

PIONEER NEWS

759-5491

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

759-5491

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ANZAC FUNCTIONS, 1968

By WALLY (Desso) PAGE, Publicity Officer

As usual your Social Committee has been hard at work, led by your Social Secretary, Bob McGregor, organising Anzac Eve and Anzac Day functions at which we hope to have a big roll up. Show your Social Committee you do appreciate their work by your attendance.

WEDNESDAY, 24th APRIL 2/1 AND 2/2 WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

As in previous years, we ask as many members as possible to help us remember our battalion mates, who unfortunately are no longer with us in body but are in spirit.

We meet at 7 p.m., 24th April, at No. 19 Hunter Street, Sydney, where members of 2/1 and 2/2 form up to march to the Cenotaph in Martin Place. Once again we take pleasure in inviting the Ladies Auxiliary to join us. We lay the wreaths on the Cenotaph at 7.30 p.m.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2/1 AND 2/2 WEDNESDAY, 24th APRIL

On completion of our wreath laying ceremony we proceed to the British Ex-Servicemens Club, No. 5 Hamilton Street (just 250 yards from Cenotaph), for our Annual Meeting at 8 p.m. We ask all who can possibly attend to please do so, this is for the good of your Association and your attendance is appreciated.

ANZAC DAY MARCH THURSDAY, 25th APRIL

The big day is close at hand once more, as in past years we ask all 2/1 and 2/2 association members who are able to march to assemble at the same

starting points as last year and once again follow the banner to Hyde Park. For those who don't know, the 2/1 meet for the march in Phillip Street, near King Street, and the 2/2 meet for the march in Macquarie Street, outside the Sydney Hospital.

ANNUAL REUNION THURSDAY, 25th APRIL

The 2/1 reunion will once again be held in the quarter deck lounge of the Castlereagh Hotel on the corner of Park and Castlereagh Streets, Sydney.

The 2/2 reunion will be held at the Randwick Literary Institute, Clovelly Road, Randwick, after the march.

AFTER THE MARCH

On arrival at the Castlereagh Hotel each member will be given a free hot meal in the Quarter Deck Lounge and later in the afternoon a free afternoon snack will be provided. Any of the 2/2 who find they can't make their own get together but can make the Castlereagh, please come along, the same invitation goes out to 2/1 to join the 2/2 at their function. But please remember without our members we can't survive so please help us to make all these Anzac functions a big success and we ask all members to please wear their medals.

See you there fellows.

Wally (Desso) Page

2/2 News Jottings

By DON LAWSON

The Pioneers once again held a Remembrance Service last November at the Campsie Methodist Church, the service being conducted by the Rev. Stan Claughton, our ex-Padre.

The attendance was not as good as usual, try and make it next year fellows, you will not regret it.

Jim Fields and Bob Dixon assisted with the service which was very impressive and gave food for thought.

One particular face missing for the first time was that of Cappy Christian, he had just come home from hospital after an operation, but at time of writing he is back to his old self again.

Another one making a slow recovery after a long illness is Bob Lee. The best to you Bob, from all your friends.

After the service all were entertained at supper by the Church Fellowship in the Church Hall where the guests were welcomed by the Padre, responses were made by Arthur Stafford, Basil St. Vincent Welch and "Monty" Montgomery of the 2/1. In their response they reminisced of old mates and brought back some happy memories.

The service next November will be held at the Leichhardt Methodist Mission, Wetherill Street, Leichhardt, as the Padre has been called to another circuit. Make a note now, and try to be there.

The Anzac re-union on Anzac Day will be held as usual at the Randwick Institute, Clovelly Road, Randwick, hope to see you there. Healthy new year to all.

"PIONEER NEWS"

The "Pioneer News" is posted on the 1st April, 1st July and 1st November each year.

Copy must be lodged with the Secretary six weeks prior to these dates.

Letters must contain — Surname, christian name, nick-name (if any), Platoon, Company, Battalion and present address. When forwarding your new address, please include your old address.

The cost is 50 cents per annum.

SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE

As treasurer, may I take this opportunity to thank members of both battalions for their donations during 1967.

April and May are undoubtedly our most expensive months, with catering for the reunions, the Annual Meeting and a lot of other expenses to contend with.

May I remind those members who have not paid their yearly subscription that it is now due.

With your subscription, please send some news of your family and your happenings. After all, the "Pioneer News" is a good way of keeping in touch with friends. What may seem commonplace to you is often news to somebody who knew you many years ago.

DOUG. SHEARSTON, Treasurer.

Highest Honour Paid To Padre McIlveen

Padre Mac (Brigadier Arthur McIlveen) of the Salvation Army, and a Life Member of the "Rats of Tobruk Association" was invested with the highest honour this religious organisation can offer at the Congress Hall, Sydney, on Wednesday, November 1 last year, namely "The Order of the Founder".

This meritorious medal which is their Y.C. was instituted in 1917. Since the gazetting of this highest honour, only 60 officers, and 51 soldiers in the Army have been given this particular award to date.

"Mac", as we old diggers know him, earned for himself a place in Australian Military History for the inspiration and practical help he so unselfishly gave to the Rats of Tobruk.

No one will ever forget the old beaten-up gramophone which was wound up by hand, he had in his dug out, or rest room, to entertain everybody whilst having a cup of tea and biscuits. This incidentally has an honoured place at the Canberra War Memorial now.

The continuous visits to the hospitals, and giving comfort to the wounded and sick diggers in Tobruk, won the greatest praise and admiration of all.

We ex-servicemen remember with fond memories the citation the late Sir Leslie Morshead gave him during that particular siege, quote:

"You had so little to give, yet your constant smile, faith in victory, courage, the complete disregard for your own comfort and safety, your humility and self-effacement, the driving force which took you far beyond the call of extraordinary duty, the refining influence you brought to bear upon the hardened and weary soldiers of many nations, the comfort you gave the wounded and the dying, friend or foe. All these things will stand forever as a symbol of a Christian and a soldierly gentleman, your mark of a valiant Australian."

The large upper gallery and the auditorium was packed for such an occasion, and every regiment, unit and battalion that was in Tobruk had representation there to pay their tribute and respect to this man who was a good friend to all irrespective of colour, creed or nationality.

Just before the proceedings commenced, the Eastern Command Military Band in their scarlet tunics and looking very smart, marched on to the platform in the hall, whilst the Congress Hall Band formed up as a guard of honour on the floor of the auditorium.

When the crowd was seated, "Mac" entered the hall and what a tremendous welcome he received from the "Rats" 18th Brigade mob, ex-servicemen and women, and representatives of all public organisations.

The Padre gave a great wave for such an ovation, and called out loud to his old digger mates, "Sunshine on the Hill", that favourite hymn of his which he must have played hundreds of times on that old gramophone during his services at Tobruk. This was greeted with loud handclapping.

The meeting opened with the Eastern Command Band playing the National Anthem. This was followed by the congregation, accompanied by both bands, singing "Onward Christian Soldiers", which certainly brought back memories.

Colonel Dalziel was the next speaker, and during his speech stated that in the commencement of the Salvation Army, the founder of this organisation wanted Godly daredevils and he certainly got a beauty when Brigadier McIlveen joined.

Next, sheafs of written tributes were read out with telegrams of congratulation for "Mac" from Ex-Service Associations in England, New Zealand, India and all over the Commonwealth and the Polish Legion.

Even a number of both Federal and State Parliamentarians sent their best wishes.

Apologies were received for non-attendance from Lady Morshead, who unfortunately broke a bone in her foot through a fall earlier in the day, Matron Farthing of the Concord Repatriation Hospital, Concord, Jack Bertram, Secretary "Rats" of Newcastle and the Honourable William John Fulton, M.H.R. who was a "Rat" and was to have represented that branch in Cairns, but whilst enroute to the gathering was urgently called to Canberra for a Federal Parliament Meeting.

Mr Ken McBurnie, President of the N.S.W. "Rats" Association gave a glorious ovation of tribute to the Padre, which was indeed very sincere, and won the applause of everybody present.

The Rt. Hon. Sir Victor Windeyer, K.B.E., C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., E.D., M.S., LL.B., represented the Australian Military Forces and gave a speech of appreciation and high esteem for "Mac".

When he finished, the applause given by the congregation was indeed tremendous which demonstrated their endorsements of our ex-Brigadier's truest sentiments.

Music by the combined two bands, and items by the Petersham Salvation songster Brigade followed.

Mr. Justice Athol Richardson also spoke of the daily untiring efforts "Mac" had achieved, and was still doing to help and assist the unfortunate. Mention was made of a "Tobruk Rat" who during his last days on earth through war injuries, and very recently too, made a final wish that when he passed to the great beyond Padre Mac officiate at his burial. Death relieved the old Digger of his agonies and the widow wired the Salvation Army, Sydney, for this man as per the wishes of her late husband. Contact was made and our Mac flew to Cairns immediately,

and conducted the service in the local church and the burial. This was just typical of Brigadier "Mac".

Next when Lt.-Col. Cook pinned the award on Mac's uniform and congratulated him, the whole assembly stood and sung "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow" which was accompanied by both bands, followed by great applause.

In replying, despite being well over 80, and as active and vigilant as ever, our friend had the huge crowd in fits of laughter as he recited, reminisced, humoured in his most responsive speech which more or less brought the huge building down.

At the conclusion of such a glorious occasion, all the old diggers just absolutely surrounded him and expressed their best wishes and appreciation. It really was very pleasing to see such a representation from this Association who came also to pay their respects to such a great man.

— Monty Montague, 2/1.

2/2 PIONEERS ANNUAL REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

This year's Remembrance was held at the Canterbury Methodist Church, Canterbury, Sydney, on Sunday evening, November 12, 1967, and it was indeed a great pleasure to be present and hear Stan Claughton, the Padre of the 2/2 deliver his usual sermon.

In welcoming all old Pioneers, their wives and families, he stated just how proud and happy the Ladies' Guild, Church Committee and himself were to have them.

Jim Field of the 2/2 read the lesson, and the organist rendered some musical numbers which were appreciated. After the service was over we were entertained to an evening's entertainment in the Church Hall where the ladies provided excellent light refreshments.

Speakers from the Church Committee, Ladies' Auxiliary, etc., then spoke with enthusiasm of the pleasure which was theirs in being hosts to our Association again.

Stan Claughton in his speech fully endorsed the previous speakers' sentiments and stated how proud and thrilled he was to see his old coppers again.

Don Lawson, President of 2/2, very ably responded on behalf of both Battalions. Truly, it was a glorious evening, but the roll-up could have been much better by our members in token of the great amount of work and arrangements made by these people who work so hard and leave nothing to be desired, so we can with our families and friends, have a most enjoyable evening.

Therefore it is sincerely hoped that the attendance at the next Remembrance Day Service will be much better attended, so please, in all sincerity, do your very best to be on parade for this occasion.

Monty Montague, 2/1.

2,000 Pay Tribute to Ray and Marie Smith

Almost 2,000 people attended a funeral service at Kyogle on Friday, 27th October, for Ray and Marie Smith, who were killed in a road accident at South Gunurimba on Sunday, 22nd October.



Portion of the 180 Ex-Servicemen who marched as guard of Honour ahead of the cortege. The march was led by Leo Ferris, Norm McEvoy, followed by Brian Jackson, Bill Lowe, then as per photo, Jack Boyd, Ray Blanch, Peter Bell, Bruce McNaughton, Joe Leis, Jack Buchanan, Bill Hoffman, while further back in the march was Cec Blanch, Ted Felton, Jim Hall, Jack Sherman, Toby Hale, Bob Lehman, Ted Vaughan, Clancy Scholes and Fred Blanch.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Smith died when their station sedan and a car collided on the Bruxner Highway, about four miles south of Lismore.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith were two of the best known and most popular citizens of the Kyogle district.

Mr. Smith was president of the Kyogle Legacy Club, a member of the R.S.L. sub-branch and of the Kyogle Show Society's Committee.

He served during World War II as an officer with the 2/1 Pioneer Battalion.

His wife, Marie, was president of Kyogle Quota Club.

Both were two of the principals in a Kyogle firm of stock and station agents. Mr. and Mrs. Smith took an active interest in community affairs.

The funeral service was held at St. James' Church of England, Kyogle, at 1 p.m. and was followed by another ser-

vice at the Lismore Crematorium at 4 p.m.

The Rector of St. James', Canon J. W. Winslow, described the service as more of a civic funeral than a congregational funeral.

The Presbyterian Minister at Kyogle, Rev. L. Ollett, and the Methodist Minister, Rev. A. Parsons, also took part in the service.

A St. James, 500 people packed the church, while another 1,500 stood outside and heard the service through an open glass wall of the building.

Canon Winslow said the esteem in which Mr. and Mrs. Smith were held in Kyogle and district was shown by the number who attended the service.

The service was attended by representatives of almost every organisation in Kyogle.

The shire was represented by the President of Kyogle Shire Council, Cllr H. C. Junor.

Members of Kyogle Lions Club, Kyogle Show Society and Kyogle Quota Club and Legatees formed a guard of honour outside the church.

SHOPS CLOSED

The service concluded with a bugler sounding the "Last Post" and the recital of the "Ode to the Fallen."

Members of the R.S.L. sub-branch and members of the 2/1st Pioneer Battalion, a unit formed in Kyogle during World War II, carried wreaths from the church to the two wreath cars.

They then formed ranks, and led the cortege, at slow march, from the church to the fringe of the commercial centre of Kyogle.

During the service, every business house in Kyogle was closed.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith's two children, Bruce, 17, and Sue, 14, were accompanied by their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Chambers, of Sydney.

Many Kyogle people came to Lismore for the crematorium service which was also attended by many Lismore people.

Editors' Note —

All Pioneers send their deepest sympathy to Bruce and Sue and their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Chambers.

We are indebted to Ray "Joe" Blanch for the above local newspaper cutting. Ray states he attended the funeral with Bill Hoffman, Jack Boyd, Peter Bell, Bruce McNaughton, Ted Felton, Norm McEvoy and many more 2/1st Pioneers would have been there only for distance to be travelled.

Bill Hoffman our County Vice-President also sent cuttings from local newspapers, as did numerous other Pioneers, and we thank all members for their contributions, but regret to say space does not permit us to include all of them.

Article and photo is by courtesy of the "Kyogle Examiner", to whom the Editors thank for the loan of same.

Bi-Annual Reunion, 1967

By WALLY PAGE

Well, if you remember it was during the period of our beer strike but our Bi-Annual went on as advertised. We had plenty of the amber stuff but we didn't have the numbers we expected to drink it.

We had 38 members attend, the poorest showing yet, but despite that we all enjoyed our evening, what with drinking and eating, swapping yarns and gathering general information about each other.

We had a good time in nice surroundings at the British Ex-Servicemen's Club and to cap the evening off good and proper we had Jock Woods and his entertainers. There was Max Hudson, Charlie Lindsay, Joe Cutts and Pete Trefelis. These band of entertainers played guitars, mouth organs and sang songs for us, well done fellows.

CHIT CHAT BI-ANNUAL SMOKO

TED SKOYLES. As usual Ted is first to arrive at any Pioneer function, Ted came up from Wollongong for our Bi-Annual Smoko. Ted has been to them all, Sydney, Newcastle, Port Macquarie, Bundaberg, it's no trouble to him. I reported in a previous issue of Ted's daughter's intended marriage to Chris Corcoran, well the wedding came off and was a great success. The Association wishes Shirley and Chris Corcoran every happiness. Doug Shearston and his wife Roma, attended as representatives of the Association.

"MUM" KERR was seen giving the one armed bandits a bashing at the Bi-Annual, but he soon gave them away when the results proved negative. "Mum" now lives at Forestville, a suburb of Sydney. He reports of having seen Billy Packard and Uncle Sid Cooper; according to "Mum" both are a picture of health but like us all, ageing. He reports of having seen Lofty Barlow at Ourimbah near Wyong. Our regards to you all fellows.

BOB LONG would like to have a hit back at the certain committeeman who said—when St. George league team played Cronulla, the Stains would eat them—Bob would like to point out that only four of the Sants team lived in the St. George area, the rest of the team lived outside. So he claimed they had outside assistance. Bob was lucky enough to win our Bi-Annual raffle of an Opera House Lottery Ticket. I haven't heard if he won anything or not, let's know Bob.

"HOOT" GIBSON was sighted in Sutherland and according to our informant he is carrying quite a bit of surplus weight, watch that waist line old boy, but if you're healthy and happy what does it matter, our best "Hoot".

IVOR GARNER was at the Bi-Annual looking fitter and healthier than ever, he tells me he is now a Sydney County

Council Supervisor for the Auburn District, congratulations on your promotion Ivor, but if there is any member living in Auburn having power trouble, guess who you can blame.

JACK LLOYD was with us again, still the same big ball of muscle, he reports that Charlie Johnson has had a spell in Royal Prince Alfred Hospital. Hope you are O.K. now Charlie, nice to see you Jack.

SAILOR WITHAM was another early starter at the Bi-Annual but by the time you read this Mr. and Mrs. Sailor will be somewhere in Europe I imagine, because Lucky Sailor and Mrs. Witham will have left our shores on the 3rd March for a trip to London on the Western Star, they will travel to London via Panama. They will spend one week in Devon and Cornwall, eight days Ireland, then over to Europe for 15 days in Spain, and then hope to go to Vienna, Italy, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, The Balkans and Greece. Well I know I can speak for all the Association and wish you both a wonderful trip and we hope to see you when you get back in November. Good luck to you Sailor and Mrs. Witham.

BRICKIE WALL. I met Brickie in Sydney one day and when I remarked how well he looked he replied "So I should, I've just got back from a world tour". Getting a bit of a habit isn't it, but not me, worse luck, but our congratulations Brickie.

"SINGAPORE JOE" (A. WINDON). I met "Singapore Joe" and his wife and child in the city, I would like to apologise to Joe and his good wife for not stopping and talking a little longer to you both, but I was escorting a chap carrying quite a large amount of American currency and it was an urgent delivery to another bank. I want you both to know that I am sorry and I would like to meet you again and have a talk.

HENRY SMITH up from Melbourne on holidays dropped in on us at the Bi-Annual. I believe Henry does a day's work for the National Bank of Australasia five times a week. That's pretty good going Henry, nice to see you.

JACK STANTON. Yes, Mrs Stanton's son Jack was at our Bi-Annual Smoko and it was nice to see you too Jack.

CLEM MARONEY. Yes I found Clem casting his very critical eyes over Wynyard Park early one morning. If you ever have the pleasure of strolling or sitting (or for the young at heart petting) in any of Sydney's fine parks and gardens, spare a thought for Clem Maroney. Clem has been beautifying our fair city for 20 years, the last few years as I believe Supervisor. Good work Clem keep it up, but just a word of advice, don't stand too long in the one place in any of our parks, those pigeons can become very dangerous. Our best Clem.

Wal (Desso) Page

LETTER TO THE EDITORS

My Dear Max and Bob,

Thanks for publishing my last send-up in the November issue. I have a couple more on the stocks, and will send them up to short order. I've been a bit busy with a few features for the United Kingdom as a spare part for one of the Commonwealth Departments, and it has filled in a lot of the time. As I may have told you, I'm living in semi-retirement, but I haven't lost any enthusiasm for batting out a little something on the old tripewiper.

I always look forward to the old news-sheet, and it gives me some touch of pride to see that my name is still on the mast-head. I enclose a little something for the eager paw of Doug Shearston—and it's not afore time. I didn't come up to the Smoke this Christmas, but have planned to get there around Anzac Day, all being well. I've missed two marches with the old herd, and it's about time I smartened up the footwork.

I'm a member of the Melbourne Branch of the R.S.L. down here. Its headquarters are at Duckboard House, of which you've no doubt heard, and it's the foundation branch of the Commonwealth, combining the old hands from South Africa as well. If any of the old 2/1 blokes are down here, I'd like to hear news of this. There may be a few in Melbourne, but as it's chiefly 2/2 territory, I haven't struck any of our own happy family. Of course, I saw the 2/2 boys march last year, and a ruddy fine turnout they had. Of course, you had my on-the-spot report for that occasion.

Having had a bad crackup while working with a semi-governmental body down here, I spent several weeks in Heidelberg and in Rockingham, the Repatriation's convalescent home which is run by the Red Cross. At the ripe old age of 54, rising 55, I'm no longer a good prospect for the journalistic staff labour market, but free-lancing provides me with a steady income.

I'm rather glad I branched out from journalism in newspapers to radio writing and production, and back to newspapers again. The experience has all come in very handy. There has been some agitation to bash a little more general knowledge into the heads of some of the up-and-coming generation, and we of the old brigade who really worked at the craft are finding that there's little fear of finding ourselves on a selected street corner with a begging-bowl and a tray of shoe-laces.

I had Christmas dinner with one of my old press-agency cobbers and his charming wife. I came home more bloated than a python who's just eaten a string of wild pigs, but that's the digestive hazard about this time of year. You might pass my kindest regards around and about, and I shall look forward to cutting up a few old touches with the mob if the Lord preserves my battered carcass between now and Anzac Day. So, for the meantime, the best of good wishes to you, yours and ours for the New Year.

Cheers, John Harnetty (2/1)



EDITORIAL

Before going into my usual run down of letters received since our last edition I would like to say that the terrible accident that cost the lives of Ray Smith and his wife was as stunning a shock as we of our Association have had in many years. To all the members whose letters make reference to this tragedy, I wish to say that I will not make any reference to it again in the Mail Bag pages as there is a full article elsewhere in this edition.

"DIAMOND WEDDING"

On with the show and on the lighter side, a letter from **JOHN MCKNIGHT** (2/2), and now living at Parramatta, N.S.W., has a request that we give space to an article on his foster parents' Diamond Wedding Anniversary celebrated at the R.S.L. Hall, Coolamon on 1st October, 1967.

Mr. and Mrs. John Irvine arrived in the Young district from South Australia in March, 1907, and were married at Young in October, 1907. As the years passed along, the family grew, but the farm did not, so another property was purchased out of Young where they remained until they attained retirement. In those in-between years the family of Mr. and Mrs. Irvine increased to five sons and one daughter, and two foster children, John and Dougall McKnight, of Sydney. As happens in families like this, they continue to expand and they now have 23 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. To mark this great occasion, telegrams were received from Her Majesty the Queen; the Governor General, Lord Casey; State Governor, Sir Roden Cutler; the late Prime Minister, Mr. Holt; State Premier, Mr. Askin, and many others. To this honoured list, we of the Pioneers Association, would like to extend our heartiest good wishes to the Irvines and their family and may they continue to enjoy life to the fullest.

Well John, I hope this is something like you requested and that the family get some small enjoyment out of reading same.

A reasonable mail was received in this past period—six letters from the 2/2 contingent and 14 letters and two telegrams from the 2/1.

CLARRIE PAKES (2/1), and now of Erskineville, Sydney, sends along as usual, his substantial subscription—in the hands of the treasurer, Clarrie, but not a lot of news regards himself, only that he is fit and well and wishes all the very best for 1968.

HAROLD LEESE (2/1), and still in Grafton, sends his usual cheery greetings and the news that he has decided to give the electrical game away and try his hand at becoming a Manufacturers Agent in Grafton, the far North Coast and the Tablelands. We wish you every success old mate. Harold also tells of the engagement of his eldest daughter, who will be married later this year and intends making her home at Maclean. Harold has also offered to give a thought to a country Smoko this year on the North Coast, possibly the long weekend in October, but, we should have more information on this in our next paper. Sorry I missed you when you were down Harold, however as you say you will be down again, so look forward to a visit, even if it has to be short.

AUSTIN RONAN (2/1), and still out at Edgecliff, where the toffs all hang out, sends along a page of incidentals plus the fact that he attended the Ninth Division Wreath Laying and Dinner with Jack Pearce and a couple of other "Rats" and claims a good night enjoyed by all. Thanks for the letter Austie, and good luck to yourself and Mother. See you at the Wreath Laying in April.

JOE BLANCH (2/1), one of the Kyogle boys and now up at Beaudesert in Queensland, sends along a newsy letter with the information that they have had a visit from Jack Richards, ex-driver, and his wife Olive, who called on them while doing a trip up North. Joe also has been on holidays and made a trip along the beaches and down as far as Moree, where son Bill is in the bank. While at Moree, Joe went on safari out as far as Crooble where he popped in on Charlie Wilby and family and had a few days with them. Joe took a glove and helped with the burning, the stable and a few rounds on the plough. Also called into Glen Innes where he met Teddy Felton who works in a timber-mill there. Joe has taken up that rugged sport of Indoor Bowls and plays once or twice a week, wife Mavis also plays. You want to be careful Joe, those beers at each end can get very dangerous toward the end of the night. Also mentions a quick quote "saw Bill Dundas in Brisbane one day", but does not say whether he was talking to him or just a passing glimpse.

MICK ROBERTS (2/1), and now a resident of Leeton sends along a donation to club funds for himself and also for **PHIL MAHY**.

Mick speaks of a Seven Division Reunion and speaks of Jerry Painter, Jack Purcell, Phil Mahy and Jack Allidice? I think the writing became a little scrawled there Mick. However it sounds as though it went off pretty well.

CHARLIE WILBY (2/1), and now out at Crooble, via Moree, sends along a donation. I made it this time Charles, and a few digs at yours truly. However I answered your letter personally Charlie, so will pass along your items of interest to the mob. Charlie now only weighs 13 stone and the doctor seems a bit concerned. I wonder what he would have said if he had seen you at your fighting weight over there in Palestine, but I can still agree that Mum would say you are still too heavy.

Charles has had a visit from Joe Blanch and a letter from Fred Brookes. Fred apparently had been celebrating his 25th Wedding Anniversary and apparently too well as he was not too good at time of writing. Charlie has a son Bruce, up at Vietnam—been over there about seven or eight months now and it does not seem to worry him. However, old boy, I am afraid that that crooked old leg of yours would be no good over in Vietnam, those Cong blokes would slide through them.

PAT LOUGHREN (2/1), and now at Nambour, Queensland, sends along a donation to the treasury and his good wishes to all 13 platoon and good mates of yesteryear. Pat sounds a bit like a travel talk when he quotes of Nambour as the capital of the sunshine coast. Main crop of the area is sugar cane, but is also noted for pineapples, bananas, with small crops of strawberries, beans and peas. Pat says he is falling away to a shadow—now weighs only 25 stone and suggests that he would be a little out of place on the football field now. Pat is always on the lookout for any old pioneers, so if any of you blokes are going North, keep the offer in mind.

JACK WILSON brother of Herb Wilson and Post Master at Bellata, N.S.W., sends along a short letter thanking the boys for their assistance in regard to Herb's accident in the desert, we will continue to hope that the information is some good and that Herb gets all the help he deserves. Thanks Jack for your letter and do continue to keep in touch. Hope you enjoyed the committee meeting that you had the opportunity of attending.

HENRY SMITH (2/1), and now living down at Mt. Waverly, Victoria, sends along a cheque for the Association and paper, and sends along the hope of attending the next Smoko night to renew the old acquaintances.

Two telegrams were received in November, one from Bill Hoffman, Kyogle, wishing the best for the Bi-Annual Smoko, and Christmas Greetings to all

members, and one from Dennis George, ex-Sig. Sgt., and now a member of the services at Larrakeyan Barracks, North Territory Command.

BRYAN SMALLHORN ("C" Coy. 2/1), now of Armidale sends along a sub to the treasurer and with kindest regards, with a special mention of John Harnetty.

SAILOR WITHAM (2/1) — and as this magazine goes to press, is about to sail out of Sydney on a world tour. Sailor leaves on 3rd March, for England via Panama and will be away from Australia for nearly 12 months. His trip includes tours of Devon and Cornwall (England), plus trips to the Scandinavian Countries, Balkan, Ireland, Spain and Portugal. In between this they hope to squeeze a few days in Paris. They return to Australia via the Suez Canal if Nazzar lets them, if not they will return via Capetown and Durban. Sailor quotes, as it seems a bit silly sometimes but he would rather spend the money this way than give it to the Government. However, he has promised to send along a written travel talk of some of the places he will see and this will be passed on in our Pioneer News. Good luck Sailor.

HUGH GREEN ("C" Coy. 2/1), and still a regular writer from Westmead, sends along his usual newsy letter. Hugh quotes that he looks forward to the paper and especially the articles by his old "C" Coy. Q.M. John Harnetty. Hugh sees quite a lot of Jack Collis and Jack Brown where all are members of the Auburn R.S.L. Also meets Vic Lewis on the train each day where they both descend on the city together. Hugh intends going to Euabalong for the coming Anzac Day to be with some of his mates from the scrub country, so will not be at the Castlereagh this time. However, he sends his greatest regards to all "C" Coy., with special mention for Keith Curtin, Bill Chisholm, Justin Sullivan and Pinchy Bannister, also to the Secretary, Treasurer and Committee of the Pioneer News who make the little paper go along so smoothly.

NEWCASTLE NEWS FLASHES

By One Peter Seddon

Peter sends along a cheque to Treasurer and a letter of two pages, so much of interest to all members that I am writing verbatim.

We had quite a gathering on the holiday weekend, October, 1967, when the Branch of the "Rats of Tobruk" Association organised a Smoko at Port Macquarie. The Pioneer presentation was extremely strong and in the car with Peter were Bruce Mitchell, Sid Jopson and Jack Bertram. First stop was Bulahdelah where they were met by local storekeeper Billy Wade, who insisted that they retire to the bowling club for morning tea. On entering the club, they were welcomed by three more Pioneers—Jack Russell, Sandy Abercrombie and "Glido" Jack Griffiths. After an hour or so at the club, came the time to depart, much as they tried, they could not persuade Billy Wade to go with them (urgent business), so they progressed to Taree for another tea break. On arrival at the port, they were

welcomed by Noel Peterson, Bob Juleff, Ted Skoyles and after about two drinks "Nobby" Ted Felton, ex-Kyogle boy whose address, Peter, is Roseberry Sawmill, via Kyogle, N.S.W.

This indeed was a great representation of our battalion and I am sure that each and every man had a really good night. Peter goes on to say of the wonderful meal—fish, lobster, grog and wine and a bloody beautiful hangover the next day, where as the more he drank so the crooker he got, that reasonable old chap, and this really lively time took him three days to recover.

Jack McCracken has been into Concord, where we would presume that Jack Collis has already been in touch—Peter and Coy. were invited to a Polish Soldiers' Dinner held at Maitland, where Jack Griffiths would have the honour of unveiling a plaque in memory of General Kozciusko, a Polish patriot leader—this is the first of its kind ever done in Australia—also visiting Newcastle over the last period was Jack "Bluey" Moxey and wife, where once again the excuse for fraternal feelings and a get together was too good to miss. Peter claims that "Desso" Page has got his numbers mixed with regard to that beer he owes him, however Pete did say that "God Willing" he will gladly pay on Anzac Day, 1969, so there you have it "Desso", keep your fingers crossed. (Newcastle Out.) Thanks Peter, a really great letter and one that makes all those who have missed out on your little excursions, so much the poorer for it.

NEV O'CONNOR (2/2), now living at Empire Vale via Ballina, sends along a sub, and the rather sad news that Jim Ireland had passed away up in Brisbane. Jim was playing bowls in Brisbane, when he had a heart attack and within the fortnight had passed on—Nev was really shocked with this double tragedy to our Association, as both Jim Ireland and Ray Smith were two men that took him under their wing at Central Station back in 1941 when he was finding difficulty in obtaining a passage home to Ballina. Thanks for your letter Nev, and can assure you that Don Lawson must read this paper and should try to put pen to paper. Nev still sees such mates as Eddie Weston, Ken Wilson, Kev Rayward, Pat Malone and Phil Barnett. Not a bad group for you to get tangled with Don!

FRANK NORTON (2/2), and now a resident of Waverley, Sydney, sends along a donation and his change of address, four lines. I am afraid it's a little difficult to make a lot of news out of this Frank, but change of address noted for future posting.

PAT DOWD, now of Coonabarabran N.S.W., and a new member from the 2/2. Very pleased to receive the letter Pat, and glad that you could enjoy the first copy of the News that you had seen. Pat was with the 2/2 at Tarakan and tells of his always singing cowboy songs, nickname "Tex", however send along your requests Pat, and they will be published each issue, which incidentally comes out three times a year. Pat enclosed a sub to cover the first subs for the year.

LEN PREEDY (2/2), from Stanton Park, Western Australia, sends along a request that he would be visiting N.S.W. in January and for any addresses of his fellow members in the Lithgow area. This request was answered by the Secretary, so I hope that you found some interests on your visit. Len is a new member to the Association so I hope that we could come up with a few good answers to your request. Keep in touch Len, and maybe your trip over from the West by car could provide some entertainment.

ALLAN SHAW (2/1), of Sydney, writes to say Bill McCarter has left Mt. Isa Band and is now lead cornet with the Bundaberg Federal Band. The Secretary of Newcastle ROTA is Jack Bertram, 247 Lawson Street, Hamilton. Many thanks for your newsy letter Allan — Hope everything is now all right.

PHIL RUBIE (2/1), of Surry Hills, sends along a donation and states he is very pleased to receive the Pioneer News and read the doings of his mates. Thanks Phil.

That's my issue for this edition, I hope you all enjoy the reading, and looking forward to seeing most of you on Anzac Eve at the Wreath Laying and Annual Meeting and again on Anzac Day.

LAKEY

MORE FREE TRAVEL FOR EX-SERVICEMEN

For those members of the Association that are eligible and have not heard of this new concession given by the Government, I will reprint Mr. Askin's statement which is as follows:—

"The State Government will give extra travelling concessions to incapacitated ex-servicemen living outside Sydney and Newcastle from March 1, 1968.

The Premier (Mr. Askin) said yesterday eligible ex-servicemen will be granted three return first-class passes a year between any two railway stations in New South Wales.

If they prefer, ex-servicemen may retain their existing entitlement to unlimited first class travel within N.S.W. on payment of a second-class fare.

Alternatively, an ex-serviceman on a war pension of less than 75 per cent may elect to get a 90 per cent rebate on motor vehicle registration tax.

Those whose war pensions are 75 per cent or more will continue to receive the registration tax rebate as well as the fare concession."

Now there is a little less reason why some of you country lads can't get down to see us more often, particularly on Anzac Day. I know time is also a big factor in coming to Sydney on Anzac Day but we would like to see more country members make a bigger effort now you can come down at less expense.

Hope to see you fellows.

Wal Page.

THE KOKODA TRAIL, 1942

(Continued from November 1967, Pioneer News)

Brigadier A. W. Potts, the commander of the 21st Brigade, was ordered to recapture Kokoda with a view to facilitating further operations against Buna and Gona. On the 16th August, the 2/14th Battalion began the start across the track, where they soon ran into troubles. The precipitous nature of the track, the weight of the load that had to be carried and the ever-present mud exhausted the men. The greatest problem, however, was that of supply. Shortage of native carriers, the need to build up supplies and the unreliability of air droppings delayed the arrival in the actual battle area of his battalions.

On 26th August, the Japanese struck heavily at the Australians and they were steadily forced back—from Isurava to Alola, through Eora Creek, Templetons Crossing, Myola, Efogi, Menari, Nauro to Ioribaiwa Ridge, beyond which the Japanese could not be permitted to penetrate. The defence of Ioribaiwa Ridge therefore became the immediate problem and this difficult task was taken over from the exhausted remnants of the 21st Brigade on 14th September by fresh troops from Australia, the newly-arrived 25th Infantry Brigade under Brigadier K. W. Eather, augmented by the 2/1st Pioneer Battalion and the 3rd Infantry Battalion C.M.F.

It was at Isurava that a member of the 2/14th Battalion, Private Bruce Steel Kingsbury, was awarded the Victoria Cross posthumously—the first such decoration to be gained in territory administered by the Commonwealth. The citation covering the award stated that:

... the battalion to which Private Kingsbury belonged had been holding a position in the Isurava area for two days against continuous and fierce enemy attacks. On 29th August, 1942, the enemy attacked in such force that they succeeded in breaking through the Battalion's right flank, creating serious threats both to the rest of the Battalion and to its Headquarters. To avoid the situation becoming more desperate it was essential to regain immediately lost ground on the right flank. Private Kingsbury, who was one of the few survivors of a platoon which had been overrun and severely cut about by the enemy, immediately volunteered to join a different platoon which had been ordered to counter-attack. He rushed forward firing the Bren gun from his hip through terrific machine-gun fire and succeeded in clearing a path through the enemy. Continuing to sweep enemy positions with his fire and inflicting an extremely high number of casualties on them, Private Kingsbury was then seen to fall to the ground shot dead by the bullet from a sniper hiding in the wood. Private Kingsbury displayed a complete disregard for his own safety. His initiative and superb courage made possible the recapture of a

position which undoubtedly saved Battalion Headquarters, as well as causing heavy casualties amongst the enemy. His coolness, determination, and devotion to duty in the face of great odds was an inspiration to his comrades.

Although the Japanese had suffered severe battle casualties and sickness they were still a formidable and outnumbering force of about 5,000 fighting men. They began a vigorous probe of the Australian front and flanks and Brigadier Eather felt that if he continued to hold the Ioribaiwa position he would soon have his force fully committed to defensive tasks and would thus lose any freedom of movement to adopt the offensive. Consequently, he made a brave but wise decision on 16th September to draw back his line to Imita Ridge, the last readily defensible high ground in the foothills above Port Moresby.

For a period there was a comparative lull in the fighting as both sides consolidated their positions. The Australians, however, had a surprise in store for the enemy. Two 25-pounder guns of the 14th Field Regiment, dismantled and manhandled up the track from Port Moresby to Owers Corner, poured nearly seven hundred rounds into the Japanese barricades and weakened their defences. On the 25th September fighting patrols from the 2/25th Battalion penetrated enemy lines in the neighbourhood of the main track and on the 28th September our troops commenced their offensive.

The enemy had now inherited all the difficulties of an extended supply line that had previously been ours. Soon these factors were to assist in his downfall. Ordered to retreat to the coast the Japanese abandoned stores and equipment—even unburied dead—as they withdrew. There was ample evidence that they were starving, dropping with dysentery and dying from malnutrition. Our troops pressed on, regaining Nauro, Menari, Efogi, Myola and Kagi.

The 25th Brigade caught their rear-guards on the approaches to Templeton's

Crossing and, after hard fighting, handed over to Brigadier J. E. Lloyd's newly-arrived 16th Brigade (6th Australian Division) on 20th October. As the Japanese neared their base their food difficulties eased while our supply lines again lengthened. The nearer the Australians got to Kokoda the more stubborn became enemy resistance and it was now evident that the Japanese had brought fresh troops up from the coast.

The 16th Brigade skirted Kokoda along the east bank of Eora Creek until they were halted in front of strong enemy positions at Oivi on 5th November. Meanwhile, the 25th Brigade, back in the fighting, reoccupied Kokoda on 2nd November. On the next day supplies were dropping there and the work began of putting the airfield in order for aircraft landings so that, for the first time in the mountain campaign, the Australians would have an airfield as a supply point and for the evacuation of their wounded.

The enemy was providing stiff resistance at Oivi-Gorari and losses on both sides were heavy. On the 11th November the 16th and 25th Brigades closed their pincers and in one of the swiftest and fiercest actions fought in the New Guinea campaigns the Japanese broke and fled losing about 600 of their troops killed.

On the 12th November the 25th Brigade advanced towards Wairopi, where a wire-rope suspension bridge had previously crossed the swiftly-flowing Kumusi River; but Allied aircraft had recently destroyed this bridge completely. Many fleeing Japanese, including General Horii, were drowned there and when the first Australians arrived (on 13th November) they also faced a difficult crossing, so that it was not until the 16th that the main advance was resumed.

That day, with our troops advancing on Gona, marked the beginning of a new phase and the end of the Kokoda Trail fighting. The crossing of the mountains had been a remarkable feat of arms by both Japanese and Australians. At first the former were

25-pounder guns of the 14th Field Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery, being pulled through dense jungle in the vicinity of Uberi on the Kokoda Trail. Members of the regiment are being assisted by the 2/1st Australian Pioneer Battalion, September, 1942. (Photo: Australian War Museum.)



KOKODA TRAIL, 1942

superior in jungle warfare but ultimately the Australians learned to out-match the Japanese in bushcraft and so adapted their supply machinery to the use of aeroplanes and native carriers that they were able to meet these problems far more effectively than their enemy.

From the beginning to the end of the Battle of the Kokoda Trail the Japanese committed at least 6,000 men. Against them, though never more than one brigade at a time until the final clash at Oivi-Gorari, the Australians committed three experienced A.I.F. brigades, three militia battalions—the 39th, the 53rd and the 3rd—The Papuan Infantry Battalion and the 2/1 Pioneer Battalion. The Australian units were, however, never at strength, and at one stage the two brigades could not muster between them a complete battalion of effectives. The Australians lost 625 killed and approximately 1,055 wounded, but for every one of these casualties two to three were treated for illness, especially malaria in its various forms. "Tropical diseases, such as scrub typhus and malaria, were even more deadly than the Japanese", said General Sir Thomas Blamey, the Commander-in-Chief of the A.M.F. "Men fighting by day could not protect themselves from such insidious enemies. Often no fires could be lit to cook meals. Emergency rations, which were very light, had sometimes to be eaten dry. Australia owes a great deal to her sons who endured much and, through self-sacrifice, conquered."

The Kokoda Trail fighting was the most crucial land battle in Australia's history. It was, in every sense, a battle for Australia and during its painful process the people of Australia became aware as never before of their peril. Against a background of almost total mobilisation every citizen followed the fluctuations of the campaign with great

concentration, with apprehensiveness and with special admiration of the heroic efforts being made on their behalf by the forward troops. But as the invaders finally turned their backs on Port Moresby, Australia knew that its fighting men had again demonstrated their remarkable adaptability, tenacity and endurance against an enemy that had earlier seemed invincible. The victory proved to be the beginning of the end for the Japanese and never in the theatre were the Allies again forced to play the unpalatable role of defender. For the soldiers themselves, leaders and privates alike, the operations resulted in many well-learned lessons—especially those which revealed weaknesses in existing doctrines and tactics for conducting operations in such an environment. These same weaknesses were ultimately changed to strengths and led to the Australian becoming recognised as an expert in this difficult and ruthless art. Valuable knowledge, also, came in the battle of Man versus Nature, in the constant fight against disease, in the conservation of manpower and material and in the whole complicated area of logistical support for jungle fighting. But aside from these long-term effects the harsh events of the Owen Stanleys, and the victory there, provided a boost to morale that contributed immeasurable impetus to the relentless offensives yet to come.

WELFARE REPORT

Since our last Pioneer News, members visited in hospital have been Jack Westwood, Fred Loveliss, George Levy and Hugh Green. If there were others in hospital and I did not get to see them, then I apologise, for twice since our last news I have been laid up myself. But now that I am about again, I'll get to see you all as soon as possible.

JACK COLLIS, Welfare Officer.

OFFICE JARGON AND DEFINITIONS

It's In Process.

Absolutely beyond any power of human understanding, but the office boy might come up with something.

We Will Look Into Your Request.

By the time it has gone the full rounds of the establishment, we hope you will have completely forgotten about it, too.

Under Most Active Consideration.

The entire staff are looking everywhere for files on this particular subject. *Let's Get Together On This Subject.*

Come down to my office as I am sure you're as confused as I am.

Channels.

A complete blocked mess left by inter-office correspondence.

A Clarification.

To fill in the background with so many items that the foreground goes underground.

We Are Making A Survey.

Much more time is needed to think of an answer.

Give Us Your Views On This Important Thinking.

We have already decided the issue, but a hearing will be given you as long as it does not interfere with what our verdict is.

Will Advise You Later.

If we can work out what we are doing we will let you know.

To Note and Initial.

Let us spread the responsibility amongst the entire office staff.

The Subject Will Be Expedited.

To add further confusion to the already confounded commotion.

Return For Modifications.

This will be forwarded to you, in kit form, put it together if at all possible. Glue optional.

Unimpeachable Source.

The fellow who started the rumours in the first place.

To Negotiate.

To seek a meeting of masterminds without knocking together of heads.

1968 PIONEER PROGRAMME

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 24: COMMITTEE MEETING

JULY 26: PIONEER NEWS WRAPPING. COPY TO PRINTER JUNE 24

AUGUST 23: COMMITTEE MEETING

OCTOBER 25: COMMITTEE MEETING

NOVEMBER 4: PIONEER NEWS WRAPPING. COPY TO PRINTER OCTOBER 1

NOVEMBER 22: BI-ANNUAL SMOKO

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

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.

1968 ANZAC SMOKO

CASTLEREAGH HOTEL

Quarier Deck Lounge

Castlereagh Street, Sydney

THURSDAY, 25th APRIL, 1968

• FREE LUNCH

Commencing at 11.20 a.m.

PIONEER NEWS

759-5491

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

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DOUG. SHEARSTON

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R. LAKE and M. HERRON

President:
ALLAN McINNES

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ANNUAL REPORT BY THE PRESIDENT

PIONEERS — It is with much pleasure that I am honoured to be presenting the Annual Report again this year.

1967-68 has once more been most successful and I thank all who have co-operated in the true Pioneer spirit of unity to make the Association such a happy and united group.

SOCIAL FUNCTIONS, organised by our Social Secretary, Bob McGregor, were the wreath laying ceremony, Annual Meeting, Anzac reunions, bi-annual reunion and Social Committee Meetings. All have been well attended and I hope that the coming year will see an increase in members attending these functions.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS, five in all, with an average attendance of twelve members, were conducted.

NEWSPAPER WRAPPING MEETINGS, three in all, with an average attendance of nine members, were organised by our Secretary, Max Herron.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS by our Treasurer, Doug Shearston, have been most healthy and with the assistance of our auditor, Arthur Watson, the Association has moved into its strongest position to date.

WELFARE WORK has been carried out by Jack Collis and the following members have been visited in hospital: Messrs. B. Jones, R. Lee, J. McCracken, B. Taylor, F. Loveless, C. Vickers, M. Flynn, H. Olde, T. Lawrence, C. Woods, I. Evans, J. Westwood, G. Levy, H. Green and C. Johnson.

PIONEER NEWS has been produced in the months of April, July and November by our Editors, Bob Lake, John Harnetty and Max Herron, assisted by our Publicity Officer, Wal Page.

On behalf of all Pioneers I would like to pass a sincere vote of thanks to the aforementioned members.

Just to give a brief outline of some of these functions. Each has to be organised—arrangements have to be made—Pioneer News has to be edited and news collected—when printed each copy has to be addressed and posted. Meeting places organised and booked. Correspondence attended to. Annual reports and statements prepared for the Chief Secretary. Cash books kept, banking carried out and taxation returns made out.

The above are just some of the regular duties carried out by the Executive, but enough to show that the Association is only in such a position because of the work carried out by the Executive and Committee in such a thorough manner.

I would impress on all members the importance of keeping the news up to the Editors. Every member is asked to write an article about his section, platoon or company. Don't forget to mention the personal, human interest side. Do not concern yourself about the phrasing—the Editors will lick it into shape.

In concluding, I would like to thank all members who attended our meetings and functions, as we do need these "regulars", and each year we should try to unite more. I do stress, that with the passing of years, it rests with all of us to co-operate more fully and unite even stronger.

Allan McInnes.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Association was held on April 24, at the British Ex-Servicemen's Club, Hamilton Street, Sydney, after the wreath laying ceremony. There was quite a good gathering from both Battalions, and in welcoming those present Allan McInnes, the President, said he was pleased to see such a good roll up and paid great credit to the Executive and Committee for their efforts over the past year.

After the minutes of the previous Annual Meeting had been read, Max Herron, our Secretary, followed with his yearly report and it really surprises one with the colossal amount of correspondence he receives and acknowledges during the course of the 12 months.

No society, association or company can survive without a good secretary, and after hearing Max give his reports, we must be thankful our Association is in such capable hands.

This was followed by our Treasurer, Doug Shearston, introducing the audited financial statements which revealed what a healthy financial position we are in. He was commended by all for the returns which were passed around for perusal, and thanked by all present for such comprehensive statements and accounts.

Our Welfare Officer, Jack Collis, followed with the report of the hospital

visits over the year. They were considerable and deeply appreciated by our mates who were patients. It grieved him sadly to state he would be moving from Auburn to Umina and missing some of his regular visits to the various hospitals, but his deputy, Harry "Monty" Montague, would be available at all times. Jack was praised for the colossal job he had done and was still doing in regard to hospital visitations.

Bob McGregor, Social Secretary, submitted a report on functions arranged and held during the year and same was warmly received by those present.

Our esteemed friend of the 2/2, Don Lawson, spoke most highly of our Association and again stated how proud his unit were of being members.

At 9 p.m. the lights were dimmed and all stood in respect for two minutes and recited "The Ode". The meeting then resumed and refreshments were served.

All positions were then declared vacant and nominations were called for our new Committee which resulted as follows:

President: Allan McInnes.
Patron: Col. Geoff Graham.
Vice-Presidents: G. Finlay, W. Hoffman, J. Bertram, D. Lawson, J. Dodson, J. Westwood, W. Jolley.
Secretary: M. Herron.
Treasurer: D. Shearston.
Publicity Officer: W. Page.
Reporters: 2/1, G. Finlay, 2/2, D. Lawson.
Welfare Officers: J. Collis and H. Montague.
Social Committee: J. Dodson, G. Finlay, M. Herron, R. Lake, W. Page and D. Shearston.

General business then followed and quite a number of matters were discussed. A suggestion from Cyril Amies regarding articles on the regimental history of the 2/1 was received and it was agreed that all members of that Battalion be requested to forward any photographs, literature or documents they may have to our Secretary to assist in compiling such articles.

Telegrams containing best wishes for the Anzac functions were received from Dennis George of Darwin and Pat Loughren of Nambour, Queensland.

The meeting closed about 10.30 p.m. and the interest taken by those present fully expressed their great confidence in the Association.

H. Montague.

2/2 Anzac Day - Melbourne

In Melbourne, the 2/2nds Association turned out nearly 200 strong on a rough head-count. This was made possible because your correspondent was with the Korea and South-East Association, and we were early starters.

It was easy to duck around from the breaking-off point at the Shrine, and wait for the rearguard. How was the Sydney turnout? It's to be hoped that the roll-up was as good as the Melbourne one, although I should think the weight of numbers would be with our old pals from down south.

Near Flinders Street Station, an old ady was waiting for the 2/2's to come past. She had a big grey-backed pennant with the flash and "2/2 Pioneer Battalion" emblazoned on it. She must have had a bit of a shock when I gave old Harry Nicholls' celebrated bellow "Up Pioneers!" and then waved frantically at the old lady. She looked very pleased, and I'll bet she fairly split the wind with that pennant when the old mob finally rolled up about an hour later.

It was a good show, with the vanguard headed by four old Light Horse Veterans on good high-stepping 'Walers, their emu-plumes showing up well in the wind.

I kept a weather-eye out for any 2/1st among the odd bods, but didn't see any, but the boys of the 2/2 in the Association will have no reason to be displeased with the turnout of their brothers in Melbourne.

By the way, the 2/2 column was headed by one of the Salvation Army bands, with probably a few ex-members among the players. So they can't complain they had no good martial music for the throwing of the old plates-of-meat.

Of those who dug their old uniforms out of moth-balls, I'll give the palm to the R.A.A.F. and the R.A.N.R. Many of the R.A.N.R. officers turned out with swords, which gave a bit more colour to the occasion, although they were scabbarded and carried at the left-hand trail.

Naturally, in spirit I was back in Steak-and-Kidney with the old team, but you can't have everything. It was good to see our sister Battalion old hands turning out in such numbers. Some of the lads seem to be running a bit to—ahem—rotundity.

It must be this good Melbourne beer, which is a good drop, although these days I'm strictly a Schweppes man.

If any of the Sydney mob want to take issue about the relative qualities of Melbourne and Sydney beer, I shall have to refer them to one who may be known to a few of the 2/2 men.

He's a brew-master at Carlton and United, and so knows his ale. His name is Albie Grant, and we were ward-mates at Rockingham Convalescent Hospital at Kew after discharge from Heidelberg. He says Sydney beer isn't bad, but . . . And any of you old soaks from the 2/1 who want to start a civil war about this, include me out. For medical reasons, I'm strictly neutral.

John Harnetty, 2/1

Letter to Editors From Melbourne

My Dear Max and Bob,

I knew the 2/2 boys would be disappointed if they didn't hear how their old pals in Melbourne shaped up. As explained, I got a grandstand view, and it's all in the report. Many thanks for the copies of the Pioneer News, which are always welcome. I was glad to hear of Bryan Smallhorn, and I do hope things are faring simply fine with him up in Armidale. It was good also to know that Hughie Green is still one of my constant readers. He must have forgiven me my deficiencies as a quartermaster, because I recall over the years it was always the devil's own job to find a pair of strides to fit him. Remember the Q.M.'s woe—"Sizes? We've got two—big'uns and whoppers!"

Any word of Bill Doney, Ted Dolling, Sammy Lewis, Snowy Hemmings, Teddy Wilcox, Ernie Greenwood, Ewan Laurie, Joe Smith (Care of the Hotel Wiluna, Wiluna), Harry Collins, Tommy Hugo, Viv Parkinson, Jim Armour, Bill McCarter, Stumpy Curtin and the good Lord knows how many others?

It was a bitter blow to hear of the tragic deaths of Ray Smith and his wife. He was a stalwart among stalwarts from the boys of Kyogle and surrounds who were such grand early starters in the 2/1. If ever a unit could be proud of its founding members, we had that pride in the Kyogle boys—soldiers to their toe-plates and fighting-men to a man.

RAY AND MARIE SMITH BIG LOSS

The years have taken many of the old hands since the end of World War 11, and the loss of Ray and his wife in such a double tragic involvement brings home the brutal old lesson that you may be fated to survive a war and not survive the peace. Like many others, I didn't have the pleasure of meeting Ray with his wife, but God rest their souls and comfort their children. And of the men from the north of the State, any word from George Nichols, Leo Ferris and others? Not forgetting Adrian Buckley, who held the final command. What of Col "Nugget" Neale, Geoff Graham, Gordon Osborne, Tom Ledgerwood and John Trevethick, who may sustain his old interest in the mob, although I believe he has a C.M.F. command of his own? I will write a few more reminiscences ("I'll spin you yarns, I'll tell you lies, I'll drink yer rum and eat yer pies, etc.") and to prove that the Page One box, 30pt caps, stipple top and bottom, set 8 pt blk, foot-line "Doug Shearston, Treasurer" has not been overlooked, here's a trifle with my love and kisses. And to my literary critics, a hefty boff up the bracket! Cheers Maxie and Bobbie from John Harnetty.

From John Harnetty (Victoria).
2/1 Editor.

2/2 Anzac Day - Sydney

After the March, the 2/2nds held their reunion once again at Randwick Literary Institute. The attendance was not as good as usual, but the forty-five members who were present appeared to be really enjoying themselves.

Among those who attended for the first time, and others who had missed out for a couple of years were:

TOM BYE, who had a property out west, but is now settled in Sydney, having started a carrying business.

MICK BELLINGHAM, a Vietnam veteran, had a good time along with his father, Fred.

JACK FRAGLEY, who is a veterinary surgeon at Lismore, was paying his first visit.

Others who had not been along for some time were **BILL FALLAN**, **MONTY REID** from Newcastle and **JACK QUOYLE** from Canberra.

Reminding all 2/2nds that the Remembrance Service this year will be held on November 8, 1968, at the Leichhardt Methodist Church, Wetherill Street,

Leichhardt. Please make an effort to come along, you will not regret it. The Rev. Stan Claughton will be officiating, as usual.

Don Lawson.

CONGRATULATIONS

We take pleasure in announcing the birth of a son to Gail Swinburn (formerly Lake), daughter of our one and only Bob Lake. When I asked Lakey how old his grandson was he said, "Four weeks, give or take a few days".

The 2/1, 2/2 Pioneers Association wish to congratulate Eileen and Bob and in particular Gail and her husband on the birth of the infant Garry, and wishes for a long, happy and healthy life. Our best to you all.

The Association.

2/1 ANZAC REUNION

After a wonderful March in beautiful weather, approximately 120 Members came along to the Castle-reagh Hotel to partake of a very nice meal.

As always the Association gave each member a hot sit down meal, beautifully cooked by Peter—the Castlereagh Chef. Peter gave us curried prawns and rice, or braised steak and vegetables, and when that ran out he put on grilled steaks, and it was very gratifying to hear that everyone made the same comment—a very nice meal.

Our timing was very good because no sooner had we been served the last meal, the old clock struck 12 p.m. which signalled time to throw the Bar open and wash the meal down and then the stories started—some present day stories, and stories of yesteryear 1939-45 Vintage.

I would like to say, and I know a lot will agree with me, this was one of our best years for the March and Re-Union and our thanks goes out to the boys who waited on the tables—Jack Collis, Peter O'Brien, Pat Walsh and Mick Dobson, and a special thanks to a non-Pioneer by the name of Ted Dick who did a valiant job of helping us out. Ted is a future son-in-law of Bob Lake, keep him Bob, he's a beauty.

We raffled a dozen beer and it was won by Dick Chalmers ("D" Coy.), but Dick very graciously donated the dozen back to the Association for the team of stalwarts that arduously wraps your "Pioneer News" for you. Thanks Dick, very much.

Once again thanks to all who helped make our Re-Union the success it was. Wally (Desso) Page.

Grandslam Close

Terry McGuire, 2/1, of South Lismore, went close to a grand slam of the Northern Rivers District championships recently.

He won the fours with John Creighton, Albert Mallett and Jack Ross as partners, then the triples in association with Ron Coombs and Ross.

On Easter Sunday morning, at the Ballina R.S.L. Club, he defeated Jim Vismas (Bangalow) in the final of the singles.

In the afternoon, with Mallett as his lead, he was beaten by the brothers, Merv and Roy Clark, of Alstonville for the pairs title.

More than 1,500 people watched the match in which McGuire needed to trail the jack into the ditch for five shots and the title, but missed by the proverbial blade of grass.

McGuire also won his club singles, beating the title-holder, Arthur Black, the greenkeeper, in the final.

As a result of his recent good form, McGuire was chosen in the Combined N.S.W. side to play Victoria.

LAST POST

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

NX25057 Sgt. COOKSON, 2/1.

NX65651 W.O. PARMENTIER, 2/1.

2/1-2/2 PIONEER BATTALIONS ASSOCIATION

will hold a

COUNTRY SMOKO

at the

Ladies' Bowling Club, Grafton On Saturday, 5th October, 1968

COST OF 2 COURSE MEAL — \$1.50 PER HEAD

ACCOMMODATION (APPROX.) — \$5.00 PER HEAD

DRINKS TO BE PAID FOR

Harold Leese, of Grafton, has given his wholehearted support to the committee in pursuing another smoko at Grafton — "WAIT FOR IT!" This time, the first, it has been decided that we invite the wives to attend the night with you. As you have read in the previous issues of the News, the success and wonderful time enjoyed at the last Grafton do, both on Saturday night and the Sunday, down at the river, where some local wives were present, was a wonderful day, so this time make it for all and not only the few.

The Committee agree that the ladies can only improve the show, and let's face it, it will let them see that the men they married are men that enjoy the mates made in times of war, and that we invite the ladies to enjoy these mates with us.

Harold has been hard at work on the venture with the venue, LADIES BOWLING CLUB, with TWO COURSE DINNER at \$1.50 per head!

ACCOMMODATION again has been taken into consideration where a tentative booking of a motel (20 couples) has been arranged. Also a CARAVAN PARK. This is a start, if the support is there we can get more. Method of travel — you may travel how you wish, but again if by car or train advise with your acceptance. Reason — car travellers can proceed by their vehicle a little easier than train travellers to the respective motels. Sydney town starters should get together and arrange themselves into a group, as this way we could travel in the same carriage by rail and if possible, with enough starters, a group booking can be applied for.

Harold and his wife Grace, have also been out travelling to the respective spots, and have numerous sites to offer for a Sunday barbecue and picnic, so come on chaps, let's get really behind the efforts of your fellow members and make this the first mixed "Pioneer Smoko" the daddy of them all. One in all in, let's see you come up with the support and get your nomination forms and deposits direct to Harold Leese as early as possible. Remember, this is his only method of calculating the number to be catered for, in food and lodging.

PLEASE FILL IN THIS FORM — USE BLOCK LETTERS

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

Unit..... Company..... Platoon.....

Address.....

I enclose \$1.50 per head for meal and \$5 per head for accommodation. I will be attending the Country Smoko and will be travelling by TRAIN/BUS/CAR/PLANE.

I will be travelling with.....

Post this NOW, with your money to:

HAROLD A. LEESE, 184 TURF STREET, BOX 298, GRAFTON. 2460.
Organiser for Grafton Country Smoko.

2/1 ANZAC FUNCTIONS

MARCH AND REUNION

The assembly of 200 strong by the 2/1st in the march was gratifying, seeing it was held during the week, when a fall off was expected.

It was pleasing to see stalwarts like Bill Hoffman, Kyogle, Fred Davenport, Brisbane, Ted Stratford, Lismore, Ted Skoyles and Ian Kirkwood, Wollongong, Bill Jolley, Mildura, Victoria.

Many new members were enrolled and were made very welcome by Committee members.

Upon being called in to order by the Marshall, Jack Westwood, it was not long before the members were on their way, with Col "Nugget" Neal and Major Stan Jones leading the march.

For the first time, the unit had an excellent Salvation Army Band. It appears Bill Jolley organised this with the Major-General and it turned out Jack Westwood's brother-in-law, Charlie Cross, was with the band.

We are indebted to Hughie Hilton, Bandmaster of the Hurstville District Band for the fine performance they gave us. We only hope we see them with us again next year.

On arrival at the War Memorial, Hyde Park, our unit joined the other units in the Remembrance Service.

From here the members made their way to the Castlereagh Hotel where the Social Committee had arranged a very good luncheon. The mess orderlies were Wal Page, Jack Collis, Bob McGregor and numerous others.

During the afternoon, piles of fish cakes, fish pieces, meat pies and sandwiches were served.

All in attendance had a glorious re-union and our thanks are given to the Committee who worked continuously well into the afternoon so that members could enjoy themselves, and all members appreciated their effort.

WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

The Association's Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony was religiously carried out on the evening before Anzac Day at the Cenotaph.

Considering it was observed during the week which did not permit quite a lot of our country members to attend, the gathering at our assembly point was indeed very good. It was also very pleasing to see more wives and families of our members present on this occasion, and they were made very welcome by our Ladies' Auxiliary.

After being formed up in Hunter Street by the Marshal, Bob Lake, we marched very smartly to the Cenotaph where the Company formed up to pay our respects and honour with treasured memories those who have answered their last roll call. Following a short service, Gordon Finlay laid a large triangle of flowers in the colours of the 2/1, Allan McInnes, our esteemed President, did the honours for the 2/2 and Miss Lynne Herron, young daughter of our Secretary, placed a sheath on behalf of the Ladies' Auxiliary. Our old cobbler, Aub Brazier, then sounded the "Last Post", which, after the customary two minutes silence, was followed by "Reveille".

On reforming ranks we marched off, each member knowing full well that our solemn promise of "We will remember them" had been fully honoured.

Despite their infirmities, it was nice to see a few old Pioneer mates who were unable to participate in the march watching from the G.P.O. steps.

The wives and families were then invited by the Ladies' Auxiliary to a nearby restaurant where refreshments were provided by the Association, and according to all accounts they had a very nice evening.

Harry Montague.

up to making the trip. Hope to see you next time Tiny.

● Bill Tasker and Jack Collis have been keeping the PNRS in the news R.S.L. wise. Both played cricket for N.S.W. R.S.L. against Victoria R.S.L., Bill taking out honours as best fieldsman and Jack honours as a bowler. Both will be going to Victoria to play again, Christmas 1968.

● The old football crew were at it again. Casey Brown, Gordon Walsh and Johnny Clifford. Alf Hemmings didn't make it this year—Casey says they don't want a grandfather playing anyway.

● Taking up a lot of room at the foot of the stairs were some "A" Coy. stalwarts, Geoff Robinson, Bruce Smith, Fred Davenport, Mick Dobson, Jimmy Trotter, Arthur Montague and Gordon Finlay were only a few.

● "B" Coy. were well represented, Brian Maher, Bluey Walsh, Bob Macgregor, Gordon Walsh, Ted Skien, Jack Lloyd, Bombo Brown, Ray Lester and Keegan being only a few.

● Henry Allan and Ned Calderwood were "looking after" Tich Turnbull pretty well. Next year I will spend more time with you Henry.

● One very happy group late in the afternoon was made up of several "performing seals" and their wives. Pat Noonan and wife Mary, Bob Burnside and wife Jean, Bluey Chase and wife Carmel with our Secretary, Max Herron, and Treasurer, Doug Shearston. Also Jack Stone and Jim Robertson, all of the Sig. Platoon.

● At this stage many thanks to the two girls behind the bar from all who attended the re-union. This was the sixth year for Mamie, and Doreen has a two years in now. Speaks well for the behaviour of the PNRS when they continue to give us such good service.

● Jack Gillespie had himself a stool at one end of the bar and greeted everyone from there. He sends his regards to all who didn't get to see him.

● Bob Lake collected a few drivers out in the back room and they covered many miles. Vic Whitely, Joe Barker, Joe Bird, Snowy Jardine, Wagga Grice, Snowy Herne, Jack Pierce and Dora Black were some of them.

● We had a call in from several 2/2nd chaps on their way back from their own Battalion show: President Alan McInnes, Bill Robertson and Jim Drummond—they only called in for a few minutes but somehow they were still talking an hour later.

● Brickly Wall of H.Q. Coy. and Cec Cartwright of "D" Coy. spent a lot of time swapping stories of a recent trip overseas they each had—another who has spent three months overseas was John Flood, England, Canada and the States.

● Wal Young took a long time to get wound up, but by night time was really going. He walked me almost to Central Railway to buy a hamburger.

● Ted Skoyles up from Wollongong, was a good stayer also. Seems to know everyone and saw them all out.

Reunion Rambling G. Findlay

As usual the handshaking started in Phillip Street as we met old friends and formed up for the march.

● Noticed Steve Clarke and John Flood there—Steve for the first time in many years. Now that he has been transferred back to Sydney he hopes to be with us more often.

● Cyril and John Morahan were there for a time early also, both looking as fit and prosperous as ever.

● Had lunch with Bill Hoffman and he came to light with the following list of PNRS who wished to be remembered to all their old friends:—Leo Ferris, Jim Hall, Peter Bell, Jack Shearman, Cec Blanch, Toby Hale, Jack Boyd, Brian Jackson, Fred Blanch, Clancy Scholes, George Scholes, Keith Mason (2/2), Larry Robson, Joe Leis, Eddy Weston (2/2), Jack Buchanan and Eddy Beaumont.

● Claude Vorback and Ron Wilson of "C" Coy. were early arrivals—Claude sometimes sees Jack Mattees and Capt.

Stroud and will pass on regards to them next time.

● Down from Ipswich, Queensland, George Brooks of "D" Coy. had himself quite a day with so many of "D" Coy. about.

● "Punchy" Bannister made a late entrance and soon caught up with the old gang from "C" Coy.

● Received apologies from Frank Gillian who was spending Anzac Day out at Cobar where he is on a job. It made our day just a bit quieter, Frank, but we would just as soon have you with us.

● Visitors from the country were Ned Jennings, Ron Henderson, Tom Kelly and Ian Kirkwood. Arthur Murphy spent quite a lot of time with them also.

● Also up from the South Coast, Strawb Dale, Norm Cooper, Harry Brough—the latter a friend from the Pommy Navy who was on the Tobruk run, so we call him one of ours. We are all sorry to hear Tiny Thirby wasn't

● **DON COY** 2/1 were well represented at the Re-union by the attendance of the following members: Messrs. Eric Reynolds, George Brooks, George Talmie, "Bimbo" Bell, Bert Moore, Jim Gray, Bill Hodge, Peter Craig, Peter O'Brien, Tim McCoy, Bob McGregor, Ray Hill, Ray Gardiner, Max Herron, Dick Chalmers, Sid Percival, Jack Lloyd and Jim Anderson.

The above gentlemen stated they will be in attendance next year, and again talking about those who did not turn up (boy oh boy you should have heard the things they were saying).

● **SIGNALS PLATOON** (One Pln. H.Q. Coy 2/1) were very well represented at the Re-union in the form of Messrs. Doug Shearston, "Bluey" Chase, Ron McFarlane, Pat Noonan, Max Herron, Jim Robertson and Bob Burnside. They were wanting to know where was Keith Reynolds, Wally Parsons, Les Nicholls, Arthur White and all the other Sigs. who live in Sydney.

● **GEORGE BROOKS**, D Coy 2/1, Ipswich, Queensland, thoroughly enjoyed his Re-union with all his mates, but was disappointed to see only 22 members attend the Re-union from Don Coy. He did expect more, seeing they were the best Company in the 2/1 Pioneers.

George wishes to be remembered to all his comrades and in particular Tom Hugo. George was going to make every endeavour to visit Tom at his home.

George complimented all the Executives on the wonderful job they are doing—he brought to notice the fact that right up to 2.30 p.m. Anzac Day, the Committee members were still working on the various duties in attending to the needs of the members. He heartily thanked all the Executives present and "shouted a round".

● **WHERE IS ALF CARTER** is the cry at each Anzac Day March, since Alf took ill two years ago. At the Annual Meeting on Wednesday, April 24, the same question was asked by many resulting in Alf being nominated on to the Committee. Alf, Pioneers join the Executive and Committee in hoping you have regained good health and are able to accept the position as a Committee Member.—M.H.

GEORGE WOOD. George was at our Wreath Laying, Meeting, etc. I understand George is going for a T.P.I., well George a T.P.I. is something I don't want because if you have one—boy you're sick and I don't want to be that sick. Anyhow George we wish you well. Incidentally George is some sort of a cousin to Bombo Brown.

BOMBO BROWN. Wally paid us another visit from his little bark hut out the back of Bourke. I'm sorry, Wally has a house, not a bark hut. He tells me he has been on the look out for Wally "Sporty" Thompson, but Wally has probably gone walkabout with his lubra and piccaninnies. Thanks for coming down Wally, keep your eyes open for "Sporty" for us.

CHARLIE WILBY. Charlie wasn't with us in body, but we had the information passed on to us that Charlie has a son in Vietnam. You're the first

Pioneer that we know of Charlie that has a son in Vietnam. I don't know if I should congratulate you or feel sorry for you, but I for one feel safer knowing we have someone up there doing their bit for our country. I hate to think what would happen if they weren't up there. The Association wishes him the best of luck and a safe return home, and soon, our best to you and yours Charlie.

ALBERT BROWN. Albert is a Dairy Farmer from Badgery Creek, near Camden. Albert tells me he does 240 cows twice a day, he must get terribly tired by night time. I think I would get a bull, but I don't know anything about dairy farming. I must call in one day Albert, and see how things are done on a dairy farm, if you know what I mean.

GEOFF BENFELL. You may remember I mentioned in previous Pioneer Newspapers that Geoff is the son of John Benfell, "D" Coy., who was killed in a mine accident in 1956. Geoff has marched in his father's place in previous years in his School Cadet Uniform, but now Geoff has dropped out of the Cadets because of the heavy study he has to do for his Sixth Year Examinations. Well Geoff thanks for marching with us and the Pioneer Association wishes you luck in your exams, and I hope your bird was still waiting for you after the Re-union. Our best.

GEORGE BROOKS. Yes, George was with us and boy did he enjoy himself, and he asked me to especially remember him to Tom Hugo, and he wants to know Tom, if you still remember Choppy Wood for the cook house fire at 5 a.m. George tells me that you were a wonderful team mate and a great guy and he wishes you the best and so do we, and I can tell you Tom, George looks well. George works for the R.A.F. at Amberley Field, Ipswich, Queensland. Thanks for coming down George.

BULL GREEN. Bull has a complaint, he is complaining about the fact that the name tag he wore at the Re-union had plain "Bull" Green as his name, while the "Boree Ram" had Charlie O'Neil on his, so his complaint is if he has "Bull" on his tag, Charlie should have "Ram" on his. So whoever writes out the tags next year take care—we don't want dissension among the troops. How's that Mr. A. E. Green, of Bondi.

Just to mention a few more of the boys who paid us a visit. Steve Clark, Inspector for the Commonwealth Bank, Noel Schomberg, I don't know what Noel does for a living, but he sure does it well—living I mean. Wally Young, Wally was down from Manly near Wyndham, Queensland, Ted Skoyles as usual was there before anybody else, but at least he is keen. Bert Moore was with us, so too was Austy Ronan and Pat Noonan. Nice to see you boys.

JIM ROBERTSON. Ex Sig. Platoon, now residing at Wentworth, near Mildura, was down this year for the Wreath Laying, Annual Meeting, March and Re-union. Jim works for the P.M.G. Department, he looks well and if I may be a little bold, he drinks well and apparently enjoys it. Thanks for paying us a visit Jim, it was nice to see you again.

BILL JOLLEY. Bill is a Bank Manager, he happens to be a neighbour of Jim Robertson, or more or less I should say, as Bill also lives in the Mildura area. Bill was one of the March Leaders this year and it was Bill that gave us the "eyes right" at the Cenotaph. I might add that Bill still has a loud and commanding voice. He said he is due for a transfer to Sydney, so I expect we'll be seeing more of you then Bill. Nice to see you.

LARRY ROBSON. I don't know if I have my lines crossed here or not, if I have made a boo-boo please excuse me won't you. I think it was Larry Ex "A" Company of Newcastle who was down for the Wreath Laying, Annual Meeting, etc. Told me that Tom Hodge of Port Macquarie was down in Sydney for a mastoid operation, he couldn't get a bed in Yaralla, so had to settle for a bed in a private hospital. I sure hope everything is O.K. for you now, our best to you Tom. Incidentally Tom runs Uncle Tom's Cabin at Port Macquarie if anyone is heading that way look him up.

Thanks to you Larry for the visit and the information. I hope you enjoyed yourself. I omitted to mention that Larry is a representative for a Hardboard and Canite Sales Firm. Good luck Larry.

DO WE HAVE ANY BOWLERS?

It has been suggested to me by two ardent Pioneer Bowlers to see if I could find enough bowlers among our members to put on a match. We can get the greens, all we need is some bowlers from our members. All you have to do, if you are interested is to drop a line to me at 16 Boundary Road, Mortdale, or ring or write to Doug Shearston, 50-8374, and we will do the rest. This is a wonderful chance for a good social game, who knows we may finish up with our own Pioneer Bowling Club. So don't forget chaps, if you are a bowler and you would like to play a social game with your Battalion Members, we want 2/1 and 2/2 Members to get in touch with us.

Wally (Desso) Page

CHARLIE JOHNSON

After a long illness Charlie Johnson of "D" Coy. 2/1 Pioneer Btn. passed away at Calvary Hospital, Kogarah, on April 23, 1968.

A service was held at St. Barnabas' Church of England, Broadway, on April 26, and from there to the Eastern Suburbs Crematorium, where another service was held, the cask being flanked by members of 2/1 Pioneer Battalion and representatives of Petersham R.S.L.

Apart from the immediate family, relatives and friends, members and their wives of the 2/1 Pioneers who attended were:

Harry Mostyn, Eric Reynolds, Bob McGregor, Jack Lloyd, Ray Hill, Tim McCoy, Jim Grey, Taffy Lawrence and Joan Smith.

Unveiling "Rats" Memorial

On Sunday, 7th April, 1968, quite a good roll up of Tobruk Rats paraded outside the Five Dock R.S.L. for the march to the intersection of Lyons and Great North Roads for the unveiling of their Memorial.

Led by the Regimental Band of the R.A.A., headed by Ken McBurnie, President of the N.S.W. Branch, and commanded by Roy Jardine, the contingent marched very smartly. On arrival at the Memorial, they were formed up and a military guard from the 5th Battalion, R.A.R., took post of the catafalque party. There was a huge crowd in attendance and the official seating enclosure was filled to capacity.

His Excellency, Sir Roden Cutler, V.C., and Lady Cutler arrived at 2.30 p.m. After the National Anthem had been played, Their Excellencies were received by Ken McBurnie.

The service was conducted by our own two "Rat Padres", Brigadier MacIveen and Father Pat Reynolds. This was followed by the Governor, Sir Roden, unveiling the Memorial, which looked very artistic with concrete blocks and landscaping of red gravel around the entire base extending well back into a rock garden with a massive display of flowers in bloom. The Governor then laid a wreath, followed by the President of the N.S.W. Rats, honoured guests and representatives from all Units, Regiments and Battalions who were in Tobruk.

Benediction was given by the Padre and the Last Post sounded by the buglers, the traditional two minutes silence and then Reveille which brought this great occasion to an end.

Colour Patches and Insignias at Reception

Following the unveiling of the Memorial, all adjourned to the Rat's rooms at the Five Dock R.S.L. where a great reception had been arranged. Around the walls hung colour patches and insignias in enlarged designs of nearly every representation in Tobruk. The band of the

R.A.A. supplied music during the afternoon and they did an excellent job.

In opening the afternoon's entertainment, Ken McBurnie welcomed the Governor and his Lady, honoured guests and all present in the auditorium to this gathering. Bob Scott, the organisation's secretary, then read out a sheaf of telegrams from all over the Commonwealth congratulating the Association on such a momentous day. Also from England came cables of goodwill from the Master Gunner and all ranks of the Royal Regiment of Artillery, The Queen's Own Hussars and squadrons of the Royal Tank Corps. From India came a telegram from the Indian Cavalry Old Comrades Association, Polish Veterans and Israel Ex-Servicemen.

The one from Her Majesty, the Queen, came as a surprise and read as follows:

The President,

Please convey to the members of the Rats of Tobruk Association assembled for the unveiling and dedication of their Memorial to the men of all services and nations who served in the siege of Tobruk the sincere thanks of the Queen for the message of loyalty which Her Majesty deeply appreciates.

Private Secretary,
Buckingham Palace,
7th April, 1968

Sir Roden, in his address, thanked the Rats for the great privilege which had been given him in unveiling the Memorial, which was indeed a wonderful tribute to all those who had made such history. In a short speech he left no doubt in anyone's mind what the siege of Tobruk had done for the world.

Sir William Yeo spoke on behalf of the R.S.L.

It was very nice to see Lady Morshead and Brigadier George "Tony" Wooten in attendance on such an occasion, which was enjoyed by all.

NEWS ITEMS

The Rats of Tobruk extend a cordial invitation to any members of this Association who are desirous of taking up bowls. Expert tuition is freely available to any new players, and for the advanced players matches are always on the go, either at home or away.

You will be made very welcome at their Club any Sunday morning at Five Dock, and further information can be obtained by ringing "Monty" Montague at 76-6657.

The Drummoyne Council has arranged to have the Tobruk Memorial floodlit, and the immediate vicinity more illuminated from the street lighting system. Approval was also given for the lay-out of the large garden around the monument. To the Mayor and Aldermen of this Council we all express our deepest thanks and appreciation for their efforts in keeping before the public the Glory and Honour which was won by the "Rats of Tobruk". H. Montague.

HOSPITAL VISITING

These last few weeks have been particularly busy for visitations to our Association's members who are, or have been, patients in the various local hospitals.

Every Thursday night I visit all 2/1 and 2/2 Pioneers at the Concord Repat. Hospital, averaging six to eight patients, and on Friday evening, visit any old coppers who are inmates of public hospitals.

Jack Collis comes to Sydney practically every Saturday and assists in visiting, as there are quite a few confined to their homes with sickness.

Our visits are certainly enjoyed and each and everyone is given my phone number to ring if we can be of any assistance. The parcels of comforts distributed to our old mates by our Welfare Fund is most appreciated, and they do enjoy a chat about old times and identities.

"CURLY" BENTLEY, H.Q. 2/1 is having a pretty bad trot and is still a patient at Concord where he has been for a few weeks. This enforced spell in hospital comes at a bad time, as "Curley" is Editor of Bowls News for the local weeklies, arranges club matches and answers all problems and queries on this sport.

He is known as "Mr. Bowls" around Sydney, and quite an authority on the game. Apart from this he has a bowlers shop at Burwood, and will soon be opening another at Bankstown.

Pleased to report VIV PARKINSON is doing a little better these last few days. Viv can get about, but has to take things very easy and we all sincerely trust he will soon be in our midst again as bright and healthy as ever.

With weather conditions as they are in Sydney at present, he is confined to his home at Caringbah. Viv passes on his best wishes and regards to all and many thanks for the kindly interest in his health.

VIC WALMSLEY, B. Coy., is an inmate of the Old Peoples Home, Victoria Road, Ryde, and unfortunately is not the best. Apart from my visits he is more or less on his own, and if anyone could spare ten minutes to drop in and have a chat it would cheer him up immensely.

Recently at the Repatriation Hospital I was having a great old chat in Ward 20 with four Pioneers, Ivor Evans, Ron Bounds, Jack Norton and Joe Hickey, when who should come in but "Starvation" Bill Thomas, Q.M. for H.Q. He looks as debonair as ever, only now a moustache has been added for extra beauty. It was quite a pleasant evening, and according to him, Lord Nuffield could still learn a few things on generosity and giving things away from his own experience. Of course we all know Bill when he had the store and the traditional theme "there is none on hand, and if there was you wouldn't get it".

Bill runs the Old Vic Dancing Palace on the corner of Concord and Parramatta Roads at Strathfield, and would welcome any of the old Brigade to call there any time.

H. Montague.

WELFARE SECTION REPORT

During April our esteemed Welfare Officer, Jack Collis, who has given so much of his precious leisure time and valuable assistance to those of us who have been patients in various hospitals around Sydney for many years, moved to Umina. Owing to the considerable distance from that suburb, his visits will now be on a more restricted basis.

More calls than ever are now being received, due to deterioration of health, war service and wounds, from our Pioneer coppers. Therefore, whilst Jack is settling down in his new surroundings, his offider "Monty" Montague will be the Officer of the Day, and he will be only too happy to visit any member of this Association who is in hospital. The visits of Jack and "Monty" have certainly cheered them up and will be continued.

By writing Harry Montague at 46 Pomeroy Street, Homebush, 2140, or phoning 76-6657, or Jack Collis, 24 Hobart Avenue, Umina, 2257, you will be assured of regular visitations on behalf of our Association.



Once again we attempt to pass along the information as gained from the members, and we hope that these little flutters on Anzac Day, whether in Sydney or in the local cities and towns throughout the State has left them a lot happier, and of course, by this time, well and truly recovered.

CLAUDIE CAMPBELL (H.Q. Coy), and now at Inverell sends along his good wishes and his appreciation of the "Pioneer News". Claude notes that quite a few members are around Glen Innes, this is quite so, in fact, I suppose in that Northern Rivers districts it would not be too hard to find a lot more. Has not seen old Charlie Wilby since Grafton Smoko, that's quite a while behind Claude, as you will note in this issue, there is another Grafton do on this year. See you there! Greatest news in this letter is that Claude and wife toddled over to the Shaky Islands, New Zealand, at Christmas, where they had a really wonderful time, and our two travellers became Grandfather and Grandma for the second time. It's quite a thrill, and I suppose that the Mail Bag will be reporting quite a bit of this in the next few years. With your request for the purchase of miniature medals "Christies of Sydney" is your spot, I would imagine that they would do plenty of business by post.

JACK BERTRAM. Short letter with an apology for his non-attendance on Anzac Day but with the promise of a full roll call from the Newcastle area in the year 1969.

Nambour, Queensland, a telegram from **PAT LOUGHREN** wishing all boys tons of luck for the March and the festivities that follow.

ERNIE LUNN (2/2), and just lately moved to Wellington where he and his wife have established a stock and station agency, as Ern says, with three children at High School, one at primary and one still at home, he was forced to leave the back country, the education of the family of major consideration. All appears to be progressing favourably, our best wishes to you both, the sub in the hands of the Treasurer.

CYRIL AMIES (2/1), and now at Thornleigh, is really getting behind the move for a history of Tobruk as he quotes, "the history as stated in the school text books does not cover one paragraph".—This letter was read at the Annual Meeting where all members present promised to write an article as requested by Cyril. This is a request to all members that have an experience that would make good reading to put it on paper and send it along, don't be backward, let us be the judge as to

whether your article is worth printing. Good luck Cyril.

JACK HICKEY (2/1 C Coy), and now resident of Lithgow, where he has been employed as resident painter for the last 19 years at the Hospital. Jack's family are now all in the long arm of the work force so the family are now only a small particle, but with his job at the Hospital and his wife still very much occupied with the many organisations in the district, so all are patently satisfied. Many thanks Jack for the letter and your subs are in the worthy Treasurer's little mitts.

CLEM COOK, Bodalla, on the South Coast, a short thank you note for the copies of the "Pioneer News" that is always avidly looked for, and hopes that he will eventually make an Anzac Day in the City, has been along only once, but claims that he will make the effort again one of these fine day. Thanks for the good wishes Clem and the donation for funds joined the predecessors.

NOEL PETERSEN (2/1), and now retired with the good little woman at Wyong, sends along a donation to "Pioneer News" and best wishes to the Association for the future. Noel quotes "Tobruk Sunday" and Anzac Day passed again for another year but the interest still remains. All my personal best wishes to you and the wife, Noel—Lakey.

FRANK MOODY (2/1), and now out in the sheep and wheat country at Peak Hill, with donation for himself and one for **ABB HUGO**, who is an inmate at the Forbes Hospital. Frank tells that Abb had some trouble with a fire, with the result of that he has been badly burned. He was also at Concord for a short time but is now back at Forbes. Frank also had some hospitalisation, using poison spray, to which he was allergic, result the whole system with a bad state of poison, and as he quotes, not enough turps to wash it away with. For your inquiry, I do not know whether Abb is any relation to Tom Hugo of "D" Coy., but I believe Abb was in the transport platoon for a long while and if memory serves me correctly, left the transport platoon at Hill 69 Palestine and joined the Canteen Services, if this is so, the transport platoon send their best wishes and hope for a speedy recovery.

TED STRATFORD (2/1), and now a resident of Lismore sends along a newsy note plus some paper clippings of Terry McGuire who was only one off the grand slam in bowls in the Northern Rivers District. Terry won the singles, triples and fours, and then had the honour of being chosen to lead a State team against Victoria. A mighty good

effort and the boys of the Unit feel that you have done something not only for the Northern Rivers District, but also for the Pioneers as well. This letter of Teds was written before Anzac Day and this year, Ted was able to make the trip to Sydney where we had the pleasure of his company at the re-union, and where the above information was told in detail. Ted himself is a bowler and has as his insignia the Pioneer Colour Patch. Ted has also supplied a photo of a group of the Reinforcement Coy. at the gangway of the Johan De Witt, we can only hope that same photo will reproduce for printing. Ted expresses his thanks for the way in which he was looked after at the reunion, but does go on to explain, that unlike the city, where one big march is held, each country town conducts its own Anzac Service, and so many of our mates are officials of these functions, thus at times denying them the opportunity to make the city at that time. Fair enough Ted, and we realise this, and fully appreciate same, so if sometimes our remarks may seem a little bit selfish, just remember that it is only because we would like to see you all occasionally.

JOHN MCKNIGHT, from Parramatta, sends a short note of thanks for the article in the previous issue of his foster parents' Diamond Wedding, only too pleased to be able to assist John, and same article does provide something different, especially if someone is known to us.

ERIC FACE, of Loftus, sends along a sub to the Treasurer, and his appreciation of our little paper that he looks forward to receiving so eagerly. Eric sends his best wishes to all his mates and that a successful Anzac Day be appreciated by all.

PERCY FISK, of Condobolin, sends along a sub to bring himself up to date, in treasurer's worthy hands Perc, and also requesting information as to the doings on the big day. Well Perc, I have to be truthful, but I do not know whether you made it or not, if you did, I hope that you enjoyed yourself and if you did not, you missed a really good day.

CLAUDE KNIGHT (2/2), and now at Umina Beach on the Central Coast, sends along a very substantial donation to the cause, for which we are very thankful Claude, but you might be able to think up some little item that would be of interest to your old mates, even if it's only the one about the fish that got away—try it sometime Claude!

GEORGE PATTERSON (2/1 O.C. D Coy.), now a resident of St. Ives, Sydney, sends a subscription for the forthcoming year and his apologies for non-attendance at some of our functions, however,

his absence is understandable when one realises that he has been Australia's Africa, six years, South America, London, Moscow and Hong Kong a total of some 23 years, under these circumstances we must accept his apologies and at the same time wish him well and be glad to receive him back to our little group when such duties are behind him. George has a son still at school, but due to finish soon, and we wish him every success in the future also.

TOM HUGO, per his good wife Margaret, writes that Tom, although confined to a chair, still manages to get a little fun out of the paper. Tom is able to do a little gardening but time, heavy on the shoulders, so Margaret has enlisted the aid of the Paraplegic Association and he is now doing a few jobs for them at home. By the time you all read this, he will have also been given some work in the workshop at Hurstville and Margaret is overjoyed at the result, his spirits much brighter, and as we all know, a happy man helps to make a happy home. A surprise visit—the day after Anzac Day by George Brooks of Don Coy. with the aid of a few bottles of D.A. almost made the roses bloom in April and a grand old yarn was enjoyed by both. Thank you Margaret for your letter and rest assured they are never boring.

MRS. BETTY WHITE, wife of the late Jack White (2/2), sends a short note of appreciation of the paper and a donation to same. Many thanks Betty, and I am to inform you that you must not send any further donations, that while you wish to read our little paper, it will be posted as usual, and we sincerely hope it gives you some little entertainment and enjoyment, but should you wish to write some little item at any time, we would be most thankful to receive and publish it also.

JACK COATES (2/1), and now living at Woy Woy sends along a newsy letter and a photo of H.Q. Coy. at Hill 69, February, 1962. However, as all historic writers do on occasions, the letter dated 1-8-67 was actually not posted until 15-4-68, however Jack it's still a good letter and worthy of a repeat on your memories. Jack Coates' own story on two of the unforgettable of the Pioneers, **LYLE CHENEY** and **THREE COURSE KELLY**. The late Lyle was a L/Cpl in November or December, 1940, at Palestine. An NCO school was in session under the guidance of John Macadam. Mac tossed the 303 rifle to Lyle and requested that Lyle give the squad a talk, as he would to new recruits. Lyle went well for a few minutes, then with a wink at the school, opened the rifle and said, "This here is the breech where you puts the bullet, and this other end is the muzzle where the officer looks down every morning to see if your thumbnail is clean". Macadam was forced to call a smoko period until school could settle down again.

Three Course Kelly, whose name was derived from his statement, always a three course meal at Kelly's Kitchen, Bully Biscuits and tea, started with him

at Greta, and established him as the greatest "Cook Scrounger" in the 2nd A.I.F.—Somehow Kelly would have a fire going in the worst possible places, and this fact was due to his always carrying a supply of wood in his ration truck. Wooden petrol cases were his special love as these could be broken and laid flat, thereby taking up very little room. At a particular period just out of Benghasi, Kelly had a big stew going in the 12 gallon. One of the boys asked Kelly where he got the wood for the fire. Up on the escarpment, in a tomb, off a Wog coffin said Kelly. This sunk in for a few minutes and then the bloke said, "Well what about the piece of wood you are stirring the stew with". "Same coffin," said Kelly still stirring away. As Jack Coates remarked, "Knowing our mob they would have scraped the bloody stirring paddle." Jack Coates' final message—If Wally Brown sights Wally Thompson out of Bourke somewhere give themselves best wishes from him, and as he says, "Three of a kind is always a good hand, so a big hello to Wally Desso Page," and his best regards to all hands and all cooks, particularly. Thanks a lot for your letter Jack, let's see one a little more often.

BERT HUTTLEY (H.Q. Coy., 2/2), sends along a welcome letter from Bloomsbury in Queensland, and a cutting from the local news regarding Anzac Day in the area. Nice to hear from the 2/2nds, Bert, come again sometime. Bert mentions the marriage of his daughter Julie, on June 29, to Vic Lee (a printer in the "Guardian" office at Proserpine), and we wish both young people every success in their new life together. His wife, Shirley, was lucky enough to recently win a portable TV set in Colgate's "My Wildest Dream" contest. Thanks for the donation, Bert, it has been passed on to our worthy Treasurer.

Another letter from sunny Queensland from **PHIL CRAMSIE** (Bn. H.Q., 2/1), with cheers and beers to all the boys and some nice words of appreciation for the work the Committee is doing to keep the Association going. Phil says it's wonderful to receive news of all the lads, but rather sad to read of those who have passed on. Many thanks for your donation, Phil, and your kind wishes.

FRED BROOKS (H.Q. Coy., 2/1), of Taree, was goaded into writing after reading Charlie Wilby's note to Mail Bag in last issue, and needed rectifying (according to Fred), hence this letter. Charlie blames Fred's 25th Wedding Anniversary for Fred being on the sick list, but this is hotly denied and the blame put on to Fred's trip to the North Coast and the meeting up with a nest of Pioneers. After reading of your wanderings, Fred, we are inclined to take your word for it.

On his rounds Fred ran into "Blue" Heather at Kempsey, where he works as a barman at the R.S.L. Since leaving Kempsey, Fred says he heard "Blue" has given up the grog, but a king size taste like his should not be hard to find again.

At Dorriggo, he met Fred Wheaton who has now sold out of the butchering game and was giving a helping hand at the R.S.L. Club. Jack Buchanan keeps a close eye on the tick gates near Woodburn, and Fred says that if you are going through, run over him, or he will go through your kit bag, your boots and even your pockets if there is a chance of finding a tick. They had a little hops together at the Woodburn Hotel and Fred says Jack is still a huge man and has the capacity of a camel.

Also at Woodburn he met Norm McEvoy of the Riviera Cafe and mentions that Norm has a beaten track from his back door to the bowling club.

Don Cotton was next on the visiting list at Lawrence, and Don keeps himself fit by a little weight lifting (10 oz. at a time). He took Fred along to the local dance and put him onto the best dancer in the hall, but unfortunately she turned out to be the local Sgts. wife.

In the bar of the Great Northern at Grafton, Fred ran into Bruce McNaughton, who is also an expert on ticks. Insists Fred sprays every tractor that passes through his gates. A weekend with Harold Leese was also on the Grafton itinerary, and Fred says Harold hasn't changed since 1942—speaks da "very good Engleesh" whenever he's onto a good business deal, but "no understand" when mum wants the lawns mowed.

At Casino he met up with Ted Vaughan, Joe Leis and Clancy Scholes. Clancy is still a drovin' and if you want to know where he are, just look in at the Commercial.

On to Kyogle where he met Brian Jackson trying to pick a winner between drinks, Peter Bell at the bowling club, and "Jumbo" Hall busy managing a mighty property just out of Kyogle and not much time for refreshments these days.

Fred spent a weekend with Leo Ferris at Lynch's Creek where Leo has a big property and a sawmill. He takes a very active part in the welfare of his district.

A sad note of the trip was the passing of Tommy Loy at MacLean whilst Fred was working in that area.

In conclusion, Fred mentions that there are quite a number in the area that he hasn't yet met up with—God give him strength. We see what you mean.

Many thanks for the donation, Fred, and your good wishes to the boys. Don't be so long in writing next time.

WALLY COE (B Coy., 2/2), has been holidaying in Melbourne during May and made a point of seeing Jack "Porky" Cunningham, who has a paper stand at the foot of Flinders Street Station. Jack had intended coming over to Sydney for Anzac Day, but had family trouble and could not make it. He asked to be remembered to all his old cronies in 5 Pltn. H.Q. Coy., in particular Arthur Daldry, Bob Lee, "Clackers" Clarke and Monty Reed. Thanks for passing on the news Wally, maybe "Porky" will get round to dropping us a note sometime.

PIONEER NEWS

759-5491

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

759-5491

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DOUG. SHEARSTON

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

President:
ALLAN McINNES

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RATS OF TOBRUK MEMORIAL

On Sunday, September 15, quite a gathering assembled at the Rats of Tobruk Bowling Club from units, regiments, battalions and the Navy which served at that historic place in the western desert to pay respects at the dedication of the beautiful garden, which surrounds the Rats of Tobruk Memorial at Five Dock.



Forming up in a large contingent they marched very smartly under the command of Roy Jardine, and on arrival at the Shrine, a company was posted on each of the four sides.

It was exactly sunset when Padre McIlveen, whose name is well and truly inscribed by all who know him, opened the proceedings by speaking on the meaning of the word "Tobruk" and what it meant to the world of yesterday, and what it will mean in years to come.

Prayers were then said, and hymns sung which indeed suited the occasion.

The next speaker was another good old Rat, Padre Archbold, M.C., late 48th Battalion, who conducted the Dedication and spoke very sincerely of those who did not return, which to us came home strongly and was really a pleasure to listen to.

Wreaths were then laid by the President of the N.S.W. Rats, Ken McBurnie, Ladies' Auxiliary, and many other organisations which certainly made the whole area surrounding the Memorial a glorious picture.

The Last Post was sounded by an Army Bugler which, after the customary silence, was followed by Reveille.

Truly it was a great pleasure to be present at such a brief, but most impressive Ceremony, and to the President and Committee of the Rats, our thanks and congratulations are tendered.

The surroundings of the Memorial are of magnificent mosaic marble with mountain rock plots for flowers which is really the work of expert tradesmen.

Sydney City Council have installed floodlights which will brilliantly illuminate the whole centre. Drummoyne Council have included power charges in their annual estimates, and the gardeners employed by the Five Dock Bowling Club are generously looking after the flower sections in this magnificent garden of Remembrance.

All are to be gratefully thanked for such overwhelming generosity.

So when you come to Sydney, make a visit to the corner of Great North and Lyons Road, Five Dock, and see this Memorial and setting which is indeed a credit to the Rats of Tobruk Association.

H. Montague

(Left) Rats of Tobruk Memorial, Great North and Lyons Road, Five Dock.

GRAFTON SMOKO . . .

DEPARTURE

A small, but very eager, contingent left Sydney on the 6.33 p.m. train on Friday, 4th October. The Members plus their wives on the train were Bob and Joyce McGregor, Harry and Daisy Mostyn, Wal and Lall Page and Mick Dodson, plus Jack Westwood who was on a later train. Once we were settled in our seats and on our way we commenced to feed ourselves on roast chickens prepared by our wives, a large sponge cake made by Daisy Mostyn, also bread and butter washed down with beer and coffee. Later we played poker (only one cent poker). After poker we became hungry again so we attempted to devour a fruit cake made by Lall Page. Well to cut a good story short we arrived in South Grafton.

ARRIVAL

We were met at around 7 a.m. on the 5th October by Harold Leese and Bruce McNaughton and driven to the Crown Hotel-Motel, and a beautiful place it is, right on the bank of the Clarence River. We had breakfast at the motel, went for a short walk up town, then to the lovely Grafton R.S.L. for lunch and a few beers. While there Fred and Jean Wheaton and Gordon and Olive Finlay joined us, then we went back to our motel for a short rest, then to get ready for our Reunion Dinner.

REUNION DINNER

Members with their wives had to meet at the Memorial Park where we marched 50 yards to the Memorial by Jack Westwood. The ode was recited and then we broke off and after a short delay (while we found someone to bung a keg) we had a few beers before we went into the Ladies' Bowling Club for our dinner. (Oh yes, who bunged the keg? The father of eight daughters, Ted "Bluey" Eather.)

After the dinner Gordon Finlay toasted the Queen then yours truly as Chairman introduced Bob McGregor who welcomed everyone and commented that although our number of 43 members and 15 wives was very disappointing, congratulations were in order for the way things had been organised by Harold Leese, his wife Grace, and Bruce McNaughton.

Next I introduced our Guests of Honour, the President of South Grafton Sub-Branch of the R.S.L., Mr. Bill Colborne and his good wife, and charming people they are too. Mr. Colborne told us how pleased he was that we had come to Grafton. He told us of the town development to date and of future development, after which Jack Westwood spoke on behalf of the Battalions. Then I asked if anyone else would like to say a few words and, in turn, these Members spoke in this order:— Peter Bell, Bruce McNaughton, Peter Bell, Leo Ferris, Peter Bell, Alex George, Peter Bell, Fred Wheaton, Peter Bell, Bluey Eather, then I closed the speeches before Peter thought of something else. Well done boys, and Peter!

THEN TO THE R.S.L. CLUB

After devouring our dinner, a nine gallon keg, four dozen cans, one dozen bottles of Star Wine, plus soft drinks, we adjourned (for those who wanted to go) to the Grafton R.S.L. where we were publicly welcomed over the P.A. System. There we carried on till 1.30 a.m., enjoying entertainment, dancing and the bandits. Everyone said how well they enjoyed themselves.

SUNDAY BAR-B-Q PICNIC

For the picnic we were to assemble at the motel at 9.30 a.m. then proceed to a picnic area up the river, but owing to a few showers we went to the "Wooli" Recreation and Bowling Club, took over their kitchen and cooked our steaks, sausages, tomatoes and onions. Again we washed it down with beer and coffee. At 2 p.m. we left there and went to the South Grafton R.S.L. where we stayed till 6 p.m. When we left for South Grafton Station for the trip home there were 21 in all at Wooli Bowling Club and South Grafton R.S.L., and we were seen off at the station by Clancy Scholes, Fred Wheaton, Fred Davenport, Harold Leese and their wives, plus Bluey Eather.

Everyone said it was the best Country Smoko yet and that including the wives was a good idea. The Association thanked all those who made the effort.

WHO WENT TO GRAFTON?

BLUEY EATHER

Blue made the show as usual. He was asked if there was a likelihood of him getting a son (he has eight daughters). "No", said Blue, "I am on manoeuvres now and only firing blanks, all broadside."

BOB MCGREGOR

Bob and his wife Joyce were pleasantly re-united with their daughter and son-in-law, Pat and Jill Doyle, who were up that way on their honeymoon and called in. Nice to see you both.

GORDON FINLAY

Gordon and Olive were up that way on holidays and having a nice time. Incidentally he is supposed to be writing this column — I get all the good jobs.

FRED DAVENPORT

Fred and wife Nell were down from Petrie, Queensland (I hope I spelt that right!). Fred and Nell have shops that way, but I believe they want to sell out and travel around Australia. Good luck to you both — I hope you get what you want.

HARRY MOSTYN

Harry was opening a bottle of Star Wine when the cork flew out of the bottle, it struck a vase of plastic flowers hanging on the wall and the vase and flowers finished up on the head of his wife, Daisy. No damage to her head or the vase, but a good laugh was had by everyone. Incidentally I will sneak this in here about McGregor, and he may not see it because I don't like talking about people, but Bob actually came in on a \$2.00 shout-up at Grafton R.S.L. Boy is he getting careless with money!

DON CROOKS

Don went up from Newcastle. I am not sure, but I think he went up with Larry Robson (I am sorry if I am wrong). What happened to all you other Newcastle boys?

FRED WHEATON

Fred and wife Jean were there and a healthier pair you wouldn't find anywhere. They tell me their son is in the Army but he has one of those scientific brain jobs, and at the moment is at the Depot at 18 York Street, Sydney. If anyone wants to buy him a beer for Fred, just ask for Gordon Wheaton.

TERRY MCGUIRE

Terry, I believe, was Sportsman of the Year of the North Coast. Terry is a bowler and a pretty good one too by all accounts. Congratulations Terry from the 2/1-2/2 Association.

THERE WERE MORE

But we haven't room for any more. I must say I did receive apologies from Toby Hale, Eddie Weston 2/2, Brian Jackson, Jack Bertram, Jim Hall, Max Herron, Doug Shearston and Allan McInnes. There were a few more but they called too quickly and I couldn't write fast enough. I'm sorry if your name isn't here.

Wally (Desso) Page

WEDDING BELLS

Wedding Bells were playing for the McGregor family when Bob and Joyce McGregor gave the hand of their daughter Jill, to Patrick Doyle, at the Church of All Souls at Leichhardt on September 21. Jill had four bridesmaids, two junior and two senior, one of the junior maids was her own sister, Lynn. All the bridesmaids wore light blue gowns with a band of crystals across the bodice. All gowns were made by Joyce McGregor and were really and truly a credit to her. The bridal party looked wonderful.

RECEPTION

The reception was held in the Rainbow Lounge at Haberfield and was attended by 102 guests. After the toasts and speeches were over and things started to get swinging, it was more like a big party than a Wedding Reception. Even though Bob McGregor spent all that money for us to enjoy ourselves, I didn't see him cry once. Bob and Joyce put on a wonderful show for their daughter and son-in-law, Pat. They even thought to put in a Pioneer table, which was occupied by Jack and Laura Westwood, Harry and Daisy Mostyn, Neil (Tich) McGregor and of course Wal and Lall Page. There was even a Pioneer in the Dance Band at the Rainbow Lounge in the person of Bill Edgerton. Some may still remember Bill of Don Coy., who played saxophone in the Pioneer Band. Bill is under contract to the Lounge.

I can't close before I say thanks again to Bob and Joyce McGregor for the wonderful way they entertained us at the reception, and to the new Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Doyle. The 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Battalion Association extends hearty congratulations and best wishes for a full, happy and healthy married life.

Wally (Desso) Page

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

A reminder to all 2/1 and 2/2 Pioneers, their friends and families, Stan Cloughton, Padre of the latter Battalion will be holding the Pioneers' Memorial Service at 7 p.m. on Sunday, November 10, 1968, at the Leichhardt Methodist Church, Wetherill Street, Leichhardt.

Do come along to this evening as apart from a very nice service and much to the point, everybody is made welcome, and afterwards the ladies go to no end of trouble in providing an excellent supper and entertainment which certainly earns the praise of everyone.

Let us have a bigger gathering of 2/1 and 2/2 Pioneers on this occasion than previously, so don't forget please.

"Monty"

LT. DANIAL SHERIDAN

Would anyone knowing the address of NX66090 Lt. Danial Sheridan, please write or ring the Secretary, M. Herron, 3 Enoggera Road, Beverly Hills. 2209. Telephone 759-5491.

WELFARE REPORT

By H. MONTAGUE

Since the last issue of "Pioneer News" I have visited Concord Repatriation Hospital every Thursday evening making a total of 17 visits as follows:—

(Figure after name denotes number of visits.)

2/2 — Michael Whitly 2, Wilfred Ryan 6.

2/1 H.Q. Coy. — Harry Bentley 3, Roy Bounds 12, Cedric Macfarlane 1, Tom Jones 11, Francis Delander 7, Tom Penfold 3, Lance Wilson 2; A Coy. — Claude Campbell 1, George Simmons 2, Tom Morgan 3; C Coy. — Joe Hickey 3, Ivor Evans 4, Frank Lilamond 3, John Norton 7, John Hart 2, Hughie Green 3, John Carroll 1; D Coy. — Charles Sexton 3, Cecil Franks 6, Robert Buckley 3, Norm Stafford 4, Cec Kerr 4.

Ryde Home — Vic Walmsley 2/1 C Coy. 14.

The new system now in operation has enabled the increased number of visits as above to be made, and has also resulted in the enrolment of nine new members. Comforts of cigarettes, chocolates and sweets are handed to each member from our Welfare Fund and in all instances they are greatly appreciated.

It is of great interest to the members to let them know of other members who are in the other wards and they then have a great time visiting one another.

R.S.L. Pension officers in the form of Tom Giltens and Bert Humphries are always on the job to offer advice, and being close friends of mine, are always willing to help out by visiting and giving advice to bed ridden members.

Every Sunday I visit Vic Walmsley at the Aged People's Home at 600 Victoria Road, Ryde, where he has been confined to bed. As I am the only visitor he has, I would suggest some of his mates from the 2/1 pay him a visit — especially those from B Coy.

2/1-2/2 BI-ANNUAL REUNION

Again it's time to think about our Bi-Annual and for those who were not at our last Bi-Annual at the British Ex-Servicemen's Club, 5 Hamilton Street, Sydney, you really missed a good night.

But don't worry you are given another chance to join your Battalion mates, so come on the 22nd November at 7.30 p.m. to the British Ex-Servicemen's Club, where, in an R.S.L. Club atmosphere, you will be served a free snack.

We will have the use of the whole lounge on the Third Floor, and for those who don't know, Hamilton Street runs off Bond Street on the Circular Quay side of the "round" Australia Square.

If you wish, you are able to buy your dinner at the Club, but you must be there by 6 p.m. for dinner.

You will find this Club very convenient to transport and if you wish you may stay at the Club until midnight.

Your Social Committee goes to the trouble to organise these Reunions for you, don't let them down, turn up. See you there fellows.

Brigadier McIlveen Visits Newcastle "Rats"

Brigadier A. McIlveen, of the Salvation Army, well-known for his work with the Rats of Tobruk, laid a wreath in a ceremony of remembrance at the memorial in Civic Park yesterday.

Brigadier McIlveen, who spoke in Newcastle Citadel, had been visiting Newcastle to conduct a crusade in Lambton Salvation Army Corps.

HAD GRAMOPHONE

Life-member, chaplain and welfare officer of the Rats of Tobruk Association, the Brigadier is remembered among front line troops for cheering them with a gramophone. This, with records held together with sticking plaster, is in the War Museum in Canberra.

The Brigadier was invested with the M.B.E. at Buckingham Palace in 1961 and was recently awarded the Order of

the Founder, the highest honour of the Salvation Army.

He entered the Salvation Army Training College in Melbourne in 1911 and served in many fields as a Salvation Army Officer. He became a chaplain in 1926. From 1939 to 1942 he was a Red Shield Officer and padre, then became secretary for Salvation Army prison work.

Though he retired in 1951, at the "ripe" age of 82 years he still visits hospitals.

Photo and article by courtesy of "Newcastle Morning Herald" as submitted by Joe Hickey, 2/1.



The Brigadier is pictured above with Newcastle members of the Rats of Tobruk Association, Messrs. Jack Bertram, of Hamilton (left), and Joe Hickey, of Lambton, who both served with the 2/1 Pioneer Battalion.

HOSPITAL VISITING NOTIFICATION

Would any members of the Association, or next of kin, who enters Concord Repatriation Hospital, please contact our Welfare Representative, "Monty" Montague, 46 Pomeroy Street, Homebush, Sydney. 2140. Phone 76-6657.

Every Thursday evening he does the visiting rounds for this Organisation and will be only too pleased to call on any of the members there.

He also visits Public Hospitals on Sundays so please notify him of any Pioneer in hospital.

BI-ANNUAL SMOKO

BRITISH EX-SERVICES CLUB

Third Floor Lounge

5 HAMILTON STREET, SYDNEY

ON FRIDAY, 22nd NOVEMBER, 1968

AT 7.30 P.M.

FREE SUPPER

Appeal For Funds To Carry Out Welfare Work

As the years roll by, it will be readily understood by all members that the Association needs to spend more than ever before on Welfare work.

As they grow older, our members are being hospitalised in ever increasing numbers and our Welfare Officers, Jack Collis and Harry Montague are as busy as beavers making hospital visits.

The tally was 100 visits in the past 3 months, and the cost over \$100.

May I appeal, as Treasurer, to those more fortunate members for a special contribution to the Welfare Fund. Big or small, it doesn't matter, it will be well spent.

DOUG SHEARSTON, Treasurer.

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DO YOU KNOW THESE PIONEERS ?



Your Committee has the names of some of these men, but we are not sure of them all. Can you help us?

All these chaps were 2/1 Pioneer Reinforcement Company. If you can help us, please write to us giving us as much

information as possible about them, who they are, what company they went to, if you have seen them since the War or if you know where they are now. If any of these men do get the Pioneer News and see their photo they are asked

to please write to us so that we can publish the information we require in our next issue of the Pioneer News. Do your best for us fellows, we are depending on you for assistance.

Wally (Desso) Page.



KEN STUART (2/1), and resident address Turrumurra but not to be found there at present as Ken is doing a spell in the U.S.A. on duty for Qantas. Has been in America quite a while and expects to be there about another two years but will probably get a vacation home in that time. Ken misses the Anzac Day get-together but attended the Combined Australian and New Zealand Service at the Grace Cathedral in San Francisco where Ken had the honour of bearing the Australian Flag. Ken sends his best regards to all and everyone and a sub to the Treasurer to boot.

CHARLES SEXTON (D Coy. 2/1), and now a resident of Belfields sends along the first letter in 23 years. Charles has apparently been working anywhere from Cairns to the Snowy Mountains and in all that time and travel met very few of the old blokes. However, a visit through ill health to Concord and up popped Monty, result — names roll off the pen like water over the falls, Roy Bounds, Tom Penfold, Mum Kerr, Tom Jones and Cec Franks to mention a few. Charles quotes that some were looking a bit the worse for wear (that's natural Charles, 25 years is quite a spell), but all were chirpy enough. I do not know whether Bill McCarter is still at Bundaberg, he moves around a bit. However, I would suggest a letter to the Band Master at Bundaberg would give you all the information you might require. Charles and wife have raised quite a family in their married years — eight children of their own and two wards, should think that a bit of a rest would not be out of order now. Good luck.

PETER PEILE (2/1), and per medium of his good wife Erika, a donation to the Treasurer for back subs and a short note quoting how they look forward to the News every three months. Thank you Peter and Erika, write again sometime and give us a little of your doings out around Caringbah.

JUNE KERR writes a thank you note to Monty for the visits he paid to Ken (Mum) Kerr on his recent spell in hospital. Mum has not been the best but June quotes that he is at home now getting the fresh air of Forrester and showing some good progress. We hope this continues old chap for a long time to come.

TOM JONES (2/1), now at Doonside writes of a spell in Concord where the doctor says no more beer or smokes (I think you should change your doctor). I can quite imagine how upsetting that item would be. Glad to know that Monty looked after you so well while at Concord and that you were not short of visitors, many thanks for your letter Tom, write again sometime.

TOM PENFOLD (2/1), and now a resident of Tarro and another one of Monty's converts while on his rounds at Concord. Tom was hospitalised at the same period as Tom Jones, Roy Bounds and Charlie Sexton so they did have a little something to talk about. Tom is back home again now and with lots of fond memories. A P.S. on the bottom quotes "the only bugle he blows now is his nose but he can still knock out a tune on the gum leaf".

JOHN HUNT (A Coy. 2/1), and now at Chermerside, Queensland, sends along a donation to the news and the thanks to Jack Marshall of Glen Innes who put him on the mailing list. John had intentions of going to Grafton for the Smoko but a nephew being married at Glen Innes on that day took priority. John also mentions a daughter at the University studying Medicine, a son a qualified motor mechanic and the youngest starting high school next year. Congratulations on their success John and mighty pleased to hear from you.

DAVE DENNY (2/1), of Lismore, sends along a few lines and a sub to the paper and admits freely that if it wasn't for Mum we would probably be further behind. Dave will not be late at Grafton however and I sincerely hope that it lives up to its reputation. Claims he has never looked forward to a hang-over so much in his life.

GEOFF CHEAL (2/2), and now with the Bank of N.S.W. at Garah sends along a sub for his continuation of the news but claims he very rarely sees any of the old mob. His last visit was Johnnie Henderson (D Coy. 2/2), but he understands that John is now at Blacktown while he is still in the never-never. Thanks for the letter Geoff — News will proceed in the usual manner.

ROY BOUNDS (2/1), and now living at Maroubra Beach is another member with a letter of appreciation to the Association and especially Monty for the visitations while he was an inmate at Concord. Roy had been admitted for his diabetic condition and prior to discharge suffered a pretty bad heart attack. However as Roy said the devil looks after his own and he is doing O.K. again now, although he will probably be made T.P.I. and so will retire to a quiet time for a while. Treasurer's just the man to handle those subs Roy, thanks a lot.

ALLAN SHAW. Two letters, one expressing his thanks to the committee for some assistance tended him in a moment of trouble and another requesting names and addresses of members around the Port Macquarie area. No doubt you have received this special letter from our worthy Secretary by the

time this paper goes to press. I hope you meet a few of the lads and that your intention to settle in the Gosford area bears fruit (not oranges). Thanks again Allan and good luck.

BILL STEERS. Our old Mortar Sgt., and now resident at Marks Point sends along a cheery note with good wishes to all the blokes. Bill claims he is fighting fit again now after a pretty severe heart attack after which he negotiated and won a bout of bronchitis and as the coughing affected the ticker, he had to toddle off out to the dry country for a spell. Everything back to normal now, and claims as he is only 72 years old, good for another 30 or so. Bill can still manage to knock a grog or so with his old cronies down at the local.

PAT DOWD (2/2 Pioneer), and now a resident of Coonabarabran sends a few lines of comment re our little paper and the enjoyment he gets from same. Was not able to attend the Anzac Day ceremonies and offers sincere apologies over same. However Pat, we shall endeavour to keep the News up to you and as you say, should you get down to Sydney you will always have something to refresh the memories.

CHARLIE KERR (2/1), and now foreman linesman in the Maryborough District, Queensland, sends along a few lines to the Secretary (one seal to another), and wishes everyone the best. Charlie has the family all on the way up now, both the boy and girl attending high school. You have a long way to go yet old mate, wait till the wedding bells start jangling. Well Charlie, Max has posted your enclosed letters on 26-7-68 and we sincerely hope that they are of some value, however, I think your letter to Dr. Geoff Dynon would be astray, as the Battalion Doctor at that period was Stan Goulston, however the other lads may be of some help. Always remember the old saying Charlie, just keep on annoying the repat., and you will wear them down.

MAX LAW. One of the original staunch members of our Association and now a nine year resident of South Australia, but still takes great interest in our doings and ever willing to send his news when available. Max has not been to Sydney for about 15 months now but still does a trip twice a year out through Alice Springs, Tennant Creek and a week in Darwin each time. In between times he managed a quick trip to Malaysia and Singapore. Max writes of one item to rock the mob, Ernie Haydon left Adelaide by air ten days prior to this letter for a 12 months duty at Vietnam. Ern has 29 years' service since he enlisted with the 2/1 and since the

MAILBAG—Continued

war has been mainly at Adelaide. However, he heard of this opportunity and volunteered for a training course at Canungra. As all would imagine when at 47 years of age, and wearing the Africa Star, he got a fair share of hooraying from the young cadets prior to the commencement of the period. However, although close a few times to giving up, he completed the course and had the pleasure of seeing some of the young blokes fail to make it. He lost two stone in weight and got a posting as C.S.M.

Well there it is, and as Max says, "What would be the comments of Wally Page, 'Bluey' Moxey and Dick Seddon on our Ernie's 'get up and go' movement"? On behalf of the committee and all Pioneers thank you for the good wishes and the nice thoughts and always more than glad to hear from you, especially if we can't see you Max, so cheerio and keep sober and keep those piano fingers nimble.

PETER (DICK) SEDDON. Well this letter I suppose should really come under the heading of "Newcastle Notes", by Dick Seddon — there are four pages including some three men's subscriptions so I will try and pass on Dick's good work. My only wish, that he would write a little slower than one word would not run into the other (not complaining though). Dick has had letters from Jack McCracken and a sub, also Tom Towers a sub — Tom was an original and now lives at Stockton. Micky Hollis joined the R.O.T.A. Sub-Branch a short while ago. Mick is now at Long Flat, via Wauchope. Fred Lovelace, another one to lead Peter off the straight and narrow. Fred is a member of the clergy and apart from this manages to give the bandits (one armed type) a bit of a kick. Sid Jopson had been off work for a while in the early part of the year but is back in business again now. Joe Hickey has had another session at Concord and expresses his sincere thanks to Monty for the visits, also a thank you from Mickey Flynn who had also been to the hospital, but is feeling fine now. Herb Wilson attended the July meeting, not a good year for Herb, has arthritis in the back and trying to find someone who could support his report of the accident with the Bren Carrier in the desert. Chicka Taylor has not been seen in Sydney for I don't know how long, however, I think Gordon Walsh knows Bill Grainger's address and will try and contact Grainger with the story. Jack (Glido) Griffith is still fit and well, his job keeps him fully occupied and we all know how well "Glido" can do a job. Also the news that Fred Wheaton has sold the butcher shop and is now a salesman on a dairy van in the North and North West. Seems quite happy in the new situation and claims that Dorrigio could be a dangerous place towards the end of September — well September has gone but there was no inking as to why Dorrigio could be dangerous. Come on Fred, let's hear what has already happened now? Also

a note from Noel Petersen at Wyong who informs all and sundry that the problem of partaking of a few schooners of "Tooheys" has not yet caught up with him. He looks forward to them regularly and consistently. Billy Wade and his good wife at Bulahdelah have the store and rumour has it that Bill had quite a successful trip to Grafton for the Cup Races and I presume, he managed to cover costs.

Well there it is, Peter Seddon's "Newcastle Jottings". If I have missed anything in this script I apologise. However it's a great letter and the sort we would like to receive from other chaps that meet people like this, so put your heads together blokes and make it good. To finish off, if any of the Newcastle gentry would be interested, Joan and I will be staying at the Country Club Hotel at Shoal Bay for a fortnight, November 9-23, and would like to hear or see anyone that might call out that way or give us a ring and we could possibly arrange a meeting.

K. F. MEAD (2/2), of Newtown, wrote to us enclosing a page from June 19, 1968, Australian Women's Weekly.

Top of the page showed a very picturesque photo of the Millstream Falls, five miles from Ravenshoe, while the bottom photo showed the slender veils of the Zillie Falls, "like a downward smoke" dropping into deep green water in a secret place among tree ferns and tangled vines, four miles off the Palmerston Highway, near Millaa Millaa. These two photos were under the heading of "Waterfalls of the Atherton Tableland, Queensland".

Thank you Ken and we feel sure all members will have vivid memories when they look at those two pictures.

BILL JOLLIE (2/1), and now Bank Manager of the Wales at Goulburn. Bill has been down at Wentworth or Mildura — I'm not sure which but claims it's quite a break to drink some decent beer after drinking Victorian beer for two years. Best not let those Yarra Mud slingers hear you talk like that Bill. Has been a little unfortunate with the weather since his return, having had the good fortune? to strike all four seasons in the one week. Has met up with Snow Vickery at Goulburn and settled down to quite a session on one occasion at the Bowling Club. Glad to hear from you Bill, and pleased that you will be able to attend a few of the functions here in Sydney now that you are just so much closer.

HUGHIE GREEN (2/1). — Two letters from Hugh, one where he was a patient at Concord and the other with a new address at Tempe. Hugh's spell in hospital was the result of the old ticker playing about a bit. He saw Con Fitzgerald on the platform at Lidcombe Station, an employee of the railway, and claims he is off the hard stuff for a while and looks well. Since he has moved to Tempe he has struck Hoot Gibson at the Cronulla Serviceman's Club and also Cecil Hart at the Botany View Hotel at St. Peters. He travelled to

Euabalong for Anzac Day where he put in a bit of time with Jack (Scotty) McKie, also employed on the railway. Hugh enclosed his usual sub to the Treasurer for the Newspaper and sends a special cheerio to all 15 Platoon and C Coy. itself.

LEN PREEDY (Don Coy 2/2), and now over at Western Australia sends along a two page letter thanking us for the write up of his trip over to the East Coast. Unfortunately he did not meet up with any of the Sydney lads but he did have time for a few games of bowls at Bathurst with a Lithgow team in the Bathurst Legacy Day Competition where he had a good day. He did meet Bob Evans in Melbourne but claims that the trip through Hay, Bathurst, Lithgow and Sydney then back the Prince's Highway home was really worthwhile. Sends a special cheerio to Nev O'Connor and Pat Malone.

LAST POST

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

NX23398 W.O. TALBERG, 2/1.
NX203411 Capt. J. KIDNEY, 2/2.
NX24979 T. LOY, 2/1.
NX22668 H. A. GOODWIN, 2/1.

FACTS AND FIGURES

I know there are some who don't give two hoots for facts and figures, but the following is the terrible cost of World War II—some may be interested. My source of information is the Institute of Public Affairs, Melbourne. From the human angle—

About 40 million people were killed.
About 20 million in battle.
Another 20 million in air raids.
30 million were wounded.
30 million homes were destroyed.
45 million were removed far from their homes.

150 million were left without shelter.
On the financial side—

What they spent on World War II could have provided:—

A \$24,000 house,
\$4,000 of furniture,
\$40,000 cash

for every family in the United States, Canada, Australia, Britain, Iceland, France, Germany, The Soviet Union and Belgium.

In addition, each city with over 200,000 in population could have been given a cash donation of \$150 million for public needs such as hospitals, schools, etc.

How about that!

Wally (Desso) Page.

BI-ANNUAL SMOKO

BRITISH EX-SERVICES CLUB

THIRD FLOOR LOUNGE

5 HAMILTON STREET, SYDNEY

FRIDAY, 22nd NOVEMBER, 1968

at 7.30 p.m.

Free Supper