

PIONEER NEWS

UL 5491

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

UL 5491

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ALLAN McINNES

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ANZAC FUNCTIONS, 1966

The following are the arrangements for the Anzac functions as organised by the Social Secretary, Jack Westwood, and his hard working social committee. The only reward they seek is a good roll up of members.

WREATH LAYING CEREMONY, SUNDAY, 24th APRIL (2/1 and 2/2)

Let it be known that you have an appointment to meet me at 7 p.m. on Sunday, 24th April, 1966, outside the Association rooms, 19 Hunter Street, Sydney.

The March commences from the corner of Pitt and Hunter Streets, at 7.25 p.m. All members are expected to wear their medals.

As is customary each year, both the 2/1 and 2/2 Battalions, with the Ladies' Auxiliary, meet as above and proceed to the Cenotaph where we lay wreaths in memory of our members who fell during the war, and of those who have since passed away.

Please be with us, so do not break this appointment, in other words, LET US REMEMBER TOGETHER.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, SUNDAY, 24th APRIL, 1966, AT 8 P.M. (2/1 and 2/2)

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 at the British Ex-Servicemen's Club, 5 Hamilton Street, Sydney.

Well fellows, it looked for a while as though we wouldn't have a place for our Annual Meeting as the R.S.L. have moved way down George Street, with no meeting room, but by the good grace of our newly won friends, in Mr. Jackson, of the British Ex-Servicemen's Club, our worries are over.

Mr. Jackson is Secretary/Manager of the Club and has graciously allowed us to use the games room for our meeting and has also granted us the use of the Club's facilities (they tell me the beer is good).

For those who are unaware, Hamilton Street is opposite our rooms at 19 Hunter Street so that is where you head for boys after our Wreath Laying

Ceremony on Sunday, 24th April, 1966. See you there!

ANZAC DAY MARCH AND RE-UNION MONDAY, 25th APRIL, 1966

For those of the 2/1 and 2/2 Battalions who are able to march, the Committee would like to see your prior to the starting time at our respective starting point. Starting time is approximately 9 a.m.

2/1 will meet in Phillip Street, between Martin Place and King Street, facing north to Circular Quay.

2/2 will meet in Macquarie Street, nearly outside Sydney Hospital, facing north, head on Martin Place.

This information was supplied to us on Friday, 11th March, so we could suggest that each member make enquiries on the day as to the exact spot.

Once again I appeal to all members to follow the Banners right into the Domain.

Immediately after the March, the 2/1st will make their way back to the Quarterdeck Lounge of the Castle-reagh Hotel, on the corner of Park and Castlereagh Streets, where a hot meal will be provided, and also an afternoon snack. The 2/2nds will proceed to their Re-union at their new venue, The Randwick Literary Institute, Clovelly Road, Randwick.

All members are expected to wear their medals.

ANZAC WEEKEND ACCOMMODATION

Any member desirous of obtaining accommodation, while visiting from the country, over this weekend, may contact the following committeemen: Wal. Page, 16 Boundary Road, Mortdale; Bob Lake, 43 Amourin Street, Brookvale, or Bob McGregor, 120 Glanis Street, Kingsgrove.

See you at all these functions.

Wally (Desso) Page,
Publicity Officer.

WELFARE REPORT

Members visited during the last few months have been:

Ted Dolling, Vic. Walmsley, Norm. Phillips, Charlie Henry, Jack Westwood and Bob Buckley.

All have been discharged, except Bob Buckley, who is still in Ward 103 at the time of this report.

Vic. Walmsley has been transferred to Royal Ryde Homes after quite a few months in Concord Hospital.

We still hear of members being in hospital after their discharge. If you know or hear of any member going into hospital let us know, so that we can call over and see them.

For all hospital notification contact: Jack Collis, 22 Fisher Street, Auburn. Telephone 648-1509.

To the families who have recently lost their dear ones, we offer our deepest sympathy.

JACK COLLIS,
Welfare Officer.

VALE HAROLD BUCKLAND

It was with deep regret that we heard, at Kyogle, of the sad passing of Harold Buckland on 3rd March.

Harold had been in Brisbane for some weeks in a coma following a cerebral haemorrhage, and was brought back to Lismore, where he passed away the next day.

The service was held in Lismore on Saturday, 5th March, and afterwards at the Mt. Gravatt Crematorium.

The following Pioneers were present at the funeral: Brian Jackson, Kyogle, Jack Sherman, Kyogle, Ray Blanch, Beaudesert, Cliff Spicer, Lismore, Norm McEvoy, Woodburn and Alec. George, Lismore.

I would like to apologise for non-attendance owing to business.

Floral tributes from the Association were arranged by Mrs. Harold Leese, of Grafton.

To Mrs. Buckland, all Pioneers at Kyogle and elsewhere extend sympathy in her recent sad loss.

BILL HOFFMAN,
Country Vice-President.

BI-ANNUAL SMOKO

Well, the Pioneers have done it again . . . Another very successful reunion of old coppers. This is becoming a habit, but a very good one, I must add.

The attendance was a little below average for our Bi-Annual—we had about 45 members present—but I would like to say here that there was ample room for more.

For those who were able to attend there was plenty to talk about, plenty to eat and, for those who wanted it, plenty to drink.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who came along for their attendance; for the orderly manner in which they conducted themselves; and especially for the hearing they gave George Paricos and his party when they gave us some light entertainment. Thanks, George and company, they showed their appreciation by listening.

For those who were unable to attend, I must say you missed something, but I do hope that you will help swell the attendance at our next Bi-Annual. I will see that you get plenty of notice when it's due, but for now I am giving prior notice of our Anzac Day Reunion, so arrange now for your leave pass.

To the wives of our Pioneers, I appeal to you to please send your husband along to our next reunion. He is a very good friend of ours and we would like to see him again. I know he is valuable property to you, but I will look after him for you—I promise!

SMOKO JOTTINGS

By Gordon Finlay

● Apologies from Jack Price of "A" Coy 2/1, and Tom Weyman, "B" Coy 2/1; also from "Pasha" Jackson, who made a phone call late in the evening and wanted to talk to all Pioneers present.

● **ALAN McINNES**, 2/2, **GAVIN TODD**, 2/2, **BOB McGREGOR**, **MICK DOBSON**, **JOE ALLIFFE** and myself, 2/1, started a small reunion of our own by arriving early and having a snack at the Castlereagh. It is really good to have these "get-togethers" with the 2/2nds, for when all is said and done we are an "association."

● To those of you who remember **GEORGE PARICOS**, 2/1 and 2/2, don't be surprised if the next time you see him he is sporting a nice black wig, as he reckons the one he is wearing is shedding a bit on top.

● Noticed **SAM LEWIS**, **JACK COLLIS**, **MAX HERRON** and **BERT MOORE** telling each other a few stories during the evening. Must have been dry ones, because they took quite a lot of washing down.

Bert Moore apologised for not attending the last committee meeting as he was in Melbourne. Something about a Cup.

● Going back some 24 years to Tobruk days, were the following "A" Coy "Rats," Col. Jeff Williams, Geoff. Robinson, Bruce Smith, Johnny Clifford, Jack Hyde, Mick Dodson and Gordon Finlay.

● Seated in another corner for two and a half hours were **ARTHUR MURPHY**, **TAFFY LAWRENCE**, **BOB LONG** and "SAILOR" **WHITHAM**. Whatever could they find to talk about for two and a half hours.

● **RAY LESTER** arrived late as usual, and the job of looking after us at Repatriation Department doesn't seem to be doing him any harm or taking off any of his weight.

● **GORDON OSBORNE** was moving about as usual and brought word of John Morahan being at sea as O.C. of troops aboard H.M.A.S. Sydney.

● Some very fine entertainment was provided by **JACK WOOD** of the R.A.M.C., and his friend, **ROLY JALCAR**. Good show Roly—make sure you and your friend are there next November.

● At 9 p.m., our President, **ALAN McINNES**, recited the Ode (an excellent job, Allan) and we must give credit to these Pioneers—they were perfect gentlemen.

● The usual dozen of refreshments went to **GEORGE WATSON**, so good luck to you, George, hope you managed to get them home. He looked mighty awkward going down those stairs—of course, all Pioneers, 2/1 and 2/2, offered to help.

● Very good to see **GEORGE EDMAN** enjoying himself, and it was most unfortunate that he had a sick turn towards the end of the evening. On being assisted to his son-in-law's car by Doug. Shearston and Max Herron, he was heard to say: "I have never met such a nicer bunch of blokes than the 2/1-2/2 Pioneers—the only others as good are wearing the wings of an angel."

● Late, late arrivals were **NIP KEARSLEY** and **HENRY NICHOLS**, from Ourimbah—in fact, it was no later than 9.45 p.m.

Nip looks well, as usual—just the same tough footballer of the old days. Nicko has slimmed down a lot and probably finds civvy life a bit hard after 25 years in uniform.

● **JACK BERTRAM** (H.Q. Coy., 2/1), of Newcastle, writes to say he was sorry he missed our November reunion, but business comes first. We have passed all the information regarding the "Rats" function in Canberra and Newcastle to all committee members.

Jack sends along the following news:

● **ROY BOUNDS** has recovered from the attack of cancer but is now combating sugar diabetes. Anyway, Roy, keep up the old chin.

● **TOM CONNOLLY**, of Wallabadah Station, wrote to Jack, telling him things are a little brighter with the recent rains. He has gained quite a lot of land, in the form of dust, from the poor fellows further out. It is very nice to see Tom is sorry for those out West.

● **DICK SEDDON** was visited by Jack Bertram and found him trying to cope with a young grandson and a dachshund.

● **NOEL PETERSON** is still doing fine at Wyong and is always ready to have a pint with any of the boys at the R.S.L.

Jack finalizes with an open invitation to attend the Newcastle "Rats" Reunion at Beaumont Street, Hamilton, with Colonel Norm Neal as the guest of honour. This is to be on the 3rd of April, so by the time this paper goes to press everyone would have had a really good time at that function.

● **BOB BURNSIDE** (H.Q. Coy. 2/1), of Como West, sends in a most interesting article on his dealings with the Australian Military Forces, regarding his application for the Defence Medal.

With your permission, Bob, we would like to hold this article for the next issue of "Pioneer News" where we will have more space so we can publish the whole long article just as you sent it.

LAST POST

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

NX28840 Pte. J. ASQUITH, 2/1.

NX10639 Pte. E. J. CROSS, 2/1.

NX28851 Pte. J. PERRY, 2/1.

NX81662 Pte. A. S. CROKE, 2/1.

JIM McQUIRK, 2/1.

N. W. (Joe) WHITE, 2/1.

1966 PIONEER PROGRAMME

● 1966

APRIL 24: WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

APRIL 24: ANNUAL MEETING

APRIL 25: ANZAC MARCH, AFTERWARDS RE-UNION 2/1-2/2 AT CASTLEREAGH HOTEL, 2/2 AT RANDWICK

MAY 27: COMMITTEE MEETING

JULY 22: PIONEER NEWS WRAPPING. COPY TO PRINTER JUNE 22

AUGUST 26: SOCIAL COMMITTEE MEETING

OCTOBER 28: COMMITTEE MEETING

NOVEMBER 4: PIONEER NEWS WRAPPING. COPY TO PRINTER OCTOBER 6

NOVEMBER 18: BI-ANNUAL SMOKO

"Pioneer News" is published in the months of April, July and November

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

JOHN HARNETTY (H.Q. Coy. 2/1)

St. Kilda, S2, Victoria.

My Dear Old Maxie and Bobby.

Conscience and grace to the profoundest pit, said somebody, beefing about something. But I feel a real pang of conscience at not having kept in touch with the old mob these two years. The only excuse I have to offer is the above address and a long spell in Heidelberg, from which I have emerged with almost a clean bill of health, and for the last year I have been pounding out specials for Cumberland Press (Vic.) Ltd.

I was urged to write to you because among some gear sent down to me by my sister with an old copy of the "Pioneer News" in it (dated 1st July, 1962), was the post-Anzac Day issue, with a couple of my own stories in it. There was another issue containing a demand for some more stuff from my stumbling pen. Having taken the first step to restore old affiliations, you may rest assured that I'll bash out a yarn or two for the "News". Dammit, wasn't I one of the editors? (said he, as he briskly removed his soup-stained whiskers to take them to the dry-cleaners).

I won't write overlong, but I thought I'd bash out a few lines to re-establish that good old *entente cordiale* (French). I think it's also time I touched the bin to fill a few holes in the membership books (if my name is still somewhere there, but you'll have to look back a fair way).

Anyway, you might give my kindest regards to all at the next committee meeting, and if there's any chance to get up to march with the boys on Anzac Day I shall do so. I should specially desire to be remembered to my old coppers, Monty and Bobby Lake. If I went through the entire list of everybody of whom I was thinking at this time I'd run through a couple of nominal rolls.

However, you might put me in the picture with one or two back issues of the "News" if you have any back numbers lying around. This, of course, I doubt, because there used to be fair demand for the old paper from everywhere this side of the Black Stump—and frequently from beyond.

Where do you hold the smokes these days? Still at the Castlereagh? Do our old leaders, Col. Graham and Col. Neal, still head the van. Last I heard, Col. Neal was in very poor health—but, tough old battler that he is, I've no doubt that he'd be highly and hotly resentful if anybody told him he was getting into the sear and yellow.

Well, Max, old sport, if you have time to let me know that you're still in there batting, nobody will be more delighted than myself.

Just because I'm domiciled in Victoria, you needn't think I've become naturalised, but I must tell you the natives tell me I speak with an odd accent. To save arguments about the Harbour Bridge and the Opera House, and buses and aerofoils and things, I tell

people I'm from Lapland—it saves so many arguments. I also pretend to be an Australian Rules fan—but that's all in the way of keeping the peace!

Cheers,

JOHN HARNETTY (H.Q. Coy. 2/1)

P.S.—These Victorians are getting a bit uppish with ten o'clock closing!

[Editors' Note.—We are very pleased and relieved to hear from you, John, as we were beginning to think you had forgotten the Pioneers. Back numbers of "Pioneer News" have been sent to you and the secretary has written to put you in the picture. All our readers have been asking for your articles, so we do look forward to seeing some more in that mighty little paper of ours. Kind regards from all your friends up here, John.—The Editors.]

STEVE CLARKE (B.H.Q. 2/1)

Parkes, N.S.W.

Dear Max and Bob,

I should have written long before this, I know, particularly as we are prompted to so frequently in the "News."

I know that I am not due for a subscription yet, but here is a cheque for \$10 to help the show along. There is no doubt about it, the magazine is an excellent effort on the part of you people and so few of your hard-working editorial staff.

No doubt, at times you may be disappointed at the response forthcoming from members, but I would be only one of many who hope that this magazine never ceases publication. Every member looks forward to receiving the "News." Although you may not hear from them often, or even at all, they are with you all the way in what you and the association are doing in keeping "the flag flying."

As you may realise, having had country appointments since 1946, I have only been fortunate enough to attend two of the Pioneer "do's," but let us hope the opportunity presents itself for me to attend more in the future.

My postings in the bank in the last ten years have been Renmark, S.A., Yass and now Parkes—which reminds me, would you please change my address from Yass to Parkes. I have been here for the past 18 months.

Other Pioneers at Parkes are Vince Flannery, who was my "right hand man" as R.Q.M.S. from early 1945, following Charlie Gilbert's tragic accident at Kairi, Queensland. Vince has seven boys—tried hard for a girl. His boys are doing well, the eldest is studying engineering at the University of N.S.W. under cadetship with the M.W.S. & D. Board, and the second boy was called to the priesthood. Vince has a thriving mixed business.

The other member of our unit is Lenny Laphorne, an old faithful of the Pioneer Platoon. Len is employed by the Department of Works. Last Anzac Day the three of us were in each other's

company all day, starting off with the Dawn Service.

Vince and I went across to a race meeting at Cowra, where we bumped into Sgt. McCloskey. He is with the P.M.G. Department.

Last golfing season (winter time) had the pleasure of seeing Johnny Douglas (handicap 7 or 8) on two occasions. He came over from West Wyalong for two tournaments. Also at one of these tournaments another Pioneer participated—Henry ("Sandy") Gallagher, from Peak Hill, with a handicap of 12. They were both looking well. As a visitor, Johnny was asked to draw prizes for a raffle held in conjunction with the tournament and he made sure of keeping it a Pioneer show, as he drew first prize for my wife, second prize for "Sandy" Gallagher, and in the consolations one for himself and one for me. Hope to see these chaps again this next season.

During last May school holidays took a trip to Adelaide and guess who I should meet—yes, Max Law. Bumped into him at the bar of the hotel at which we were staying. This was midday, sure is a good job Max has over there. As "Beau" Hannaford was over from Sydney on business that night the two of them joined us at a party at the hotel—a most enjoyable occasion, I can assure you.

Before leaving Yass Peter Seddon (Newcastle) called in at the bank but I was out on an inspection. (No, not on the golf course.) Sorry to have missed Peter, but will catch up with him one day.

As for my family, we only have one child—a girl, Julie, who commences an arts course at the Australian National University shortly.

Now to give some names for membership:—

Lindsay Gordon ("Lenny") Laphorne
Henry ("Sandy") Gallagher
Frank Moody.

Frank Moody was in "D" Coy. He came to see me one Saturday a few months back, but unfortunately I could not spend any time with him as I was due out. He looks quite fit and revels in the pleasure of the usual art not uncommon to Pioneers.

Perhaps as far as the subscription for these three chaps, the first year or two (\$3) could come out of my cheque.

Enclosed is particulars form, and for the time being, "Cheers and Beers!" Wishing you, the hard-working committee and the "News" all the best of success.

Kind regards,

STEVE CLARKE (B.H.Q. 2/1)

[Editors' Note.—Thank you immensely, Steven, for your kind remarks regarding our effort for the "Pioneer News." It is words of gratitude such as yours that boost our morale and inspire us to greater things. The addresses have been recorded and back numbers of "Pioneer News" will be sent. Once again, many thanks, Steve.—The Editors.]

JIM FIELD (2/2) GOES NORTH

Dear Editors,

I have just received November issue of the Pioneer News and read, with concern, your Editorial which speaks for itself. Reading mostly between the lines, I feel you are more than worried about "No News" for our paper. I notice there is very little news in this issue from the 2/2nds, and they must all have a guilty conscience after reading your editorial (including myself). Well, boys, I hope I can help you a little by forwarding the following on to you.

On the thirtieth of June last G. J. Coles & Co., with whom I had been an employee for 25 years, decided to retire me, owing to ill-health.

I must say that since then I have picked up wonderfully and am now looking for a new job to help me along.

As the opportunity was there and with plenty of time on my hands, I decided to take a trip up north with my wife, Kathleen. I felt this would do us both a lot of good, as Kathleen had had two trips to hospital between March and June with major operations, and needed a break away from every-day life.

We travelled by car and camped in motels every night (best way I know of camping). Went by New England Highway on the way up, with Tamworth first stop, Warwick second day, and arrived in Brisbane on the third day. We spent two days in Brisbane seeing the sights, and then on to Bundaberg, stopping at Nambour for lunch on the way. The boys of H.Q. Coy will remember Nambour, or more so the route march we did from Woodford to Nambour and return, the pineapples we sampled and our first glimpse of the Glasshouse Mountains.

From Bundaberg we proceeded to Rockhampton, where we stayed two days to see the sights. These included the Botanical Gardens (the most beau-

Photo below: A camp fireplace which is the sole remains of the camp opposite the 2/2 Pioneers at Ravenshoe, Qld. Note the trees now growing on an area which was a cleared parade ground during the war.



tiful seen on the trip), Pulbeam Drive 2,000 feet up Mount Archer, from where you can get a view of the township and the coastline. We also visited St. Christopher's Chapel, which was built in 1942 by the U.S. Army and now maintained as a memorial to the soldiers, both American and Australian, who were camped in the Rockhampton area during World War II. It was built of bush timber and stones retrieved from a nearby creek.

I will now pause for two minutes' silence as this is the 11th hour of the 11th month. "Lest We Forget".

From Rocky to Proserpine, stopping on the way at Sabina and Mackay. The section of the road between Rocky and Mackay is known as the "Crystal Highway," because of the vast number of broken windshield piles on the sides of the road. We played safe and had a perspex shield fitted before venturing on this part of the highway—really paid dividends, too.

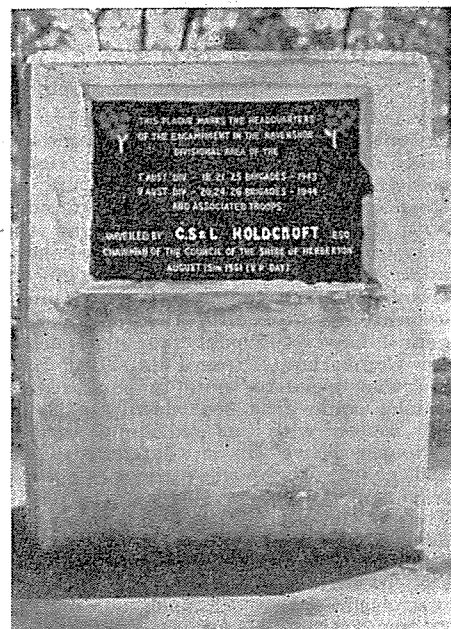
After stopping the night at Proserpine we went on to Townsville, now the largest city north of Brisbane and still growing. I could not recognise any landmarks, as everything had changed.

Two days were spent at Townsville, and we took in a trip to Magnetic Island. Other trips around Townsville included a drive to the top of Castle Hill, which really towers above the city.

From Townsville we went on to Cairns, stopping on the way at Ingham, Cardwell Beach, etc., and the scenery was really lovely. Spent two and a half days at Cairns, which included a trip to Green Island, Kuranda and Barron River.

Left Cairns for Yungaburra via Port Douglas, where the beach is so solid (coral sand) that hardly a tyre mark can be seen after driving on it. Leaving Port Douglas we came back a few miles on the main highway and turned off at the road leading to Mount Molloy, which eventually brought us on to the Tablelands, through Mareeba and Atherton, and so to Yungaburra. Stayed two days at Yungaburra, which enabled us to visit Lake Tinaroo Dam, Lake Eacham and Lake Barrine.

While stopping at the Eacham Hotel, Yungaburra, both my wife and I had an interesting talk with Mrs. Williams, the owner of the hotel, and an old identity of the Tablelands District. She talked of the war years and of the entertaining and activities associated with her and the troops. She especially mentioned General Vasey and Col. J. T. Lang, who was O.C. 2/2 Pioneers.



Inscription above: "This marks the Headquarters of the encampment in the Ravenshoe Divisional Area of the 7 Aust. Div., 18, 21, 25 Brigades—1943; 9 Aust. Div., 20, 24, 26 Brigades, — 1944; and Associated Troops, Unveiled by C. ST. L. Holdcroft, Esq., Chairman of the Shire of Herberton, August 15, 1961. (V.P. Day)".

Spent quite a bit of time around Ravenshoe, especially in the area where the 7th Division was camped. Mostly all bush now where the parade grounds used to be. Was able to get a photo of the section where the 2/2nds were camped, also of the Millstream Falls, where Divisional Headquarters were located. (Incidentally, a plaque has been erected at this spot, commemorating the time when the 7th and 9th Divisions were encamped in this area.)

When driving along the road towards Mount Garnet, about the only recognisable things associated with the troops were the fireplaces, which had been built by the engineers for the cook-houses. Many of them were still standing, like everlasting monuments to a time now passed by. What memories they bring back, these old places! (Took a photo of these, too.)

I wonder if Arthur Daldy and Bobby Lee remember when we took a trip to Herberton one day from camp and finished up at the butcher shop, where we got steaks to take back to camp.

What a day that was for Muldoon (that's me). What do you think, Arthur and Bob? How about writing in to the

(Continued Next Page)

VALE JIM McQUIRK

It was with deep regret that we learnt of the passing away of Jim McQuirk (H.Q. Coy. 2/1). Jim has been ill for some time and in and out of Yaralla Hospital. We extend our sympathy to Mrs. McQuirk and family in their sad bereavement.

2/2nd NEWS JOTTINGS

By DON LAWSON

Don't forget the new venue for our Anzac Day Re-union, the Randwick Literary Institute, Clovelly Road, Randwick. It is a much better hall than we have been used to and handy to the city. We are looking forward to a big roll-up and have catered for same.

There was a good attendance at the Remembrance Service, held at the Canterbury Methodist Church and conducted by our Padre, Rev. Stan Claughton. There was quite a number of new faces in attendance, including Max Herron and Doug. Shearston of the 2/1st. The service was thoroughly enjoyed by all—the Padre bringing back to mind some names of our old mates whom we had nearly forgotten. I think Stan would sooner lose his right arm than his black-covered diary, it is full of gems. After the service we were once again entertained at supper by the ladies of the church. Our thanks once again to them—we will be back again this year.

How about some news for the paper, you 2/2nds. Anything will do, as others are interested in your doings.

What news I have for this issue is bad. Another two of our old coppers have passed on. Jim Croke, a lovable old character of "C" Coy died of a heart attack. Jim will be remembered by many whom he sat on a log or a box and gave them a short back and sides. I also regret having to report the passing of Frank Bradley, who also suffered a heart attack. Frank was of

Jim Field Goes North (Continued)

"News" and letting us know if you remember.

After exploring the Tablelands we followed the Palmerston Highway, which is very picturesque with at least four waterfalls to visit, plus look-outs, to Innisfail, where we stopped overnight, and then on to Townsville the next day. We stayed here four days.

We then started on the way home, exploring and stopping overnight at new places each time that we had by-passed on the way up. We followed the coast road on our journey back to Sydney, arriving back exactly 28 days from the day we left, plus 200 colour slides and 100ft. of movie film and 4,446 miles clocked on the speedo.

Kindest regards to all,

Jim Field.

[Editors' Note.—We are grateful to Jim for the effort he has put into writing about this very interesting trip and we know that all Pioneers would like to do the same trip. Thanks immensely for the article, Jim, and we know the only reward you wish to see is more news from the Pioneers.

To you and your wife and daughter-in-law, we extend our sympathy in your recent sad loss, but we know you are keeping your chin up in good pioneering spirit.—Bob and Max.]

"D" Coy, and was a friendly bloke, well liked by all who knew him.

We will remember them.

Jim Field, who has not had the best of health these last few years, was unfortunate to lose his only son early in December at the age of 25 years.

To Jim and the relatives of Jim and Frank, we extend our deepest sympathy.

Bill Lewis, 2/2, reports that he dropped in on J. A. (Des Wilson at his property outside Oberon, after a lapse of twenty years.

Des is an old "C" Coy man and in those days answered to the *nom de guerre* "Dry Gulch"—a reference to his home town.

This name is hardly the right description of Oberon any more. With State forests and its pineboard factory, the Fish River Dam and an assortment of fossickers seeking gold and sapphires, Oberon town is a very pleasant place. Des is still a man of few words, but, as usual, he makes them count. And he no longer looks lean and hungry—the credit for this goes to his charming wife, Mollie. They have a fine school-age family of two boys and a girl. Bill has supplied Des's address, so welcome to the club, Des, with this and future issues of "Pioneer News."

Norm Phillips, from Gerra Gerra via Henty, has been to Sydney for a consultation with Repat., and even though he has been made to retire by his doctor, he looks very well and fit enough to be back in H.Q. Coy.

Another H.Q. Coy. man now retired but looking very well is Norm Curley, known to both 2/1 and 2/2 btns. Norm still likes to talk about his Transport Platoon and his old drivers, Ajax and company.

Another from H.Q. Coy seen with a bottle of about 30 sapphires won on a week-end excursion to the Oberon district was Bill Lewis. Bill insists they are not valuable, but it must have been an exciting weekend for Bill and his sons. Bill's training in the "I" Section must have been the reason he was so successful and we hope there are more and bigger week-ends to come.

News of Geo. Whitelaw ("C" Coy) is that he has had the honour of being made a Life Member of the Lakemba R.S.L. Club. We understand that he was presented with his award at the sub-branch ball last May.

Jim Commins ("D" Coy), from Orange, has been having a holiday in the city with his family. Even though the drought has been fairly severe, he said they were managing and the dairy herd were still being fed. Jim has his eldest son at work, so it won't be long before he will be able to retire.

LAKEY'S EDITION

From my own personal knowledge, the crowd of members from the Manly-Warringah area are still plugging on. "Lofty" Hannon still creates his diversion; Barry Taylor has retired from chicken farming and has taken a little business in Dee Why West, has promised an article or two, providing those b—— poker machines do not continue to grab his arm as he walks past them. Barry has been sighted at Dee Why R.S.L. and the Manly-Warringah League Club on different occasions.

Joe Bird (best give him a mention, he is my brother-in-law and I don't want to fight with my sister) still drives the buses for the public down here in the water suburbs. Joe still enjoys his jug of beer and is putting on a bit of weight, although under periodical medical attention. I might add that he is not averse to a little drop of "nellie," "plonk" or "Fioelle," as he calls it.

Over the New Year I had a visit from the Andrews family, Nev. Andrews, H.Q. 2/1, and a pleasant day was had by all. Nev. has a family now of Phillip (a Pilot Officer), Graham (an accountant) and Dianne (who was successful in the School Certificate Examination).

In the month of January I had Merv. Rees of Dorrigo as a visitor for a few days at home. He certainly likes to do things in a hurry, as we never seemed to be in. However, for the knowledge of the Pioneers, Merv. has now sold his property at Dorrigo and has taken up the holiday flat venture at Coffs Harbour, right on the beach. So don't forget, boys, look him up if you are up that way—Camperdown Street, The Pier, Coffs Harbour. Merv. also gave some information with regard to Fred Wheaton, still on the Dorrigo, where he still conducts the Wheaton Butchery, and still at a profit, I hope. Good luck, Fred, Jean and family, send us a note.

Also in the month of January I had a visit from wife Margaret, and daughter Sue, of one Jim Robertson, ex-Signals 2/1, and now down carrying the lines of communication for the P.M.G. at Wentworth, N.S.W., where the Darling River joins the Murray. Margaret passed on the information that our James was still a force to be reckoned with, whether it be at work or play—still plays his solid game of bowls, still can keep a few down and he still has that pipe. James also has to decide in the very near future on what colour his new suit is to be, as the same daughter expects to walk down the aisle soon. Good luck, Jim and family.

Now to complete my little bit, I am appealing to Alfie Carter to give a little thought to all that he has done in the past and at least give me a ring at home. We must be able to eliminate these small upheavals. How about it, Alf?

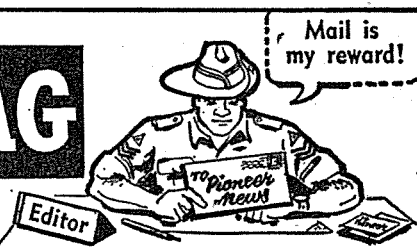
BOB LAKE, Mailbag Editor.



from the MAIL BAG

Editor: BOB LAKE

43 AMOURIN ST., BROOKVALE, Phone 93-4696



● **JIM FIELD**, 2/2, wrote a thank you note to the association in appreciation of the expressions of sympathy forwarded by both the association and the members of the 2/2 Pioneers on the sad loss of his son, Graham. Jim sends his very sincere thanks to members of both units, and we sincerely hope that you and your family and your daughter-in-law, Lorna, have by now partly recovered from the shock of this sad bereavement.

● **ALAN SHAW**, 2/1, with a new address at Mortdale, Sydney, has been out of work since September, and we can well imagine what this means. However we wish you good health, recovery from the operation and hope by the time this paper goes to press you are back in business.

● **JIM BAILEY**, ex-2/1, and now a resident of Thuddungra, via Young, sends a nice letter and quite a bit of information.

Jim quotes some of his best known identities through the unit, Max Herron, Alf Carter, "Blue" Huxley, Bill Hoffman and "Tiny" Fields. These are chaps he remembers quite well. He often sees Alex Boyd, who is almost a next-door neighbour (only 19 miles away).

Jim also posted in a couple of photos taken at Dubbo. These photos are being returned to you, Jim, as they are not good enough for reproduction. It takes a very clear photo to be a success, as far as a printer is concerned. In the photo you sent of "Tiny" Fields, I should say that the centre member of the group would be H. W. Nicholls, who later on received his commission and won the M.C. in Tobruk.

Sorry about the photos, Jim. Max Herron sends a big cheerio to you, your wife and family, and we hope to receive more news some time in the future.

● **FRANK MOODY**, ex-2/1, and now a resident of Peak Hill, writes a letter and encloses subs from himself, Fred Loveless and Henry Gallagher. Good show, Frank, for years no news and then this—quite the thing and we appreciate same. Frank quotes of a letter from "Claude Densmore"—after 20 years that would be a shock. I wonder why Claude does not show up more often at the shows we put on. Frank also toddled across to Dubbo and visited Clem Hamson, who has had the misfortune to be hospitalised with pneumonia. We all wish him a speedy recovery and many thanks for a cheery and informative letter.

● **HENRY SMITH**, ex-2/1, and now a resident of Mt. Waverley, Victoria,

sent a short note, inclosing a sub. and the information that Jack Vance of either "B" or "C" Coy is now head barman at Molinas Hotel, Melbourne. He gave the added information that should any of the lads be over that way don't forget to drop in. Thanks, Henry, how about a little more news about yourself.

● **WALLY YOUNG**, ex-2/1, and now a resident of Wynnum, Queensland. No doubt about this boy, he certainly gets around—last address Balgowlah, and now way up in Queensland. Good luck, Wally, I don't think I have seen you since the Grafton Smoko, but it's good to get the information as to what everyone is doing. Subs, of course, are posted to the treasurer, as usual.

● **KEN STUART**, H.Q. 2/1, and now an up-and-coming executive from Qantas, is a resident of the beautiful North Shore suburb of Turramurra. Ken had an interesting three weeks in San Francisco before the Christmas period. He quotes: "San Francisco is just like Sydney in so many ways." Well, Ken, we know Sydney, but I can't say the same for San Francisco. Ken places his return form with just a name, number and address, so we must presume that the paper meets with your expectations. Good luck, Ken, hope we do see you on Anzac Day and nice to hear from you.

● **NORM GOODCHAP**, ex-2/1, and now a proprietor of the Golden Fleece Service Station, Tamborine Mount, Queensland. Norm. received three copies of the "News", including two of the older editions, and claims a real kick out of seeing again some of the names of blokes he remembers from such a long way back. However, Norm does say that any of the boys who may travel around Tamborine Mount are not to forget to pay their respects to him at the garage—there would always be a "cuppa" tea or a beer, should suit each and every taste in our unit!

For your own information, Norm, would suggest that you could contact Jim Ireland, "D" Coy 2/1, 80 Boundary Street, Indooroopilly, Brisbane, if you have some time. Jim is our Queensland reporter. Good luck.

● **BERT HUTTLEY**, H.Q. 2/1, and now a resident of Bloomsbury, via Mackay, Queensland, sends his best regards and the somewhat heart-rending story of the drought. However, he quotes that they have had seven inches of rain but the cane farmers are going through their worst period since the war, and as Bert is a worker of the

cane industry, this, in turn, affects the outside staff.

However, Bert can still smile and remark that the number of young lads that go out of their way to speak to him only makes him realise that he has an attractive teenage daughter on his hands.

Bert's main hobbies are fishing and, when the weather permits, more fishing and now with a new prawn net he hopes to really get among the big time.

He speaks of a fellow 2/2, Vic Norman and Vic's address is Proserpine, Queensland, so, any of you 2/2 chaps who may be travelling north, don't forget to look them up. Bert also speaks of Tom Welch, ex-2/1, who is the A.W.U. rep. in the area. Well, Bert, all I can say is that you have more knowledge of Tom Welch than we have. I knew him well, but I don't think we have ever had a letter from him.

Thanks for the news, Bert, and we sincerely hope that we do get a little more in the future—even if only about that teenage daughter.

● **FRANK FRANCOIS**, ex-2/1, and now an old and trusted employee of Hastings Deering in William Street, Sydney. In our last edition we called for a lot more news if the paper was to be a success and Frank has responded nobly.

He speaks of long service with the motor game and has been on numerous trips—even to a sashay in Darwin, driving ex-Army vehicles. However, time passes on and we find him permanently installed as foreman of the cleaning staff. He does quote that any Pioneer wishing for information on Fords, or even a new car, is not beyond him. Well done, Frank, long life and health, and hope you had a pleasant festive season. We will nook forward to some more news for future papers.

Our records do not show the company you were in as a Pioneer; for the next paper perhaps you might send this information along.

● **PHIL CRAMSIE**, ex-B.H.Q. 2/1, and now of Eagle Junction, Brisbane, forwards a short note and encloses a sheet of the green stuff to cover any dues. Many thanks for the sub., Phil, it's now in the treasurer's filthy little mit. Phil quotes that the drought has really stricken the Banana State, and where he was at Cumanulla, in "Heart break Corner," the country looks like a Jolliffe cartoon. In fact, Eve Jolliffe was out there a week before him. Phil sends his best wishes to all the boys.

● **BRUCE MITCHELL**, 13th Pltn. C. Coy. 2/1, and now a resident of Greta ("wouldn't that"), sends along a really good and newsy letter.

Bruce attended the smoko at Port and claims a really wonderful time. You should have gone to Grafton! However, to all interested, Bruce left the Pioneers and joined the 2/2 M.G. after Tobruk, with whom he toured Syria and the Lebanons. Back to the desert for the "Big Show"; home in 1943, then New Guinea and finally boarded out. He finished up at Greta, where he married, has a girl 12 years old, of whom I can see he is immensely proud (and I don't blame you for that, mate), who is excelling herself at needlework and dress-making.

Bruce has been kept pretty busy with his own interests and quotes fishing, flying and model building. Now he has become a proficient camera man with an 8 mm. movie camera. He does a lot of various concerts and picnics for the Polish Association and over the last couple of years has filmed the Rats of Tobruk service in Newcastle. He also hopes to attend the 25th Anniversary of Tobruk at Canberra and has 600ft. of colour film for the occasion. It should make something that will really be worth watching when it is completed.

Bruce often becomes involved with Jack Bertram, Joe Hickey, "Nugget" Laurie and Dick Seddon, which sometimes does interfere with his tonsil lubricants and also causes loss of concentration. He speaks of one also "D" Coy man, Arthur Hale, who is also keeping his head above water and wishes to be remembered to all Don Coy. Bruce also informed that all members who have the Army book "Active Service" should turn to page 67 plus two pages and see the photo under "Bren Carrier" of the old 13 Platoon. You will see Jimmy Lawes, Cec. Celloway, Jim McDonald and himself.

Well, Bruce, this is of course only the editor's opinion, but a smoko on the Central Coast, I don't think it would pay off. After all, a smoko in Sydney is only an hour or so in the train from Gosford and I don't suppose we would get more than 20 members in the Gosford area. Newcastle would have to travel the same distance, so really your smoko would only actually benefit possibly 20 or so members while, actually, we at all times try our very best to cater for the most possible. As you know, something like 120 sat down at Port, while well over the hundred sat down at Grafton, of which I think only 12 members went from Sydney.

Bruce has now served his 20 years as a fixer in a rayon textile firm in Maitland and we wish you every success in the future. Hope the gold watch goes on indefinitely.

● **ALBERT CHALONER**, ex-B. Coy., 2/1, is now of Molyneaux Street, Warracknabeal. How the hell do you say that? It's just as well you printed it, because Max Law, Ern Hayden and any other Pioneer, welcome as they may be, will have to carry the clipping before they would be able to make themselves understood.

Quite a newsy note from Albert. Incidentally, that place on the top of this letter is in Victoria, on the main Sydney to Adelaide Road, where Albert is the district rep. for the Caltex Oil (no plugs for them mate, they're too big), and his district covers approx. 100 miles area, which keeps him pretty busy.

Albert has five children—one in Melbourne and three at High school, while one lad is awaiting his call up for Naval service. Sorry, old chap, forgot to mention your wife, who is a Melbourne girl and who is, I hope, a happy woman.

"That Place," as I will continue to call it, is in the north-west of the State and good wheat country. Many thanks for the letter, Albert, and the sub., which is always appreciated by the treasurer. All our best wishes and we hope that business continues successfully for you in the future.

● **BOB STEVENS**, ex-C Coy., 2/1, and at the present time doing his tonsorial arts at a Moree barber shop, will be there for about another 12 months—that is, if the shearers don't get on to him. Bob is the same bloke who was the battalion barber on the Johan De Witt, so if he can't cut hair now he never will, with all that practice.

I Lakey, have met Bob quite a few times in Sydney on his different trips to Repat., and I can assure all that he is still as good as ever—even when it comes to the elbow work. Age does not weary this bloke. Good luck, Bob, hope by the time this goes to press that your little trip into Concord has been a success. Subs in hand of treasurer.

● **JACK MARSHALL**, ex-D. Coy., 2/1, and now at Glen Innes, sends a donation and quite a nice letter. Incidentally, it's signed "Jack and Edna," and we are pleased to make your acquaintance, Edna. You can keep your eye on the boss and perhaps sometimes when the poor old chap is worn out on the day you can keep in touch with us.

Jokes aside, Jack quotes on a visit to himself by Leo Ferris and his daughter—had quite a good time, too, and, as we all know, it's quite easy to get involved if you happen to strike Ted "Nobby" Felton at the same time. As you know, Jack, Teddy was also a Pioneer—glad that Leo passed on good tidings of the Grafton Smoko. I think all who were present enjoyed themselves. Jack speaks of Jack Tattam, Tom Manuel, Eric Smith. Jack also reminisces of his original train trip to Dubbo. It was on this occasion that he first met Eric Smith, and they have remained firm friends ever since. Jack is still in the employ of Mackenzie & Sons, where he is the watchman.

Good luck, Jack and Edna, write again in the future, and best wishes to daughter, Marlene.

● **MAJOR GORDON OSBORNE**, ex-2/1 and still soldiering on at Eastern Command, sends his information in the way of addresses of the Morahan twins (still in the Army also). Very pleased to hear from you, Gordon. As editor, I do remember the name Norm Goodchap, who is now a resident of Queensland and his address has been noted.

Gordon is now a resident of Caringbah and we wish you and your good wife good fortune and good luck in this new year.

● **TOM O'SCOTT**, Mt. Gravatt, Brisbane, is not a member of our association, but a gentleman who has gone to a lot of trouble to write a history of our unit. It would be very interesting to read, Tom, and as the association has placed you on the mailing list, perhaps at some later date you could provide us with a few articles that would make appreciable reading to the members.

● **BOB McTAGGART**, ex-C. Coy., 2/1, now resides at Gosford. Bob's letter was written on his 46th birthday and we hope you enjoyed those few ales you promised yourself after the writing. Bob and his wife, Marie, have a catering business in Gosford and are very satisfied with the results so far. The two children, Donald, 18 years, and daughter Marilyn, do the right thing at week-ends and support Mum and Dad with the business. Bob promises to try and get down on Anzac Day and issues the invitation that all Pioneers are welcome at 6 Melbourne Street, Gosford, if travelling that way.

● **BOB GRATTAN**, ex-D Coy., 2/1, and now putting his palmy days in down at Goulburn, writes a very good letter—five pages—and has offered some suggestions to the committee that will have to be given some very serious thought.

Bob is a bachelor, but has offered the advice that if the association were to give a show or two for the family instead of just the menfolk there would be any amount of news. Point being that when those wives get together I am not sure that some of us blokes might not have a case for libel at the end of the session. However, Bob, the suggestion shall be discussed and given some deep thought in this 1966 period. Keep sober, and I hope Goulburn doesn't get too cold this winter.

● **ERIC REYNOLDS**, D Coy., 2/1 (Bombo), and now a happy family man of Coogee, writes the interesting news of his trip with wife and daughter on his holiday to Queensland. Eric quotes of the old trams still playing through the city and stayed three days looking up the old spots. He mentions the Gresham Hotel, where he and Ken Parkin used to sit on the step waiting for the doors to open. Eric then moved out to Surfer's for five days and then down to Kempsey for about a week.

Now this is news: in all this travel, especially around the North, he never met a Pioneer—it just doesn't seem possible. I can only suggest that perhaps with so much for wife and daughter to see you never had much time for looking too hard. However, all was not lost as on his return from the approximately 1,500 mile round trip he did manage to meet Jack Lloyd at the Coogee Bay Hotel and had a schooner or two.

Eric quotes that the 4-X and Gold Top beer is not quite up to the standard of the Sydney beer, but of course we all

From the Mailbag-Contd.

know there is no bad beer, just that some is better than others.

Eric ("Bombo" to all you old soaks), now works at McPhersons in Day Street. You know, Lahey used to be at the Sussex Hotel almost every lunch hour and never ever struck you. He knew quite a few of the blokes from "Macs." We sincerely hope that daughter Alison makes a success of her nursing career and wish you and your family happy days for the future.

● **JACK BERTRAM, D Coy., 2/1**, writes from Newcastle a short note saying he was unable to attend smoko. Never mind, after all 100 miles for a couple of hours is a long way. Still, we look forward to seeing the Newcastle contingent—they liven things up when they do come.

Colonel "Nugget" Neal was invited up there to be the guest of the Newcastle "Rats." I sincerely hope he made the trip, as I know he would be really Number one up there with the Pioneer boys.

Keep sober, Jack! Our regards to "Griffo", Joe Hickey, Ted Simpson and all the boys at the Coal City.

● **GEORGE LEVY**, of Hammondville, N.S.W., writes a couple of pages of news. He has had a few letters as a result of the "News" and was quite pleased to receive a letter from Allan Shaw, a stretcher bearer and bandsman. George is in good spirits but under constant medical supervision and would really appreciate any letters or phone calls from any of the old band and stretcher bearer boys. He does mention Eric Hawkins, so Eric, if you should feel like writing George a line or giving him a ring I can assure you of a ready reply. George has a phone number, 602-7416, and his address is 47 Walder Road, Hammondville, New South Wales.

● **DAVE STRAHLEY**, per medium of wife, Betty, from Inverell, sends a short note, explaining that they have been receiving two copies of the paper, one addressed to Dave and one to "P. Strahley." However, Betty, our sincere apologies, it was a typographical error on our part and this has been rectified. Hope that you are both still able to enjoy the little paper and that we do continue to receive an occasional letter from you, including some small items as to Dave's Coy, Platoon, and his work and interests out at Inverell as they are to-day.

● **FRANK HEPBURN, 2/2**, per medium of Irene (his wife), now living out at Bankstown, takes the reins for the family and suggests that a picnic, barbecue or some such gathering would perhaps create the necessary diversion required to create a little more interest in the association to many members who are not necessarily mad about smokes. Good thinking, Irene and Frank, will give this direct attention at the next committee meeting.

● **BILL HOFFMAN**, of Kyogle, sent a telegram wishing success for the Bi-Annual Smoko, and the report that all the boys in Kyogle, their wives and families were still progressing favourably. Our unit strength in the Kyogle district is still strong, both in numbers and in support of our paper.

*

As you are all aware, a circular was published in the last paper, requesting name, address and any suggestions that would be an improvement to the association. I must say that we received quite a few—some just completed, some with suggestions and some, I am sorry to say, I can't distinguish. Perhaps our secretary may help. However, to these chaps and wives who filled in the circular, we say thank you. All suggestions have been noted and will be discussed at the next committee meeting. John Douglas, a nice bloke but a b—— of a writer, asks for the address of Valentine Balding. Sorry, mate, perhaps some of the others may send this information along on reading this par as he is not on our lists.

● **TOM CONNELLY**, of Wallabadah, **KEVIN RAWARD**, of Lismore, and **NOEL HIBBARD**, of Coonabarabran, all say "keep it going" in their returns. We will do our best.

● **"PASHA" JACKSON**, of Chatswood, sends a suggestion for a battalion Christmas card. We will look into this matter at our next meeting.

● **MRS. J. RAINE**, of McMasters Beach, filled in a form for her late husband, Sgt. J. Raine, who passed on some time ago. We shall continue to send the paper to you, Mrs. Raine, with our compliments.

● **HUGH GREEN**, ex-C Coy., 2/1, and now a resident of Westmead, has written a letter that I think is too good for me to attempt to alter, so I am quoting Hugh's letter as written:—

"Dear Max and Bob,

Just a short note to you, the editor, and all officials of "Pioneer News" and the association, congratulating you all for your grand efforts and successes in the past and wishing you and all concerned good luck and all the success and best wishes for the future. I wish to offer you all my own personal gratitude for all you have done for the "News" and the association. Keep up the good work, chaps.

Well, Max, I enjoyed the reunion one hundred per cent. and I am looking forward to next year's. I will be there for sure, providing I am still alive and well. I was slightly disappointed with the turn up from "C" Coy, especially 15th Platoon, but the appearance of those good old stalwarts, George Edman, Sammy Lewis and Ted Skoyles, outweighed all of my downheartedness. It was really good to have a chat about old times

and a drop of beer with some real good mates again.

A special mention from me about George Edman, he never misses a function, although he is getting on in years and is not too well. Also a special mention to that really good supporter, Ted Skoyles, who had to travel all the way from Wollongong. You can rest assured that your efforts to please are not in vain while there are chaps around of their keenness, calibre and thoughtfulness. I am fully aware of the work and organisation that goes into putting these shows on, and your only real compensation is to see a good roll up. So I repeat to all concerned again, thanks very much for your efforts.

Well, Max, as this will be my last letter to you before Christmas I would like to take the pleasure now of wishing you and all the officials of the "Pioneer News" and association, compliments of the season to you and your wives and families. I will be seeing Jack Price, Bert Cooper and, probably, Con Fitzgerald within a day or so and I will give them all the news about the reunion.

I would like to make two suggestions concerning the "News" and the association. Firstly, the "News"—

- (1) That you print on the latest "News" you send out THE DATE OF THE NEXT ISSUE.
- (2) That you try and organise some social function, such as a dance or a picnic where the families can meet.

Otherwise, I am quite satisfied with all present arrangements. Well Max and Bob, I will draw this note to a close, wish you all the best.

I am yours sincerely,

Hughie Green."

● **BERNIE REINERS (H.Q. 2/1)** of Corryong, Vic., sends along a donation and the news that our Secretary, Max Herron, and family, called on him and ate him out of house.

It appears the Reiners were going to Narooma for holidays and it just happened the Herrons were there waiting for them and spent the next five days helping Mona reduce the 4 cwt. of food Bern brought from home.

Bernie states he partook of more amber liquid with that Herron bloke at Narooma, than the whole year at home.

Mona and Bernie have three children, Brian, Lex and Mandy, so it is just as well Bern is an executive in the office of the local Butter Co-op.

Max has stated there is a one pound note on the way to you Bern, with a remark about what a sly creature that Reiners is, but he does welcome the donation to the Association.

EDITORS' NOTE: We heartily thank all those members who have generously sent along news for this issue.

R. LAKE, M. HERRON—Editors

PIONEER NEWS

UL 5491

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

UL 5491

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VETERAN OF TWO WARS

A colourful veteran of two world wars who has been a barnstorming pilot and a New Guinea gold prospector led the Newcastle Rats of Tobruk annual march along Hunter Street on Sunday, 3rd April, 1966. The march marked the 25th anniversary of the siege of Tobruk.

He is Lieutenant-Colonel "Normie" Neal, who served at Gallipoli and at Tobruk.

In 1914 he was working as a P.M.G. Department telegraphist and in August enlisted in the First A.I.F. in 1 Divisional Signal Company. He landed at Gallipoli on August 25, 1915, and was there six months.

After that he served in the European theatre. He was awarded the Military Medal at the Battle of Pozieres, and received his commission in the field in 1917. He was awarded the Military Cross at Passchendaele, and three weeks later awarded a bar to his M.C.

Between the wars he followed unusual occupations. In 1919, with Clem Rylie, he was the first to fly over the Blue Mountains, and later they went on barnstorming flights throughout the State.

GOLD PROSPECTING IN NEW GUINEA

He next tried his fortunes in New Guinea, and walked from Madang to Wau and Edie Creek, prospecting for gold. He knew author Ion Idriess, and is featured in his book, "Gold dust and Ashes." Once he walked into a pitched battle between two tribes and, after dodging spears, managed to make the peace.

Later he tried to improve the strain of pigs in the area, and the late Roy Parer flew some pigs in from Port Moresby.

MAJOR NORM NEAL SAILS

In World War II he sailed for the Middle East as a major with 2/1 Pioneer Battalion, many of whose members were recruited in Newcastle and underwent training at Broadmeadow Showground. He served with this unit in the Middle East, including seven months in the siege of Tobruk.

Returning to Australia, he was appointed to special duties with the R.A.A.F., planning and organising the defence of aerodromes immediately they

were captured. This duty took him to the landings at Arawe, Admiralty Islands, Aitape, Noemfoor Islands, Taranakan and Labuan.

BACK TO NEW GUINEA

At the end of the war he was commanding one of the New Guinea native battalions.

After the war he was placed on the retired list, having reached the age of 60, and for some years was connected with uranium prospecting and mining in Northern Australia. He is now living in retirement at Penrith.

Reprinted by courtesy of the "Newcastle Herald".



COLONEL NORM NEAL

COLONEL BROWN'S PHOTOGRAPH REQUIRED

A unit with whom Colonel A. Brown was attached desires a postcard close up of the Colonel in order to publish in their history book.

If anyone can oblige please send to our secretary who will take a copy and return promptly.

200 Attend Annual Tobruk Ceremony

About 200 people gathered in Civic Park, Newcastle, on Sunday, 3rd April, 1966, for the annual Rats of Tobruk commemoration service. This was the 25th Anniversary of the historic war-time siege.

The parade was led by Colonel Norm Neal of the 2/1 Pioneer Battalion, with a band of the 2nd Battalion, Royal N.S.W. Regiment, followed by a Sea Cadet company of T.S. Tobruk.

Speakers at the service included Lieutenant-Commander W. Whitting, captain of the H.M.A.S. Vendetta and President of the Newcastle Rats Association, Jack Griffiths (2/1).

Master of ceremonies was Jack Bertram (2/1), Secretary of the Newcastle Rats Association.

SCHOOL PRESENTATION BY NORM NEAL

Books, substituting for wreaths, were placed on the memorial, and these books were later presented to various schools' representatives by Colonel Norm. Neal (2/1 Pioneers). These books go into the school libraries as a source of ready reference and supplement the textbooks on issue.

The 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Association secretary placed the book, "Desert War", by Alan Moorehead, on the Association's behalf, and this was later presented to Kyogle High School. (See letter to the Editor).

Prior to the march, everyone was made most welcome at the Legion of Ex-Servicemen by Maurie Quinn. Then, after the march, all Pioneers gathered at the same table at the Annual Reunion at the Gallipoli Legion Club.

2/1 PIONEERS IN FORCE

The following 2/1 Pioneers were in attendance: Col. Norm. Neal, Jack Griffiths, Dick Seddon, Jack Bertram, Joe Hickey, Mick Dodson, Max Herron, Cliff Fraser, Bob Juleff, Harry Nichol, Noel Peterson, Eric Edwards, Ted Simpson, Bob Stevens, Roley James and Bruce Mitchell.

ANZAC DAY WITH THE 2/2

This year, after the March, the boys adjourned to the Literary Institute, Clovelly Road, Randwick, for the Annual Re-union.

It was an excellent function, with an attendance of 65 members, among whom were quite a lot of new faces.

As usual, our Patron and ex-Padre, the Rev. Stan Claughton, was in the thick of it, drinking "lolly" water and renewing friendships.

It was also pleasing to see our joint Patron, Rev. Jock Steele, with the boys again. These two padres are really good chaps and the boys are always happy to enjoy their company.

NEW MEMBERS AND SONS

While some of our old friends are missing from the usual crowd, new members and the sons of members are attending. Among them this year were: J. Lee, an original 2/2nd from Victoria; Lloyd, son of Ken Harrison; John, son of Basil Welch; Don and Harry, sons of Don Lawson.

To all those attending, we say thank you and look forward to seeing you next year.

2/2nds' ANZAC MARCH

Led by Major W. Robertson, the 2/2nds had quite a good attendance at the March of approximately 79 members. It was very pleasing to see Padre Steel in the line-up and an apology from Padre Claughton, who later turned up at the re-union.

As in previous years, the banner was carried by Jim Field, but as Jim has not been keeping the best of health for some time, the banner was handed over after about half the journey to an original 2/2 member from Victoria, Bill Dean, who is now living in Sydney. Bill was a P.O.W. and it was an honour to have him carry the banner for us. However, Bill said it was an honour for him to be given the chance.

It was very pleasing to see the large number who completed the march to the Domain, and this always makes it a more attractive sight for the public.

2/2 ANZAC JOTTINGS

TOM BRABIN is now settled down in Sydney after roaming around Australia working for the Forestry Commission. Any Pioneer wanting timber we have the right man in Tom at Rydalmere. Bobby Lee reports that his order for a few thousand super feet was of super quality and, as someone remarked, "It would have to be for Lee to use it."

IVOR BELLMAINE was present at the march. He is manager of Spellsons (out of town), Newport, so Pioneers who want an expensive night out at least should get V.I.P. treatment.

JIM CRAKE passed away recently and, upon a condolence card being sent by the association, thanks were received from his wife.

COL SHEA, of Melbourne, sent along a few lines to say his daughter Loretta was married in April. We extend to Loretta and Ray every success.

THAT'S ALL FOR NOW—But I do wish some of you 2/2 Pioneers would put pen to paper and send along some news items to the editor. This issue contains only three letters from 2/2nds. What about showing these 2/1sts it is our paper, too; apart from this, we would really like to hear what you are doing. If you are too lazy to write, what about dictating a letter to your dear wife or daughter.

FINALLY: Remembrance Service to be held at the Canterbury Methodist Church, Canterbury Road, Canterbury, at 7.30 p.m. on Sunday, 13th November, 1966, Reverend Stan Claughton officiating. Afterwards supper will be served, when Stan will no doubt tell us another "yarn" from his little black book.

See you there!

DON LAWSON (2/2)

Are There Any Old 2/2 Bandsmen Around?

By John Harnetty, "C" Coy., 2/1

This item has a special significance for the 2/2 members, and extra special significance for any of them who were bandsmen on the visit to Dandenong back in 1941.

While working on the Dandenong Journal, it was one of my jobs to do flashbacks . . . bits taken from issues of ten and twenty-odd years before.

In our issues of March, 1941, one item struck my eye. As far as I remember, it read like this:

"Dandenong citizens were delighted with the visit of the 2/2nd Pioneer Battalion A.I.F., Band to Dandenong. The recital was supposed to have been held in the Showground, but, because of rain (all right, you New South Welshers, so it does rain in Victoria!), the bandsmen took their instruments to the Town Hall, which was packed out.

"The bandsmen showed their versatility by playing martial airs, tunes from musical comedy and a number of classical pieces. It was a musical treat for everybody, and if the bandsmen can be spared from their regimental duties they will get a cordial welcome if they can come again to Dandenong."

The story said that the proceeds of the band recital would go towards medical comforts for the 2/2nd, and when the proceeds were totted up, it was found that the Dandenong citizens had chipped in to the tune of nearly £100.

2/1 AND 2/2 FAMOUS BANDS

It will be remembered that both the 2/1st and the 2/2nd were famous for their bands. I don't know about the old hands from the 2/2nd, but I can never hear "Machine Gun Guards" without remembering people like Fred Charles-

worth and Jim Armour and Captain (later Colonel) Ledgerwood.

I can't tell, either, whether the bandsmen of the 2/2nd "played the transport" up the Suez Canal.

I don't think anybody has forgotten the wild cheers that came from the Tommies on the canal bank as the 2/1st showed them that they were coming in with full musical honours.

And what about the Scots on the shore who pulled out their pipes and drums and responded with "Scotland the Brave"? That's one of the greatest pieces of musical propaganda ever invented. You can't help throwing your feet to it.

Boys of the old "C" Company will remember the time we had a day's outing just before the take-off for Balikpapan. It was stinking hot, even for the Tablelands, and we were pretty jaded coming back.

And out of the blue comes the old "Scotland The Brave" from the pipes and drums of one of our own mobs (I think it was the 2/9th paying us the compliment, but I wouldn't quote Gospel on that.)

Anyhow, sore feet and sore backs were forgotten and we made that last five miles back to camp in good order—not to forget the number of guard turn-outs that greeted us on our way. Do any of the old "C" Company boys remember that? I'll bet the Morahans would, and George Nicholls, and the Lord alone knows who else.

Tobruk Ceremony Jottings

JOE HICKEY (2/1 Newcastle) catered for the 2/1 Pioneer table very well and was decked out in an apron with terms printed on as follows: "Hangover apron; Mother Murphy's Reviver; Sin and Jitters; Pam's Eye Opener; Hank's Highball; Duedenum Dissolver"; plus a few not so printable ones.

BOB STEVENS (2/1, Moree) owns two barber shops at Moree and thoroughly enjoyed himself at the Smoko. Bob offered to even cut Joe Hickey's hair for him if he visited Moree at any time.

BRUCE MITCHELL (2/1, Greta) was busy with his movie camera and intended covering the Canberra R.O.T.A. Re-union.

COLONEL NORM NEAL (2/1, Penrith), was the centre of talk all afternoon and did not have time to take breath. At every opportune moment there were Pioneers around him, drinking his health and wishing him all the best.

MICK DODSON and **MAX HERRON** both wish to congratulate Jack Griffith, Dick Sedden, Joe Hickey and Jack Bertram on the wonderful day they organised for them.

2 1/2 MARCH—MELBOURNE

By John Harnetty, "C" Coy., 2/1st, Our Melbourne Correspondent

Mistake it you could not — the old triangle with the white on the purple on the grey, and there were more than 300 old sweats marching along proudly behind it.

At least, that was my count, and I don't think I was too far out. It was wishful I was to be back in old Steak-and-Kidney treading it out with the old pals of the 2/1, but you can't have everything.

I didn't see "Duke" Wellington or "Tommy" Lang (it would have been more than my life was worth to call them by those endearing titles about a generation ago).

I didn't see my old cobbler "Ham" Black, either, but I think he's made his last march.

To those of the 2/2 who may have been a bit homesick to tread the ground past Young and Jackson's on the way to the Shrine, let this be some consolation—it was a grand march, and the 2/2nd boys in Sydney would have been proud.

It was my intention to link up with the 2/2 and I'm sure I would have been welcomed. But I had to sneak out from the Herald office because, Anzac Day or no Anzac Day, it was press-day for my paper, and the Editor let me off the chain to go and have a gander from the sidelines.

The Boss, by the way is ex-RAF, who came to Australia from the RAF, via the Yorkshire Post, via the Edinburgh Scotsman, and he's almost naturalised, with two boys at Monash University. Why, he only says "Choom" when he's slinging off at the Poms!

MEN OF DUNKIRK

And speaking of Poms in the terms of the greatest respect, they turned out strong and lustily. There was a special burst of applause for the men of Dunkirk, and for the relatively small Commando group who paraded.

Some wore their old green berets—which I see the Americans have pinched in the same way as they did television and the '38 battle-dress—known widely, but quite wrongly, as the Eisenhower jacket.

For the benefit of the 2/1st, although this is written by an old 2/1st man for the benefit of the 2/2nd members of the Association, some of the old Rats' units bore up on the line of march.

Standing behind me were two German boys in their mid-twenties, and they were taking a keen and friendly interest in what was going on, as far as my pidgin German serves me.

When a banner topped "Tobruk" hove in sight, one of these youngsters said "Ach, Tobruk! Ganzen Kerle! Die Manner an die Rommel Verette-lung!" ("Ah, Tobruk, Good blokes, these! They're the ones who licked Rommel!") They must have read their history without prejudice, and I say "Good on them!"

I can't say Melbourne Anzac Day crowds may be quite as enthusiastic in their applause as Sydneysiders. There was a consistent muted drumfire of applause, and a bit of ribbing between the ranks and sidelines. One old one-legged Gallopoli hand was particularly vociferous. He chucked the 14-18 Diggers, and others, and got a lot of laughs.

But he met his match when he wolf-whistled passing women's detachments—and a grey-headed three-pipper from one of the AGH's turned in the ranks and wolf-whistled him back!

But tell me, mates, who ever had the last word in a match with an AIF sister? I've tried it myself, and I know hundreds who've done the same thing—and you're like the cocky on the biscuit tin. You're just not in it!

What else was there that the 2/2nd boys might like to know? There was a pause in the clapping when four old Light Horsemen rode past, stiff as ramrods, their emu plumes waving bravely.

The one on my flank had a cavalry sabre at his saddle-cantle. Its basket-hilt gleamed like silver, even under the grey sky, but there was no chrome-plate on that job. It was brick-dust and elbow grease, and the shine was the same on his leggings, his saddle and his Sam Browne.

Behind came other Light Horsemen in mufti and on foot, but most of them had sprays of emu-plume in their hats.

DYED IN THE WOOL BOWLER HAT

And speaking of hats, and to show that the traditional politeness of Victorians, there was one old character who sported a bowler-hat, a genuine, dyed-in-the-wool hard-hitter. And nobody laughed!

The music was good. The Salvo contingent was in force—and they played "Machine-Gun Guards", which is the 2/1st's exclusive property.

I got a quiet laugh towards the end of the parade. Pipe bands were out in force. They all seemed to be playing "Scotland the Brave", which is a pity, because there are dozens of other rants just as good. But maybe they played it because it's the only one everybody knows.

By the way, there were many women's pipe bands, and they put on as brave a showing as the men. I was saying I had a quiet laugh! Well, the cause of it was this . . . up marched a Melbourne suburban pipe-band, bright in the panoply of Hunting Stewart tartan. The tune they played . . . "The Wearin' of the Green!" Whacko! That's one step towards Scots-Irish collaboration.

7th AUST. DIVISION ASSOC., N.S.W.

At a recent 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Committee Meeting, a letter and Constitution from the 7th Australian Division Association was tabled and discussed.

A motion was moved that the President and Secretary be enrolled as members of the Seventh Aust. Division Association.

The following are extracts from the letter: "As may be seen in the constitution, it is not the aim of the Seventh Division Association to take the place of unit associations, but to form an association which gives all former members of the Seventh Division and units attached for operational purposes a chance to meet together to renew ties made during service days.

"In country areas, it is usual for only one or two members of a particular unit to live in the district, but 20 or more members of the Seventh Division to live in the same area.

"This association gives them a common ground to join together, as has been found at Dubbo and other areas and has been the means of bringing those who did not know of unit associations into touch with them."

At the Dubbo meeting were five 2/2 Pioneers, three of whom were not previously members of the 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Association, but have since been enrolled.

Your committee recommends you join this worthwhile association by writing direct to:—

MR T. A. MEAD, Hon. Sec.,
Seventh Division Assoc., N.S.W.,
C/o R.S.L. Memorial Club,
Dubbo, N.S.W.

See page 10 for cut-out form for the above Association Re-union, at Gosford, on 8th and 9th October, 1966.

WELFARE REPORT

Members visited in hospital during the last few months have been:—

Vic. Walmsley, in Ryde Homes.

Charlie Henry, now discharged.

Mick Marshall, still in R.G.H., Concord, in Ward 330.

Gerry Collins, a patient in R.G.H., Concord, in Ward 4.

Jack McCracken was down on another visit and a patient in Ward 24 at R.G.H., Concord.

Jack Westwood and Bob Buckley were also visited, but have since been discharged.

Gerry Hayes is on the "D.I. List" at R.G.H., Concord, Ward 610.

For notification of members in hospital, please contact:

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

"PIONEER NEWS" is published and posted in the months of April, July and November of each year.

Introducing . . .

BOB MCGREGOR

Actually Bob does not need introducing, for he would be one of the best-known identities in the 2/1 Pioneers, but as he has now taken on the position of Social Secretary from his good friend Jack Westwood, we thought it would be a good idea to give members a run down on his activities.

Bob joined the 2nd A.I.F. in May, 1940, and was posted to Ingleburn Camp, where the 2/1st Pioneer Battalion was being formed.

Two days later the battalion was moved to Greta, where Bob was detailed to 10 Platoon "B" Coy and was then moved to Dubbo.

SAILED ON JOHAN DE WHIT

He sailed with the Battalion aboard the Johan de Whit and remained with "B" Company through the Middle East—including Palestine, Egypt, Lybia and the siege of Tobruk.

On the Battalion's return to Australia, Bob transferred to Don Company and on departure from Australia was sent to Milne Bay.

After twelve months in New Guinea, the Battalion was given a rest and on leaving Australia for Balikpapan, in Borneo, Bob was transferred to the Mortar Platoon of Headquarter Company. He served with this platoon through this campaign until he was discharged.

For a number of years, Bob has been on the staff of a leading Wool Broker's firm. Most Pioneers would have met his very charming wife, Joyce, at the functions held a few years ago, and no doubt you would have met also his

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

St. Kilda,
Melbourne.

Dear Max and Bob,

Many thanks for the copies of the News. Since I see my name is still at the masthead, it seems only fair that I should boot along some copy to get another issue out.

I have now taken a job as Assistant Editor to the Publicity Department of the State Electricity Commission down here.

I noted the fall-off in active membership and you can be assured that I will do my best to drum up some interest in the old show via the News.

If things are going down the drain a bit, it behoves the old stubborn spear-men to hold the breach. As a matter of fact you, Doug and Allan have been holding it for so long now with Bob McGregor, Bob Lake and a few others of the dogged old souls that the task must be getting a bit ruddy monotonous.

I shall do my best to see if I can't exert my old Public Relations training to induce some of the more recalcitrant characters to touch the old bin.

Would you put me in for two copies of the old paper.

There's a bloke down here who came from the 2/24th, but he reckons the "Pioneers News" is the greatest, and he made me promise to get him a copy. I think he was a bit prejudiced because I had a couple of items in one I showed him, but he said it's the best ex-servicemen's paper he's seen.

He says the liason between 2/1 members and the welfare work are an example to all ex-servicemen's associations and I think he wants to show it off a bit, and tell his mates: "If the bloody Cornstalks can do a job like this, we ought to get our fingers out and see how we go."

two lovely daughters, Jill, 18 years, and Lynda, 11 years.

Bob is a very keen follower of sport, such as cricket and football (up the Tigers) but states he is quite content to look on rather than take an active part.

ASSOCIATION TREASURER

In the early days of the Committee, Bob was Treasurer of the Association, but because of illness, handed over to Doug Shearston. When good health returned he became active again as Vice-President.

For the past two years he has assisted Jack Westwood at social functions. In all these years Bob has never missed a newspaper wrapping night, in fact it has often been commented that a Pioneer function would indeed be a quiet one without McGregor's chin wagging.

This is truly a record and the Executive are most grateful to Bob for the mighty effort he has put into this Association and we wish Bob every success in the future, in his own life, as well as in his new position as Social Secretary.

Here are a few contributions for the next issue. I hope they fill a few holes here and there. You might give my kind regards to all old hands, and I hope a good turnout . . . and that the recent ones were a bit more lavish in touching the old kick. Old Doug will be glad to get writer's cramp with that receipt book and I can imagine old Monty herding them to where the dollars are rolling in.

And if you see old Bill Doney, my old cobbler of 40 years or more, tell him where I am. I should be very happy to chew the fat with the old mob, but circumstances seem to be against it. But you never can tell . . . I'm a conniving old SOB when the mood strikes me!

Warmest fraternal greetings.

—John Harnetty, "C" Coy., 2/1.

EDITORS' NOTE: We are indeed very grateful to you John for sending along the numerous articles for the "Pioneer News." With your permission we have kept two of them in our stockpile for the November issue, which is always short on news.

We feel sure the members also appreciate your effort and will really show it by sending in their letters of thanks.

Many thanks John you have certainly boosted our morale.

—Bob Lake and Max Herron.

Kyogle, N.S.W.

Dear Max and Bob,

Last week I received from the Newcastle Sub-branch of the Rats of Tobruk Association a letter and book, "The Desert War," by Alan Moorehead.

The letter advised that this volume was given by the 2/1st, 2/2nd Pioneer Battalions Association, with the recommendation that it be presented to the Kyogle High School.

I have advised the local headmaster of the gift and have arranged for Ray Smith (ex 2/1st Pioneer Bn.) to present it for use in the school library.

Speaking as a citizen of Kyogle and an ex-2/1st Pioneer, I would like to thank the Pioneer Bns. Association most sincerely for this fine gesture on their part. I know the book will be used and appreciated by the pupils.

Thanking you,
Yours faithfully,

W. S. (BILL) HOFFMAN,
Country Vice-President.

BI-ANNUAL SMOKO**CASTLEREAGH HOTEL,**

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

FRIDAY, 18th NOVEMBER, 1966,
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● Cut this out and put it in your wallet
as a reminder

25th ANNIVERSARY TOBRUK SIEGE

WORLD-WIDE COMMEMORATIVE GATHERING — CANBERRA — EASTER, 1966

By Jack (Mick) Dodson

On Good Friday, 8th April, 1966, a hive of activity in Canberra — by plane, train, bus and cars, about 1,000 Rats of Tobruk, plus their wives, arrived in bitterly cold weather at the reception centre. They were there to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the commencement of the siege in Tobruk and to pay homage to those mates who did not return.

They came from all States of Australia, from New Zealand and New Guinea, a representative from the Indian Army, one from the Palestinian Transport, and several from the Polish Carpathian Brigade.

The 2/1 Pioneer Battalion was well represented by 24 members.

On Friday night the welcome to visitors took place in the Canberra Civic Theatre. Capable of seating 1,300, people were sitting in the aisles and all available standing room was taken.

Fine weather for the remaining three days, and we started the Saturday with sight seeing in the morning, followed in the afternoon by the march along Anzac Parade to the War Memorial, where the commemorative service was held and wreaths were laid. In the night to the Queanbeyan R.S.L., where, at a packed house, much liquor was consumed while the boys talked of the days in the siege. Shells were falling thick and fast.

DUNTROON MILITARY COLLEGE CHURCH SERVICE

On Sunday morning there was a big gathering at the Duntroon Military College, where a combined church service was held at the grave of General Bridges. After the service, a picnic at the Cotter Dam. In the night, the Queensland Rats were seen off on their special train.

Monday saw the Rats leaving Canberra from early morning till late evening. Too many send-offs!

A very good week-end was had by all, even though some things did not function correctly. Considering the huge amount of organising that was necessary, the organisers (all voluntary) did a mighty job.

Who was the 2/1 Pioneer (Lambton prowler) who, at the Civic Hotel in the early hours of the morning wandered into one of the lady's bedrooms and then argued that it was his room.

SPECIAL VOTE OF THANKS

The people of Canberra did indeed make us welcome and all clubs were open to the Rats. A special vote of thanks must go to some who went out of their way, giving both time and money, to see we had a good week-end.

BILL JOLLIE (2/1 Pioneers), now bank manager at Queanbeyan, showed us some of the sights. He took us as guests to the naval depot at Harmon; to the bowling club at Queanbeyan

(where he is treasurer), and to the Queanbeyan R.S.L.

ALBERT BROWN (2/1 Pioneers, ex-Kyogle), now at Kambah Station, out from Canberra, was there each day with his car to transport us around Canberra and go tasting of the local brew.

FRED DAVENPORT (2/1 Pioneers), **BRUCE MITCHELL** (2/1 Pioneers), and his photographer mate were voted tops by members of the Sydney branch of the Women's Auxiliary for the way they had their cars always on call to transport us to the various functions and go seeing the sights of Canberra.

REX CORBY (9th Div. A.S.C.), taxi driver of Canberra, did not wait for the Rats to hail his cab—he hailed them. He forgot about the meter and showed us more of Canberra and where to find the best Resch's.

2/1 PIONEER "RATS" PRESENT

The following Rats of Tobruk from the 2/1 Pioneer Battalion were in Canberra: Bob Juliff, Fred Davenport, "Nobby" Cooper, Charlie Vickery, Albert Brown, Sid Kent, Sid Jopson, Bob Scott, Ted Skoyles, Jack Pearce, F. Robertson ("Red Robbie"), Bruce Mitchell, Dick Seddon, Joe Hickey, Jack Griffiths, Jack Bertram, Bob ("Scotty") King, Ken Newling, Morrie Coster, Don Slater, Pat Noonan, Roy Jardine, Tom Connolly, and yours truly. If there were any others, they were well hidden.

REUNION CHIT CHAT

CHARLIE SMIDT was at the Reunion and told us that he has just recently returned from two weeks fishing up north. While he was up there he spent quite a bit of time with his cousin, Arthur Smidt. Arthur has five children and is doing a wonderful job rearing them. We realise it's a big job on your own, Arthur, so we offer you our congratulations on a job well done. Charlie tells us your two eldest (girls, I believe) are a big help. Our best to you all.

WALLY (Sporty) THOMPSON. Has anybody seen him or heard of him? Last heard of, he was married, had four children and was living somewhere between Bourke and Wilcannia. If anyone does know his address, would he please notify us or Alf (Bull) Green, of 18 Beach Road, Bondi. Alf has offered to bring "Sporty" to Sydney for our next Anzac Reunion if he can be found, so start searching, fellows, we would like some positive results.

ANZAC DAY WITH 2/1

More than 75,000 people braved cool winds and grey skies to watch 25,000 ex-servicemen and women march to celebrate the 51st anniversary of the landing at Gallipoli, but only about 230 of them were Pioneers.

Nevertheless, we were represented, and I couldn't say truthfully that we marched; it would be more appropriate to say we skipped and changed step for the whole distance. This was owing to the fact that we had a pipe band with a slow beat in front of us, and a brass band with a fast beat at the rear, but we had some fun and quite a few laughs, especially when Charlie Vickers and Max Herron started promoting cheer squads along the route.

As last year, we were led for the first half by Col. Norm. Neal, and then by Major Gordon Osborn.

Before we assembled on the roadway to march off, and again during the march, "Pasha" Jackson used up quite a few yards of movie film taking movies of what there was of our battalion. If they turn out any good, "Pasha," what about a movie night?

Well, so much for the march. It was cool and fine, and as usual, after reaching the Domain all Pioneers had but one thought—the Castlereagh.

ANZAC REUNION

Our Anzac Celebrations have now receded into History. However, I feel sure that to all who took part in them it was well worth the effort.

After the march most of our members assembled at the Castlereagh Hotel firstly to take in nourishment from a very nice meal prepared for us by Joyce, the Castlereagh caterer, and her efficient staff.

Some members had braised steak and vegetables; some had curried sausages; and a few lucky late arrivals had grilled steak and pork chops. But whatever the boys had was good and enjoyable. In all, we ploughed through 123 meals and, of course, there were a few boys who didn't want a meal. I made a tour around the boys during the day and I received no complaints; all I spoke to said how they enjoyed their day.

The boys on the committee spoke to everyone there and collected quite a lot of information, which you will find in our "Chit Chat" column. It was discovered, also, that a lot of members are not getting our paper, so if you meet a Pioneer ask him if he is getting the "Pioneer News." If he isn't, tell us!

For those who didn't get along to our reunion I have to say you missed a good day. No kidding, ask anyone who was there, they will say, as I do: "Be in it next time!"

Wally ("Desso") Page.

Our Roving Reporter, Harry "Monty" Montague, Reports on Anzac Day . . .

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

At the conclusion of the wreath laying ceremony on Anzac Day Eve, the whole company adjourned to the British Ex-Servicemen's Club for the Annual General Meeting.

In declaring the meeting open, the President, Allan McInnes, welcomed members of both the 2/1 and 2/2 Pioneers, especially those who came all the way from other States, and other members who had travelled many hundreds of miles just to be with us on such an occasion.

JACK WESTWOOD RESIGNS

Amongst the correspondence read by the Secretary was a letter from Jack Westwood, who, for a long time, has been our Social Secretary and done a magnificent job. Jack stated that, through declining health, he had been advised to steady down and take things easy, and reluctantly tendered his resignation.

This was received with regret, as Jack has always done his best for all Pioneers and he will be sadly missed. We hope he will soon be his old cheerful self in the near future.

Doug. Shearston, our Treasurer, introduced his audited financial statement, which furnished a particularly good and sound report. We are indeed most fortunate in having such a treasurer, because his records and returns as to the monetary department of this association would make some of the insolvent firms and companies of Sydney grab him to assist them get back on the Gold Standard.

BILL HOFFMAN — NEWS FROM KYOGLE

Executive reports were then called for and our Country Vice-President, Bill Hoffman, brought good wishes and respects from our many members up North. Bill comes down regularly each year from Kyogle just to be with us for the Anzac celebrations, and is a tower of strength. He tendered apologies on behalf of Leo Ferris, Ray Smith, Toby Hale, Cec. Blanch, Jim Hall, Jack Martin, Peter Bell, Jack Shearman, Fred Blanch, Clancy Scholes and Eddie Weston (2/2 of Lismore).

Jack Collis, our Welfare Officer, gave an account of hospital visitations to members of our association. Words cannot be found to express to Jack our thanks and appreciation of the job he is doing for our lads in hospital.

Our Secretary, Max Herron, reported on the "Tobruk Sunday," held at Newcastle by the Rats of Tobruk Association, which is reported elsewhere.

At 9 p.m. all stood in silence for two minutes and the "Ode to the Fallen" was recited by the President.

THANKS TO MR JACKSON

President Allan McInnes then called a break and introduced the manager of the British Ex-Service Club, Mr. Jackson. Thanks were extended on behalf of

our association to the club for their generosity in allowing us the use of their rooms. Responding, Mr. Jackson stated how pleased his club was to be of some assistance to the Pioneers, and said that all facilities of the building were at their disposal and members would be welcome at any time as guests of the club.

Refreshments and an appetising supper were served, provided with the compliments of the association. Bob McGregor, Wally Page, Bobby Lake and Jack Collis carried out the duties of stewards and they certainly saw to it that everybody's glass was full and the plates of food never empty.

Resuming the meeting, nominations for the positions of Patron, President and Committee were called, which resulted in Col. Geoff Graham again unanimously elected as Patron, and Allan McInnes as President.

MANY THANKS TO OUR PRESIDENT

Warmest congratulations were extended to our President for his new term, because we know only too well what tremendous service Allan has displayed in the past.

There being no further business, the meeting closed about 10 p.m., when refreshments were again provided, after a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

Despite the rain which began to fall rather heavily, thirty-five members of the Association participated in the march to the Cenotaph for the wreath laying ceremony on Anzac Eve, to pay their respects to coppers who had paid the supreme sacrifice.

Under the very capable command of our marshal, Bob Lake, we arrived at the Cenotaph, where Allan McInnes, 2/2, and Bob McGregor, 2/1, each laid a wreath for their respective battalions. Mrs. Wheeler, widow of the late Capt. Johnny Wheeler, 2/1, also placed a sheaf of flowers on behalf of our Ladies' Auxiliary.

Aub. Brazier gave a fine rendition of the "Last Post," followed by "Reveille," which certainly brought back memories.

The "Ode" was recited by Allan McInnes and Bob McGregor.

The contingent then moved off and each Pioneer had paid his respects in honour of our fallen comrades.

Quite a few of the old coppers who could not join in the march through sickness stood on the steps of the G.P.O. and joined with us in the ceremony. Their presence was greatly appreciated.

2/1-2/2 REUNION

The enthusiasm and interest which members take in this Association was displayed at this year's Anzac Day Re-union at the Castle-reagh Hotel, as the assembly of 2/1 and 2/2 Pioneers was large and everyone enjoyed this gathering conducted by the Committee.

After the march the members entered the Quarter Deck Lounge, where all were welcomed by Bob Lake, Bob McGregor and Doug. Shearston. who then ushered everyone into the dining room for a delicious hot meal, served by our Social Committee, and it was greatly appreciated.

Jack Collis, Wally Page and "Bluey" Walsh were the mess orderlies, and, as always, these fellows accomplished yeoman service in seeing everybody had plenty to eat.

After such a fine meal the bar, on opening, was the next attraction and naturally, being Pioneers present, it certainly did receive tremendous attention — continuously.

TRAVELLED HUNDREDS OF MILES

Again meeting old comrades, talking about coppers, events and places were obviously the most important topics. Conversing on such subjects, they recalled treasured memories which will never be forgotten. To see such an assembly of old friends enjoying themselves was really a pleasure, and when it is brought to the reader's notice that quite a few had travelled from other States, and some hundreds of miles, just to gather together again—it certainly makes one extremely proud to be associated with such fellows.

Time ran out too fast for such an occasion and praise must be given for the afternoon snacks which were provided by the Social Committee. They were really enjoyable.

Much could be written about this event, but, putting it briefly, it was a right royal turn-out and one and all had a glorious session.

To our Committee who worked so hard and thoroughly in making such a wonderful get-together possible, all join in expressing our sincere thanks and deepest appreciation for such a successful gathering.

LAST POST

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

NX 57493 Pte H. C. Christian, 2/1.
NX 28851 Pte J. Perry, 2/1.
NX 87340 Sgt S. P. Bradley, 2/2.
NX 81662 Pte A. S. Croke, 2/2.
NX 93127 Pte A. E. Crossingham, 2/2.
NX 1459 Pte E. H. L. Strafford, 2/2.
Cpl. Leonard Rodda, M.M., 15 Pln.
"C" Coy. 2/1.

NEWS FROM THE CASTLEREAGH HOTEL, ANZAC DAY

TED SKOYLES, that great stalwart who travels from the other side of Wollongong and rarely misses a function, had a great time and enjoyed himself immensely.

"PORKY" GRAHAM, ("C" Coy.) looked happy and as prosperous as ever. My advice is if any of our cobbers have any spare cash, don't worry about investing in these local concerns, but put it in Graham's Fixed Trust. You definitely cannot go wrong.

IVOR EVANS ("C" Coy.), was on parade and sends best wishes to his old mates.

"SNOW" MORRIS, same mob, was pleased to be with us again. His offer of a most generous donation to any family social outing our committee may arrange was greatly appreciated. Many thanks, "Snow", Max Herron and Bob McGregor will certainly take advantage of it when the occasion arises.

BILL HOFFMAN came down from Kyogle and brought best wishes from all Pioneers up there.

MICK DWYER who is a meat inspector and travels all over the State in the course of his duties, was able to be with us and we were mighty glad to see him.

HUGHIE GREEN was in his glory with his old pals, and he certainly had a great time.

BOB BURNSIDE looked a picture of health and was well and truly at home with the old brigade. He is still working for H.M. Customs.

TICH "Appo" APPLETON, doing a good job at Sydney Hospital, got a leave pass for the whole period.

"SCOTTY" BURNS was also there and it was a pleasure to see him again. "Scotty" is a building inspector.

● You can well imagine what a great time **ROY JARDINE**, "WAGGA" **GRICE**, **BOBBY LOCK** and **JOE BARKER**, all H.Q. fellows, must have had chatting together.

● Had an interesting talk with **CHARLIE JOHNSON**, who is in the carrying business and faring pretty well.

● Was quite surprised to see **JACK MARTIN** arrive from Kyogle. He told us that he just had to come to Sydney and meet his old friends.

● Noticed **HARRY ROBEY**, **RON MCFARLANE** and **CES PEAK** having a happy round table chat.

GEORGE WATSON ("D" Coy.) held a "Bon Voyage" Party, as he was sailing the following day for England and Scotland. Very best wishes, George, and a safe return.

COL. "NUGGET" NEAL again honoured us with his company and it is really a pleasure at any time to have him join us at the reunion.

FRED DAVENPORT ("A" Coy.) travelled from Queensland for his first reunion with us and was welcomed by all. He has the general store in the housing settlement at Lawnton, just outside Brisbane. Any Pioneer passing

along that way would be sure of a warm welcome.

● Another first-timer was **RON MACINTOSH**, also of "A" Coy., who attended with his cobber, **JOHN MINOGUE**. It appears Ron had just started work at the Strathfield Hotel, and decided to get some pies from the pastry shop next door but one. The bloke serving him was none other than **"NOBBY" SMITH**, "D" Coy. cook, so you can guess there are plenty of pies and pints now at Strathfield.

MAJOR HARRY NICHOLLS was seen deep in conversation, and as happy as ever with old mates.

● Had a long chat with 8 Platoon "A" Coy., who always gather and have a wonderful time. Those enjoying themselves were **DON SLATER**, **HARRY ALLEN**, **RON MACINTOSH**, **NED CALDERWOOD**, **PERCE PENROSE**, **GEORGE LEVY**, **FRED DAVENPORT**, **"MONTY" MONTAGUE**, **ROD PEGG** and **STAN HAMPSON**.

● **IAN KIRKWOOD**, "C" Coy., who works at the State Lottery Office, on the audit staff, certainly did some entertaining and really had a good session.

● One sad spot of the day was the absence of **ALF CARTER**, "D" Coy., who is one of the most popular members of our association. Bad health has caught up with him rather badly, and this is the first time that he has missed a reunion. Regrets were expressed by all, and it is the sincere wish of members that by now he is well on the road to recovery.

● Watching the departure of the aircraft carrier "Sydney" on television, I saw **JOHN MORAHAN** at the top of the gangway. He is O.C. of the Military Department. However, he was well represented at the smoko by his two brothers, **CYRIL** and **KEVIN**.

Harry "Monty" Montague.

RE-UNION CHIT CHAT

JIMMY GRAY (ex Don Coy.), paid us a visit at the reunion. Nice to see you there, Jim. Jim is a vertical transport operator with the Bank of New South Wales, head office. That will make them think, won't it, Jim?

STAN JONES. Thanks for your apology for your non-attendance at the Anzac Reunion. Sorry you were not with us, and we hope your operation was a success. See you next time, Stan.

FRED ADDAMS (ex "C" Coy.). Believe you have been retired 3 years now and you're living at Narellan. We wish you good health and that you continue to enjoy your retirement.

RAY HORNE was with us again on Anzac Day. Ray has given up pushing his cab around the City and is now a bulk liquor salesman at Curl Curl. Good luck, Ray.

STAN DARE. We received a report that you have a rice farm at Griffith, N.S.W., and also that you are not getting the "Pioneer News." That will be

rectified, Stan. Our best to you and yours.

WALLY YOUNG was with us and Wally has made all Pioneers an offer. He is a bachelor and has a house with three spare beds, so if anybody is up where Wally lives he can put them up for a while. But there is only one snag, where does Wally live? Sorry, Wally, we do not seem to have your address, can someone please help?

LYNETTE HOBBS. Once again we had Lynette marching with us. She is a niece of **Charlie Pagett** and as Charlie cannot be with us, Lynette proudly wears his medals and marches the whole distance with us. Thanks for being with us, Lynette.

SID JOPSON. No he was not at our reunion, but the information I have is that Sid is being transferred as accountant from the Bank of New South Wales, Inverell, to the same bank at Newcastle. Getting closer to Sydney, Joppo, drop in and see us sometime. Our best to you and yours.

THIS MIGHT SOUND FUNNY, but would the chap who was asked to hold the 2/1 Machine Gunners' banner for a couple of minutes after the Anzac Day march, please bring it back on Anzac Day, 1967. Thank you!

BOB MCGREGOR and his Social Committee, such as **Doug Shearston**, **Bob Lake**, **Jack Collis**, **Mick Dodson**, **Wal Page**, **Harry Montague**, are to be complimented on the effort they put into arranging such an excellent Anzac Day reunion. Thanks go to them from all Pioneers.

FRANK GILLIAN states all Pioneers missed the "little bloke," **Alf Carter**, and hopes he is soon well enough to take an active part in affairs of the association. Frank said that it was not a real Pioneer reunion without the "little bloke" present.

JOHN A. MUNGER ("A" Coy., 2/1), of Western Australia, sent a telegram to Frank Gillian and sends all "A" Coy. his best wishes for Anzac Day.

Ed.—John is not on our mailing list, Frank, so could you send his address to the secretary.

PADRE STEWART WATTS is invited to attend our Anzac Reunion by all the boys from "D" Coy. 2/1, who say they would like to see him after all these years and have a chat about old times.

RAY WISEMAN, **Ray Gardiner**, **Bob Morrow**, **George Tolmie**, **Claude McKeig**, **Norm. Baker**, **"Bimbo" Bell** and **Max Herron**, all of "D" Coy., were huddled together and having a great old chin wag about the "good old days." Norm. Baker sends regards to **Eric Croker**, his old fighting mate, and wants to see him next Anzac Day.

RAY HORNE, **Bob Lake**, **Jack Collis**, **Mick Dodson**, **Frank Gillian** and **Casey Brown** talked for two hours solid about football—even the bar waiter was complaining that they were not fully utilising his services.

WHAT MAKES A FIGHTING MAN?

By John Harnetty, "C" Coy., 2/1

PIONEERS — AND OTHERS — TELL ALL THE YARNS THAT REMAIN EVERGREEN

On Anzac Day, old hands were out again for the 51st honours for "The One Day of the Year", and many tales of old campaigns were retold, and many old friendships renewed. Age has taken our hair, our teeth, our litherness of limb, but these are things we'll cherish until that last Last Post.

Some old hands had to give the march away because they can't make the distance these days. They had to cherish their memories in front of the TV or the radio, perhaps in company with some old cobbers to share the toast to those who stayed somewhere far from home or who have gone to their final haven with the flag on the coffin-lid.

The Last Post has sounded for many. It was never intended to be the music of sorrow. It really isn't. Its triumphant ending takes away the sombreness, the poignancy of its opening strains.

But it sounds often. So let's honour the dead and remember the living.

Australia's history of foreign wars doesn't go so far back as history runs. It begins with the Sudan Contingent, the South African War, World Wars I and II, Korea, the Malayan Emergency, and now Vietnam.

But in fewer than 70 years Australians have stacked up quite a respectable showing. The Sudan, South Africa, The Peninsula, Neuve, Chapelle, Pozieres, Passchaendale, The Marne, Greece and Crete, Sananda, Buna, Gona, Milne Bay, Jezzine, Merdjejyoun, Sidi Barrani, Gemas, Bardia, Tobruk, Timor, Singapore, El Alamein, Tel El Eisa, Mechili, Balikpapan, Labuan, Kaepyong. Get a service gazeteer.

Your memory wouldn't help you, even if you were a dozen Barry Joneses. They've been in a hundred and then a hundred places. They haven't always been victorious, but they've never failed to make a bloody impression on the other bloke.

WHAT MAKES A DIGGER?

He's generally not a cold-gutted blood-letter who loves killing or destruction for their own bitter sakes.

He's usually the type of bloke whose most warlike act in times of national peace is to growl about the Government's shortcomings over this or that. Or, if he's properly roused, he might threaten to drop a contradictory neighbour at a sporting fixture.

He comes from all ranks of life. In peacetime he may be a bank clerk, a bushman, a shearer, an engine driver, a barrister, a pub roustabout, an architect, a plumber, a farmer, or just a plain drifter.

The Australian hard case is more prone to wry humour than to savagery. But when the shot's on, he undergoes a dramatic change of character. He can play for keeps when he thinks it's necessary.

The late Field-Marshal Erwin Rommel, with whom the 2/1st had some acquaintance, had a wholesome respect for Australians. So he should have. They were the chief tools in wrecking his plans for a triumphal march into Cairo. Tobruk was the fly in his tactical ointment.

But while Tobruk is generally regarded as an Australian show, let it not be forgotten that the fighting prowess of the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers' Machine Gunners, the staunchness of the men of the Royal Horse Artillery, and the dauntless courage and dash of the Poles of the Carpathian Brigade all had a bit to do with it.

They held Tobruk and hung up the Afrika Korps for precious months. Rommel's star faded when Montgomery smashed him at El Alamein, and our sister battalion, the 2/3 Pioneers, played an epic role in that show.

The Middle East was soon over for the Second A.I.F., and they had to turn their attentions to keeping the Japanese out of Australia. They had a new ally, led by General Douglas MacArthur, who made the simple avowal, "I shall return."

AUSTRALIAN — CAPABLE AND RESOURCEFUL

He had good company for his untried American troops. The Australian proved himself just as capable, resourceful and high-spirited in the jungle as he had been—win, lose or draw—in the Western Desert, Syria, Greece and Crete.

Many of those who could get there appeared on the big Monday on Anzac Day. Our own old lot may not have been as dense as in former years, but there were plenty to make a good showing.

The battle honours still were there. Without the panoply of uniforms, you saw the same types of blokes who went away. Maybe a bit heavier in the girth, stiffer in the joints, with kids as old as they were when the bugle blew not far from a generation ago.

But they were still much the same in character as they were when war called them.

Lots of people have wondered what makes the Digger tick. His qualities of humour and contempt for adversity are important. He believes Australia's the greatest country in the world, but lots of people have the same not unpraiseworthy habit.

He may be more mischievous than malicious—but experts say there's some mysterious alchemy that makes this normal, intensely human character into

a very demon when the real stoush is on. Why it is, we don't know. A whole college of psychiatrists couldn't hope to put their fingers on it.

However, in the flesh he bears no resemblance to troops of an Irish regiment being inspected by the Duke of Wellington just before the Battle of Waterloo.

It's gone down in history that Wellington said to one of his aides: "Do you ask me if they look as though they will instil fear into the enemy? That I know not! But, before God, sir, they terrify me!"

NEWCASTLE "RATS" ON THE JOB

I knew the minute I stepped into the hostelry on Saturday, I could "smell a rat".

Only in the better sense of the phrase, of course.

Sure enough, there he was, holding court at one end of the bar—Jack Griffiths, president of the Newcastle branch of the Rats of Tobruk Association. With him as henchman was the treasurer, Dick Seddon, and benignly surveying the goings on from his wheelchair, ex-P.O.W. Toby Smart.

Joining in the reunion were locals Peter Bell, "Banjo" Martin, Bill Hoffman and the irrepressible "Jacko."

SCOURGE OF THE ENEMY

All one-time members of the 2/1 Pioneers and the scourge not only of the enemy, but the Australian "brass" as well.

Missing were two other locals, Ray Smith and Jim Hall, but at least they were there in spirit and their absence gave a good excuse for another round. **FROM TOBRUK TO THE PACIFIC**

As the talk ranged from Tobruk to the Pacific Islands and the doings of a quarter of a century ago, I couldn't help but think of what a wonderful job Jack Griffiths and Dick Seddon do every year by spending Christmas taking their invalid mate around the State to visit old friends.

While I was there the fun was fast and furious, but eventually the party had to end. The last I saw of the group was when they made a dignified exit, swaying slightly in the breeze and ringing out their moustaches.

"Kyogler".

(Reprinted by courtesy "Kyogle Examiner.")

FROM THE EDITORS

Bob Lake and Max Herron wish to thank correspondents and reporters for the many news items sent along for this issue.

We have retained articles from Bob Burnside, Harry Montague and John Harnetty for future issues, with the hope that you three gentlemen do not mind.



Well Mates, here it is again—another Mail Bag and I must say, well supported after the Anzac Day turnout. As most who were there would agree, a good day was enjoyed by all, may it long continue.

ARTHUR HANSON (Punchy) ex. H.Q. 2/2 and now residing at Timboon, Victoria, sends along a cheque plus a couple of pages of the "good oil". Punchy is at the butchering game, but quotes that they are now expanding into land.

What he does not say is whether he is a partner in the business, or an employee. Let's know sometime. Will of course pass on the good word to Moker Pitman, Dusty Fenson, Bob Dickson, Don Murray, Bill Hood and all the old 3 Platoon "Stove Pipe Artillery". Look forward to seeing you at some future function.

J. W. CARPENTER (Chips) ex 2/2 and now holding down the fort at Tingha, N.S.W., has written to be included in the mailing list of the Paper. Good to hear from you Chips, and no doubt quite a few of the boys will be glad to receive the news that you are with it again. I see that our secretary has posted you back numbers of the paper so this should bring you up to date with the goings on.

As you went over to Japan with the 65th Battalion, you should have some good experiences that you could pass on.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL GEOFF GRAHAM sends along a line and extremely sorry to hear that you have not been very well. Geoff has had the misfortune to have had to spend some time in Concord, and on M.O.'s advice has to take things very easy for a while.

However, on behalf of the troops, I rang him and have invited him to be my guest some Saturday down at the Leagues Club, where I am sure a couple of Scotches and a bit of a yarn over old times will work wonders.

TED JENSEN, ex 2/1, now living at Doonside, writes a rather lengthy letter in which he boasts of 4 weeks' annual leave in February and with his family spent 3 weeks at South West Rocks. He visited Ted (Bluey) Eather at Kempsey R.S.L. where Ted is a barman. (We know he's a barman at Kempsey as we had the somewhat doubtful pleasure of his company at Grafton).

Ted speaks of his trip through Newcastle where he spent a weekend at Don Crook's place and met a couple of the boys, Roy Bounds, Bill Nichols and Ivan Pepper. Don Crooks is a father again—4 boys and 1 girl.

No chance of our reporters missing anybody on Anzac Day so will leave

the Anzac Day par to the Anzac Day boys. We are very glad you had a good time at the Re-union and we can assure you and all the "B" Coy. boys that the same thing applies at every function we hold.

BILLY THIELE, Flinders Park, South Australia, ex "C" Coy., 2/1, has finally sent in some information about self. Bill has been married 18 years and has a daughter, Heather, 16, and a son Geoff, 11.

Daughter Heather apparently is a keen athlete and is a runner with the Adelaide Harriers. Son Geoff junior reckons running is too strenuous but has become interested in golf since doing the rounds with Dad on weekends. (Under these circumstances, your handicap should reduce by two-fifths). I presume wife Betty just carries on.

For future reference the Thiele family intend heading towards Queensland at Christmas so don't be surprised if some of you old Pioneers get a quick visit. For all concerned, any time anybody is over Adelaide way they are welcome to contact the Thiele family by just ringing 57-5716 and Bill will organise a good session.

JOE HICKEY, ex 2/1, and now at Newcastle, sends along a donation and an enquiry as to Neville Hall's address. Address forwarded by letter and we hope you have done some good with it. Remember us to all the rest of the boys at Newcastle.

DARYL BELFORD, ex B.H.Q., 2/1, is now a school teacher at Wollongong where he started in 1946, and has remained. Daryl quotes "conditions so congenial that his next move will be feet first". Some 4 years since Daryl marched at the big day in Sydney but he says that apart from really being able to enjoy a game of bowls his excursions are limited. Has happened to contact Leo Morris and old R.S.M. Smith but claims very few ex 2/1's around the town.

Daryl speaks of Phil Cramsie, Barry Taylor and sometimes wonders if John Harnetty still nibbles away at his nails, then goes on to mention that he would like to see "young Joe Olliffe again". Well we don't know where you get the young from, but we can assure you Joe Olliffe is still very active with the Committee of our Association. Your subs., naturally, in the hands of our worthy treasurer.

MRS NOEL PETERSON puts pen to paper on behalf of hubby up at Wyong. Apparently Noel was not his usual self and did not attend Anzac Day (bad luck mate, I kept a corner seat for

you all day, and just in case every now and again I'd order a schooner). However, as Mummy says, there'll always be a next time. Pleased to know that you had a good day at Newcastle and as you say we will not blame the wives for us old blokes that are slowing up.

SYD SWEENEY, now of Harris Park, ex H.Q. 2/1, writes his second letter within a couple of months. Syd quotes of being in hospital and convalescent but now back at his job at Cumberland Newspaper. Syd claims that as Hughie Green writes such a good letter so often he has decided to have a go himself. Sees quite a bit of Hugh at the Star Hotel, in Parramatta, where they discuss old times and old mates.

He quotes that Snowy Lloyd, Jack Brown or Lenny Weyman never have a go at writing a letter so what about it you blokes. Syd wishes to be remembered to: Fred Wheaton, Ray Horne, "Stalky" Thirlby, Casey Brown, also Paddy Hearst.

Syd quotes of a brother Reg, also in our battalion, whom he has not heard of for some time. (Well, Syd, if my information will do, brother Reg is still quite well. I see him often enough in Manly).

HUGHIE GREEN, of Wentworthville, ex "C" Coy., 2/1, sends another letter with much knowledge of Billy Prophet, Bert Cooper, Alex Flockhart, Vic Lewis, Jack Brown, Jack Price, Frank Pearl, Snow Lloyd and Charlie Rock. Hasn't seen Len Weyman for some time. Hugh also sends a cheerio to Bill Chisholm, Kev. Curtin, Justin Sullivan, Ted Skoyles, George Edman and a special call to "C" Coy., 15 Platoon, wherever they are.

Hugh quotes that it's a terrific paper and that he looks forward to receiving same. He thanks all responsible for its edition and publication.

JACK HICKEY ("C" Coy., 2/1), of Lithgow, sends a short note enclosing sub. and to quote that he loves to receive the paper. Your change of address has been noted and there should be no problems with the future issues. He quotes no news in Lithgow but does send his best regards and a slogan "Bex the better A.P.C."

MURIEL WOOD, of Dolls Point, sends subs in for both Bill Henry and George Wood. Muriel quotes that Bill will be staying with George and herself for a short time. Also quotes that Charlie Henry is in the A.G.H., Concord, and information has been passed on to Jack Collis who is our hospital visitations man. Thank you sincerely Muriel for

your letter and the welcome donation. Paper will be despatched to your address as requested.

JUNE KERR takes the pen on behalf of hubby, Charlie, requesting information as to the whereabouts of Billy Packard and Sid Cooper.

Information has been forwarded with regard to Sid Cooper but we have no knowledge of Billy Packard. Anyone that may know where Bill can be found please drop a line to your editor.

June quotes husband Charles has been ill for some months with a heart condition. Is much better now but still has to take things very easy. Thank you June for your letter and any information will be sent on if and when it is received

BOBBY GRATTON, still of Goulburn. Another letter from Bob and we appreciated all the suggestions. As you are aware, Bob, suggestions are always given a lot of thought by Committee but by the same token they cannot be adopted by any group overnight.

Apparently there is some misunderstanding by yourself with regard to the number of newspapers printed a year. I would like you to understand that there are only 3 editions (in April, July and November) so I cannot understand your claim that others have told you of a paper which you claim you have not received.

However, Bob, do not think for one moment that anybody would be scrubbed for offering suggestions. Sorry to hear that you have been in hospital for an operation on your elbow but very pleased to know that you are now back in the swing of things.

BOB BREWSTER, ex "A" Coy., 2/1, ex 2/2 and then ex 2/8 (cripes you got around). Wouldn't they make you a sargeant. All jokes aside, Bob writes that he cannot attend our Smokos as he is self employed. (Now don't tell me they hire surfboards on Friday nights) so just keep that Bi-Annual Smoko in mind. Bob has a Stor-A-Board surf shop at Manly and also plays a part with the Manly Council in the Anzac Day ceremony.

According to my daughter you play a major part in the upkeep of Stella Maris Convent. Keep up the good work.

Gail's regards to Beth while I'm on the job.

Carrying on from that, bear in mind the Bi-Annual Smoko in November.

You only mention Freddy Tighe in your letter, but there are a great many Manly blokes that were in the Pioneers and can assure you that you'll have no trouble with travelling companions on the Friday night if you are so inclined.

ALLAN CRUTE (H.Q. Coy., 2/1), of Woolgoolga was in Sydney recently with his wife, Beulah, and son, Denny.

Allan had brought Denny down to a PMG Training School at Strathfield. In a recent letter, Allan mentions seeing Jack Crossland, "D" Coy., 2/1, down at the Woolgoolga Beach Reserve where Jack was staying overnight.

JACK McCracken ("B" Coy., 2/1), who is having another spell at hospital, sends a letter from R.G.H., at Concord. Jack says he can still enjoy a glass of beer and a smoke when at home, so has little to complain about.

He keeps in touch with Peter Seddon and recently attended the R.O.T.A. anniversary march in Newcastle, but did not last out the dinner. Jack looks forward to the visits of our welfare officer, Jack Collis, and is always pleased to have a pow wow with him.

GERRY COLLINS ("A" Coy., 2/1), of Penhurst, was another inmate at Concord recently, for treatment, and we hope by now Gerry you are back with your wife and family. Many thanks for the donation and the kind remarks about the paper.

Gerry's young sons have been creating quite a stir in the Collins household of late. Joseph is captain of his cricket team in the St George Competition, and is to receive a trophy for his team winning the award for conduct in the area. (Thank heavens "Robber" Whiteley wasn't there said Gerry, or one of his team may have taken the award—sorry Vic.). The older boy, Tony, gave cricket away for tennis and his team lost only in the grand final. Let's hope they have better luck this year.

In regard to the RSL matter, Gerry, it is rather a touchy subject to discuss in these columns, but would suggest you contact the member concerned for his views on the matter.

AUB BRASIER (2/1-2/2 Bugler) writes a most interesting letter to say he had been working down at Eden.

He mentions having visited Eden Museum, which has a skeleton of "Old Tom", a killer whale, who used to flap his tail on the surface of the water, then swim out and bring in a big sperm of whales, passing Twofold Bay, just like a sheep dog, rounding up the sheep. "Old Tom" would then eat the nose, then the tongue of the whale and leave the rest for other whales to haul ashore. As Aub states, this never occurred in any other whaling station throughout the world.

Aub mentions that Bega will benefit from the new television transmitter on top of Brown Mountain as it will relay all four channels to Cooma, Eden, Braid-

wood, Bega and other towns along the coast.

Aub sends regards to all Pioneers. Many thanks for your newsy letter Aub, and we wish you and your family the very best of health.

BERN REINERS (H.Q. Coy., Sigs., 2/1), of Corryong, Victoria, wrote a very newsy letter, or we should say typed, as apparently he prefers to use a typewriter these days.

Bern states the ski-ing season was just about to commence, so by now no doubt he has taken a few trips up to Khancoban. For the information of the city slickers Corryong is practically on the N.S.W. border and close to Kosciusko.

Bern and his very charming wife, Mona (according to Max Herron anyway), have three children, Brian, Lex and Mandy. Brian, aged 16 years, has just won a Teaching Bursary worth \$100. Congratulations to you Brian from all Pioneers.

Many thanks for your letter Bern.

INFORMATION REQUIRED

Would any 2/1 Pioneer who, during the war, was in reasonably close contact with John Harold Curry, NX 69848 (Sgt. "B" Coy. 2/1), please write to his wife at the following address: Mrs. R. Curry, 45 Power Street, Wavell Heights, Brisbane.

John passed away on 25th April, 1966, and Mrs. Curry is anxious to gain information from members of the unit who were close to John, especially in New Guinea, in an endeavour to claim a pension from the Repatriation Department.

This is a most worthy case and has the sanction of the committee, so please make the effort and drop a line to Mrs. Curry. She will then let you know what information she requires.

N.S.W. SEVENTH DIVISION ASSOCIATION

The above Association will hold their Dinner and Smoko at the Gosford R.S.L. Club on Saturday and Sunday, 8th and 9th October, 1966.

Eight 2/2 Pioneers from Sydney have already booked in and we publish all details below.

SATURDAY, 5 p.m.: Assemble RSL; 5.30 p.m., March to Cenotaph; 6.30 p.m., Dinner at R.S.L.; 7.30 p.m., Re-union and Smoko.

SUNDAY: 10.30 a.m., Sick Parade; 11 a.m., Annual Meeting; 12.30 p.m., Barbecue Lunch; 2 p.m., Farewell Fellowship.

OVERALL CHARGE: \$6.00, includes Dinner, Barbecue, refreshments, etc., and membership subscription.

ACCOMMODATION: At Hotel or Motel, \$4.00, bed and breakfast.

POST THIS FORM NOT LATER THAN 31st AUGUST, 1966

To . . .
**THE SECRETARY, N.S.W. 7th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION ASSOCIATION,
R.S.L. CLUB, MANN STREET, GOSFORD, N.S.W.**

I,..... (full name), of
Address.....

will be attending the Re-union Dinner and Smoko and enclose \$.....
being accommodation deposit.

My unit was.....

State whether Hotel or Motel desired.....

Date/s bookings required.....

Estimated time of arrival at Gosford.....

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. 11. No. 3.

1st November, 1966

Price: 50c Per Annum



BI-ANNUAL SMOKO, '66

OCCASION: Bi-Annual Smoko.

WHEN: Friday, 18th November, 1966,
at 7.30 p.m.

WHERE: Quarter Deck Lounge,
Castlereagh Hotel.
Dear Members,

Once again it's time for our Bi-annual Smoko, so be sure and make application to your C.O. (the wife of course) for a leave pass to attend the above function.

You are assured of the following:
A good time (it's up to you);
Ideal surroundings;
Excellent supper;
An opportunity to once again become "young at heart";

Reunite with your old mates, clear away the cob webs and talk over old times.

So how about it fellas, make the effort, you won't regret it, Christmas is just around the corner, as you know it's a "GO-GO" year so be sure and get there before it has "GONE-GONE"!!

Looking forward once again to seeing as many old faces as possible on the 18th November.

Bob McGregor.

FAMILY FILM NIGHT

A very good suggestion has been put forward by Eric Face.

Eric has suggested that we see if we have among our members, enough movie film or colour transparencies to put on a film or slide social evening, films and slides that would be interesting not only to the members but to their wives and children, there would be no charge and the Association would stand the cost of the supper.

We could obtain a hall and if we get your co-operation I think we could have a very interesting and enjoyable social evening.

We have been looking for some way to bring the wives and children of members closer to our Association, and I think if we can bring this idea to a head, we will be one big family association—let's hear from you Camera Wizards.

Wal. (Desso) Page.

SONS OF THE PIONEERS

We are wanting to know if any members of the 2/1-2/2 Association has any sons serving outside Australia. Our purpose in wanting to know is that it was suggested at our last meeting that it may just be possible that some of our members may have sons serving overseas, and we may be able to send them some sort of comfort parcel.

I would like to stress here at this point that this idea or suggestion is only in its incubation period, and all this may not be possible, but we would like your co-operation in this matter.

If you have a son serving outside Australia or if you have any ideas or suggestions on the matter, please contact any of the Committee or Max Herron, 3 Enoggera Street, Beverly Hills, or myself at 16 Boundary Road, Mortdale.

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

On Sunday, 13th November, at 7.30 p.m., Reverend Stan Claughton, (2/2 Padre), will conduct a Remembrance Service at the Canterbury Methodist Church, Canterbury Road, Canterbury.

All 2/2 and 2/1 Pioneers are cordially invited to attend and supper will be served by the ladies afterwards, when no doubt Stan will read another "yarn" from his little black book.

HOSPITAL NOTIFICATION

We request next of kin of a member to notify Jack Collis, our Welfare Officer, immediately a Pioneer enters hospital, or even before, if possible.

Contact by letter or phone Jack Collis, 22 Fisher Street, Auburn, N.S.W. Telephone 648-1509.

APPEAL BY THE TREASURER

If you are that one man in five who has paid his subscription this year please ignore this appeal. Just accept the thanks of a committee who will ensure that the money you paid will be put to its full use to keep our Association at that high level it now enjoys.

If you are one of the four out of every five who have neglected to send his subscription my I give you some of the facts that have made this appeal necessary.

1. "Pioneer News" now costs more to print. The July issue alone cost \$96 to print, plus the cost of blocks and postage. Despite this cost—I know you will all agree that any reduction in something we all enjoy reading would be unthinkable, but it may be necessary if there is no response to this appeal.

2. Your committee, at its last meeting, decided that Jack Collis, your hard-working Welfare Officer, be empowered to spend more generously on his many hospital visits. Again any curtailment of this splendid idea would be unthinkable.

3. The last fact and perhaps the most important. Why should a mere 226 men be responsible for the expenses incurred in seeing that over 1100 men receive a paper that, no doubt, most of them enjoy reading. This is not the spirit that we were so proud of 20 odd years ago. The actual subscription is only 50c per year and there is no need to send more unless you feel you can afford to do so.

If I have hurt anybody's feelings, please forgive me, but as your Treasurer I felt it my duty to bring these facts to your notice before we deplete a fairly healthy bank balance which we have struggled for years to accumulate.

Doug Shearston.

FRIEND'S TRIBUTE TO...

LATE ARTIE KELLY (2/2)

(2/2nd PIONEER BATTALION)

A football stalwart, a leading citizen and a great man . . . thus is the late Artie Kelly described by his close friend, Gundagai "Independent" editor, Jim Sullivan.

"In the world of Rugby League in the southern portion of the State, no man was as well and affectionately known as A. E. (Artie) Kelly, of Barmedman, whose sudden death late on Friday, July 29, stunned the community", penned Mr. Sullivan.

"To know Artie Kelly was to know a real man, a dinki-di, straight shooting Australian, who pulled no punches in his fight for right. He was forceful, determined, courageous, yet understanding and sympathetic. These traits won him renown and acclaim in his public life.

Artie Kelly represented Barmedman in the days when the frenzy of Maher Cup was at its height, the late 1920's. He was a clever and nifty player, who used brains in executing polished moves on the arena of play.

When he laid aside the sprigged boots, he took to football administration, and in this role Group Nine clubs found an ardent and forceful advocate for the betterment of the sport. Besides being a past president of the Barmedman Club, he was vice-president of Group Nine, a former Riverina selector and for the past five years he held the post of Group Nine Patron.

Football was his life and first love, but Artie Kelly also took a leading part in public affairs. He was a very active member of Legacy and the R.S.L., a former Shire Councillor, and one of the founders of the Barmedman Swimming Pool.

At the noble game of bowls Artie Kelly was an adept, and he was also an eagle-eyed rifle shot.

When the drums of war beat their dreaded tattoo in 1939, Artie Kelly was one of the first to enlist, and he saw active service overseas.

The ravages of war played havoc with this man from the Bland and his health suffered in subsequent years.

Whilst he was King of Barmedman, Artie Kelly was hailed outside his castle, for whilst he fought hard for the needs of his own domain, he could always see the others' needs and he always recognised the other fellow's point of view," concluded the tribute.

A wonderful husband and father, Mr. Kelly is mourned by his widow, Ronnie, children, Ronald, Judith, Robyn, Gillian and Barry, sons-in-law, Bill Batley, Harry Storm and Bob Beer and daughter-in-law, Frances, and nine grandchildren.

He is survived by brother Jack, sisters, Nellie, Fairlie, Betty and Vera. He was pre-deceased by sister Mary and five brothers, Philip, Frank, Fred, William and Stan.

The funeral service was held in St. John's Church of England, Barmedman, and interment took place at the Barmedman cemetery, Rev. G. Armstrong, of Temora, officiating.

(Reprinted by courtesy of the "Temora Independent")

A MATE!

I met him the first day at the showground. He was two in front of me—his number ended in 326, mine was 328. We were getting our first taste of the army.

As we went along the line some shiny A bloke was stamping all the papers "2/9 PNR TNG BN". 326 wanted to know what this meant and the S.A. bloke said "what do you care, we tell you what to do now, it's the pioneer training battalion!"

326 said: "You don't bloody well tell me, I don't want to go into the pioneers, I want to get into a motor show". Said the S.A. bloke "Well you're going into the pioneers" and as the line had stopped owing to the argument he told 326 "stand over there".

I next met him in the X-ray room. "How did you go, mate, I asked, pioneers or motors?" "What do you think," he said, "bloody pioneers!" And that started it.

When I couldn't come at the food in the showground mess huts I think he used to feel sorry for me. No one else cared. The first time someone pinched my dixies he produced another set. (I was too chicken to pinch someone else's).

On the long training marches when I used to think I would collapse, or die, or something, his was a shoulder to lean on, literally, I mean, his sense of humour, although I think he did it tougher than some of us. He should have, he was older.

And so it went on. Two years I soldiered with him pretty closely, then our army paths drifted apart.

I used to bump into him occasionally, then the war was all over. He used to come and see me fairly frequently, he was the country type, and I a city slicker.

We marched a few times on Anzac Day, went to a few reunions together, but now he is gone and this will never happen again.

Well, I knew him for 24 years. He had some influence on my life; I think he impressed all he met and I'm sure this place is the better for his passing through.

Vale NX88326, Cpl. A. E. Kelly, 2/2 PNR. BN.

—K.H.

BI-ANNUAL RE-UNION

Members of the 2/1 and 2/2 Pioneer Battalion Association—I personally extend to you all a cordial invitation to join me at the Castlereagh Hotel, Quarter Deck Lounge, on the 18th November, 1966, at 7.30 p.m. to help make a success of our Bi-Annual Re-union.

Remember we start at 7.30 p.m. and we finish at 10 p.m. and as usual we will supply a very nice supper to go with the amber fluid.

To you chaps who can't make it on Anzac Days, this is a good chance for you to spend a couple of quiet hours to have a chat and renew old acquaintances and in general enjoy yourselves. Once again the details—Quarter Deck Lounge, Castlereagh Hotel, Corner Park and Castlereagh Streets, at 7.30 p.m., on the 18th November, 1966.

WELFARE REPORT

Since our last report quite a few members have been patients in hospital. They were: Jerry Hayes, Mick Marshall (back in for another spell), Ron McIntosh, Harry Olde, John McCracken (in for another visit), Cyril Wilson, Harold Duckworth, Jim Howard and Jack Westwood.

All have been discharged except Jim Howard (Ward 10), 2/2nd, who is on the D.I. list, and Jack Westwood, 2/1st (Ward 310), who is now off the D.I. list and recovering well after a serious car accident. We hope they are both soon up and about again. Jim Howard would like to see any of his old mates who have a few minutes to spare. If you know of a Pioneer going into hospital, don't forget to give us a ring so we can visit him.

Jack Collis, Welfare Officer, 648-1509.

7th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION RE-UNION

On Saturday, 8th October, the 7th Australian Division held their Re-union at Gosford, which commenced with a very impressive march through Gosford to the Memorial in Gosford Park.

Books were substituted for wreaths and placed on the memorial by the various units. George Perry, 2/2, placed the book, "The Final Campaign", by Gavin Long, on behalf of the 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Battalions Association.

This was later presented by Major General Dougherty to Master David Watson (class 5b), a 5th year student of Gosford High School.

The Re-union was held on Saturday, 8th October, at the Gosford R.S.L., and all declared it an excellent meal. At the one table was a team of 2/2nd Pioneers in the person of Messrs. Bill Robertson, George Perry, Podge Sullivan, Gavin Todd, Don Lawson, Mick Eagan, Norm Dallas, Noel O'Brien and Max Herron (2/1).

On Sunday the Annual Meeting was conducted at 11 a.m. and then at 12 noon the members adjourned to a barbecue lunch and more refreshments.



As Editor I have decided to give the 2/2 Pioneers first heading in this Mail Bag, but I am sorry to say I have only a couple of letters. However, by placing them on top of the list perhaps a few more of their old mates will write for enquiries and a bit of news about their fellow men.

• **ERN LUNN**, C. Coy., 2/2, and now a Stock and Station Agent at Carinda, N.S.W. (For the sake of you blokes who don't know where Carinda is—neither do we, but Ern quotes "about 165 miles to Dubbo").

Ern's letter, written on 18/8/66, states that it was raining at the time of writing, but the country was still very much in the grip of the drought. The rainfall up till the time of writing being only about 5 inches for the year. Sheep and cattle population was down by at least 60 and 80 per cent., respectively, and spending power in the District was down to the bare essentials.

Ern mentions two quick trips to Sydney, but unfortunately mostly only to visit his brother who was seriously ill in St. Vincent's Hospital. We sincerely hope that your brother has recovered from his illness by now. Ern also mentions "Podge" Sullivan, whom he always calls on at the Dubbo R.S.L. when he is in town. Apparently "Podge" and Vince Digges, of Coonamble, are the only two Pioneers he ever sees in this area.

So there you are you blokes, keep it in mind. Any time you are around Dubbo or Carinda, make some enquiries as to the whereabouts of Ernie Lunn. I'm sure you'll get to see all there is to see around that area. Many thanks for the subs, it is in the hands of the worthy treasurer. Looking forward to more mail and more news for the next year.

• **GEORGE (Snowy) TOMLINSON**, D. Coy., 2/2, and now an old inhabitant of Trangie, N.S.W., mentions that he could be a disgrace as it is quite some time since he dropped the pen (I presume he means picked it up). However, Snowy writes that he enjoys reading of what the other boys are up to, so conscience rears its ugly head and he sends a letter.

Snowy claims of acquaintances with Bill Barnes and Arthur Brown at different times and apparently had a beer with Arthur on Christmas morning (not sly grog, I hope).

He met Bill Barnes in Dubbo, when Bill was off to a Water Board Meeting. It seems he too will be pleased when the drought breaks and there is water for everyone. Snow speaks of this being his two worst years and did not think it could possibly keep dry for so long.

Wishes to be remembered to Sid Boothe and mentions there are still some kangaroos left. Would also like to be remembered to Alan McInnes and Major Bill Robertson.

Snow has always wanted to get down to the Anzac Day turnout and meet some of the boys again, but apparently can't take the beer too well so has to be content with memories. Also ran into Bill Norris one day in Warren and Bill passed on the news that "Bonny" Fowler is still going strong but doesn't drink beer now at all.

Well, a nice letter, George, let's have more of them. Before closing off George mentions one boy and three girls and has got some silly idea that in about another ten years he might be able to retire. (As Editor I can assure you that this can never happen. I have only two girls, one of whom has just been married and this has set the retirement age back 10 years, and with another one with somewhat similar ideas, I'll be lucky if I can retire when the pension is due). George enclosed a cheque which has been swallowed up by the Treasurer.

From the wilds of Western New South Wales we claim a couple of letters from the Sunshine State.

• **SCOTTY ANGUS**, A Coy, 2/1, and now of Mt. Gravatt, Queensland, sent a full page of good wishes and a welcome donation, but very little news.

However, perhaps with a little bit of thought I can possibly fill the gap. Tom wishes to be remembered to all his old mates in A Coy. and does mention the possibility of being in Sydney about the end of the year. We in Sydney wish you all the best and hope that when you do get down here you can store enough news that will really make the March issue something to remember.

• **PETER PRIEST**, Ex-2/1, also a resident of Mt. Gravatt. A one page letter from Peter informing us of his employment with General Motors for the last 12 months. He has just completed his annual holiday where he travelled to Cairns and all over the old Tablelands and saw quite a few places which brought back mostly happy memories.

I would presume Peter that in a big place like Mt. Gravatt, you have probably run into Scotty Angus. If not, why not? But neither you nor Scotty mention such an occasion. Yoy will both have to do better than this.

• **GERRY COLLINS**, A Coy, 2/1, of Penshurst, just a Thank You card to the Association and especially to Jack Collis for the visits during his stay in the AGH, Concord. Many thanks Gerry for the card and I am sure that Jack Collis appreciates the thought also.

We sincerely hope that you are now back to 100 per cent. good health.

• **ALBY STONE**, Marks Point, your letter of five lines doesn't give any Editor much chance of making news for his readers. However we must presume that as you enclosed a donation you must appreciate the paper, so perhaps you could find time to scribble a little more information as I am sure some of your mates would like to know how everything goes with you.

• **MRS. ELSIE LINCOLN**, Homebush, wife of the late Tom Lincoln, a short note notifying the Association of a change in numbers of her residence. Very pleased to hear from you Elsie. Most of the boys, especially us of the Committee, know you have been a very staunch supporter of our Association and we also would hate to think that your copy of the "News" could go astray.

• **JACK CLARKE**, H.Q., 2/1, and now of Rockdale, writes a short note enclosing subs and apologies for his being unable to attend the Anzac Day. (Old Dog Tired, sorry to say, has had more than his share of arthritis this year and has been confined to barracks.) He watched the March on TV but claims it is not as good as being there.

Jack wishes the Association and the paper every success for the future and we in turn hope that this year brings you relief from the ailments of old age (says Lakey).

• **HUGHIE GREEN**, 2/1, the old stalwart from Westmead and from what I can read a haunter of the Parramatta pubs, sends a short note and a subscription which he managed to tear out of Sid Sweeney. Many thanks, Hugh. I don't suppose Sid was so happy when you relieved him of his money, but I am sure he enjoys the paper which must give him some small consolation.

As a matter of fact, Sid, I saw your nephew about a week ago, brother Reg's son, and he informed me that he is now married and the father of a first child.

That's not very enlightening I know but I cannot remember whether he said it was a boy or a girl, however you probably know this for yourself. Keep up the good work Hughie, always pleased to get some mail from you.

• **TED STRATFORD**, 2/1, and now of Lismore. An interesting letter to hand speaking of past letters and items that had been written to us about old Pioneers in that area but not posted. Ted was hospitalised in Greenslopes and again two months later, while there, received the message of Harold Buckland's death.

To all of us that attended the Grafton Smoko this was a terrific shock as would be to all members of the Battalion that knew old Buck.

Upholding the tradition of the Association, some time ago, Ted, with the assistance of Alec George, Jack Bryant and Terry McGuire, endeavoured to lend some support to the paper.

They decided, with the aid of a nominal roll, to organise an occasional get-together of the boys around the district. Many letters were written, advertisements placed in local papers, a magnificent result—NIL, not one reply—seems like some of our North Coasters are too tired even to write. However Ted and the boys have forwarded a roll of the district. Possibly this could be of some embarrassment to you chaps that received these letters and never replied.

To soften the blow here a couple of anecdotes from Ted Stratford:

1. Camel races, Julis 1940—3 wins in a row by jockey Joe Dunne. Afterwards confession by Joe of a 3 inch nail in heel of shoe. Next day routine orders quoting "on no occasion will batteries or other foul means of persuasion be used". Ted quotes that perhaps John Harnetty could elaborate on this.

2. How many know that as practice grenades were unknown to many units in training in the Middle East, that our Pioneer Training Battalion made 14 from case wire A.A.C.I. and cement "obtained" from an Ordinance Store. They were used extensively by us and Gordon Walsh, who was the instructor, could lob one in a tin at 40 yards.

3. The high brass had a conclave on the Jerusalem road and the Pioneer Battalion was one of the many units to supply a guard. We received a written commendation stating that of all units, our guard was the most outstanding. Viv. Parkinson and Arthur Ludington would remember this.

4. The Gaza Rifle Range was constructed by the Pioneer Training Battalion in two weeks under the specified period.

NOMINAL ROLL OF LISMORE AND DISTRICT

2/1st:

Jack Bryant, Casino Road, Codrington, Alby Bettens, Fitness Camp, Lennox Heads; Merv. Andrews, Gundurimba, Loyal Butcher, c/- P.M.G., Murwillumbah; Alec George, 66 Wilson Street, South Lismore; Will Hood, c/- Rural Bank, Casino; Bill Lowe, Crown Street, South Lismore; Terry McGuire, 45 Phyllis Street, South Lismore; Bob Lehman, 116 Oakley Avenue, Lismore; Don McGill, c/- P.M.G., Wardell; Norm McEvoy, River Street, Woodburn; Harry Mortimer, Parkes Street, Lismore; J. McMahon, Union Street, South Lismore; Monty South, Hunter Street, Lismore; Ernie (Pappy) Morris, Wyrallah, via Lismore; Ted Stratford, 122 Wyrallah Road, Lismore; E. Spicer, Molesworth Street, Lismore; Col Scholes, c/- North Co-op. Mert. Co., Casino; Geo. Wightman, Oliver Street, Lismore; Timbs, Goonegerry; "Snow" Weston, Fowler Street, Lismore.

2/2nd:

Jim Allen, The Pocket, Mullumbimby; P. Barnett, c/- E. J. Eggins Pty. Ltd., Lismore; C. Lake, Mullumbimby; K. Lake, Mullumbimby; K. Mallett, Fruiterer, Woodlark Street, Lismore; Pat Malone, c/- R.S.L., Evans Head; T. Nolan, 118 Wynnum Road, Wynnum, Queensland; Rev. O'Connor, c/- R.S.L. Broadwater; Kev. Rayward, c/- Gordon & Son, Lismore; Eddie Weston, Tweed Street, Lismore; Dick Walker, Molesworth Street, Lismore; Ken Wilson, Caniaba, via Lismore.

Quite a formidable list as you can all see and this does not include all our stalwarts from Kyogle and district so it seems there is room for a lot of improvement on the far North Coast. What about it you blokes? Harold Leese is always willing to go from Grafton at any time, so make a splurge and do some good for yourselves.

In conclusion Ted sends his many thanks to all at the 1965 Re-union, with a special mention to Eric Guthrie and Tommy Godden for all the friendship they bestowed on him.

A really great effort Ted and I do hope that it stirs something in some of the other chaps, who we know could really give us good information if they put their minds to it.

• **BOB BREWSTER**, A Coy., 2/1, and now the proprietor of Stor-a-Bord surf equipment at Manly, sends along a donation and a word of thanks for the mention in July issue. Good to hear from you Bob, and we all have read of the donation of Boards to the boys in Vietnam. We can assure you that all old soldiers are very proud of the fact that donations of this sort are still sent, and know that the boys in the North would be more than grateful to be on the receiving end. Addresses of 2/2 Association would have to come from the Secretary, but I would imagine that a phone call to him would put you right on the beam. Don't forget the BI-ANNUAL, a phone call to my home address will get you the method, and the time I shall be making the trip in November. Keep the date open.

• **KEN COLLIER**, H.Q., 2/1, and now of Essendon, Victoria, sends a cheery

letter in which he passes on the information of long service leave after seventeen years in the Fire Brigade. Good luck to you Ken, 17 years is a mighty long time. Ken quotes of the wife and six young ones all enjoying good health.

• Congratulations for the six. I suppose you take all the credit anyway, but don't worry "Mumma" we know different.

Ken brings to mind the tent into which he was assigned on the Atherton Tablelands. Oh, boy! Peter Priest, Justin Sullivan, Norm McEvoy, Roger Knight and Len Laphorne, what a crew. I can quite imagine that to be taught the card game of "Solo" by such a gang would indeed "cost you plenty to learn". However Ken, with such good teachers, of one thing you can be certain, you must get a little back if you can find three more players of the game around Essendon today.

• **ERIC FACE**, 2/1 D Coy., and now well and truly established at Loftus, sends a really interesting letter, to which you have already had a reply from our secretary. Eric's appreciation of the articles by John Harnetty are endorsed by many more of the boys, all of whom derive great satisfaction by flashbacks into the past.

Eric has passed on a suggestion that there could possibly be many of the boys who have films or slides of the old times, and that perhaps a night could be organised to view with much interest the events of times gone by. This information has been handed on to the Social Secretary, Bob McGregor, who will make the necessary enquiries and establish whether such a night could be arranged.

We, the Committee, sincerely hope that your application for the pension has by now been received, and dealt with, and that you have many more years in which to dervie the full benefit of same.

• No more news offering so will close this column off with the usual, good luck, good health and much happiness to all.

—Lakey.

Keep This For Your Reference

February 17	SOCIAL COMMITTEE MEETING
March 24	COMMITTEE MEETING
April 7	PIONEER NEWS WRAPPING MEETING
April 24	WREATH LAYING CEREMONY AT CENOTAPH
April 24	ANNUAL MEETING—AFTER WREATH LAYING
April 25	ANZAC DAY MARCH—FOLLOWED BY OUR RE-UNION
May 26	COMMITTEE MEETING
July 21	PIONEER NEWS WRAPPING MEETING
August 25	COMMITTEE MEETING
October 27	COMMITTEE MEETING
October 20	COMMITTEE MEETING
November 3	PIONEER NEWS WRAPPING MEETING
November 17	BI-ANNUAL RE-UNION

2/1-2/2 PIONEER BATTALIONS ASSOCN.

PROPOSED
**COUNTRY
SMOKO**

TO BE HELD ON N.S.W. NORTH COAST

SATURDAY, 10th JUNE, 1967

(QUEENS BIRTHDAY WEEKEND)

PORT MACQUARIE TO GRAFTON TO CASINO/LISMORE

In February, 1963, a Country Smoko was held at Port Macquarie. Then October, 1964, saw the Association move up the Coast to Grafton. Now we propose to move even further up to the Casino/Lismore area, in an endeavour to cater for members in that district.

In order to do this, we need two or three interested members to help organise such a function.

We have found from past experience that the cost of such a function is considerably less when held at a Returned Soldiers Club or an Ex-Servicemens Club, so please write to the Secretary with any suggestions you may have.

Numerous requests have been made by members such as Ted Stratford, Alec George, Jack Bryant, Terry McGuire and Eddie Weston in the Lismore area to hold a country smoko in their district so, with the Social Secretary and his team behind interested members, they should be able to make arrangements for a bumper re-union.

This proposed Country Smoko was discussed at a recent Social Committee meeting and it was agreed the Committee could only propose a date and town and the success of the venture would be dependent on the following:

- (1) TWO OR THREE MEMBERS TO ASSIST THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE IN THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS.
- (2) MEMBERS TO NOMINATE A VENUE, SUCH AS A R.S.L. CLUB.

Please write NOW to the Secretary with your suggestions.

ROBERT MCGREGOR,
SOCIAL SECRETARY.