

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. 9. No. 1.

1st APRIL, 1964

Price: 5/- Per Annum



EDITORIAL

ANZAC FUNCTIONS

This is our last edition for the current year which ends on March 31.

With the passing of the years the Association is becoming more united, and while this has been a very successful year we must all endeavour to throw our weight in, and for this reason the following points I would like to bring to the attention of members of both the 2/1 and 2/2:

WREATH LAYING CEREMONY, FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 7.10 P.M. (2/1 and 2/2)

This ceremony has been organised by the Committee for the past five years and I appeal to all members to make the effort to attend and pay their respects.

Each year more of your mates pass on and this ceremony is one way of showing you will remember them.

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.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, FRIDAY, APRIL 24, AT 8 P.M.

After the wreath laying ceremony a cordial invitation is extended to all members of the 2/1 and 2/2 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. A good attendance is all the Committee expects in return for their hard work over the past year.

ANZAC DAY MARCH, SATURDAY, APRIL 25.

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 on March 18 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 2/1st will adjourn to the Castlereagh Hotel, and from 11.15 a.m. to 12.15 p.m. a hot meal will be provided by the Association.

Both 2/1st and 2/2nd are cordially invited to partake.

For the 2/2nds there will be the usual reunion at St. Peters.

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

YEAR 1963-1964

As President, I would like to say how fortunate the Association and myself have been in having such an efficient and hard-working Committee.

Once again I would like to stress the importance of every member attending these three very important Anzac functions in order to show your appreciation.

Your President,

ALLAN McINNES (2/2nd).

ANZAC SMOKO—CASTLEREAGH HOTEL

Quarter Deck Lounge, First Floor, Corner Castlereagh and Park Streets

COUNTRY SMOKO

From Harold Leese, at South Grafton, comes further information on the Country Smoko to be held at the South Grafton R.S.L. Club on Saturday, October 3, 1964.

Harold reports that he has seen most of the chaps on the North Coast and hopes to have an attendance of around 150. The Ladies' Auxiliary of the R.S.L. have been booked for the catering and Harold would like to hear from any members wishing to attend at least two weeks prior to the Smoko, in order to make final arrangements. All inquiries to Harold Leese, c/o R.S.L. Club, South Grafton.

Everyone up there seems to be in the pink of condition. Harold asks us to pass on the news that Harold Buckland and Fred Wheaton are really going to turn on a show—yes, a bigger and brighter one than you ever saw in the Middle East.

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 the year's labour of love.

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."

LAST POST

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

NX28872, Fell, R. H., Pte, 2/1.
NX32993, Emblem, C. H., Pte, 2/1.
NX19288, Everett, R. O., Pte, 2/1.
NX156915, Gillard, A., Pte, 2/1.
NX30057, Lettice, J. H., Pte, 2/1.
NX46175, Martin, J. R., Pte, 2/1.
NX45472, Mackie, T. S., Pte, 2/1.
NX92368, Kyneur, A. C., Pte, 2/2.
NX25550, Stephens, A. F., Pte, 2/1.
VX56621, Reilly, W. G., Pte, 2/2.
Peace, Jock, Pte, 2/1.
Angus, Joe, 2/1.

1963 SMOKO at CASTLEREAGH

Eighty members attended the Smoko at the Castlereagh Hotel on Friday, November 29, 1963, and all voted it a success.

We were indebted to the new manager, Mr. Foley, for his assistance on the night, especially when he had only learned the day before that it was on.

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.

JOTTINGS BY ALF. CARTER

● **MERV. REES**, H.Q. Coy., 2/1, down from Dorrigo for the Bi-Annual Smoko, brought word that old friend and stalwart of the Association, Freddy Wheaton, has not been too well despite a short spell in Concord. Fred is still not the best but we sincerely trust he is back to his own robust best by this.

All the best wishes of your host of friends go with this, Fred. Merv. also brought word of "Speed" Gordon, H.Q., 2/1, now of Sawtell, and a steward at the R.S.L. there. "Speed" sends good wishes to all his old mates in the 2/1. Merv. also passed the word that Charley Wilby, H.Q., 2/1, called in at Dorrigo on the way north to take over a 1,000 acre property at Moree. Lots of good luck and best wishes.

● **JIM McGUIRK**, B Coy., 2/1, is in better health now than for a long time, but is still on light duties with the Transport Department. In spite of all this, Jim remains his usual bright and cheerful self and with his own, sends best wishes to all from Arthur Gleeson, A Coy., 2/1. George Edmunds, Tom Kelly, Ray Lester and Jim McGuirk were noticed having a couple together and were being splendidly entertained by Jim McGuirk's mate of thirty years' standing, Mick Walsh, of the R.A.A.F.

● **JOHNNY TAYLOR**, B Coy. 2/1, now with a lovely place of his own at Quirindi and a thriving baking business, is doing fine. His hobby these days is bowls. Johnny speaks of Pat Dwyer, 2/1 Transport, known to all drivers as "Lonely." Special message to Pat from Lakey and the mob: "How about making a trip down to the 'Smoke' sometime or, if you do come down, what is wrong with letting some of us know that you're in the city." Ernie Smallwood, A Coy 2/1, joins with him in good wishes to all his old mates.

● **TED SKOYLES**, C Coy 2/1, a regular at every turn-out, was up from Wollongong and again had a fine night. Ted just can't understand why the members don't turn up in huge numbers, for the Smoko Night is never a dull one. Ted, how come you can't dig up the likes of "Tiny" Thirby and some of the other chaps from Wollongong. Tell them you get lonely going home on your own.

● **BILL WRIGHT**, C Coy 2/1, still with the Central Coast Express Newspaper, was down from Gosford for the Smoko and had a very good night with old C Coy mates and with a host of other friends made while in the Pioneers. Also on the Central Coast, another good member, Harry Hamer, who, on our

last journey through Gosford, reported serious illness of his wife. We do hope that your wife is now enjoying better health, Harry.

● **JACK BERTRAM**, A Coy., 2/1, with a lovely place of his own at Newcastle. Jack is a teacher at the Technical College up there, and brought best wishes from all the Newcastle Pioneers to their pals. To all that good solid crowd from the Coalfields and its surrounding industries we send you, as always, a hearty invitation to be with us at the big day on April 25. Don't let us down, after all it's only 100 miles from Sydney and the representation from Newcastle at Port Macquarie is always worthy of a good mention.

● City stalwarts **JACK WESTWOOD** and **GORDON FINLAY**, of the Committee, created quite an impression when they were seen entertaining Ken Stewart, now of Qantas, and actually a visitor to our turnout. Ken Stewart, an original of the battalion, has found difficulties in attending our turnouts, but perhaps now with this taste we may see more of him.

● **KEN "Mum" KERR**, H.Q., 2/1, now of Forestville, is considering a move to Tamworth, in the north of the State. Best wishes for the success of the venture from all in the Association, "Mum." Enjoying their usual quiet, steady session were Ken "Mum" Kerr, Arthur Murphy, Bob Long and "Nobby" Smith.

● **HARRY ALLEN**, A Coy., 2/1, happy in a Housing Commission home at St. Marys, is now with Tullochs where they are making the new double-decker carriages for Sydney town.

● **MICK EGAN**, 2/2, now of Bexley, now a representative of Coates-Paton, the wool and cotton people, and sends good luck and best wishes to all old mates in the 2/2nd.

● Old friend and always on deck at every Smoko, **RAY LESTER**, B Coy., 2/1, brought a message of best wishes to all members from Frank Dynon, the manager of the fabulous North Sydney R.S.L. Frank said that only pressure of business kept him from being with the boys that night.

● **GORDON FINLAY**, **ARTHUR LUDDINGTON**, **JACK COLLIS**, **GEORGE PERRY** and **IAN KIRKWOOD** were another happy crowd bending the elbow steadily. From A Coy. **DON SLATER**, **"TICH" TURNBULL**, **HARRY ALLEN** and **ERIC GUTHRIE** were all having a very happy night and slipping one occasionally. Also of A Coy., was **WALLY YOUNG**, who sends his best wishes to all his old mates.

● Tucked away in a corner and having a fine old session were **BILL CHISHOLM**, **JUSTIN SULLIVAN**, **HUGHIE GREEN**, **KEV. CURTAIN**, **SAM LEWIS** and **BILL WRIGHT**, all of C Coy. 2/1.

● **JACK COLLIS**, H.Q., 2/1, met his cousin, Bob Lee, 2/2, at the Smoko. The first time they had met in 15 years. Needless to say, the occasion was suitably celebrated.

● Another group knocking "em" over steadily were **BERT MOORE**, **RAY HILL**, **PETER CRAIG** and **PETER**

HOSPITAL VISITATIONS

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

Jack reports that the last few months have seen several ex-Pioneers in Concord and regrets that one of them, Joe Angus, well known as our battalion bootmaker, passed away on 17th February.

Others who have been "visitors" are Eric "Salty" Edwards, Hughie Green and Tom Hugo. Eric and Hughie are both home and doing well, but Tom is still in Ward 10 after being there for several months now. Here's hoping it is not long before Tom is up and about again and attending the "Smokos."

Keith Garland was a patient in the Mater at North Sydney for several weeks, but is now discharged.

Once again, our thanks to Mick Dodson for a bundle of reading matter. Believe me, Mick, it is very much appreciated.

FAMILY SUCCESS STORIES

● Congratulations to **TREVOR** and **KERRIE SHEARSTON** (son and daughter of our treasurer, Doug. Shearston) on recent examination results.

Trevor gained a very good pass in the Leaving Certificate, with Second Class Honours in English, plus A passes in Physics, Maths. I and French, and B passes in Chemistry and Maths. II. The pass won for him a Commonwealth Scholarship and Trevor will be taking an Arts-Law course at the Sydney University, hoping eventually to become a solicitor.

Kerrie obtained a good pass in the Intermediate and it is rumoured that Doug. now needs a larger size in hats.

● Our heartiest congratulations also to **COLLEEN OLLIFFE** (daughter of committeeman, Joe). Colleen did an Arts course at the University and obtained an Honours degree, majoring in English. She then spent a year at the Teachers' College, gaining her Diploma of Education, and is now teaching at Blacktown High School.

We are sure Joe and May are very proud parents and we wish Colleen every success in her future career.

● **PETER McINNES** (son of our president) is the second Queen's Scout in the McInnes family in the last few months. Peter gained his award last November and we offer him our congratulations and best wishes on a job well done. All the best to you, Peter, and "Good Scouting."

● **O'BRIEN** and with much talk about and and many friends pausing to say hello, the night passed all too quickly.

● **DAVE AUSTIN**, B Coy., 2/1, now of Sutherland, has not been well for a long time and would like to be remembered to all his old mates in B Coy.

● **ALAN "Dora" BLACK**, H.Q., 2/1, now of Paddington, and a leading light with the Department of Air, had a very good night at the Smoko and with fellow workers, Merv. Rees, Joe White and Bobby Lake, helped to create that feeling of goodwill that is a feature at our functions.



● From Mrs. Luxton, of Liverpool, came a letter on behalf of her husband, **ERIC LUXTON**, C Coy., 2/1. Your change of address has been noted and the "News" will be sent to your new home. Last Anzac Day was the first time Eric was able to attend as he owned a milk run. However, ill-health forced him to sell out, thus enabling him to attend the march and reunion. Sorry to hear of your trip to Concord, Eric, but your good wife says you are now feeling fine and working at B.A.L.M. Paint.

For all C Company's benefit, Eric has more than passed the ranks of the Benedicts, having two boys and two girls ranging in age from 5 to 16 years. Thank you, Mrs. Luxton, for the letter, please keep up the good work.

● Ladies again to the fore! This time from Mrs. Norma Garland, wife of **KEITH GARLAND**, B Coy., 2/1, telling us that Keith was a patient in the Mater Hospital at North Sydney and would welcome a visit from any of his old mates (Our welfare officer, Jack Collis, paid a visit to Keith and reports that he is now discharged). We sincerely hope that by the time you receive this copy of the "News," that Keith is well on the road to recovery, and many thanks for your letter, Mrs. Garland.

● **TOMMY HUGO**, D Coy., 2/1, of Revesby, is still in Ward 10, at Concord, writes his wife, Margaret, and not enjoying the very best of health. Tom has had the misfortune to have suffered two heart attacks, so if Mrs. Hugo can manage to put the pen to paper on his behalf, we will always be more than willing to pass on the information to all his mates in D Coy and the Battalion.

Everyone from Don Coy. wishes you all the best, Tommy, and hope that you will soon be well on the road to recovery.

● A short note from Wangi Wangi from **ALLAN McMILLAN**, who is the proprietor of the abovenamed hotel. Your address has been noted, Allan, but next time let us have your platoon and coy. Remember that it is 19 years since the war ended and memories do fade. However, Allan would like to see any Pioneers travelling through Wangi Wangi or district and can assure them of a warm welcome. Many thanks for your donation to our funds.

● **BOB GRATTON**, D Coy., 2/1, He receives our apologies for an error in the last issue of the paper. I was always under the impression that B Coy. was supposed to be our best Coy., now you quote, Don. However, there were none any better than the other, except, of course, H.Q., which was my Company. But we'll let that slide. Bob has

been in hospital for a successful operation for an ulcer and is now full of fire and sends a special warning to Bob McGregor that if he gives the grog away he won't have the same result. (What does he mean by that, everyone knows that McGregor doesn't drink now).

● **BOB DONALD**, B Coy., 2/1, writes from Glencoe and says he is not the worst in the world at writing letters, but could often be mistaken as such. Bob has met quite a few of the boys since the war days, and has even won an ex-Pioneer as a brother-in-law — Harry Rogers, of D Coy. Harry lives only a couple of doors away.

He often sees Jack Marshall, of Glen Innes, Tom Manuel, from Emmaville, and Cobber Cain, of C Coy., who has a soldier's block somewhere between Glen Innes and Inverell.

Bob mentions a little sickness (we always reduce the sickness) with a couple of visits to Concord, derived from the blighty received in Borneo. To make matters worse, arthritis has stepped in and taken a glove. However, Bob managed to grin and bear it, with the help of his good wife and family.

Your good wishes to 12 Platoon and all B Coy. are passed on per medium of the paper, Bob.

● Very short note from Mrs. Guthrie informing us that **ERIC "Salty" EDWARDS**, H.Q., 2/1, and our old water-carrier of desert days is an inmate of Concord and not very well. Would imagine that every member of the unit would remember Salty with his fiery red hair and a more fiery red moustache, a little bit sand-blighted, and plenty of salt water for all who may have wished to use it.

Sorry to hear you were in hospital, Salty, and hope that you are well on the way to recovery and possibly able to put in an appearance again on Anzac Day. Our old friend, Jack Collis, has again been in attendance, so you would have all the news up till the time of printing.

● **BILL LEWIS**, 2/2, now of Carlton, encloses a quid to cover the arrears and then gives us another new member. Not much news, but Bill informs us that his new member, Tom Brabbin, of Launceston, Tasmania, is in the timber trade and he thinks that Tom would appreciate a copy of the paper. We have added his name to our mailing list for future copies, Bill.

● **DOUG. HARRIS**, of Deniliquin, writes a pleasant letter thanking the Association for its assistance with regard to his query of the two Japanese words that were printed in our last paper.

He has found out since the meaning of these two words and the meaning has actually altered the aspect of his inquiry. Doug. speaks well of detailed

maps being done of the railway in Malaya. These maps are being completed by an American serviceman who spares no effort to ensure that the copy when presented will be exact.

On the personal side, Doug. started out on a soldier's settlement block in 1948. Hard work, possibly a lot of worry, and ten years later, had the misfortune to bring about repeat doses of malaria and tropical ulcers.

Finally, a bout of cerebral malaria added just a bit too much strain on the heart.

He was advised by the M.O. to get rid of the property or he would probably go off in a box, so he sold out and is now living privately in Deniliquin. As a pastime, Doug. has been studying the Australian Field Post Office in Malaya, but material is very hard to find. Doug. would be pleased if anybody has any old envelopes with the army cancellation on them and has no wish to keep them, would contact him.

● **DICK SEDDON**, B Coy., 2/1, and our Newcastle reporter, writes a very newsy but un-newsy letter. It appears that Dick and Jack "Glide" Griffiths went on a trip down Victoria way and back up through the Snowy.

Had a lot of fun, made a lot of calls, but can't imagine how anybody could make so many calls with so little result. Dick talks of R.S.L.'s at Narrandera, Morandah and Yass and managed to get away without having to buy one beer. Remarkable! Jokes aside, Dick and Jack really kicked it along some 1500 miles in five days and we appreciate all the new names of ex-Pioneers that he has forwarded in.

Can assure Dick that all these chaps have been entered on the news sheet and will receive copies of the paper each time it goes to press.

From the Newcastle area Dick writes of Joe Hickey, "Nugget" Laurie, Merv. Phipps, Noel Peterson (Old Schooner man), Jack McCracken and Jack Bert-ram, all carrying the bat still fairly well and not yet to the stage where they find that they don't like beer.

Joe Hickey still does a shilling on the poker machines — hope you crack a jackpot occasionally, Joe.

Your information regarding "Hollywood" Freddy Wheaton we have already noted elsewhere and we know that Big Jack (Flo) Green visited him a couple of times while he was in hospital in Sydney.

Dick also mentions Claude Campbell and Sid Jonson, of Inverell. They, too, are still able to sit up and take a little nourishment, while Freddy Brooks, from Taree, still carries the banner of the P.M.G. Department. Thanks for your sub., Dick.

from the MAIL BAG

● **BOB LAKE** reports a letter from **JIM ROBERTSON**, ex seal, now at Wentworth. Jim quotes as being in the very best and nearly due for long service leave with the P.M.G. He also enclosed a cheque for subs., which is being passed on to the Treasurer.

Seems quite a while since Jim was told that he would have to go on transfer to the country. When given the opportunity of picking his destination, he quoted, "You choose it and I will apply for a transfer in six months." Strange, Jim has now been away quite a lot longer than six months and is married with a family and enjoying life very much down at Wentworth. Jim has a daughter, a trainee nurse, but we have to say that the two boys have become traitors to N.S.W. as I am led to believe they are both strong supporters of Australian Rules football.

We all wish Jim and his wife, Margaret, the very best of good health and fortune and perhaps when that hard-earned long-service leave does come, there will always be a wee bit of room at Lake's place.

● It would not be a complete mail bag without the usual letter from **HUGHIE GREEN**. Hugh writes of in hospital, out of hospital, in hospital and out again so often that at time of going to press we still don't know whether he is in or out. However, he does mention visiting "Salty" Edwards and Tommy Hugo, so is still carrying our banner. When not in hospital, Hugh sees quite a bit of Lenny Weyman, Jack Price, Jack Brown and Sid Sweeney at Parramatta Hotel.

Hugh wishes to be remembered to the boys with a special mention to 15 Platoon. We sincerely hope that Hughie will have had his share of hospital by the time this paper goes to press.

● **FRANK HEPBURN**, C Coy., 2/2, of Condell Park, sent along his donation by courtesy of his good wife, Irene. Many thanks, Mrs. Hepburn, and your good wishes are heartily reciprocated.

● From Parramatta came a nice letter of appreciation from **Mrs. ISOBEL TAYLOR**, widow of **JOE TAYLOR**, H.Q. Coy., 2/1, expressing her thanks for copies of the "News." We are glad, to hear from you, Mrs. Taylor, and copies will be forwarded to you regularly.

● **OSSIE THEW**, D Coy, 2/1, of Brookvale, penned a short note with his donation, for which we extend many thanks. Ossie has not been in the best of health in recent years, but still manages to toddle down to the local R.S.L., where he sometimes meets up with former Pioneers. All the best to you, Ossie.

● **BILL HOFFMAN**, 2/1, of Kyogle, and Country Vice-President of the Association, writes to seek permission to bring a friend with him to the Anzac Reunion on Saturday, 25th April.

There is no need for permission, Bill, as each year we make it a point of publishing in this paper an 'open' invitation to friends of Pioneers. Thank you for your letter and your article, Bill.

● **JACK COLLIS**, H.Q. Coy., 2/1, of Auburn, writes that he has met up with quite a few of the boys in recent weeks. He and his wife, Gwen, paid a surprise visit to his old mate, Cliff Secombe (also of H.Q. Coy), and Cliff has promised to try and get down for Anzac Day. Jack also met up with Ray Lawrence, and, on a trip to the local R.S.L., ran into Claude McKeig. Recently, in the "refreshment" tent at a R.S.L. cricket match, Jack found another Pioneer, in the form of Nev. Hall, so a good time was had by all. Many thanks for your letter, Jack, we are always pleased to hear from you.

● **DICK SEDDON**, B Coy, 2/-, wrote a short note from Hamilton to inform us that Jack McCracken was once again in Concord, and we can assure you, Dick, that Jack Collis will soon have him on his visiting list. We will check to see if Merv. Phipps is still there. Hope you and Jack Griffiths can make it for Anzac Day.—Edited by Bob Lake.

H.M.A.S. VOYAGER
To the Parents, Wives and Friends of
the 82 members of the Crew who lost
their lives, we extend
OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY.

NO TWO-UP, PLEASE!

At a recent Committee meeting it was decided that NO Two-up be allowed on the licensed premises of the Castlereagh Hotel, at the Anzac Reunion.

The association is liable to a fine if its members are caught, and the social secretary has been instructed by the committee to ensure this ruling is carried out.

Therefore, we seek the co-operation of all members.

IN PASSING

● **TAFFY LAWRENCE**, H.Q. Coy., 2/1, and his wife, returned early in October from a trip to the United Kingdom and the Continent. While abroad he saw sisters and brothers he had not seen for forty years. However, Taffy is glad to be back in the land of the sunshine and, except for the Continental women (whom "mum" wouldn't allow him to meet), he says there's no place like Sydney and his old mates of 2/1 Pioneers. Taffy recently helped out by attending the funeral of the late John McGuinness and has volunteered to attend all funerals of Pioneers in the Western Suburbs area. We are really grateful for your offer, Taffy. If any retired Pioneers are willing to carry out this task in other areas, please contact the secretary.

● **REG. PITT-OWEN**, 2/1, recently was seen playing the organ at an A.B.C. concert at the Town Hall by Taffy Lawrence, who spoke to him after the performance. Reg's brother, the Rev. Albert Pitt-Owen, is now the headmaster of the Church of England Grammar School in the Blue Mountains.

● Two original 1st PIONEERS from **WORLD WAR I**, were present at the Bi-Annual Smoko and were loud in their praises. They were the President of their association, Bill Elliott, and Secretary/Treasurer, Ned Dewes.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY WITH THE 2/2nd

By **DON LAWSON**

Remembrance Sunday was held once again in November at the North Rocks Methodist Church. The service was conducted by the Rev. Stan Claughton, who was assisted by the Rev. "Jock" Steele, ex-padres of the 2/2 Pioneers.

The attendance this year was greater than ever, close on 40 visitors being present. Jim Drummond, Harry Huggard and Norm Dalla were among the faces noted.

One feature was the attendance of the Blacktown Band, who not only played the necessary music for the service, but rendered some familiar old Pioneer numbers, which brought back many pleasant memories. Our thanks to "Blue" Curran and the boys for this innovation.

Set in near-rural surroundings, this church and its congregation give one a feeling of peace and friendliness.

During the evening the Pioneers presented a flag to the church as a small token of appreciation for accepting them as friends each year while remembering our comrades who have passed on.

"We Will Remember Them."

2/2nd JOTTINGS

● **DICK KENNEWELL** reports a visit to Barmedman, where he and his wife, Sylvia, received the red carpet treatment from Arthur "Nig" Kelly. Kelly is involved in most of the social activity of the town, being president of the R.S.L. and a very keen bowler.

According to Dick, he and Kelly had to buy all the Lottery tickets for lost games. (It is a bit hard to believe that they were able to separate Dick from his money). In passing, one of Arthur's club mates was just beaten in the final of the Country Week Singles, held in Sydney recently.

● **NORM. DALLA** and Pat have just become grandparents—a son to Robyn. If any of you have an hour to spare, Norm will tell you all about the baby.

● Congratulations to **BILL LEWIS** on his recent £12,000 Lottery win. A nice change of luck after a lot of family sickness.

● **JACK HOWIE'S** family is beginning to shrink. His daughter, Kim, who topped the exam. list for final year as a nursing sister, was married at Christmas. Congratulations and best wishes, Kim.

● **ALLAN MCINNIS**, back from a visit to the Queen City, reports seeing "Porky" Cunningham at his paper stand in Flinders Street and doing well. Mac. also met up with Les Tyrell and "Pinocchio" Stevens, who have both been for a visit to England. Les is expected to be in Sydney for Anzac Day.

● Had a phone call from **PADRE STAN CLAUGHTON**, who sends an early apology for not being with us on Anzac Day. He has been invited by the Port Moresby R.S.L. to conduct the Anzac Service at Romana Cemetery. (Padre Claughton conducted the first service there in 1943.)

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: Secretary, MAX HERRON, 3 Enoggera Road, Beverly Hills

Treasurer:

DOUG. SHEARSTON

Editors: J. HARNETTY,

R. LAKE and M. HERRON

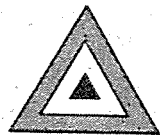
President:

ALLAN McINNES

Vol. 9. No. 2

1st JULY, 1964

Price: 5/- Per Annum



30,000 DIGGERS AT MARCH

Marching 16 abreast, men and women in Sydney's 1964 Anzac Day Parade took 2½ hours to pass the Cenotaph in Martin Place.

It was by far the most spectacular and moving march for many years.

Lining every yard of the route from Macquarie Street to the Domain, these 30,000 Diggers were watched by a crowd of 90,000 people.

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

At both unit points committeemen were particularly active, interviewing members, checking addresses, collecting subscriptions and seeking tidings of fellow Pioneers.

LEADERS OF THE MARCH

Jack Westwood, marshal at the 2/1 point, was most ably assisted by Gordon Walsh, and both these gentlemen did

a terrific job in sorting out the assembly into sixteens.

Colonels Graham and Neal headed the 2/1st, while Bill Robertson and Col. Shea led the 2/2nds.

The 2/1st banner was expertly carried by Wal. Page, with the 2/2 banner in the capable hands of Jim Fields.

For the first time in history the 2/1st contingent had a band immediately in front. This was the N.S.W. University Regiment Band, and all marchers stated it was indeed a pleasure to march behind this excellent band.

MARCH TO DOMAIN

It was very gratifying to witness so many members completing the march to the Domain and to see such an excellent roll up of officers, which all goes to prove . . .

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.

NOW IT CAN BE TOLD

Any Digger who passed through the Army Convalescent Camp at Kfar-Vitkin, situated approximately midway between Tel-Aviv and Haifa on the Palestinian coast, must surely remember the small Jewish photographer's shop within the camp area. Here one could have films developed, printed or buy copies of numbered photos displayed in an album.

One day, whilst browsing through the many varied and scenes in the album, I came across a photo taken by the proprietor on one of his excursions to Alexandria.

It happened to be a statue of a man on horseback—but, with a slight difference!

Two Diggers, displaying great enthusiasm, were seated astride the horse behind the man, frantically waving their slouch hats, whilst a third had his hands cupped under the horse's raised front foot.

Without looking too closely, I included this print with several others I ordered, taking it to be a typical Digger prank!

Shortly afterwards I was claimed into the 2/3rd Army Field Workshops by my elder brother, who, at that stage, was camped at Barbara. Before leaving Palestine, I parcelled up the photos, along with some other souvenirs, and sent them home.

Eventually we arrived back in Australia and were sent on "home leave." The parcel arrived whilst I was enjoying a well-earned rest!

When my brother saw the abovementioned photo he was very curious to know where I had obtained it. He then asked if I could recognize the three Diggers in the photo. On closer scrutiny with a magnifying glass I found them to be from my newly-acquired unit, namely the 2/3rd Army Field Workshops.

The two astride the horse's back were my brother's mates and the one with his hands cupped under the horse's foot — MY OWN BROTHER!

—W. S. Hoffman, ex-9th Pn,
A Coy, 2/1st Pioneer Bn.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Association was held at the Returned Soldiers' Club, Elizabeth Street, Sydney, on Friday, 24th April, 1964.

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

Thirty-nine members were present.

The President thanked the executive and committee for the wonderful work they had done over the past twelve months. He paid a special tribute to the Social Secretary, Jack Westwood, for the fine work he had carried out for the association over the past twelve months.

A special welcome was extended to the numerous country visitors in attendance. Bill Hoffman brought greetings from all Pioneers at Kyogle; Eddie Beaumont from Pioneers at Bonalbo; and Bill Jollie from Pioneers at Queanbeyan.

OFFICE-BEARERS FOR 1964-1965

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

Patron:

Colonel Geoff Graham

President:

Captain Allan 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: Walter Page

Auditor: Arthur Watson

Hon. Trustees and Advisers:

Geoff. Graham, Frank Allen and
Tom Crossman

Master-at-Arms: Bob Lake

Committee:

Messrs. Appleton, Craig, Collis, Edman, Garnon, Hyde, Kirkwood, Moore, Ohliffe, Ronan, Crossman, Coogan, Hodges, O'Brien, McCarter. Plus the following, who are also members of the Social Committee: Messrs. Carter, Dodson, Finlay, Henderson, Herron, Lake, Lawson, McGregor, McInnes, Page, Shearston, Todd, Westwood and Woodham.

2/1—2/2 PIONEER COUNTRY SMOKO

"SHIRLAINE," PRINCE STREET, GRAFTON — SATURDAY, 3rd OCTOBER, 1964

• ALL PIONEERS INVITED — £2 PER HEAD

• SEE PAGE SEVEN, THIS ISSUE

ANZAC DAY WITH 2/2nds

Once again a good roll up at the march this year—some of the old faces were missing, including our Padre, Stan Claughton, who had been invited to New Guinea (see report elsewhere).

A contingent from the Clovelly R.S.L. Sub-branch swelled our ranks and they were led by the president, Ken O'Shea, and vice-president Vic. Thatcher. We are pleased to have these fellows with us each year.

After the march all roads led the boys to St. Peters where we had our usual reunion — this being the sixteenth year we have joined together in good fellowship and to talk of old times and old coppers.

Sorry Padre "Jock" Steele did not make it this year—his soft-shoe act was missed from the programme.

Dick Kennewell was again responsible for the arrangements re the food (solid and liquid) and the way Dick organises it is the cheapest £1 in town. Thanks once again, Dick, also your good wife, Sylvia.

"Cappy" Christian, the Official M.C., was very vocal and very expressive. The show finished at 5 p.m. and the boys went their different ways with happy memories and looking forward with pleasure to Anzac Day, 1965. "Lest We Forget."

2/2nd JOTTINGS

By Reporter **DON LAWSON**

● **COL. SHEA**, up from Melbourne for the march and reunion, his camera was busy and the photos he has sent over show some very candid shots. They will be at the next reunion. Thanks a lot.

● **PADRE STAN CLAUGHTON** will be conducting a Remembrance Service at his new church, the Canterbury Methodist, Canterbury Road, on 8th November, at 7.30 p.m. A cordial welcome to all Pioneers and friends to attend on this occasion. Try to make it, fellows, it's worthwhile.

● We all trust that **JIM FIELD** has regained his health. Jim has had a bad time of it the past couple of years. Good luck and good health to you, Jim.

● Faces that have been missing for a while and noted at the reunion this year . . . **"MONTY" READ, BILL LEWIS, "CLACKER" CLARKE, LEN HOPE, NORM. PHILLIPS, JACK McINTIRE**. Come again, boys.

ARTHUR "Punchy" HANSON, H.Q. Coy., 2/2, of Timboon, Victoria, recently called on Allan McInnes at Pauls, who very smartly organised a meeting with Jack Howie and Gavin Todd.

Arthur was on his way to Japan for a few weeks holiday with two mates. He deserves an Oscar for his ingenuity in organising such a holiday and no doubt is the envy of all his mates.

Arthur is coming to Sydney for next Anzac Day, so let us hope he will let us

all into the secret of how to get to Japan on a holiday with two mates.

We would like to hear about your trip, Arthur, so please drop us a line on your return.

● The paper could do with more news of the 2/2, so if you have anything of interest, drop a line to me, **D. LAWSON**, 35 Clifton Road, Clovelly; or ring me at 665-4357. It will be forwarded on for print. Thanks.

SEVENTH AUSTRALIAN SCOUT JAMBOREE

The Seventh Australian Scout Jamboree is to be held at Dandenong, Victoria, and will be officially opened by His Excellency the Governor-General and Chief Scout of Australia on December 31, 1964. It will be closed by the Chief Scout of the British Commonwealth, Sir Charles Maclean, on January, 8, 1965.

Invitations have been sent to forty overseas countries.

ASSISTANCE REQUIRED

Secretary Max Herron intends touring to Melbourne with his family in order to visit his Troop of Scouts at the Jamboree, and is anxious for information regarding camping grounds within ten miles radius of Dandenong.

He would also like the assistance of a Scout Group near Dandenong to act as a depot for the receipt of gear, etc.

Anyone able to assist, please contact the Secretary, Max Herron, 3 Enoggera Road, Beverly Hills, N.S.W.

Introducing . . .

REV. S. CLAUGHTON

The 2/2nd Pioneer Bn. was camped at Ravenshoe, Qld., in 1943—undergoing some very rigorous jungle training, when our new Padre arrived.

We very soon realised Padre Stan Claughton was "on side" with us. A figure, which soon became familiar on a Don R motor bike, was to be seen wherever the boys were training.

Long hours meant little to him and it wasn't long before he had our leisure time organised.

Music, via loudspeakers, was relayed from the Padre's tent right through the battalion lines. We don't know how or where he got such a variety of records, in those days, records were unobtainable.

The testing time came in New Guinea and our Padre was with us all the way—supplying comforts where possible and advice where needed.

In action, he took his place with the boys — when the day ended for us, he still went on with his spiritual assistance.

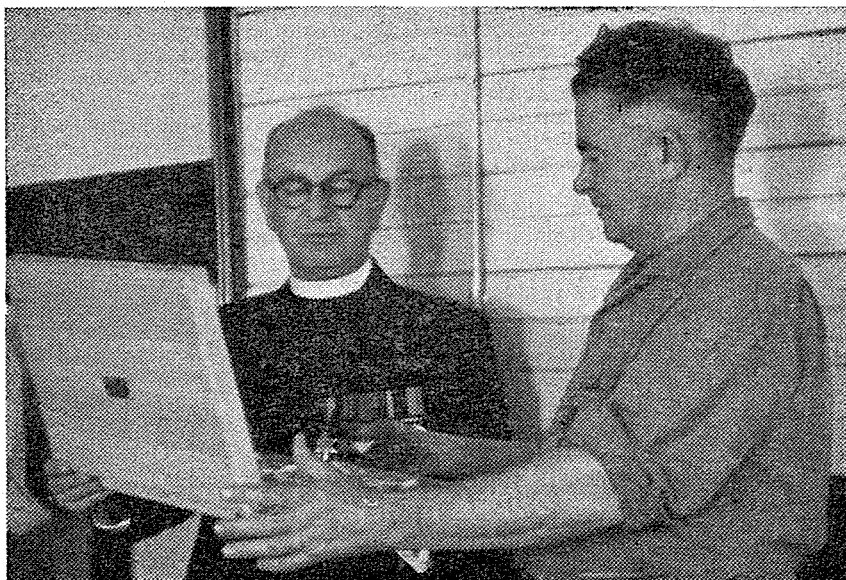
We looked forward to Padre Claughton's church parades and he helped many of us through some very difficult times.

As eventually happens in the army — Padre Claughton was transferred and we lost an excellent chaplain and friend.

After the war, Padre Claughton received the well-deserved honour of being appointed Senior Methodist Chaplain to the Army.

In civil life, as in the army, we Pioneers who meet Padre Claughton on Anzac Day and other occasions know he is still "very much on side."

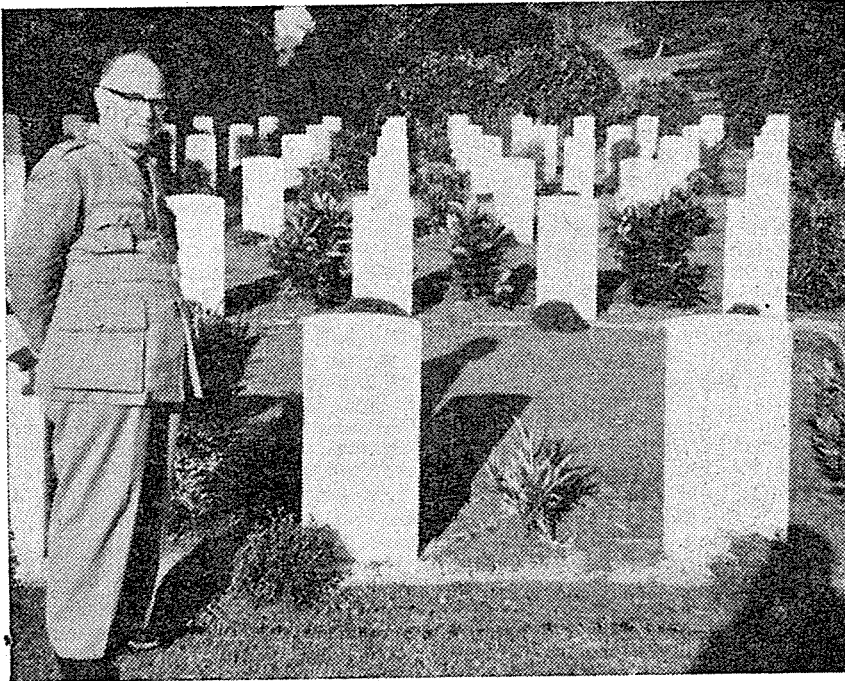
—"Your 2/2 Reporter"



Padre Claughton presenting a canteen of cutlery to Dick Kennewell at the St. Peters Reunion, in appreciation of Dick's untiring efforts in catering for the 2/2nd Smoko.

PADRE STAN CLAUGHTON VISITS WAR CEMETERIES

Thanks to the thoughtfulness and courtesy of the R.S.L., Port Moresby Sub-branch, I was privileged to conduct the Anzac Dawn Service at Bomana War Cemetery. Bomana, for many Pioneers, has memories too deep to express in words.



Padre Claughton standing at the memorial to Sgt. John Gallan, B Sqd., 2/6th Armoured Regt. Died of wounds, 12th January, 1943.

We are indebted to the Commission and the men responsible for the beautification of Bomana, Lae and Bitapaka (Rabaul) Cemeteries.

Ron Hawthorne (President) and John Jeffries (Secretary) were remarkable hosts. I was glad to meet "Snowy" Allman. The Administration was exceptionally helpful and I was privileged to meet Sir Donald Cleland, Dr. N. Gunther and Mr. J. Keith McCarthy.

Many 2/2nds will remember the small black-covered notebook I carried through the Tsili-Tsili-Markham-Ramu show. I had it with me this trip, and it proved invaluable, with its 1943 details. Incidentally, I took with me the latest issue of this journal and it created interest. Pioneers will always find a hearty welcome at Ela Beach and Boroko Sub-branches.

"MAC" — A GRAND GENTLEMAN

I visited the Quarry, Sogeri, Koitaki and McDonald's Corner. I met "Mac," the chap who refused to leave his corner in '42-43—a grand gentleman.

The three-mile hill at Moresby is as wild with traffic as King's Cross on any Friday. Most things at Moresby have changed and I found it difficult to pinpoint places we all knew. Moresby is a very sophisticated spot these days. "FOND" MEMORIES STILL THERE

Naturally I was interested in Lae. The Lae we knew—that maggotty mess of '43—does not exist. On the outskirts, the muddy Markham still races out to sea and the sago swamp of "fond"

memory is still there. To-day one crosses the Markham in style over a long, well-constructed bridge. For old time's sake, I travelled up the southern bank, opposite to where we camped at Narakarpor.

Thanks to Des Ashton, the District Officer, and Dick Roberts, a cadet patrol officer, I was able to retrace our steps to Narakarpor, Gabmatzung, Gabsonkek and Camp Diddy.

The names so well known to us on the Markham Road are in the main unknown to locals—names such as Diddyman's, Jacobson's, Cox, Edwards, Vernon's, Eekhoff's, Heath's, Whitaker's, Jenyn's and Jenson's. Remember them?

AJAX'S VOCABULARY

And as for Nadzab, the native grasses cover most of the runways. An emergency strip is still maintained and on it I found only a solitary hawk. I expected to hear any time "Ho Ho," or Ajax's vocabulary.

Gabmatzung has a small local store. It is now a small Lutheran training centre and is a typical well-kept native village, with its characteristic native cemetery. An empty oxy cylinder makes for them a splendid bell.

Camp Diddy is as delightful as ever. 2/2nds will remember we held our Memorial Service there on Sunday, 26th September, 1943. On the hill to-day is a splendid residence and the Irelands will give any Pioneer a hearty welcome.

Stan Claughton.

2/2nd NEWS JOTTINGS

By permission "Pioneer Despatch"

HUGHIE GRIGG and his wife have left Victoria and taken up residence in North Queensland. On medical advice Hughie decided to move to Cairns.

At a farewell party the following members were present: Bernie Young, Arthur Gordon, Spence Peady, Jack Hocking, Pat Sherman and Jack Yorstons.

BILL MUIR recently spent a month in Sydney and during this period he contacted Allan McInnes and Wally Summons, to whom he had quite long chats. Bill also called on George Eppele, at Lane Cove, who was a member of the unit band.

JOHN TEMPLEMAN (Colonel) has relinquished command of Engineers, Eastern Command, and has been appointed C.O. of the Army School of Engineering.

MICK WEBSTER is still at the Old London Inn, Market Street, Melbourne, and mentions that he occasionally meets up with Bill Downs, Col. Hamley and Jack Hocking.

COLONEL WILLIAMS, on his recent visit to New Zealand met up with Claude Barker, of Auckland.

ALEX McLEAN, ex-C.S.M. of D Coy. and past President of the Association, is now residing in Black Rock and reports that his health has not been the best.

VIC. CLARKE recently made a trip through the Western and North-Western districts of Victoria and called on the following members: Stan Rixon, Gee-long; Barry Hunt, Warrnambool; Max Allardice, Heywood (Max is Secretary of the Shire of Portland); Jack Walters, Mildura (Jack is a teacher); Percy Hoyle, Yelta; Len Sharman and Peter McIntosh, Robinvale; Alex Denham, Warracknabeal; Bill Barrett, Kyabram; and Jack Pemberton and Roy Courtney, of Ballarat.

LADIES APPRECIATED

I feel it is time something was said of the ladies who do so much for the association and its members.

Like the small band of women who appear at the Cenotaph each year to reverently lay their wreaths. Many thanks to you, your presence is appreciated!

Thanks, also to Olive Finlay, for her help with the paper wrapping. We could do with more like you.

But our biggest parcel of thanks must go to Peg. Herron, Gail and Eileen Lake. To Peg, for her tireless devotion to her self-appointed duties as Max's assistant. Max has said: "Peg is a great help to me and to the association."

Also to Gail and Eileen, for their mountain of assistance which they give to Robert. I am sure Dad would not be able to do as much as he does without your help.

To all the ladies, we say "Hats off!" and "Well done!" Keep up the good work, the association needs you.

Wally Page.

2/1 RE-UNION AT THE CASTLEREAGH

The Social Committee is to be congratulated for organising the best Anzac Day reunion to date and below are some jottings on the day by our reporter.

THE COLUMN OF THE YEAR

ANZAC DAY — SEEN BY OUR STAR REPORTER — ALF CARTER

● It was nice to see old friends: Eric Robinson, Bob Williams, Ted Calderwood, Reg Smith, Stan Hampson and "Tich" Turnbull. Getting a few down and enjoying a talk about the good old days. They had a fine day together.

● "Bricky" Wall, Ron Irwin, "Mac" McKibbin, W. McArter, Bill Smith and Bill Jones were standing up to the strain of constant elbow bending in the true Pioneer spirit.

● A very special thank you to Colonel Graham, Bill Tasker, Ted Dolling, Ned Jennings for their, once again, very fine gesture in aiding the funds of the Association.

● Sipping steadily and talking quietly together in a corner were: Gordon Findlay, Jack Collis, Mick Dodson, Charlie Vicars and Jim McGuirk. Another party having a grand time, plus a few noggins, were: Harry Brown, Len Duck, Roy Jardine, Bob Long and Jack Clarke also not forgetting "Three-Course" Kelly, who sent out for a couple of chickens to keep the boys at the table from feeling peckish until the afternoon snacks came on.

● A noisy, enthusiastic crowd in the side room greeting old friends and celebrating, as only they can, were a team from A Coy., 2/1, including: Jim Looby, Bruce Smith, Casey Brown, Johnny Clifford, Mick Dwyer, Brian Kybert, Frank Gilliam, Danny Sprouster and Don Slater.

● In fine form and bending the elbow steadily were: Bill Doney, Sam Lewis, Dick Chalmers, Keith Reynolds, Reg. Wells, Bob Burnside, Jack Copeland and Eric Guthrie.

● "Snowy" Hemmings, Ray Horne, Bert Holmes, Tom Crossman, Laurie Fitzhenry and "Smiler" Burns were noticed getting them down steadily and having a good old yarn about the old days.

● Mick Riley, B Coy., 2/1, from Queensland, brought best wishes to the Association from Major Jock Gillespie, A Coy., 2/1, and Mick Anselme, B Coy., 2/1, and regards and good fortune to all members of the 2/1 Battalion.

● One of the great things of perhaps the greatest Anzac Day since the war, was the magnificent attendance of the officers of the battalions, who called in to have a drink and a yarn with the boys. Among the visiting officers were: Colonels Graham, Neill and Williams, Majors Gordon Osborn, Cyril Morahan and John Morahan, Captains Bill Robertson, Bill Tolley, George Patterson, Alan McInnes, Lieutenants Gordon Finlay, Johnny Flood, Jack Lloyd, Gordon Walsh, Kev. Morahan, Jack Westwood and Ken Stuart.

● Another group thoroughly enjoying themselves were a crowd of H.Q., 2/1 personnel, including: Alan ("Dora")

Black, Vic. Whitely, Noel Schomberg, "Waggs" Grice, Bob Lake, Arch Starr, Ken Parkin, Jack Pearce, Bob Burnside. The old master, Bob Lake, is always at his best on these occasions and led the boys in fine style.

● Thoroughly enjoying a mighty fine day and getting them down steadily were: Harry Stockwell, Don Barraclough, Brian Blume, Jack Norton and Tim Looby.

● A happy group comprising Wally Young, Ned Jennings, Arthur Bannister, Bill Wright, Vince Parkinson, Noel Peterson and Jim McGuirk again proved that time and age had not upset their ability to bend the elbow with the best of them.

● A great crowd of Don Coy., 2/1, were gathered in one corner of the lounge and what a happy, laughing, cheery clan they were. Among those enjoying the company of old comrades were: Colonel Williams, Major Osborne, "Bluey" Walsh, Ray Wiseman, Bob McGregor, Max Herron, Charlie Johnson, Jack Crossland, Peter Craig, Jim McDonald, "Bluey" Jones, Bert Moore, Ken Oliver, Peter O'Brien, Jack Lloyd, "Shrewdie" Percival, Ray Hill, Bert Cooper, Harry Mostyn, "Bombo" Reynolds, Bill McIntyre.

● Noticed having a drink together before getting around among the other boys were: Joe Hickey, Peter Seddon, Jack Griffiths, Noel Peterson, Roy Bounds, Don Crooks, ALL FROM NEWCASTLE.

Also Mick Riley, down from Queensland, as well as Tom Connolly, who came down from Tamworth.

● Among the country visitors to this, perhaps our best of all Anzac Days, were: Bill Jolley, Ted Skoyles, Jim O'Connell (Sth. Aust.), Ed Beaumont, Bill Hoffman, Max Wilson, Peter Seddon, Jack Griffiths, Noel Peterson, Roy Bounds, Don Crooks, Mick Riley (Qld.), Tom Connolly, Johnny Dolaghan, Ned Jennings, Harry Brown, Bill Wright, Joe Hickey.

● Arthur Murphy, H.Q., 2/1, with a grand place of his own at Kirrawee, is doing O.K. for himself these days at the trade of bricklaying.

● Old friend, Harry Shoers, A Coy., 2/1, was noticed a short time ago on a Matraville bus in animated conversation with the famous "Bea" Miles. Harry's many friends are wondering if he is taking a course of Shakespeare's plays and poetry, or maybe he is just interested in the lady.

● Ron McFarlane, Sig. Platoon, 2/1, now of Blacktown, is with the P.M.G. Dept., and in actual fact is one of the local postmen.

● Bert Holmes, B Coy., 2/1, is now in a very fine place of his own at Forestville, and working in the tanning industry. Bert is also greatly interested in the Forestville R.S.L., of which old friend, Johnny Clifford, A Coy., 2/1, is also a member. Both send greetings to all their old mates.

● "Sailor" Witham, H.Q., 2/1, with his own very nice place at Bronte, is in charge of the weighbridge at the Colonial Sugar Refinery.

● Ron "Nap" Pelgrave, H.Q., 2/1, now a big shot in the meat business at Newcastle Abattoirs. An inquiry at the New Lambton R.S.L. will always find "Nap." Jack ("Glido") Griffiths with his own home at Mayfield, Newcastle, is now the sales manager for the Pharmaceutical Division of R. Hall & Son, and is doing very well indeed.

● Jimmy McDonald, Don Coy, 2/1, now of Kirrawee, is in the Pharmacy Dept. at Sydney University. Jimmy says that any student (son or daughter) of any member of the two battalions would be welcome to look him up at any time, and he would be only too pleased to render any assistance within his power.

● The good publican of the Rex at St. Marys certainly looked after Harry Allen and the rest of the boys from out there so that they would not be thirsty on the way down. He provided their liquid refreshments free — the boys reckon it must have cost him something.

● All were pleased to see the happy, smiling face of old pal, Dicky Blakeney, B Coy., 2/1, at the Anzac Day functions. Dicky retains his interest in motor racing and golf and manages to win his share of prizes at both.

● Leo Morris arrived late at the "do," and received a fine welcome from the boys.

ANZAC DAY, 1965

It's on again! Preparations are under way for our next Anzac Day get together, but arrangements are a little different.

As most of you know, Anzac Day, 1965, falls on a Sunday and as a result, we are unable to procure the "Castlereagh" for our reunion after the march, so we have had to make a change.

We are now going to meet at the "Burland Community Hall," King Street, Newtown, opposite the Shakespeare Hotel.

It will only be a matter of getting a cab or catching the 422 Bus at the corner of Pitt and Martin Place.

A bus will leave every half hour, additional arrangements and bus timetables will be given in later editions of the "Pioneer News."

Anzac Day, 1965, is the 50th Anniversary of this memorable occasion and the Social Secretary and his "team" are already on the job in organising a day to be remembered.

Members should also start planning NOW, especially the lads in the country. There is no excuse this time, as you have Saturday off for travelling and the holiday on the Monday for the return journey.

Contact your local R.S.L. who will make the necessary arrangements with the Railway authorities for a reduction in your fare from the country to Sydney on Anzac Day.

Watch out for my regular announcements regarding this very important function in every copy of "Pioneer News."

That's all for now.

WALLY, PAGE,
Publicity Officer.

LETTER TO THE EDITORS

Dear Max,

I know it's so easy to pick up a phone and say "hello," but there are times when the old pen seems more appropriate and I feel this is one occasion.

Firstly, my thanks to the Committee for a very happy, enjoyable Anzac Day. I now fully realise the amount of work involved in organising such a day. To the onlooker it seems so simple. Just a matter of collecting a few bob and paying a few bills, but to anyone who has had to do such work it's another matter. God give you all strength to carry on for many years yet, and if there is anything I, in my humble way, can do any time, just contact me.

How wonderful it was to walk in and see all the old boys again, and especially my pal, Tom Connolly. What a great yarn we had. He was only going to stop for an hour, but he was still there when I left. The photos we had taken have been duly posted to those concerned.

Tom was talking about his first few days in the army at the Showground. "There I was," he said, "a real rookie and a little b—— in kilts came up and told be to get moving." At this moment I noticed Gordon Osborn enter the hotel lounge, and I said to Tom "look behind you and you'll see the same little b—— without his kilts."

Tom looked round, and wasn't there some good old army talk thrown about—all genuine though.

Pleasing to see "Gilly" helping the barmaids deliver the nectar to those gentlemen who couldn't walk to the bar. He was doing such a good job that I think he must have been getting some practice.

Grand to see Norm. Neal, Geoff Graham and so many officers turning up again. That's the correct spirit, as after all we all joined up for the same purpose, didn't we?

Coincidence is a word used very often, but it's still strange how it works. After the march I was talking to Cyril, Johnny Flood and Ken Stuart and asked about Bill Hood. No one seemed to know just where he was. Well, a couple of weeks after Anzac Day I went on holidays, up North as usual. Disembarked at Casino (my home town) and then went to Evans Head for the three weeks. As soon as I got off the train at Casino one of my sisters said, "Before I forget, there's a bloke in town who says he's a friend of yours and wants to see you. He works in a bank." "Is his name Bill Hood?" I asked. Sure enough, it was Bill. He is the manager of the Commonwealth Bank in Casino.

Went down town after a while and made a few inquiries. I found that Bill was quite well known and liked. He's a member of the bowling club as well as other clubs. I met Joe Leis (who incidentally, gave me the enclosed donation for the "News") and we went and had a couple and a good yarn. Joe shot round to the bank, but unfortunately Bill had to go to Lennox Head and wasn't able to join us at the hotel.

However, he did manage to pop in and have a quickie and we made arrangements to meet before my holidays were over. This we did on Sunday, 31st, at the Casino R.S.L. and we had a great old natter and many laughs over old

times and happenings. Bill sends his regards to all Pioneers, and a special mention to Neville Schaeffer. (I have passed his message to Nev.). Something about one of the first pickets Bill had to do at Tel Aviv. Must have been a beauty. I'm sure if Bill wrote it up for the paper a lot of chaps would enjoy it.

Speaking of Nev. Schaeffer, I understand he has formed an underwater fishing association. Apparently he falls out of the boat every now and then.

Joe Leis spoke of seeing a lot of the boys and apparently they will be out in force at the reunion at Grafton. I'm hoping to make that trip myself. Joe sends his regards to Tom Mutton and "Snow" Wiseman. If you can find room in the paper, would you please print that and tell Tom that Joe has some very good dogs in training and has a couple of extra good ones racing down here at present. He intends coming down one of these days and will get in touch with Tom if possible. Lord help the bookies at Harold Park!

It was most gratifying to me, as marshal, to get such a good response to my endeavours to make our march a success on Anzac Day, and I feel we accomplished this. I'm sure Jack Westwood will agree that from behind where we were the boys looked good. Certainly a great improvement on the last few years. The good spirit in which one and all accepted our requests to pick up the step and line up was just another example of the good fellowship that existed and still exists in our unit.

Well, Max, I'll close now and once again my congratulations to the Committee.

Cheerio now,
GORDON WALSH.

WELFARE OFFICER'S REPORT

This has been rather a busy year as quite a number of members have been in hospital.

HUGHIE GREEN has had several visits and JOHNNY WHEELER, after a lengthy spell in St. Vincent's, was transferred to Concord, and I regret to say has since passed away. My deepest sympathy to his dear wife.

TOM HUGO has been in Ward 10 for several months and we hope it's not long before he is up and about again.

Another visitor to Concord several times, was JOHN McCracken.

Other members who were visited and have since been discharged were BOB MCGREGOR, NORM. PHILLIPS, IVOR EVANS, DOUG. STEWART, SID SWEENEY, SID TAYLOR, JACK CLARK, ERIC EDWARDS, KEITH GARLAND, BOB KELLY, JACK CARR and GORDON GLAZEBROOK.

In recent months the following have been visited: JOHN WILLIAMS (Liverpool Hospital), HARRY OLDE (Concord), ERIC "Salty" EDWARDS was back in Concord, but I found he had gone home when I visited in June. Thanks for your notification, Mrs. GUTHRIE, sorry I missed ERIC. I was sick in bed myself for the first three weeks of June, and wasn't able to visit Eric at Concord, or JOHN RYAN in North Sydney Hospital.

Please notify me if any member is about to enter hospital as this is our only means of knowing.

Many thanks to MICK DODSON and TED DOLLING for their contribution of books for the boys.

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

PLEASE KEEP FOR FUTURE REFERENCE

PROGRAMME FOR 1964/65

1964

APRIL 24—WREATH LAYING CEREMONY.

APRIL 24—ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

APRIL 25—ANZAC MARCH, AFTERWARDS REUNION, 2/1-2/2 AT THE CASTLEREAGH HOTEL; 2/2 AT ST. PETERS.

MAY 29—COMMITTEE MEETING.

JULY 24—"PIONEER NEWS" WRAPPING MEETING.

(Copy to Printer by June 17).

AUGUST 28—COMMITTEE MEETING — CASTLEREAGH HOTEL.

OCTOBER 3—COUNTRY SMOKO — SOUTH GRAFTON.

OCTOBER 23—COMMITTEE MEETING.

NOVEMBER 6—"PIONEER NEWS" WRAPPING MEETING.

(Copy to Printer by October 6).

NOVEMBER 20—BI-ANNUAL SMOKO — CASTLEREAGH HOTEL.

1965

FEBRUARY 26—SOCIAL COMMITTEE MEETING.

MARCH 27—COMMITTEE MEETING.

APRIL 9—"PIONEER NEWS WRAPPING MEETING.

(Copy to Printer by March 10).

APRIL 24—(SATURDAY) WREATH LAYING CEREMONY AND ANNUAL MEETING.

APRIL 25—(SUNDAY) ANZAC DAY MARCH. REUNION AT THE "BURLAND COMMUNITY HALL," KING STREET, NEWTOWN.



By ROBERT LAKE

IVOR GARNON, H.Q. Coy., 2/1, of Hunter's Hill. A really good letter from Ivor, and he quotes that it has taken 12 months to write it. However, a good letter is always good news. Ivor has been away on a trip to Adelaide, via Albury and Melbourne. He arrived in Adelaide two days before Anzac Day, where he made contact with Max Law.

They had a small reunion at the Talbert Hotel and then joined up with Ernie Hayden and Redge Draper, with whom they visited the Brighton R.S.L. Club. Brighton boys were well to the fore and gave out quite a share of hospitality. The day ended around about midnight—he thinks Redge drove home.

On his return journey he travelled home via Mildura, Narrandra and Leeton. He made efforts to contact Jimmy Robertson, "The Seal," however, Jim had been away from home at Robinvale for three weeks. All in all, Ivor and his wife had a terrific trip and thanks Max Herron for the addresses of the different members he visited. He also posted a list of 21 new members, who shall all receive copies of the paper as from this date.

Max Law and Ivor have also forwarded a suggestion that a Pioneer badge would be a good idea for the association. Also, would it be possible to have a Smoko at Leeton. We will give this some thought.

KEVIN O'CONNELL, D Coy., 2/1, from Sefton. A short note with a lively cheque to cover subscriptions for years gone by. Pleased to hear from you, Kev., actually we would like a lot more news, especially from the likes of yourself who have been absent for some time.

FRANK ALLAN, 2/1, of Wahroonga, sends a bright hello and promises to re-acquaint himself with the mob, but finds it almost impossible until his chief is made to realise that a week has not got eight days. For Frank's information, by unanimous voting you were elected a Trustee at the Annual Meeting. We are grateful for your assistance in the past and hope that you will continue to give us the same guidance in the future.

COL. LESLIE, B Coy., 2/1, now of Gilgai, quotes that he has known of our association through reading "Reveille," but was not aware that we had printed the paper until Sid Jopson came to live in Inverell. Apparently, Sid gave a kitbag full of them to read. Col. hopes to be in Grafton for the Smoko in October and hopes to see a lot more of the boys. Dave Austin's address will be enclosed in this next paper.

We presume that by the time this paper goes to press, Col would have met Sid Jopson, Claude Campbell and any other Pioneers they could find in Inverell on Saturday.

TOM CONNELLY, B Coy., 2/1, now of Wallabadah, sends another short note. Tom has been to Wagga recently, and while there visited Tommy Budd and also met Bill Kelly. Your request for papers to Bill Kelly will be posted as usual.

P.S.—Strikes me that Bill Kelly moves around a bit, as on returning from Coffs Harbour my wife and I struck Bill Kelly on the train where he had been working in a pub in Kendall.

ERIC FACE, D Coy., 2/1, of Loftus. Subscriptions received and a short note from Eric. Can only hope that the medals referred to arrived on the time that you stipulated.

TED EATHER, A Coy., 2/1, from Kempsey. A nice two-page letter from Ted, who discloses much news. He said he didn't know about the paper until he met the Kyogle boys on the home-ward journey from the Port Macquarie Smoko. Personal news from Ted quotes a fair-sized family—eight girls, the eldest 17, the youngest 3. No television?

Ted works at the Macleay R.S.L. as a barman, so if any of the troops are ever travelling through that way, make yourself known. He gets a letter and card from Jack Cassidy, ex A Coy., every Christmas. Jack is still in Ungarie. Ted claims he will make every endeavour to make the Smoko at Grafton. We hope to see you there.

Ted also met Joe "Spag" White about twelve months ago and he gave him quite a lot of news, too. He also went up to Dorrigo playing cricket occasionally and met Big Wheaton a couple of times. Big Wheaton is still as big as ever.

See you all at Grafton, we hope!!!

NORM. PITTMAN, 2/1, claims he made a special visit on Anzac Day to the Castlereagh to meet his china, Bluey Miller. Apparently, Bluey never got the same message, so Norm. sends a special cheerio.

BILL HOFFMAN, 2/1, Kyogle. Another good letter from Bill, who was present at the Annual Meeting and Anzac Day in Sydney, but claims he got so tied up in the meeting that he neglected to send the best wishes from all the boys at Kyogle: Peter Bell, Leo Ferris, Ray Smith, Cec. Blanche, Jack "Banjo" Martin, Toby Hale, Ted Felton, Brian Jackson, Fred Blanche; also

Terry McGuire, from Lismore, and Cyril Duncan, from Woodenbong.

Also from Bill, 2/2 Pioneer Jottings, Eddie Weston, of Lismore, sends greetings to all. Keith Mason, Kyogle, sends greetings to Noel Gratten, Curly Wilson, Little Smithy, Darcy Lynch, Snowy Rolls, and all his other mates. Your request, Bill, for the requirements of the Grafton Smoko should have reached you by now.

"PUNCHY" HANSON, 2/2, of Timboon, Victoria, writes that he is sailing for Japan on 2nd June and made arrangements to meet some of his friends at the Castlereagh prior to the sailing. This information was passed on to Allan McInnes, who arranged the necessary get-together. Many thanks for the donation.

JACK McCracken, B Coy., 2/1, from Stockton, has been an inmate at Concord again. Of course, by the time this paper is posted Jack will have been home again. He wishes to express his sincere appreciation for the numerous visits by Jack Collis, our Welfare Officer, and for the books and fruit that he brought with him. Jack quotes that visits such as those made by Jack Collis makes the country chaps feel they are not quite forgotten.

(The association wishes every member to know that they will not be forgotten while in hospitals, providing the knowledge is forwarded to us.)

PERRY FISK, D Coy., 2/1, writes a short note from Condobolin, quoting long service leave in Brisbane. By the time this paper goes to press you will have received the names and addresses of 20 members of the battalion in Queensland, so you should have been able to have kicked a goal or two with that lot. Providing you are fit and able possible that we may see you in Sydney after your sojourn in Brisbane, it is later.

ATHOL (Dave) BOYLE, D Coy., 2/1, and now of Western Australia, writes quite a nice letter, requesting addresses of a couple of chaps and sending his in return, hoping for a special letter from Johnny Taylor, Bob Small or Tanky. Dave's property, 1,000 acres in the west, has plenty of work to be done on it yet. Heavy timber and, I should imagine, heavy axes necessary. Dave is a married man now, with four boys and one girl. His eldest, Tony, is 18 years of age and a great asset to Dad now.

For you chaps who wish to put a pen to paper to Dave, his address is: Snow Drift, South Pirillup, Via Mount Barker, Western Australia.

HAROLD LEESE, 2/1, of Grafton, has forwarded to our Secretary some 50 invitations to the Country Smoko, to be held during the holiday week-end in October. He hopes to have as many as possible from the city to try and make the effort.

Leo Ferris also states that he would like to see many of the old sigs. making the trip, too.

With regard to this smoko, further information is available elsewhere in this paper. Fares to South Grafton on the railway are £6/11/3 return. Of course, this is not sleeper accommodation. However, with small knowledge of numbers, concession rates are available to ex-service associations for groups of 20, 30 and 40.

In conclusion, we say congratulations to Harold for the good work he has put into association, and to his daughter, Lynette, who made her debut to the Governor at the Grafton High School Ball in May.

IVAN PEPPER, B Coy., 2/1, of Mayfield, Newcastle, is manager of the Oak Service Station, adjoining the Oak Milk Bar at the junction of the New England and Pacific Highways, and would be pleased to see any of the boys passing through.

Ivan had a visit from Cliff Anderson recently, and being a good Pioneer, Cliff produced a copy of "Pioneer News," in which Ivan's name was mentioned—so now Ivan is on our mailing list.

Ivan states in his letter that he recently had the pleasure of seeing Jack Curry, of Tenterfield, Tony Walters, of Berrydale, and Jack Smith, of Smithtown.

Thank you for your interesting letter and welcome donation, Ivan.

ALLEN STONE, D Coy., 2/2, now of Marks Point, Newcastle, sent along his sub. and change of address. Many thanks, and our mailing list will be altered as requested.

From Coolamon comes news of **ALLAN BLACK** (not "Dora"), of B.H.Q. 2/1, and kind regards to all members of the old unit. You might let us have the address of Fred Jones, of the 2/2, Allan, and copies of the "news" will be forwarded to him. Glad to see you enjoy reading your copy and many thanks for your welcome donation.

SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE

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

The local lads dug deep on Anzac Day, thanks to Alf Carter's "winning ways," but it is up to those who did not attend the Sydney 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 committee-men for their year's labour of love.

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

2/1 - 2/2 PIONEER BATTALIONS ASSOCIATION

WILL HOLD A

COUNTRY SMOKO

AT THE

SHIRLAINE RECEPTION ROOMS

PRINCE STREET, GRAFTON

(Near Railway Viaduct)

ON SATURDAY, 3rd OCTOBER, 1964

COMMENCING 7.30 P.M.

COVER CHARGE — — — — £2 PER HEAD

(Includes Three-Course Meal and Drinks)

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

HAROLD LEESE, 2/1, of Grafton, has arranged all details regarding this Smoko, and the Association is grateful for the amount of work he has carried out on its behalf. The only reward Harold seeks is the co-operation of all members and he requests a good roll up.

• CATERING ARRANGEMENTS

In order to facilitate catering arrangements, we would ask members to fill in the form below and send with their £2 to **HAROLD LEESE**, 184 Turf Street, Grafton, before September 19, 1964.

If you wish to pay on the instalment plan you may send your instalments to the Treasurer, **DOUG. SHEARSTON**, 24 Tarrilli Street, Beverly Hills.

Train details from Sydney are as follows:
Depart Sydney, Friday, 2nd October, 1964, at 8.15 p.m., arrive South Grafton, Saturday, 10.41 a.m. Depart Sydney, Saturday, 3rd October, 7.38 a.m., arrive South Grafton, 7.18 p.m. Depart South Grafton, Sunday, 4th October, 5.37 p.m., arrive Sydney, 6.42 a.m., Monday.

Return fare (second class): £6/11/3.

Plane details. Depart Sydney, 11.10 a.m., arrive Coffs Harbour, 2.10 p.m. on Saturday, 3rd October. Depart Coffs Harbour, 12.45 p.m., arrive Sydney, 3.45 p.m. on Sunday, 4th October.

Fares: £7/18/- single (Airlines of N.S.W.).

Coach is provided from Coffs Harbour to Grafton.

As there will not be another issue of "Pioneer News" before November, this is the last form of notification for the Country Smoko — so make a note of it NOW and send the form below AT ONCE.

PLEASE FILL IN THIS FORM — USE BLOCK LETTERS

Christian Name Surname

Unit Company Platoon

Address

I enclose £2 herewith for Fees (Cheque/Postal Note). I will be attending the Country Smoko and will be travelling by TRAIN/BUS/CAR/PLANE

..... I will be travelling with the following companions

POST THIS NOW, WITH YOUR £2, TO:

HAROLD A. LEESE, 184 TURF STREET, GRAFTON
(Organiser for the Country Smoko)

TUCKER, TROOPS FOR THE USE OF

BY JOHN HARNETTY, C COY., 2/1

The Australian Digger is noteworthy in his fondness for tucker with his meals, and recent experiments with field-rations are proving that a campaigning force can march on its stomach a lot easier than it did some wars ago.

Diggers operating in Malaya and in our special air units and commandoes are now using an Australian ration-pack which contains three meals and et ceteras parcelled up into a neat plastic container.

The Australian ration was evolved after a lot of research by our nutrition experts, working with the William Angliss laboratories in Victoria.

Needless to say, "trying it out on the dog" was a matter of testing the tucker on some guinea-pig Diggers. The current ration is the result of a lot of actual field tests.

Old hands who have used this ration say it's something of a change from the old bully-beef and hard-tack ("three to a tin and two to packet").

Not that the average Digger ever growled too much about bully. You could do things with it by frying or stewing if you didn't want to take it straight.

TASTY 'ERRINS AND TERMATER SAUCE!

But what about that thrice-damned canned fish?

The story goes of the Digger who, when told that his midday meal was to be tasty 'errins and termater sauce, remarked feelingly "Oh Gawd, not them bloody things again! I've eaten so many of them pregnant prawns, me stummick goes in and out with the tide!"

Field rationing has always been a problem. Old Monsieur Soyer made things a lot easier in the Crimea when he introduced the army stove which still bears his name.

Ever had to pull one apart and hump it on to a truckload of camp accommodation stores?

The Soyer stove was used in the Crimea for bulk meals.

Before that, troops drew individual issues of meat and vegetables, and were left to cook them as best they could—and find their own firewood as well.

When our troops were chasing the Reds in the North Perak area of Malaya, they enjoyed the personal ration-pack.

They pointed out that you didn't get terribly hungry in the fetid rottenness of a jungle hideout, just lying doggo, waiting for the Red who might shove his nose into your area.

But Digger appetites are nonetheless devoted groceries. Some troops liked the ham and egg of the early packs, and there were bacon and beans and sausage and beans.

Evening meal was the main one, with such things as canned corned beef (here we go again!), ham and beef and liver and bacon. There were also rice, raisins and other bits and pieces with which meat could be curried.

Fuel tablets were included to heat the food and tea and sugar or some other beverage in instant style.

The Australians didn't like the British version of the ration pack because it had too many lollies.

Even when he's not really hungry, the Digger still likes his three square meals a day.

WOODPILE, OR ELSE!

Long before M. Soyer's invention of his stove (which has often earned the sincerest curses of Diggers on woodheap fatigue because of the Soyer's insatiable appetite for firewood), armies on the move have had to face up to the problem of rations on the march.

Some did it by foraging . . . others were more provident.

Wasn't it the ancient Hun who used his meat rations as a saddle and ate it at body heat (human and equine) when the cookhouse call was sounded?

DINNER IS SERVED, SIR!

World War 11 gave young Diggers the chance to taste Maconochie's which had earned the praises or curses of their forbears of World War I.

Some of the new Diggers found it good, some didn't go for it at all. But it was a generously thick type of stew, with plenty of vegetables, and it certainly stuck to the ribs.

In the Sixth Division's Western Desert advance in near-Arctic temperatures, it was usually appreciated when somebody latched on to some tins.

Just throw it on the fire, chisel off the top of the can with a bayonet, and dinner is served!

In the Desert, German troops of Rommel's Afrika Korps had their food problems as well, though they were initially supplied with such things as canned bread, sausage and even beer.

Heinz Werner Schmidt's biography of Rommel tells how unpopular Italian rations were with the German troops.

One of the Italian specialties was a canned meat called "A.M." (initials for "Amministrazione Militare"). The Germans called it "Alte Mann" ("Old Man").

Oddly enough—as many of the 2/1 will remember—the Italians had some excellent dehydrated onions, and their wholemeal flour made fine dampers. Their canned fish steaks in olive-oil were a popular grab when the Digs came on an abandoned food dump.

But the Italian army biscuits were something to be used only as housing material.

How the Italian ate them without hours of preliminary soaking remains a mystery.

In their dry state they would have resisted assault with a jack-hammer.

Many Pioneers actually put stamps on them and posted them home—and

they got there, too, without a crumb missing!

The Korean War provided headaches for logistics officers of the United Nations command.

Many items came from American sources, but the British Commonwealth Division provided a lot of its own food.

SAWDUST AND BREADCRUMB SAUSAGE

Outstanding among the more on-the-coat dishes was a particularly noxious skinless sawdust-and-breadcrumb sausage which excited no enthusiasm and less appetite.

Australian troops were given plenty of American turkey and ham. But these choice foods began to cloy after a while, and there were nostalgic murmurs about the glories of a typical baked dinner—with either beef or mutton as the centre-piece.

The American canned C-ration was popular at first, but is generally pappy nature caused troops to tire of it.

Tommy troops were keen on bread, and a British field bakery on the outskirts of Seoul worked overtime to keep it up to them.

The Indian Field Ambulance was practically self-sufficient for dietetic and religious reasons.

Their curries were marvels and amply calculated to keep out the Arctic chill of the Korean winter.

Ration packs for the Turkish Brigade Group and other Muslim troops were carefully marked.

Ham and pork played a big part in the canned-ration scale, and nobody wanted trouble with the Sons of Islam over that.

(As a parting note — or footnote: Does anybody remember that shocking Smorgon's canned sausage and the M. and V. ration? Eaten hot, both were ghastly. Eaten cold, they simply beggared the imagination! I've often wondered if there's a special type of agony-after-death reserved for the sadists who put out that series of glue factory by-products for the consumption of our country's fighting men!)

VALE

Jack Griffiths and Mick Riley brought the sad news of the passing on of:

MAX GOLDRING, H.Q., 2/1

and

VIC. KING, C Coy.

Both were unfortunate enough to have been T.P.I. To the family and relatives of the two members, we extend the deepest sympathy of all the Association.

LAST POST

We are indebted to our Welfare Officer, JACK COLLIS, for sending along the following information regarding our former members:

NX 56464 BISHOP, J. S., 2/1.

NX 33968 HANSHAW, J. A., 2/1.

NX 29441 McGUINNES, J. 2/1.

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: Secretary, MAX HERRON, 3 Enoggera Road, Beverly Hills

Treasurer:
DOUG. SHEARSTON

Editors: J. HARNETTY,
R. LAKE and M. HERRON

President:
ALLAN McINNES

Vol. 9. No. 3

1st NOVEMBER, 1964

Price: 5/- Per Annum



BI-ANNUAL SMOKO

The Social Secretary, Jack Westwood, extends a hearty welcome to all Pioneers (2/1 and 2/2) and friends, to attend the Bi-Annual Smoko to be held on Friday, 20th November, 1964.

The function will be held at Castlereagh Hotel, which 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 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, 20th 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.

ANZAC DAY — 1965

Arrangements are under way for our bumper Anzac Day Reunion for 1965, as stated in our last issue of the "Pioneer News."

The next Anzac Day falls on a Sunday, and because of this your committee has had to change our meeting place from the Castlereagh Hotel to the Burland Community Hall, King Street, Newtown.

Getting there from the march should not present any problem to the resourceful and thirsty Pioneer. Bus Nos. 422, 423, 426 and 448 will be running from the corner of Pitt and Martin Place after the march (while the march is in progress the same buses run from Railway Square), or taxis can be hired in Liverpool Street at the western end of Hyde Park.

Please don't let these arrangements stop you fellows from making an appearance, as this will be the 50th anniversary of Anzac Day and we are expecting a big roll up, particularly from the country areas.

Now, you country fellows, "Get cracking" and make arrangements with your local R.S.L. for your concession fare to Sydney. There will be a holiday on the

Monday, so let's make it a weekend to remember.

Now don't forget, the march starts at 9 a.m. as usual. The 2/1 Pioneers assemble at the King Street end of Phillip Street; the 2/2 assemble in Macquarie Street outside the Sydney Hospital.

Your social committee are making all the necessary arrangements for an excellent meal, with plenty of that amber refreshment to follow.

As there will not be another issue of "Pioneer News" until April you are advised to make your arrangements NOW.

Now you make it to the assembly points and the committee will see you make it the rest of the way. For those unable to march, they may, if they wish, go straight to the Burland Community Hall.

If any chaps have any queries on the Smoko or any other matter, contact me at 16 Boundary Road, Mortdale, or secretary, Max Herron, 3 Enoggera Street, Beverly Hills.

WALLY PAGE,
Publicity Officer.

A TRIP BACK NORTH

By Don Lawson, 2/2

Have just returned from a trip to Cairns and the Tablelands and suggest to any of you boys that if you are planning an extended holiday, do not leave Australia — go North during the winter months — we have everything right here.

Leaving Sydney and travelling by the New England Highway to the Bruce Highway in Queensland we found the roads in perfect condition, except when getting away from the main cities.

The roads are narrow and gravel thrown up by passing cars causes plenty of windscreen damage. In fact, one place in Rockhampton works 24 hours a day replacing broken screens.

Cairns is growing rapidly with tourists and sugar being the main sources of income.

A trip to Green Island shows a remarkable change with a licensed hotel, a theatre and accommodation in up-to-date lodges with the rates at £2 to £3 per day.

A trip to the Tablelands is well worth while, passing through Kuranda (which is just as beautiful as ever), and on to Mareeba, which is a thriving town with tobacco being the main industry.

Everybody seems to be fairly prosperous and there is no lack of water in the district, due to the construction of the Tinaroo Dam. This is a man-made lake of 320,000 acres and holds approximately three-quarters of the volume of water in Sydney Harbour. This water is channelled to all surrounding districts.

Atherton, Yungaburra, Herberton and Ravenshoe have not changed very much.

There is not a great deal left to remind one that the place was once overrun with soldiers, other than the igloo which was used as a theatre at Wondoola. This is still standing and is used as a home for several families.

Along the road between Ravenshoe and Mount Garnet there are still traces of old camp fireplaces showing at intervals.

We had a look at the old racecourse at Mt. Garnet—a lot will remember the corral which was built there under the direction of Tom Faley. It is now ant-eaten and crumbling away.

Lake Barrine is a beautiful spot for a rest and we intended to stop there one night, but the surroundings were so good it was four days before we left to make our way down to the coast once again.

If any of you can make this trip, I trust you will enjoy it as much as we did. No rain and temperatures in the 70 degree bracket.

GRAFTON SMOKO REPORT

By BOB LAKE

This Smoko, according to the city members who attended, was as good as any show that has ever been attempted by the association. The arrangements from start to finish were in the capable hands of Harold Leese, and he left no stone unturned to make sure of its success.

To Harold, on behalf of the Association, we offer our heartiest congratulations and sincere thanks for a mighty effort. We also say to those members who were unable to attend in the language of modern youth—"You missed a ball."

As was arranged and decided in the earlier editions of our paper, city members who attended made the journey by rail. It was a long trip, nearly thirteen hours, but well worth every minute by the ultimate result. Besides, with a contingent like Westwood, McGregor, Finlay, McQuirk and Lake, how could it be a dull one.

The organisation started as we alighted at Grafton. Pat Noonan and Bob Burnside, who were on the earlier train, were waiting on the platform, with Harold Leese, his wife, and Wally Young, all with motor cars, waiting to whisk us off to a hearty breakfast.

Country members started to arrive in town from about 12.30 p.m., and a steady rate of arrivals kept on all the afternoon.

MARCH TO THE CENOTAPH AT GRAFTON

By approximately 5.30 p.m. some 60 odd members were in attendance. Parade was sounded and fall in was called in the small park area opposite Shirlaine Reception Rooms. The company marched three abreast down Prince Street to the Cenotaph on the bank of the Clarence, where two wreaths were laid in memory of fallen comrades.

The banners were carried by Bob Lake and Bill Hood, for the respective battalions, while Leo Ferris, ex-2/1, was master-at-arms for the occasion.

The two wreaths were laid by Ray Smith, and Bob McGregor repeated the "Ode to the Fallen."

The dinner started at approximately 6.30 p.m. and once again Harold and Grafton excelled themselves. A nine-course buffet supper was in continuous supply till about 9.30 p.m.

APOLOGIES FROM EXECUTIVE

Speeches were brief and to the point. Bob McGregor, as Senior Vice-President, took the chair, and with a clear, concise and lucid speech, welcomed the members and their friends and made apologies on behalf of our President, Alan McGuinness, our Secretary, Max Herron, and our Treasurer, Doug Shearston.

The Deputy Mayor of Grafton, Ald. Ray Fanning, welcomed members and he apologised for the absence of the Mayor who was attending another function.

COUNTRY VICE-PRESIDENT RESPONDS

Responses were by Bill Hoffman, Vice-President (Country), also Leo Ferris and Alex McLean, who spoke on be-

half of the visitors. This all lead to the famous last words of our worthy Social Secretary, Jack Westwood, who said "the grogging on will now be in earnest."

The attendance was approximately 76 in all, including visitors, and a roll was compiled of all present. I can only say to those whose names to not appear below, "you must be sorry."

Sid Jopsen, J. L. Casson, G. Finlay, R. McGregor, "Nugget" Laurie, Jack Tattam, Jack Bertram, Ted Skoyles, A. Brown, P. Malone, A. K. Stone, C. Scholes, R. Burnside, C. Blanch, A. George, J. E. Hall, P. Noonan, C. Campbell, H. Blanch (Joe), Charles Wilby (Pally), Merv. Rees, F. Wheaton, Harold Buckland, A. L. Ferris, Terry McGuire, Dick Walker, George Arthur, Bob Juleff, Ken Wilson (2/2), Alex McLean, Ray Fanning (Deputy Mayor), Richard Cutler ("Daily Examiner"), Alec Cameron, C. V. Paine, J. Buchanan, E. Bluey Eather, Ted Vaughan, J. E. McQuirk, J. Dodson, R. Coote, Peter (Dick) Seddon, Joe Leis, K. B. Watt, B. McNaughton, E. Simpson, Ray Smith, W. Young, Toby Hale, V. Stevens, Joe Leese, H. Leese, P. Mahony, N. McEvoy, J. Hickey, E. Stratford, A. Gray, R. McClymonth, J. Massey, Noel Peterson, Bill Hood, Ted Carter, Jack Westwood, Bob Lake.

Throughout the whole evening there were questions, inquiries, messages to be conveyed and though I had pen and paper, I am afraid that I was overwhelmed. Perhaps a little will come back for the next issue in March.

Many thanks to all who gave us donations for the "Pioneer News."

From my own point I can only say what a great thrill it was to see Harold Buckland, Bill Dundas, Jack Buchanan, Joe Leis, Toby Hale, Alec George. These were just a few of those present whom I had not set eyes on since Borneo, 1945.

NEWCASTLE CONTINGENT—LUCKY WINNER

Harold Leese did not stop at the organising, but during the evening a very successful raffle (yes, another one), was conducted. I believe some five books of tickets were sold and the lucky winner was Jack Bertram, of the Newcastle contingent. It was not until the event had been drawn that Lakey and McGregor discovered that they didn't even get a chance to buy a draw.

The Saturday night drew to a close about 12.30 a.m., when all retired to the hotels previously found, for the remainder of the night.

MANY THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING:

To the ladies for the catering: Mrs. P. Gaskill, 117 North Street, Grafton; Mrs. M. Reimer, 120 Turf Street, Grafton;

Mrs. B. Cassie, c/o 117 North Street, Grafton.

Barmen: Vic. Knox, Howard Knox, steward and assistant steward, voluntarily, and Jan Knox, secretary to Harold Leese.

Mr. S. Andrews, caterer, for the evening and of the Plaza Restaurant, Fitzroy Street, Grafton.

We thank them all from the bottom of our hearts, for never were such hungry fellows looked after so well. In the press of talk, and drink and eat, I think it was almost 8 p.m. before we realised that they may have a throat — still we did rectify that. To the two gentlemen who were our voluntary barmen, father and son, we say thank you.

SUNDAY AT McPHERSON'S CROSSING

Although quite a lot of the chaps had to start off home, Sunday saw those who were left enjoy quite a nice day at McPherson's Crossing. Here wives of those living close enough, or had made the trip with the menfolk, had a peaceful, quiet little picnic by the river.

The ladies came to the fore with cold chook, sandwiches, cake, while we provided the wet side of the question with a nine-gallon and a few cans.

However, all good things have to come to an end and 6.05 p.m. saw the city slickers on the train with four dozen cans to stop any shortage, sandwiches (which we may learn more about) and Westwood just starting to moan over anything he could think up.

McGregor put the edge on Lakey, he lost his voice altogether — Westwood claims the only time he has ever seen McGregor speechless:

GRAFTON SMOKO JOTTINGS

SID JOPSON had his good wife and family with us on Sunday. Sid is still the entertainer with his songs as always.

JIM CASSON still the same, blood pressure a little bit high on Sunday morning. Still has his car available if necessary from the R.S.L.

JACK TATTAM also with his wife and family, supplied some grand harmony on his accoridian down by the river on Sunday.

JACK BERTRAM, Newcastle mob, won the raffle, also piloted the Newcastle boys up in his car.

TED SKOYLES present as usual, ex-Wollongong, still Wollongong, has not missed a turnout since the War. Those drunken mates let you sleep on the way home, Ted. You couldn't possibly put up with McGregor, Lakey and Westwood for all that time.

BOB BURNSIDE had a wow of a time but you should have seen his eyes on Monday morning. As Westwood said: "He thought the sun was rising in the carriage."

CES. BLANCHE, family all getting older and progressing favourably.

ALEC GEORGE (Old Glass-eye), in good form and now slaving with the Northern Rivers Council.

GRAFTON SMOKO

(CONTINUED)

JIM HALL (James E. Hall), as fit and robust as ever and still able to put a few away.

JOE BLANCHE, now in Beaudesert, Queensland. Had Mum and the girls with him. Son Bill, straining at the leash at Bellingen in the bank. Bill was transported to meet Mum and Dad by Merv. Rees and Fred Wheaton, of the Dorriggo.

CHARLIE WILBY (Old Pally) has not changed very much. Now living in Moree (in town). Promises to be down for Anzac Day next year, 1965. We sincerely hope that his promises are not thrown by the wayside.

FRED WHEATON, no different, although Fred has been a sick boy, he manages to look the healthiest sick boy in the unit. Fred also quotes of success with the boy and girl.

HAROLD BUCKLAND (Old Buck) and now that he's married, not so much of the old, but still as pleasantly plump as ever with that same big smile and same happy character. We must add that married life has done something to Buck, he no longer has that black curly brushed-back hair, but get on this, fellows — he parts it on the side now — and no curls. Wow!

NORM. McEVOY, a little bit on the grey side and like a lot of others had that distinguished look that glasses give a man.

BILL DUNDAS (first appearance since Borneo, 1945, at any turnout). Bill, a little bit fatter than our previous knowledge, arrived in Grafton with a big smile, one broken eye in his glasses and £10 short. Bill, you should always remember the policeman says: "The speed that kills is the speed that gets you where you want to go, on time." This time (a costly time) to the extent of £10. However, Bill, remember one you've always got in your favour, you've only got to get one of us Cornstalks from New South Wales and those coppers from Queensland might even knock some of us off.

J. H. BUCHANAN (Buck Buchanan) another first since 1945 and what a great thrill to see this chap. Still as long and lean as ever, but Buck quotes "another success story." Buck's son is going for a teachers' scholarship. We of the unit wish him every success and sincerely hope that he makes this unit as proud as his father will be if he can succeed. He has our good wishes and all successes necessary from this end.

LEO FERRIS, another Kyogle kid has made good in more ways than one since the war. Leo is another chap whom we have not seen since 1945, but we say with all sincerity that these years have not been wasted. Leo is still in the saw-milling trade and apart from getting timber has also managed to gather about seven children. It would appear to us that the name Ferris Timbers will continue for many years to come.

KEN WATT, of Quirindi, another quiet spoken fellow was already in Grafton when we arrived at 8 a.m. on Saturday morning and carrying a banner

quite successfully. You made me one promise, Ken, that you would try and look up Pat Dwyer (old Lonely). From what we know he's still on the Shire at Quirindi—now it's up to you. A few words even in Dwyer's own style would help to put us in the picture of what the old fellow is doing.

TEDDY SIMPSON, Newcastle, still as debonair as ever, hair going a little bit grey only around the ears and sparkling really well on the beer at Grafton. Ted sends his best regards to all the members of the Transport Platoon and to all those stalwarts of A Coy. where he puts in most of his time.

BILLY HOOD, who carried so well on the Saturday afternoon, was heard to remark "never had a better night." As the statement suggests, Bill had a terrific night and was at all times deep in conversation even when we needed him for duties. Well worth the effort though.

TED CARTER sailed on the "Johan de Witt" through Palestine and Libya, then nothing until Saturday night when he walked into the Shirleine Hall at Grafton. The response to seeing Ted was worthy of any trip. All who remembered Ted wished him a happy return to the fold and we hope that this is not the last visit and that he will make his presence felt at all times in the future.

To those members who attended and have not received a mention in this paper, we sincerely hope that you do not feel offended. More will be said about Grafton in the next issue, however.

Press times have to be recognised and so we say "Saidi" until the next issue of the "News."

LAST POST

We are indebted to our welfare officer, Jack Collis, for sending along the following information regarding our former members:—

NX 169238, L/Cpl. A. G. Collins, 2/1.
NX 29083, Pte. L. A. Scott, 2/1.
VX 30113, Pte. G. Jacobs, 2/2.
NX 55890, Cpl. T. McGowan, 2/1.
NX 50887, Pte. H. J. Peet, 2/1.
John Edward Ryan, 2/1.

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

WELFARE REPORT

Members visited in hospital during the last few months have been Tom Hugo (still in after ten months), Harry Olde, Tom Pendlebury, Jim McQuirk, Don Cotton (down from Laurieton on the North Coast), Bob McGregor and Jack Westwood.

Once again I would like to ask the family and friends of members who are about to be admitted to hospital if they would notify me. I will then be able to visit them.

Jack Collis,
648-1509.

2/2 NEWS JOTTINGS

● a letter received from **BRUCE STEVENSON**, of Melbourne. Bruce was commander of the M.G. Pltn. He is still as bright and cheerful as ever and write that while having a fishing holiday at Mallacoota, he saw Jim Bobbin, C Coy. The only thing Bruce omitted to mention was the result of the fishing holiday. (Knowing Bruce, the stories probably will be worth listening to). He sends his regards to all the boys.

● Re **JIM BOBBIN** — your "Pioneer News" have been despatched to Eden. Jim, and we hope you have been receiving same as none have been returned in the post. You are O.K. financially, Jim. We can't acknowledge letters, except in the "News," as the mailing list is too long.

● Some very good news about **NEVILLE O'CONNOR**, of Ballina, New South Wales, who must be a very proud father. Two of Nev's sons carried the honours at the passing out parade of their college on October 4. Both boys are officers in the unit—Jim (17 years), took the parade as Senior C.U.O. and with Major-General D. R. Kerr inspected the college cadets. Michael is second Senior C.U.O. and as O.C. of the champion Coy. —The Pioneer Coy.—was presented with a shield on behalf of the cadets.

We are sure all 2/2 Pioneers will be proud of this news and with us congratulate the boys and Neville and Mrs. O'Connor.

● **DICK KENNEWELL** reports a trip to Gunnedah playing bowls, where he met Cec. Sloggett, of 77 Slock Street. He wishes to contact "Butch" Phillips. Thank you for the donation, Dick.

● "Dinky" **KELLY** was up in the big smoke from Barmedman, rolling them with Kennewell.

● **BILL ROBERTSON** sends best wishes to all his old coppers. He can be located any time at the Clovelly R.S.L., where there is friendship and a good drop of Reschs.

Pleased to report that **NORM. DALLA** is keeping well after his operation and is at present holidaying with his wife at Wagga.

● **Mrs. and Miss LUCY**, from the hotel at Mount Garnet, send regards to all old friends, especially Des. Martin.

The Editor,
"Pioneer News."
Sir,

Please permit a few lines of space to express my sincere thanks to Harold Leese, who was mainly responsible for the organisation of the recent Country Smoko at Grafton. He really did a wonderful job.

I feel sure all persons attending not only enjoyed themselves but met mates they had not seen for a considerable time.

To those who were not fortunate enough to attend this year's Country Smoko, I urge you to make every effort to do so next year.

Also keep in mind the next Sydney Anzac Day March, which I understand will be something "special."

If the "free" rail warrants eventuate, there should be no excuses for not having a full roll call.

Yours faithfully,
BILL HOFFMAN.



HUGHIE GREEN, ex-C Coy., 2/1, of Westmead wrote and as usual a letter from Hugh contains quite a lot of news. Sorry to hear of your bad attack of the 'flu, but you always recover from those. Was in Euabalong for Anzac Day and attended the march with Scottie McKay. Quotes a terrific meal at the R.S.L., with lobster, chicken, prawns, fish and plenty of beer. You can't go crook about that sort of turnout. Hughie still sees a lot of JACK PRICE, JACK BROWN, LENNIE WEYMAN, SID SWEENEY and SCOTTIE MCGIBBON at the Parramatta Hotel. Should be a good place to spend a couple of easy hours if any of our boys are up that way. Late visitors in the form of "SNOW" LLOYD and JIMMY DIXON have been in attendance over the last couple of weeks.

Anybody up around Parramatta (not St. George supporters) would be welcome at the Parramatta Hotel on Friday night and Saturday afternoon. Since his last letter, Hughie has been made 100 per cent. war pensioner, but still able to get a quid on the Railway, so things can't be too bad. He speaks of "BLUE" EVANS (ex-"C" Coy.) I wonder would that be the same "Blue" Evans who received the M.M. in Tobruk when NICHOLLS got his M.C. If so, we are very glad to have "Blue" on our mailing list.

BILL HOFFMAN, 2/1, of Kyogle, writes just one page of good news. He quotes EDDIE BEAUMONT, of Bonalbo, had a spell in Greenslopes (Brisbane), but is now back on his feet again. Bill will be going on annual leave and will probably have completed his holiday by now—a week in Brisbane and approximately three weeks on the Barrier Reef. Best wishes for your holiday, Bill, hope you had a whale of a time. One item of bad luck was the passing away of Jack Martin's father after a long illness. Our sincere sympathy on behalf of all the association to Jack Martin and his family in this sad bereavement.

ALAN SHAW, 2/1, of Queanbeyan, sent two letters—one a request for names and addresses, and one a statement that none was forthcoming. Firstly, Alan, it has always been our principle that all mail is answered in the "News," and this will always be so unless, of course, in a state of emergency. I have been informed that you have received a letter from the secretary and you would have the addresses that you require. No hard feelings, old fellow, but you must realise that the secretary has quite an amount of correspondence to keep up with, and so we try at all times to keep personal requirements to the newspaper.

With regard to the paper, it is printed only three times a year—April, July and November, and so you have not really missed out on any publications. With regard to your request of IVOR GARNON, yes, Ivor is a member of the committee and a good worker, too. Hope everything is going according to what it should be down there in Queanbeyan, I realise it must be cold, but still with a new Falcon you must have plenty of the fair sex to keep you warm. If not, just keep trying, boy.

WALTER ROBERTS, B Coy., 2/1, now of Mudgee, quotes that he always enjoys the news, and especially the articles on War Time Days, even though his memory is not as good as it could be. Wal. quotes an article about Hill 69 and Pack Drills with CYRIL DUNCAN and others when N.C.O. gave the order, "Port Arms!" From Duncan an oth, from the rest of the parade a roar of laughter; and what happened, Duncan had lost the bolt of his rifle. Many thanks for the subscription.

TED STRADFORD, ex-2/1, and now residing at Lismore, wrote. Many thanks for your letter, Ted, and the information enclosed. Ted has had the misfortune to have been stricken with ill-health and is now T.P.I. Ted's main interest is, of course, the Ballina Ex-servicemen's Home. Following is an enclosure of interest to all servicemen in the Northern Rivers district:

"Every ex-serviceman, irrespective of where he may have served, is eligible for a period of convalescence free of charge. This includes those who served in Korea and Malaya, ex-members of the Merchant Navy, and ex-servicemen of all Allies. He need not be suffering from a war-caused disability, but may be convalescing after injury or illness. He may, through overwork, through family worries or other causes, feel in need of a change. The home is there to help him and give him that "build up" which will enable him to return home feeling fit to face all his troubles. The area the home serves is north of a line between Port Macquarie and Tamworth to the Queensland border—west to Moree district. Usual period of residence is two weeks, but this can be, and often is, extended where further improvement in health can be expected. Forms of application for admission are available from the secretary of every ex-servicemen's organisation in the home area."

To me, as editor, and I think to all the committee, the above enclosure is something of great value and tremendous forethought by members of the services from 1940 to 1945.

To you, Ted, we offer our sincere sympathies with regard to your ill-

health, but probably when your local group of old boys, consisting of ALEC GEORGE, TERRY MCGUIRE, HAROLD BUCKLAND and yourself, get together you will never worry about any illness apart from that which is self-inflicted. Hope to see you and all those mentioned at Grafton on Six-Hour weekend.

As Ted remarks, the local boys are not a dormant crew: EDDIE WESTON, 2/2, is an alderman on the City Council; TERRY MCGUIRE is prominent in various activities, R.S.L. and bowls, and is the new Champion of Champions in the district; ALEC GEORGE is treasurer of South Lismore R.S.L. and also their welfare officer; while Ted's own activities over the past 18 years have been limited to the R.S.L. at Lismore and, of course, the Ballina Ex-Servicemen's Home.

Ted passes on regards to all, with special mention for GEORGE MCGUIRE, VIC. PARKINSON (Troop Starver), ERIC GUTHRIE and BOB LAKE. Many thanks, Ted, kindly keep up the good news.

ERNIE LUNN, of C Coy, 2/2, now of Carinda, encloses a postal note for £1 and the audacity to believe he's not three years behind. However, I don't know who said you were. We don't count the years, Ern., only the postal notes. All jokes aside, Ern. has been up to Lightning Ridge, where he met BOB MOLYNEAUX, D Coy. 2/2, who does contract work—fencing and ring-barking (I don't know what he means by that, however, apparently it is something to do with the bush, and I presume trees).

He also informs us that VINCE DIGGES is to become mine host of the only pub at EUMUNGERIE, so it looks like Podgie Sullivan won't be spending all his spare time at the Dubbo R.S.L. Club now. TOMMY BYE, D Coy. 2/2, has a property, "Kia-Ora," at Yantabulla, and if he's not on the mailing list he will be now. Thanks again, Ern., for your note.

KEN COLLIER, ex-H.Q., 2/1, of Victoria. A good sheet of foolscap from Ken—apparently among other things he writes letters. Ken is now the father of six children—three boys and three girls. He does contend that he has no intention of trying for a cricket team, so has decided to declare all things finished.

Ken's wife has not enjoyed the best of health for some time, and we sincerely hope that the improvement you speak of continues in the same manner.

Ken is employed with the Victorian Metropolitan Fire Brigade, and with 15 years' service, almost due for a little bit of long service leave. (Took us five years to get 21 days in the Army.)

Ken was at one time awarded a bravery medal for work in the Fire Brigade. With regard to this award, he was chosen to appear on Tommy Hanlon's show, "It Could Be You." Ken claims he was speechless, however a few nice gifts were received (approximately £200), so perhaps his should could well be worth standing. Ken also sends in a few new addresses, which have been placed in the hands of the secretary and will be looked after accordingly.

RAY (Joe) BLANCH, H.Q., 2/1, and now of Beaudesert, Queensland. Joe quotes that as usual his sub. is overdue. The way Joe talks anything could be overdue. Now on holidays at Urunga, enjoying a quiet rest, he quotes: "Too cold for swimming, too windy for fishing (what's Mavis doing)."

Joe had the pleasure of the company of Noel Schomberg and daughter, Karen, for a week-end. They travelled to Dorriggo, where they saw Fred Wheaton and Merv. Reece. In the a.m. Fred was busy in the shop, so they toddled out to Merv. Reece's farm for a couple of hours. Merv., Betty and family welcomed them as usual, and we left Mavis and the girls chatting while we went out and had a yarn with Merv. and Peter.

Bad luck for Schomberg, who had the misfortune to do a windscreen on the way back into town, so all that was left was a quick beer in Dorriggo with Fred and then down to Bellingen, where we had the new windscreen fitted. On the personal side, Joe's son, Bill, is now in Bellingen with the bank. Last time we heard of him was in Bowral, hence the Blanche's visit to Sydney. If they keep sending Bill further north, we'll have to get an aeroplane to catch Joe and Mum when they are on holidays.

PERCY FISK, D Coy., 2/1, and now of Condobolin. Sounds like you had a whale of a holiday. Perce. quotes: "Something like a terrific trip from Condobolin to Brisbane, via Kempsey, where he met up with "Bluey" Either. Enough said!" From then on to Brisbane, where he tried to contact Jim Ireland. Apparently Jimmy Ireland is a bit of a hard man to find. However, after a couple of hours, success was granted. Also trotted out to Ipswich, where he scared up Mick Anselome.

Mick is always very pleased to see any of the boys, and, being a drinker of some renown, you could depend on a good half hour or so. From Brisbane back to Surfers Paradise—could have stayed a month, but time running out; left there and headed up towards Kyogle, where he had two hours with Peter Bell (in the pub)—Ray Smith away at a sale—then down to Casino and then on to Coffs Harbour. Next acquaintance, Freddy Brooks, Taree (local pub), another two hours. After Taree "Saïda," North Coast, home to Sydney.

All the boys that Percy ran into, spent time with, had a few grogs with, wish

to be remembered to all the members of the battalion and hope that some of the southern side of the country can more or less perhaps make the trip that Perce has just completed.

GERRY PAINTER, B Coy., 2/1, now of Leeton. Many thanks to your good wife, Joyce, who apparently has to do all the writing as well as all the work. She even encloses the subs. Joyce writes that Gerry is always going to write, but never quite makes the grade, however, sometimes the wives can do more good than some of the men. Joyce writes of the Scout Movement and the Jamboree, and as their son, Ian, will be attending the Jamboree as Patrol Leader in the 1st Leeton Group, our secretary, Max Herron, will make a special point of calling on Ian, as Max is a District Scoutmaster and visiting the same Jamboree.

Thanks very much, Joyce, for your very nice letter, just break the old man's arm occasionally and he may even be able to try and do the same for himself.

OSSIE THURLING, H.Q., 2/1, and now of Newcastle. Another late subscription gladly received. "Pioneer News" will carry on as usual. "Os" quotes "of receiving a letter from Grafton re the Smoko," also quotes that it is a bit far to go and then go to work on Monday. Doesn't he know Monday is a holiday? Given deep thought, who knows he may be on that same train on the Friday night. If not, can only say you will have missed what we think a really good turnout. However, Ossie, keep up the good work; you keep writing and the "Pioneer News" will keep printing.

PAT LAUGHREN, C Coy., 2/1, and now of Nambour, Queensland. Pat writes of the articles by John Harnetty and claims that John made his greatest mistake when he failed to mention those terrific terrible sausages that were produced by Spinneys of Gaza. Pat claims they were a mystery and will remain as such for ever more. Pat has had a letter from "Old" McCloskey, who had been holidaying in Queensland. Mac was travelling with Wally Young and fell in love with the Queensland winter climate.

Pat sends his regards to all the boys of "C" Coy., with special mention for Jimmy Rhodes (Blue-eyes), Joe Hickey, Jock Russel, Three Course, Ned Jennings, "Snow" Hemmings, Ray Cheers, Tom Loy and Billy Sutton. Doesn't leave many of "C" Coy. out, does he?

MICK BYE, B Coy., 2/2, now of Walgett. "Head up and move 'em out" of the Brahman Stud, quotes of a conscience with regards to subs. No conscience is necessary as long as we receive letters so we can publish papers. Mick speaks of Bob Molyneux, who still lives at Lightning Ridge (also mentioned in another letter in the paper), and Harry Sullivan, who is still in Bourke and works with the Namoi Valley Council. Mick was most interested to read of Padre Claughton's visit to Port Moresby and to see all the old names of the Markham Road.

Mick quotes a problem with weather—if it is not too wet (at times) it is too bloody dry (all the time), so apparently what they need up there is another old couple of water carriers. All jokes aside, Mick hopes to be showing some good cattle at the Royal Show next year and then is going to push Brisbane along just to try his luck. The battalion wishes you all the very best success in the following year, Mick.

DENNIS GEORGE, ex-H.Q., 2/1, and now of Northern Territory Command, Darwin. Some two years ago a friend handed him a copy of the "Pioneer News." Apparently Dennis George has continued on a military career and speaks of only being in Sydney at change over of aircraft since the war. That is a long while to be away from the "Big Smoke." You requested somewhere, some time of a meeting place—possibly a bar. I have been informed that such information had been posted on to you and you were advised to contact the Sussex Hotel.

Apparently the military school was too rugged for an old bloke (and you must be getting on, Dennis), because Lakey and Whitely spent almost every afternoon for a week at the Sussex, and no Dennis George.

I do not know whether you contacted Alan McGuiness at Paul's Hardware, but we do know that you never made the Sussex, and I don't think you made Max Herron's place, either. On reminiscing, I, Lakey, would say you took longer to answer this call than you did when the Kyogle mob were trying to cut off old Popeye's beard in Derna in 1941.

Mrs. WHEELER, of Victoria Road, Gladesville, widow of the late John Wheeler, ex-2/1. A letter of thanks for the expressions of sympathy in the last issue of the "News." Also sincere thanks to our welfare officer, Jack Collis, for the many visits paid to John Wheeler in his hospitalisation.

We of the Pioneers can understand your loss and wholeheartedly concur that you were a devoted couple, and we can only express our sincere wishes that you carry on, Mrs Wheeler, in the manner in which John would have expected.

Until such times as you decide otherwise, a copy of the "Pioneer News" will be posted to you in each edition, which is approximately three times per year.

EDDIE MOREY, D Coy., 2/2, and now of Redcliffs, Victoria. To hand a page from Eddie, boasting of receiving three copies of the "News," all within a week (I don't know what you did to deserve this). However, it did some good, as the treasury was over-subscribed like the Australian War Loan to the extent of 25/- for past subs. Can assure you, Eddie, that now the address has been rectified each edition will be posted promptly and you should receive same.

As mentioned elsewhere in the paper, the "News" goes to press three times a year, April, July and November, so don't panic if you think you are missing out on any.

Eddie was an original of "D" Coy. 2/2, but never caught up again with the battalion after being wounded in Syria. He has now joined that venerable band of fruit growers at Redcliffs in the Mildura district and we wish him every success in the future. You don't mention anything more serious than fruit growing, such as family, wife or other personal relations. Let's know more about you, Eddie. You never know, some of the 2/2 might want to try dried fruits some time.

Mrs. WATSON, of Princes Highway, Woonona. A pleasant letter, Mrs. Watson, and we are glad that you find some interest in our little paper. As you say, it is worth it when we see the results of our get-togethers and our Anzac Day March. You make no mention of the christian name of your husband, unit or company and I must apologise that our files only show "G. Watson, of Woonona." Would appreciate it if at some future time you could rectify this oversight.

As you say, some time surely someone must make some mention of your brother, **TOM LEDGERWOOD**. As editor of the Mail Bag, I can only say that I have never had a mention of Tom. Seems strange, but still could easily be just one of those things. However, let's hope that this column may bring some result.

Very pleased to have known that you were in Sydney to see the last Anzac March and you hope to see the 50th Anniversary. In later papers you will see the programme we have mapped out for the 50th Anniversary, and if when in Sydney you would like to contact some of the members, addresses and all the whereabouts of the Anzac Day Reunion will be published.

TOM HUGO, ex-D Coy., 2/1, of Revesby, and at present an inmate of Concord General Hospital. Tom has had a pretty rough spin and it is now over twelve months since he was admitted to Concord. While progress is favourable, it is a long, long road.

To his good wife, Margaret, we thank you sincerely for your very charming letter. We are pleased that Tom got quite a thrill out of the paper and can assure that that is its sole purpose. We thank you also for the subscription and while on the subject we would wish to inform you that all members on the sick or hospital list have no need whatsoever to send in any subscriptions. This has been applicable at all times, Margaret, and we are sorry that you did not know.

To all the chaps in "D" Coy who may get around Concord, spare a minute some time, he'd love to see you. Apparently he has troubles with ulcers, but at time of writing is allowed to get up and we all hope nothing else will go wrong.

Please continue to write Margaret, as while Jack Collis does a good job, he cannot always get all the information necessary with regard to the patient's progress.

JOHN BANNISTER, A Coy., 2/1, of Bellerive, Tasmania, sends a short note and donation, as well as the address of

another Tassie 2/1, Keith Boucher, of North Hobart. Many thanks, John, we shall be pleased to send Keith further copies of the "News."

BOB JULEFF, 2/1, has now moved into a home of his own at Cardiff. Thank you, Mrs. J., for your letter and donation on Bob's behalf and the paper will be sent to your new address.

TOM BRABIN, B.H.Q., 2/2, was very pleased to receive recent copies of the "News" and sent along his subscription. We haven't Steve Snow on our mailing list, Tom, so if you run into him again let's have his address. If any ex-2/2nds are in Launceston. Tom can be contacted at the office of the Tasmanian Timber Association in York Street and can be assured of a warm welcome.

WES. BENNETT, D Coy., 2/2, of Albury, passes on the sad news of the death of Mrs. Una Scholz, wife of Capt. Percy Scholz, of "D" Coy. 2/2, late in August. We extend our sincere sympathy to Percy and his family in their sad loss. Percy is employed at Mates Ltd., Albury, as a refrigeration mechanic. Many thanks, Wes, for your letter and subscription and your kind regards are passed on to former Don Coy. boys. Incidentally, Percy was not on our mailing list, so we have added his name for future copies.

ERIC CAUSER, 2/1, of Macarthur, Victoria. Very pleased to receive your letter and thanks for your inquiries with regard to the old Sig. Platoon. **JIM ROBERTSON'S** address would be c/o Post Office, or P.M.G. Department, Wentworth. With regard to **ATHOL ROBERTS**, we can only say no information available. Eric quotes of being in Sydney perhaps next May, if so we will be glad to see you. For the past twelve years Eric has been farming in the Macarthur district, which is midway between Hamilton and Port Fairy, in the south-west of Victoria. Just as well you told us where it was, because we would never have known.

We all wish you the best of luck and hope that the farming continues to be prosperous in the south-west of Victoria.

SID ABERCROMBIE, ex-2/1, and now of Western Australia, a short note from Mosman Park. Sid doesn't give us a lot of information as to his doings in Western Australia, but does quote that he likes to have a browse through the news.

Also claims he may surprise us one Anzac Day and make a trip over just for a few noggins. Sid sends his sincere congratulations to the secretary and his committee for the good work over the years and hopes and trusts that it will continue this way in the future.

PETER O'BRIEN, ex-2/1, and now with the Grain Elevators Board of New South Wales, gets away from the subject of sending his few bob in and not being a very good correspondent and goes on to suggest that Don Company had a very good football team in the battalion and, in Peter's opinion, the best company team (this is open

to discussion). Peter quotes of one player whom he thought got a raw deal from the selectors of the battalion team, namely Alf Carter, "B" Coy.

In Peter's own words, a brilliant boy when playing Junior Football. The selectors must have penalised him because of his lack of hair. Peter doesn't quote any full battalion team that he would have selected, but has suggested that some of the readers would like to comment and perhaps select a possible battalion team to see just what response would be received from the members and their personal ideas.

A good letter, Peter, and one which could easily create a lot of interest from the sporting side. It will be interesting to see just how many teams the Pioneers could have fielded in the eyes of the sideline selectors.

JIMMY McQUIRK, ex-2/1, and now of Redfern. Jim's letter speaks of thanks and appreciation to the association and to Jack Colliss for the visits and gifts while he was an inmate at Concord recently for five weeks. Jim speaks of the great cheerfulness that is derived from visits from Jack Colliss.

We of the committee know of the great work that Jack is always doing and it is very pleasing to get letters from the chaps carrying on those good words.

We sincerely hope that you are back on deck again, Jim, and have thrown off that 'flu; it's being a bad year for it, but we realise that with that little bit of extra weight you have you would have the strength to throw it off.

PETER PRIEST, 2/1, of Mt. Gravatt, Brisbane, writes in to say that he has not received a copy of the "Pioneer News" for twelve months.

Well, Peter, when you moved the mail man returned your copy of "Pioneer News" marked "address unknown." So if you move in future, please notify us of your change of address.

This also applies to all Pioneers, for, being Second Class mail, a wrongly addressed wrapper is returned to us.

Bill Dundas's address is 1 B.O.D., Gaythorne, Brisbane, Queensland.

Peter has a snack bar at 875 Ann Street, The Valley, Brisbane, and invites any Pioneer up that way to visit him. Thanks a lot for your offer and letter, Peter.

BERNIE REINERS, 2/1 Sigs., of Corryong, Victoria, sent along his donation and a long, personal letter to the Secretary. Many thanks, Bern, for the information on caravan grounds near Dandenong.

FRANK CHEAL, 2/1, of Glen Iris, Victoria, wrote to the Secretary offering assistance as a depot for Max's Scouts gear at the Jamboree. These blokes in short pants sure do stick together. Anyway, many thanks, Frank—as Group Scoutmaster of the 1st Hartwell Scout Group, Melbourne, we know you are doing a great job.