, come along to watch the "clowns" perform and we also appreciated the attendance of Padre Steele, who entertained the boys with a number.

2/2nd NEWS JOTTINGS

● One face that was missed greatly was that of **JIM CRAKE**, our popular ex-barber, and we do hope you can make it next year, Jim.

● **MICK SMITH** came along for the first time and was made very welcome. He had a good day catching up with old acquaintances.

● **KEN HARRISON** brought along a friend, Gerry Kaufman, who was a member of the German Air Force. It was with some trepidation that Gerry attended, but very soon he found that he was a most welcome guest and that with our boys, bygones are definitely in the past.

● **COL SHEA**, of Melbourne, sent along his usual telegram wishing the boys the very best. Thank you, Col.

● **CAPPY CHRISTIAN**, who was M.C. at the smoko, carried out his duties in his usual subdued manner, something like Nino Culotta's cobbles. We thank Cappy for such a terrific day which was a huge success. We remembered our old cobbles who have passed on—renewed friendships of many years' standing, and we look forward to being with you, Cappy, next year.

● Congratulations to "**APPLES**" **McKAY** on his £6,000 win in the Lottery.

● May good health return shortly to **KEN FORREST**, **JIM CRAKE**, **GEORGE PERRY** and **MICK EGAN**. Good luck and a cheerio call to all the boys up Lismore way—drop us a line some time.

● **JACK HENDERSON** was on the job again, collecting subscriptions at the march for the association. Jack is by far the most ardent 2/2 worker for the association and is consistently putting forward ideas on behalf of 2/2 members. So how about some 2/2 members coming along to committee meetings and backing Jack in his aim to be a liaison officer between the two units.

Thank you for your efforts, Jack, you did a mighty job.

—Reported by Don Lawson
(2/2nd Reporter)

2/2nd MAILBAG

To date the secretary has received only five letters from members of the 2/2. Remember, chaps, this is *your* association.

To Gil Short, Ernie Lunn and George "Snowy" Tomlinson, the news in their mail is most enlightening.

● **SNOWY TOMLINSON**, D Coy., 18th Platoon 2/2, writes from Trangie. Change of address to Glenlee has been noted, Snow, and much obliged for your letter. Snow quotes as his personnel adviser, Arthur Brown, from Gilgandra, who handed in his address originally.

Snow congratulates Roy Leadbeater on his win, also his marriage, and suggests that you don't do all the profits Roy. Arthur "Chummie" Brown often meets Snowy over a few beers and talks of old times. Snow's first paper was the April issue, and he was so pleased to hear of Bernie Daley, the Allan brothers and also Alex Lowe.

Snow talks of a block of two thousand acres on Tyrie, Trangie, which has plenty of kangaroos; also a wife and three girls and a boy, and says that anyone who likes shooting should hop up and see him sometime. The problem is, who does he want to shoot—the wife, the three girls, the boy or the kangaroo.

Jokes aside, Snow, very glad to receive the letter. Alan McInnes sends his regards and hopes that more of the 2/2 will follow your lead.

● **GIL SHORT**, 2/2nd., a good worker for his association, sends in two letters, both giving names and knowledge of fellow members. Gil writes first of John O'Grady, who works for a margarine firm and wishes to be remembered to the boys of C Coy., 2/2. To join the association and receive the news only requires two things—name and address, unit and company.

Grand work, Gil, but you forgot to enclose John O'Grady's private address. When this is forwarded numerous past copies of the "News" will be posted.

Gil also writes of running into Jack O'Neil, D Coy., 2/2, who is filling in his time with the P.M.G. out at Revesby. Jack sends his regards to Jack Henderson, and he also wishes to join the association. Previous copies of the "News" are already on their way to Jack O'Neil.

Good work, Gil, keep it up, you may shame some of those other chaps into trying as hard as you do to make the paper a real success.

● To **ERNIE LUNN**, C Coy., 2/2nd, stock and station agent of Carinda, a welcome letter to hand and we were pleased to receive same. Ernie quotes of

a short stay in Sydney to see the third cricket test, which he quite enjoyed. He also quotes of being in Dubbo recently, but did not see Podge Sullivan. He promises to look him up next time he stays there. He reckons he had a pretty good idea of just where to find him when he is not at work, and I would possibly wager that it would not be at the local home and crafts building in the town. Thanks a lot, Ern, let's hear more from you and more often.

● **BILL FALLON**, D Coy., 2/2nd., of Cobbadah, via Barraba, apologises for not writing sooner, but with such a generous donation we cannot blast you. We accept your apology, and many thanks, Bill.

It appears Bill has a soldier settlement of 2,054 acres and runs cattle and sheep and grows a little wheat. His daughter is 16 years and is an apprentice hairdresser (no doubt Bill has taught her to use those shears on the sheep).

Bill welcomes any Pioneer passing through to call on him and his family. Once again, many thanks, Bill.

2/2nd News from Victoria

We are indebted to the "Pioneer Despatch," of Victoria, for the following items of interest.

● **TED BUERCKNER**, of Tungamah, suffered a painful accident recently when he caught his right hand in the drive belt of a wheat header.

● **LAURIE NASH** was in Heidelberg, in late February, following an accident and another patient was Les Merton.

● **BERNIE JUNCK** and **REG GOODMAN** represented the association at the Annual P.O.W. Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Remembrance in February.

● **COL RAE**, who is a greenkeeper at the Anglesea Golf Club, topped a greenkeeper's course conducted by the Department of Agriculture.

● **NEVILLE SMITH** and his wife recently departed for a trip overseas. Neville is a dried fruit grower near Merbein.

● **BARRIE HUNT**, of Warrnambool, visited Western Australia and stayed with Clarrie Glossop of H.M.A.S. Perth.

● **ALAN DUDLEY** was guest conductor of a special choir of 100 choristers in March at the Moomba Festival.

● Pioneers at the Annual P.O.W. Re-union were Ted Allen, Charlie Bover, Ron Childs, Reg Goodman, Bernie Junck, Bob Evans, C. Sinclair and Harry Hiah.

● **JACK TEMPLEMAN**, who has been attached to the Engineer-in-Chief's Branch at Army Headquarters, Canberra, has been posted as C.O. of Eastern Command Engineers, Sydney. Jack and his wife, Margaret, have three children.

● **FRED TUBB** is O.C. of the County Fire Authority at Longwood.

● **ALEX DENHAM**, of Warracknabeal is building a seaside home at Aireys Inlet.



● **ROBERT E. STEVENS**, of East Maitland, sent a letter on a Rats of Tobruk letterhead, and one could inquire if you are the same Bob Stevens, Pacific Highway, Beresfield, ex-2/1 Coy. (ex-battalion barber). We would like you to know, Bob, that we cannot repeat an address until we are sure that you are one and the same. However, Bob, we would like you to know that our association is not affiliated in any way with R.O.T.A. and we would appreciate all mail to our secretary's address.

● **JACK HICKEY**, of Lithgow, writes quite a newsy letter. All visitors welcome, and mentions quite a few names of blokes he would like to see. Jack (ex C Coy, 2/1), speaks of Bill Wright, Mick Anselme, Gus Hunter, Snow Hemmings, Sam Lewis, Hugh Green, Bill Chisholm, Pete Bell, Nobby Smith and Alex. Cameron, who was Jack's best man in 1944.

Jack is now a general painter at the Lithgow District Hospital, so anyone passing that way could always inquire there. Jack was a cook, and quotes: "They are a race of their own." Don't we know it?

● **ANDY McCLOSKEY**, H.Q., 2/1st, also pens a few lines. We all remember "Mac" for the great job he did with the football team. Mac quotes sadness on hearing of the chaps who have passed on. He sometimes runs into a few of the boys at Cowra and Bathurst and has a bit of a yarn.

Glad to hear from you, Mac, and always ready to receive more news when you have it available.

● **BOBBIE GALES**, of D Coy., 2/1st, writes a very interesting letter from Lidcombe, enclosing a nice cheque and also some very good information about a certain greyhound that he and his son-in-law own. The only trouble, Bob, is that the paper does not go to press early enough for us to be on the good thing.

However, we can assure you of one thing: if our secretary turns up with a new car we will know he received the news in time.

Bobbie speaks of best wishes to McGregor (I don't know what for—Lakey), Bricky Wall, Jack Collis, Tiny Chapman and all the gang. Good luck, Bobbie, with family life, and "Ryegale," the greyhound, too.

● A note from **BRYAN SMALLHORN**, 2/1st C Coy. Many thanks for the donation for subs., also for the kind words in respect of the "News." Address of J. Witherden has been noted and back numbers of paper posted, but would like more information regarding his christian name, company, unit, etc. Good luck, Bryan.

● **EDDIE BEAUMONT**, 2/1, writes somewhat disappointed at the "do" at

the Castlereagh. Eddie talks of good food and lovely fish at the Sussex Hotel, and wonders why the committee changed the venue for 1963.

Our answer, Eddie, is that the committee at all times tries to improve. We welcome your criticism and are glad to inform you that the situation is already receiving attention for next year.

Sorry that the floods caused you such trouble on the return journey; however, Eddie, let's hope for better meals, more space and less flood trouble in 1964.

● **JIM FAIRLIE**, of Bulli, sends a nice donation, but again very little information on the agenda. Our records show no information with regards to company, unit or platoon, so see what you can manage to remember about yourself, Jim, just for old time's sake.

● **TOM CONNOLLY**, B Coy., 2/1st, sends quite a newsy item from Wallabadah, subscriptions received and noted. Tom writes of a holiday in Tasmania—seems like the pocket did get a little heavy, but you can't take it with you, Tom. I don't know of a better way to get rid of it than on the wife—gives a good excuse for a leave pass occasionally, too. Best try to make one of our turn-outs, Tom.

● **PHIL CRAMSIE**, of Brisbane, ex-B.H.Q., 2/1, in a short note quotes being with us in spirit. Quite good, but would much appreciate a little of the flesh occasionally, Phil. See what you can do!

● **TOM MANUAL**, of Emmaville, ex-"T" Section, B.H.Q., 2/1, gives some good information to our secretary. Apparently the name of Tom's property is "Taronga" (you will have to watch out, Tom, that Hallstrom does not have a go at you—that is his pet subject, you know). Tom writes of panther country and quotes that he often sees Jack Marshall, Jack Rogers and Vic and Bob Donald. When last seen, Bob Donald was on his way to Concord to have some shrapnel removed. Claims they never had a drink together.

Apparently Tom picked a great partner in the bank manager and what with wild pigs, kangaroos, foxes and a few sheep, should soon be getting down to the big time.

Tom was married in 1956 and has a boy six and a girl two. His daughter had one of those rare heart conditions and was operated on at Prince Alfred at the age of four months and this was the first operation of its kind at that age. Tom quotes that Jeff Dynon would be able to explain what an aortic coactalian and a patent ductus is much better than he can.

He did not worry about social calls while all this was going on, but is seriously thinking of a Second/First Glen Innes contingent for Anzac Day, 1964, in Sydney, so hope it works out.

Tom also does quite a lot of work for Armidale Legacy and can quite understand the pleasures he would receive from that.

● **JOE BLANCHE**, of Beaudesert, Queensland, has gone berserk with the pen lately. I have to hand a letter and he is still talking of the wonderful time at Port Macquarie and is looking forward to others in the north. Both Joe and his wife returned home very tired, but convinced that the trip was really worthwhile.

Since this letter Joe and his family have visited Sydney and the Lake's place, and is still raving on about further smokos in the north. Joe says that not even floodwaters could stop him from attending another one.

Joe has one trouble in Sydney—orientation! Joe is forever getting lost. Apparently he circled between Crows Nest and Chatswood more times than a Constellation over Mascot before he found the right road to Lake's place. Mavis had the map and Joe had the wheel. Might be better for all concerned if the situation was reversed sometimes.

On Joe's arrival, Gail Lake was entertaining a certain young fellow and Joe, with all his forethought and wisdom, dashed in and wanted to say hello to the "crumb." (As Gail explained later, her poor fellow *did not* happen to be the "crumb.")

● **NEV WOODHAM**, 2/1st, a short note from Dulwich Hill, apologising for his absence at the committee meeting. Fair enough, Neville, we realise that work must come first and we know you will make it up in the future.

● **RUSS MILEN**, C Coy., 2/1st, of South Grafton, mentions in his welcome letter that he met Ernie Jamieson in town. Russ was disappointed at not seeing Ian Kirkwood's photo among the Port Macquarie Smoko boys. Thanks for the subscriptions, Russ.

● **BILL JOLLIE**, B Coy., 2/1st, of Queanbeyan, apologised for not being able to attend our Anzac function, but promises to make it a date next year. Bill extends a welcome to any Pioneer passing through Queanbeyan.

Thank you for the donation, Bill, and we do appreciate your kind regards to the association.

● **HUGHIE GREEN**, C Coy., 2/1st, of Wentworthville, sends in another two letters thanking Jack Collis for the many visits to the boys at Concord. Hughie sends his regards to Jim Rhodes, Kev. Curtin, Bill Chisholm, Ted Skoyles, Ted Williams, Justin Sullivan and all his friends in C Coy. and their wives and families.

Hughie sends congratulations to Bob Lake and his daughters and their fine work on the last issue of the "Pioneer News."

OH, ME RAGIN' THIRST!

By JOHN HARNETTY, C Coy., 2/1st

This tale is sure to earn the condemnation of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, but it's about Pioneers in various places coping with the delivery of their favourite commodity . . . grog!

Grog, as you know, is often dear to the Digger's heart. It's the oil that flattens out the turbulences of a C.S.M.'s liver. It's the gentle balm that brings a great big smile to the dial of the most flint-fisted of quartermaster sergeants.

It's the Ambrosia that makes even the most home-minded Dig remark lightly, albeit wistfully, "Gawd! Ain't it a lovely war?"

Grog, to the average Pioneer, came in sundry forms.

If you were one of the skulls and boasted stars, copper-oxide or better, you got it in the Officers' Mess, and swamped it down in vast immoderate quantities on Dining-In Nights.

If you were a sergeant, the Sergeants' Mess, hallowed by long tradition, was prepared to slosh it out to you — on payment of the prescribed fee.

To the Digger, it was available all too illiberally and all too seldom. Does anybody remember that dreadful flat beer we used to get from Cairns? It was hogwash, viewed in retrospect, but it still was beer — beer, the font of forgetfulness, the harbinger of bright dreams and desolate hangovers.

Does anybody remember that anisette which was carted around in large jars the night we reached Tobruk from Sol-lum?

It looked like sump-oil and tasted like the Wrath of God, but the hardier of the troops drank a bit of it just the same.

It's also recalled that that same anisette had a most distressing effect on the system.

Many of the boys, as I recall it, went for the old Hally's Comet after unwise ingestion of this stuff.

How about the Alicante sold by the Wogs at Kilo 89 and Hill 69? That was poison in spades.

I wonder if any of the vigilantes are still around who helped Captain John Riley stuff a consignment of it down its vendors' throats, and watch them kick as though they'd been hit by arsenical poisoning?

What of the all-too-rare S.R.D.; (No-body has ever been able to tell me exactly what those initials stood for, but Seldom Reaches Destination will do as well as anything else).

It was good stuff, if you drank it quickly before the bottom smouldered out of your mess-tin. Some rum for your tum!

Then we come to the era of Jungle Juice — the true, the blushful (?) Hip-pocrene, distilled by such masters of the art as "Three-Course" Kelly, who was a genius at the technique of the metal worm and the fermenting mash.

"Three-Course" made a good brew, they say. I think few of our bods ever sampled it because the Yanks had a lien on it.

Having seen the Yanks drink some revolting types of gutrot in my time, it strikes me that the Kelly brew would never have copped a blue ribbon at the Easter Show, but the Yanks liked it.

Of course, since the Yanks drank torpedo juice, wood alcohol, canned heat and other vitriolic beverages, Kelly's Redfern Redeye must have tasted quite mild.

As far as I'm concerned the best drop of home-brew I ever had was with old Ernie Greenwood, babbler-sergeant of C Coy.

It will undoubtedly be remembered that Ernie, with his worthy confreres, Cec. Hart, Snowy Lloyd, Arthur Neuss and others, was a real cordon bleu when it came to the art of food.

I wonder where the haemorrhagic old byblow is these days?

And his jungle juice, cherished in clear-glass Winchester bottles purloined from some A.A.M.C. depot, was a fine old vintage when we got it.

It's my recollection that Ernie nursed his brew from Balik to the Lampasoean without getting a drop shaken, tea-leaved or swiped.

Came the night of the Japanese surrender and Ernie bunged her on!

It was a choice drop — not the lucent drops tinct with cinnamon that you'll read about in Keats, but a good drop of White Mule withal — and we enjoyed both the occasion and Ernie's liquor.

I also recall awakening the next morning with a head the size of a freely-bouncing atomic pile, wondering who'd put the long-dead crow in my north-and-south while I was asleep — or unconscious.

That's a brief story of Grog and the Pioneer. Anybody else got any reminiscences?

Of course, one mustn't forget the Birra Cirene filched from a Libyan brew-ery by the Sig. Platoon.

And there were the casks and casks of bitter red wine found in odd places around the North African littoral.

R.S.M. Herb Talberg kept a cask of it in a handy position for quite a while. It was very tasty while it lasted.

In Passing...

• **NAT GOULD**, B Coy., 2/1st, sent a short note with his sub., and asks to be remembered to all his old comrades.

• **DOUG. TURNER**, of Condong, Tweed River, per medium of his good wife, also sent along a welcome donation. Many thanks, Doug.

• **"BOMBO" BROWN**, B Coy., 2/1st, is still with the P.M.G. Dept. at Bourke, and asks to be remembered to Alf Carter and Jack Hyde and the boys from Kyogle. Thank you, Mrs. Grange, for penning the letter to us, and for the donation on "Bombo's" behalf.

• **OS THURLING**, Sig. Plat., 2/1st, of New Lambton, sends along his sub. and says he is very pleased with the manner our new Editor, Bob Lake, is producing the "News." Thank you, Os, for your kind remarks. Recently, Os installed a phone at Jack Bertram's house at Hamilton, and you can imagine the time lost by the P.M.G. on that job.

• **JIM IRELAND**, Don Coy., 2/1st, sends along six names of new members and a donation — thank you, Jim. Working for the Repatriation Dept., in Brisbane, Jim would welcome a visit from any Pioneers passing through.

• **GORDON WALSH**, B.H.Q., 2/1st, of Ryde, writes in to say he recently had a holiday at Evans Head and Casino. "Good fishing, beautiful weather, plenty of refreshments and good company, all combined to make a perfect holiday" were Gordon's own words.

At Casino, Gordon looked up Joe Leis and had a real session together. Joe passed on the news that the "Villian" Cyril Duncan, B Coy., had his leg smashed badly when a tree fell and pinned him down for six hours. The ambulance man said he had never seen anyone with so much courage as Cyril, for he did not grumble or groan once. He is now up and about on crutches. Shortly after this his son, aged 15, died suddenly.

Thank you for your welcome letter, Gordon, and for the donation from Joe Leis and Nev. Schaeffer.

• **FRED WHEATON**, H.Q. Coy., 2/1, of Dorrigo, and his charming wife, recently had a pleasure cruise to Suva, and we heard in a "round about" way that they had an excellent time. Perhaps you may find five minutes to tell us about it one day, Fred. Don't forget to give "Lakey" and the boys a ring when in Sydney next time.

• **JIM ROBERTSON**, Sig. Pln., 2/1st, of Wentworth, has not written for some time and some of the boys have been inquiring as to how he is going — drop Bob Lake a line, Jim, then all the world will know what you are doing.

• **VIC WHITELEY**, H.Q. Coy., 2/1st, of Riverwood, was forced to resign as Editor of 'Pioneer News' recently, owing to business commitments. This was indeed a blow to his fellow committeemen. Vic was a most regular attender of meetings and has come forth with some terrific ideas. At a recent committee meeting all members praised Vic's work of the past, and we do hope some time in the near future you can see your way clear to return to the fold, Vic. Many thanks for the wonderful work you have done for the association. Kind regards to you and Peg from all your mates.

• **GEORGE PERRY**, 2/2nd, of Eastwood, sent along a map showing in detail the Seige of Tobruk, for which we are grateful, George. We may use it in part at a later date.

• **CHARLIE VICKERS**, C Coy., 2/1, of Campbelltown, carried out the mighty task of selling all the raffle tickets on Anzac Day, netting a considerable income for the association. Thank you for the job you did, Charlie.

Only a week before Anzac Day, Charlie's youngest daughter was married, and we offer our congratulations to the two newly weds.

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,

R. LAKE and M. HERRON

President:

ALLAN McINNES

Vol. 8. No. 3.

1st NOVEMBER, 1963

Price: 5/- Per Annum



BI-ANNUAL SMOKO

Following upon the advice of members attending the 1962 Smoko, the Social Secretary has decided to hold another Bi-Annual Smoko this year.

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 p.m. This lounge will be opened entirely for the use of Pioneers and friends, and we can assure you of a grand time.

SUPPER FREE

There will be no charge for supper as the social secretary and his committee (which includes Alf Carter by the way) have decided to provide fish, meat balls, biscuits and cheese during the evening. Reschs beer will be on tap.

The social secretary and his committee have spent many hours organising this evening and the only reward they seek is a good attendance. Last year we had

80 members attend, so our aim is to double it.

Each issue of the "Pioneer News" has contained publicity for this Smoko, so every Pioneer has received advice before now.

Here is a chance to renew old acquaintances, and at the same time, have a pleasant evening at very little cost. So take note of the following particulars:

2/1-2/2 BI-ANNUAL SMOKO

Place: CASTLEREAGH HOTEL
Corner Castlereagh and Park Streets,
Sydney.

Quarter Deck Lounge, First Floor

Date: FRIDAY, 29th NOVEMBER

Time: 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

No Charge — FREE SUPPER

● Cut this out and put it in your wallet
so you won't forget.

COUNTRY SMOKO

The 1964 Country Smoko will be held at the South Grafton R.S.L. Club on Saturday, 3rd October, 1964.

This Smoko is being organised by Harold Leese, a member residing at Grafton, and in an endeavour to allow members plenty of time to return home Harold has chosen the Six-Hour holiday week-end as the date of this function.

The cost of the Smoko at £2 will cover everything for the whole evening, and as the Ladies' Auxiliary will do the catering, you can rest assured it will be the best.

Twenty members of the Navy of the "Spud" run have joined forces with us on the night, so there should be some good old get togethers.

We are publishing this date early so members can plan well ahead and start putting the pennies away in case they wish to go by plane.

For further particulars please contact Harold Leese, c/o South Grafton R.S.L. Club, and he will be only too willing to assist.

HOSPITAL VISITATIONS

BY JACK COLLIS

Once again we are greatly indebted to Jack Collis for his report of the boys in hospital.

Jack reports quite a number of members hospitalised during the last few months, but is happy to say that at the time of writing only two remain there, R. F. (Bob) Kelly and W. (Windy) Windbank. Bob is still in Concord and Windy is in isolation at Prince Alfred. Windy would like to see any of his old A Coy. mates, any time after isolation, of course.

During the period of Jack's calls he visited 2/1 members Sid Sweeny, Hugh Green, Arthur Stephens (passed away in July), Doug Stewart, Bob McGregor (who had been in twice—possibly needed a holiday) and J. Carr of the 2/2. Jack expresses many thanks to Mick Dodson for the terrific amount of books he sent along for the boys, and to those who notified him of chaps in hospital.

It is in support of Jack Collis that I add this last small item. To wives, mothers, sons and daughters, if you have a loved one in Concord or any hospital and he be a Pioneer, let us know, and we can assure you that Jack Collis will not leave him unattended.

PIONEER SUCCESS STORY

While we all know that the Army claimed men from all walks of life, and that some returned to those positions, there were many others who decided on other outlets.

City chaps went to the bush, country chaps came to the city, and I should imagine that the State of New South Wales would be all the better for these exchanges.

At the time of writing the City of Sydney was in the stage of the Waratah Festival — the Queen had been chosen and gaiety was the password for the week. To you fortunate people who have had the pleasure of seeing Hyde Park in all its splendour, it gives me great pleasure to introduce one of its key personnel CLEM MARONEY, A Coy, 2/1, who holds the position of foreman, Parks and Gardens, City Council. To Clem, we say a wonderful job well done, and to you and your staff we wish continued success.

For the benefit of those who do not know (and I was one), all suburban councils have a competition each year

for the best cared for park in the metropolitan area.

This competition is really contested, as possibly you people have noticed with regard to the park land in your own suburb. However, it is not very often that two parks contesting the competition can finish first and second and have Pioneers as their foremen on each occasion. It has happened this year with Clem Maroney, No. 1 Hyde Park, and Joe "Spag" White, No. 2 St. Leonards Park, North Sydney.

JOE WHITE has been with North Sydney Council about six years, and, as you would possibly all remember, prior to the War had done his share of canecutting, both in Queensland and the Northern Rivers, truck driving, cattle dip building and possibly whatever else there is to do for a man on the land.

He decided to try his luck in the city, and with his wife and daughter, made the big break. As the reading shows he has made a success of it and all Pioneers wish him well. Joe's daughter has since married and has reverted back to the country where her husband is in the motor business in Kempsey.

SEE YOU AT THE CASTLEREAGH HOTEL (Cnr. Castlereagh and Park Sts.) AT 7 p.m. ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29

2/2 PIONEER NEWS JOTTINGS

● **JIM DARRAGH**, 16 Platoon, D Coy., 2/2, Victoria, sends along a few lines per medium of his good wife, who sent us two pages and Jim, not to be outdone, managed a page. Jim's wife enjoys reading the news and quotes that Jim is still the same—a little older and bald on top, but blames the wife and two children, plus a magpie, for that. Also states that if any of you blokes are down that way the beer is better than N.S.W., and then goes on with some nonsense about a bridge over the Yarra (but I would guess that it is only to stop the cars from getting bogged).

With regards to Jim's own page in this letter, I, as editor, must apologise if some of the names mentioned do not correspond with those that he speaks about. No offence, Jim, but I make no claims to being a cipher expert. Reminiscing over such blokes as "Shaver" Bradley, "Speed" Gordon, "Barnsey" the colt, "Cooma" Lindsay, Snowy Dodd, the Crooner, Sir Sydney Booth, Stoney from Belbora, and a crazy barber called Rocky Allen. Jim sends all these chaps his best regards and hopes to perhaps read something about them in later editions of the paper.

(I hope I have got these names right for you, Jim, but it is the best I can do.—Editor.)

● **BOB LEE**, H.Q. Coy., 2/2, of Concord West, sends in the following news items:—

"I must apologise for not getting this letter to you earlier, but the shock of returning to work following a holiday is a bit too much for an old gentleman? As you know, my holiday trip took me to Melbourne, where all possible efforts were made to see a few of the Pioneers.

"On the way down my wife, Joan, two daughters and myself, stayed overnight at Cootamundra and had a very pleasant few hours with Arthur Daldy and family. Arthur looks none the worse for a few years' wear and tear. In fact, he should not with his charming wife, Nance, to look after him.

"Couldn't get away from Cootamundra without a forced visit to the local club, where almost on every wall is a plaque showing winners of yearly singles, doubles and fours (bowling of course). Naturally, Arthur's name is quite prominent on the lists, but I later wondered whether, as he is a painter, he painted his own name on? I was able to leave him a copy of the battalion history, which he had not seen before, and I can assure you that by now most of the print would have been read from page 211, where Arthur gets a mention.

"From Cootamundra we went through Wagga, where I stayed long enough to look around a few of the old haunts. Even saw the post office, where I remember two Pioneers (no names) having a date one Sunday afternoon with two local girls, namely Bib and Bub. Needless to say, the date was made the night before by the two Pioneers while in a drunken stupor, and the girls didn't turn up. Whether the girls were all

they appeared to be in the drunken stupor or whether the two Pioneers (still no names) were not the Clark Gable type, will never be known.

"Saw a bit of the old campsite at Kapooka, which still appears to be extensively used. Didn't have time to count the railway sleepers between Kapooka and Urquinty, where the old hotel still stands. I recall having walked both ways along the railway line on more than one occasion and the trip back to camp was always the worst. Tip-toeing back along the line, sleeper by sleeper (especially when slightly the worse for wear), it is a wonder we were not run down by the train.

"From Albury we followed the Murray to Yarrowonga, then to Echuca, down to Bendigo and Ballarat, where I tried to locate Arthur Maynard. Unfortunately, I found out much later that he is at a place called Serpentine, about 30 miles north-west of Bendigo.

"In Melbourne I was quick to notice that the Yarra is too thick to swim in and still too thin to plough. We stayed with my sister, who lives only 50 yards from Col. Shey.

"While in the big city I was able to see Porky (Honest John) Cunningham, who doesn't appear to have changed a bit. He has a son who is now a jockey. Porky still has a paper stand outside Flinders Street railway station.

"Still in the big city, also saw Bruce MacDonald (anti-tank platoon), who was in Sydney on Anzac Day a couple of years back. Walked a few blocks to see Joe White (anti-tank platoon) at his place of business, only to find that Joe was on holidays. He lives at Cooyong. Also saw Frank Cheal, who was in the Commonwealth Savings Bank on the corner of Queens Street and Flinders Lane.

"I met Bob Evans, secretary of the 2/2 Pioneer Battalion Association, at the Commonwealth Savings Bank in Elizabeth Street. Bob's address is 13 Brook Street, Burnley. I mention this, as there are still a few copies of the Battalion History available for anyone wishing to get in touch with him. I brought three copies back with me, which are available by 'phoning' me at UF1965. The charge is £1 either from Bob Evans or myself.

I also saw Lt. Bruce Stevenson (Pinocchio), who manages Fletcher Jones in Flinders Street. He wishes to be remembered to all his old mob from Sydney. He recalls having to "bail out" Butch Phillips on more than one occasion, although that hardly seems possible.

"All in all, a good time was had over the holidays, having seen a few old faces. I do hope I haven't bored you with this composition. In conclusion, Col. Shey said that he hopes to come to Sydney again next Anzac Day, bringing with him Punchy Hanson (Mortar Plt.)—so that is something to look forward to. All the best to everyone."

FAMILY SUCCESS STORIES

HARRY HUGGARD'S, 2/2, daughter, Susan, was an entrant in the Miss Australia Quest and was elected as Miss Eastern Suburbs.

Susan really did the Eastern Suburbs proud and was only narrowly defeated in the final for Miss N.S.W.

We offer our hearty congratulations to Susan and wish her every success for the future.

We can just imagine how proud Dad is, and we do hope that this success story will stir some of the 2/2nds into action by taking up the pen and dropping us a line.

It has been recorded that **BOB LAKE'S** two daughters have also done themselves well. Both have been very successful at business college and, as a reward, have really good positions in the city.

Gail, aged 17, is in her second year at the Reserve Bank of Australia as a stenographer, and 16-year-old Eileen has just completed business college and is in her first month as a stenographer with the Australian Broadcasting Commission.

Surprising where it comes from, but there it is. As "Lakey's" hair continues to fall out, he says he must claim a bit of the credit.

DAVID HERRON (son of our secretary) gained his Queen's Scout award recently at the age of 16 years and 4 months, which is truly a remarkable performance.

The average age of a Scout gaining his Queen's Scout award is 17½ years, and statistics tell us only 4 per cent. of the Scouts in Australia (110,000 in all) gain this high award.

We would like to extend hearty congratulations to David on his fine achievement and wish him every success in his future Scouting.

We read about David's success story in a copy of "The Propeller," a weekly newspaper printed by Wennholm Bros. Pty. Ltd., who also print "Pioneer News."

DAVID McINNES (son of our president) also recently gained his Queen's Scout award and has already been presented with his certificate at Government House.

Our heartiest congratulations to you, too, David, and every good wish for the future.

How about it, you proud mothers and fathers? Let us hear about your girls and boys' successes.

Remember, Mum! If Dad is too lazy to write we will always accept your letters and will be looking forward to receiving them. So, don't be backward, shame Dad and write yourself.

IT'S IN YOUR HANDS.

2/1 - 2/2 BI-ANNUAL SMOKO

CASTLEREAGH HOTEL

FRIDAY, 29th NOVEMBER, at 7 p.m.

Letter to The Editors

Dear Max,

I have been meaning to write to you for quite a few months. All that I can say is that I have the usual excuses that there always given to me when I was writing the magazine — that is, "I have been very busy." In actual fact, Max, this is true, but I know that it does not excuse me from writing to you.

I was very pleased to see Ivor Garmon in April when he was in Adelaide. Ivor is certainly keen, but he roused several of us into doing something on Anzac Day.

We were able to have a small reunion of our own which included Ivor, Ernie Hayden and myself. I gave Ivor several addresses and I understand that he called to see Jim Robertson at Wentworth as well as some of the boys in the Leeton area. I was a little disappointed to see that an account of his trip did not appear in the last issue of the "News," as I was interested to know just how many people Ivor did meet up with.

As a result of Ivor's trip, I later received a letter from Mick Roberts, in, Leeton, and a few weeks ago Mick and his wife, Vi, called into Adelaide on their way through to Perth. Mick and Vi stayed at our home for a night prior to going to Perth and again on their return, and it was nice to talk over past events with Mick. One thing did emerge — it seems that there are about 10 or 12 of our members in Leeton, Narrandera, Wagga area and I feel sure that if you held a reunion somewhere close you might be able to encourage a few people to go along.

I have since talked to Ernie Hayden and we reckon we might take a weekend off and drive to Leeton and probably pick up Jim Robertson on the way and have a reunion all of our own — what a weekend that would be.

It seems ages since I have written to you, so I had better fill you in with a few details about myself. For the past two years I have been closely associated with a business club. This is quite a big club, which although used mainly as a business club, is also closely associated with amateur sporting bodies. I am on the Board of Management of the Club as well as being a member of the House Committee, and just for good measure, I started them off with a newsletter about two years ago. The Newsletter is published every month or so and you can guess who the Editor is. You can see that I couldn't get away from it.

On October 12, all being well, I hope to be in Canberra to attend a convention of a National Advertising group of which I am State Chairman. I will be having two days virtually to myself prior to the convention to enable me to have a look around as I have never been to Canberra. I hope to be calling on Bill Jolly and Andy Collins. Mick Roberts is going to send Andy's address and I wonder if you would be kind enough to send Bill's address to me.

Keep up the good work and I hope to see you one of these days soon.

Sincerely,

MAX LAW.

2/1 PIONEER NEWS JOTTINGS

BY ALF CARTER

As you all know, between smokos is perhaps the most trying time for our publication of THE NEWS. It is therefore to our great advantage that we have on our side Alf Carter, who never fails to produce some of the news that we all look forward to reading.

Alf, as you should all know, is a very keen gardener and where he manages to fathom out all his items between the battle of the roses, we do not know, but for all these items the editors are truly thankful.

● **KEN OLIVER**, Don Coy., 2/1, now living at Earlwood, is doing excellently these days with a pastrycook business of his own.

● **TOMMY HUGO**, A Coy., 2/1, is doing well at Revesby. Still working on the waterfront, where he often meets his old friends, Clarrie Pakes, Charlie Smidt, Jack Brown, Laurie Fitzhenry. They all send greetings to their old mates in 2/1.

● **RAY FURNESS**, A Coy., 2/1, these days residing at Yagoona, and a timber worker by trade, brings word that both Danny Sprouster and himself wish to be remembered to all old mates in A Coy. 2/1.

● **NEV HALL**, B Coy., 2/1, of Peter-sham, is still with Wolfes, the catering people in their branch at Double Bay and doing quite well.

● **EDDIE BEAUMONT**, 2/1, Assistant Engineer of Kyogle Shire, has not had word for some time from his old friend, Joe Leis (B Coy. 2/1), of Bonalbo. Joe, after ten years' service with the shire, has transferred to Casino Shire as a tractor driver.

● **PERCE PENROSE**, A Coy, 2/1, one of a number of Pioneers living at Erskineville, is now with the Survey Section of the Sydney County Council and, as always, continues to take a keen interest in all sport.

● **BILL WRIGHT**, C Coy., 2/1 from Gosford, on the Central Coast, works on the local paper, "The Central Coast Express." Should contact Harry Hamer in that area.

● **HARRY ROBEY**, B Coy., 2/1, residing on the North Shore, at Artamon, is now a colour reproducer with the "Women's Weekly."

● **TED DOLLINGS**, H.Q., 2/1, living in the inner suburban area of Forest Lodge, is the manager of a thriving bakery business, with any spare time taken up with a love for fishing.

● **HAROLD OLDE**, B Coy., 2/1, resides at Auburn and is still, as he says, doing it the hard way at the State Abattoirs at Homebush. Sends best wishes to all his old mates in B Coy, including Bill Tasker, Len Weyman, Jim McGuirk and "Curly" O'Connor.

● **CHARLES O'NEILL**, B Coy., 2/1, late of Booree Creek, is now with the elite at Kings Cross and a cleaner at the Waverley bus depot.

● **GEORGE STAFFORD**, B Coy., 2/1, of Botany, is doing quite well for himself in a grocery store.

● **VINCE PETRICH**, B Coy., 2/1, has a lovely place of his own at Seven Hills and is a successful businessman, installing vending machines. Says things could not be better.

● **FRED "Bluey" SCOTT**, A Coy., 2/1, of Randwick, is still at Resch's brewery, but, unfortunately, has been on "compo." for a time with a slipped disc. The best wishes from all the boys, Fred, for a change of luck.

● **ROD PEGG**, B Coy., 2/1, of Strathfield, is an accountant with the Hospital and Medical Benefits Funds. Rod's interests these days lie in photography and stamp collecting.

● **JACK CORKISH**, B Coy., 2/1, now married and in a very nice home of his own at Blakehurst, still plays a mighty fine game of cricket. He is one of the stars of the United Services Club at Sutherland.

● **WALLY PARSONS**, Sig. Platoon, 2/1, of Greenacre, is doing well in the building industry nowadays.

● **"WAGGA" GRICE**, H.Q. Coy., 2/1, resides at Erskineville, and is a foundry furnace man at a large plant in Auburn.

● **ALEX "Bombo" BOYD**, D Coy., 2/1, of Bribbaree, a little place about 25 miles from Young, N.S.W., where "Bombo" is doing really well with a farm and a garage to look after. "Bombo" is also local agent for International Harvester Farming Machinery. He sends a cheerio to all his old mates.

● **JIM IRELAND**, D Coy., 2/1, of Brisbane, sent along the addresses and all particulars of four new members. Thank you very much, Jim.

Sorry you have not been in the best of health, but we do hope your luck changes for the better very soon.

● **JIM FIELDS**, 2/2, of Fairfield, sent along a news cutting from the local paper of Ern Stoker (2/1), who retired as a "Brown Bomber" from the Police Force. Thank you for your interest, Jim, but we did not publish the photo or the article as we do not have Ern Stoker on our mailing list and on making inquiries at the committee meeting, no one knew him.

● From Mrs. **SARAH LEARMONT**, of Ashbury, we received a donation on behalf of her son, A. J. Learmont, of East Bentleigh, Victoria, and many thanks for sending it along, together with your son's new address.

LAST POST

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

NX 25301, Payne, J. J., Pte., 2/1
NX 50755, Woods, W. H., Pte., 2/1.
QX 6283, Provan, W. R., Capt., 2/1.
NX 123785, Whitney, W. T., Lt., 2/1.
NX 53074, Ward, E., L/Cpl., 2/1.
NX 35627, Davis, D. T., Pte., 2/1.
NX 88295, Taylor, G., Drv., 2/2.

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



● **ALLAN SHAW**, of Kogarah, H.Q., 2/1, writes quite a newsy letter and has received one back from the secretary. Allan has made a request for any copies, photos or negatives relating to the Battalion Band at Greta, the Middle East or Queensland. Also any photos of the original 7 Platoon, A Coy.

He guarantees that they will be well cared for and returned in good order. Allan has settled down to building a photo copy of the battalion, so all you fellows who have any photos around the cupboard drawers, "how about it?"

To those of A Coy. who read this, perhaps the name "Parrott" may be more familiar. Allan changed his name by deed, the final O.K. coming through at Moratoi, just prior to his going to Japan. He was a side drummer in the Band, and quotes of very good experiences in Japan, all band work, but since discharge has lost contact with his fellows from the war.

Speaks in high regard of Jack Collis, Jack Paul, John Bannister, Alby Barton (of whom he has some very good photos), Frank Gillian, Ray and Nev. Furness. How about a few of you A Coy. chaps dropping this mate a line some time? Allan also inquires about Padre Stuart Watts and the bass drummer, Merv. Wiseman.

Subscriptions to the "News" noted and in the treasurer's worthy hands. Sorry, Allan, but we do not have George Levey's address.

● **HUGH GREEN**, C Coy., 2/1, once again sends us information. It is quite a treat that we receive mail for every issue from this bloke and yet it is almost impossible to know just what some of the other fellows are doing. Hughie has had another spell in Concord, but is now back on deck and managing to earn a "quid."

He speaks of meeting Sid Sweeny, Len Weyman, Jack Brown, another named Goldrick and Jack Price at the Highway Hotel, Wentworthville. Sounds like a likely spot for a wet Saturday date.

Hughie sends his regards to all the C Coy. fellows, with special mention for Bill Chisholm, Teddy Williams and Stumpy Curtin.

● **H. D. HARRIS**, of Deniliquin, writes a short letter with regard to information regarding Malaya. Apparently a friend of his is doing a detailed map of the Burma Road and he requests the position of two camps mentioned by Lt.-Col. Anderson in a letter to the Jap. C.O. in December, 1944. The two camps names are Shomu K.P. and Honbu Jap. H.Q. Can any 2/2 help Mr. Harris with this information?

If possible we would really appreciate the information about yourself, Christian name, unit, coy., etc., and of your personal employment at Deniliquin.

● **SAM LEWIS**, C Coy, 2/1, of North Ryde, up with a short note and also negatives of Bomana War Cemetery in New Guinea. Many thanks, Sam, but our printer states the negatives are not the type for reproduction. Sam is still a keen cricketer, up in the Ryde district, while junior has taken up the royal and ancient game of golf. Attends the golf clinic and was witnessed down at Palm Beach Golf Course some weeks ago, under the eagle eye of Dad, having a practice round. Good luck to both of you, Sam, and will certainly see you at the Smoko.

● **ERN "Smokey" VICKERY**, B Coy., 2/1, from Goulburn, drops a note for the address of Clarrie Pakes, and would have received same by this time, in a letter from our secretary. Without wishing to repeat myself, there was not much in the way of news from around Goulburn, or the ups and downs of one "Snow" Vickery. Keep it in mind, "Snow." Possibly many of the troops of 9 Platoon, B Coy., would be interested in the doings of one of their mates as well as others of the battalion.

● **CLARRIE PIKE, Jr.**, sent in a very interesting letter and we are very pleased to hear from him. Members of the unit would remember the late Clarrie Pike, first as the C.O.'s driver, and later as a sergeant in C Coy. Young Clarrie has posted in the subscription towards the "News," and has requested a copy of same in the future. He quotes as knowing me, Bob Lake, for a long time from a photo of his father and I in the Middle East.

However, I am not sure as to whether I appreciate the little bit about more fat and less hair.

Can assure you that you will receive a copy of the "News," Clarrie, and should you wish to attend the Smoko in November, make yourself known to the secretary and myself, and I will endeavour to entertain you.

● **JIM THOMAS**, Don Coy., 2/1, of Sandy Creek, Barellan, sends a newsy letter and we are pleased to hear that the "News" is welcome at your place. John Harnetty's articles are of interest to every person in the battalion. Would that each and every soldier in the battalion would regard the same articles with the same perspective, and if that were possible, then perhaps the "Pioneer News" would be a really great paper. As to whether Jack Collis has a brother in Griffith, I cannot say, but perhaps Jack himself may be able to contact you. Jim wishes to be remembered to Brian Smallhorn, Ernie Lunn, Billy Chisholm, "Dolly" Green and also Monty George of the 2/2nd Pioneers.

● **JOHN McCracken**, B Coy., 2/1, of Stockton, sent along his sub., but no news this time. Many thanks, John.

● **JACK MARSHALL**, Sig. Platoon, 2/1, and now residing at Glen Innes, writes quite a long letter to Max and expresses his sympathy at the loss of Tiny Culverwell and Betty Horne. Jack tells quite a story of threats of pack drill and what have you from "Old Popeye" because of his yakking on the mess line with Jack Collis, and of Leo Ferris coming to the rescue as usual. Speaks of Jack Collis being quite photogenic.

Trouble is, Jack, we can't all be movie stars.

Also speaks of Roger Coogan, Jack Harvey and Ivan Pepper (don't know whether he is on the mailing list) and Charlie Kemp. All you blokes who wish to know anything about birds, and I don't mean the long-haired type, should contact Jack as he has taken a couple of prizes at the Armidale Caged Birds Club. He specialises in parrots and only showed three birds, receiving two ribbons and two trophies — a great effort from my point of view. Glad to know that your family are all still progressing well, and with that boy, 21, I suppose the head was a little tender the following Monday morning.

● **BOB GRATTON**, B Coy., 2/1, and now of Greenacre, expresses his pleasure at the first "Pioneer News" he has received and thanks the committee for the excellent job they are doing. You would have received the address of Fred Scanes from Max by this time, Bob, and we hope that you were able to imbibe a few with him while on your trip down south.

● **TOMMY ANGUS**, D Coy., 2/1 of Brisbane, send a short note and an apology for being late with his subscription, but hopes that it will help to make up a little bit of the leeway. Can assure you, Tom, that the wait for the subscription sometimes does not make up for the amount of news that could be forwarded to us from around the Northern State.

With all this in mind we hope that you in the future may try to find a few of those banana-landers and in turn get them also to write a letter. Good luck, Scottie, and keep in touch.

● **FRANK HENERY**, D Coy., 2/1, of Temora, sends a donation and kindest regards to all the boys. Frank was married just after his discharge and settled down to a quiet life. He sees Frank Burke occasionally and gets news of the boys from him. Do hope your health is on the mend, Frank, after your repeated trips to Concord.