

PIONEER NEWS

759-5491

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

759-5491

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ANZAC FUNCTIONS, 1970

WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

FRIDAY, APRIL 24 (2/1 and 2/2)

The 2/1 and the 2/2 Battalion Association will be laying wreaths on the Cenotaph in Martin Place, Sydney, at 7.30 p.m. to pay homage to our fallen mates and to those who have passed away since 1945. To us this is a very important part of our Anzac functions. Each year our ranks get a little bigger, so how about this year making it a real whopper, we would like that! So please meet us at 7 p.m. outside No. 19 Hunter Street, Sydney, on Friday, 24th April, 1970.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

FRIDAY, APRIL 24 (2/1 and 2/2)

Immediately after our wreath laying ceremony the 2/1 and the 2/2 Battalions Association hold their Annual

General Meeting. This is where you get your chance to have your say in how your association should be run and who should run it. As most of you fellows will be at the wreath laying, there is no need for me to tell you where the meeting will be held—just follow the committee, but for those who simply can't make it to the Cenotaph, the Pioneers' Annual General Meeting will be held at 8 p.m., Friday, April 24, on the third floor of British Ex-Servicemen's Club, No. 5 Hamilton Street, Sydney. Please join us.

ANZAC DAY MARCH AND REUNIONS SATURDAY, APRIL 25 (2/1 and 2/2)

Again we would like to see a big roll up to follow our banners to Hyde Park. We are going to impose on Bill Jolley again to get us a band as he did last year.

And now for our starting points for the 2/1. They assemble in Phillip Street, at the King Street end. For the 2/2 they assemble in Macquarie Street outside the Sydney Hospital.

The 2/2 Battalion will be holding their reunion at the York Hotel situated in King Street opposite the Grace Building, and are looking forward to a really good roll up.

Any of the 2/2 are more than welcome to join the 2/1 Reunion at the quarter deck lounge of the Castlereagh Hotel on the corner of Castlereagh and Park Streets after we break off in Hyde Park.

AFTER THE MARCH

As in previous years, we are again going to give all who join us at the Castlereagh Hotel a free hot meal. We will endeavour to have everyone fed before the bars open at midday. Then again during the afternoon we will have quite a large free snack for you. All we ask for our efforts, is a big roll call and a fine day.

One last request—we ask every member to wear his medals at all these functions.

Pioneer News Last Issue

This is the heading you will be seeing on the front page of your "Pioneer News" in the future if you, as a member, do not pull up your socks.

Firstly, we want more news per medium of a letter about who you are, your family, your occupation and your hobbies.

Secondly, we want your annual subscription to the "Pioneer News."

As far as the subscription is concerned, we are appealing to those Pioneers who have NEVER subscribed to the Pioneer News, and believe me there are quite a few members in this category. Then there are quite a few who have not subscribed over the past three years.

ANZAC DAY SUBSCRIPTIONS

To those members who each Anzac Day come along and hit the pocket for Doug and Coy., we say a big thank you—also to those members who each year send five to 10 dollars, we also say a big thank you—it is these members who are keeping the Association and the "Pioneer News" alive.

The following figures show the reason for our pessimistic outcry of the last issue in sight.

	Subs. Collected	Pioneer News Cost	Welfare
1967	\$508	\$203	\$120
1968	\$491	\$227	\$257
1969	\$486	\$272	\$217
1970	???	\$360	\$300

To give you an idea of the sharp increase in cost of printing the "Pioneer News," we take the 6 pp as the average, the cost being, 1968 \$56, 1969 \$88, 1970 \$96.

So, with the cost of Welfare at \$300, "Pioneer News" at \$360 and administration at \$250, we need \$910 for 1970.

I leave these figures with you as food for thought and being true Pioneers I know you will come up with the answer.

Max Herron,
Hon. Sec.

2/2 REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

Members of the 2/1 and 2/2 attended a Memorial Service at the Leichhardt Methodist Church last Remembrance Sunday. The service was once again conducted by the Rev. Stan Claughton, our ex-Padre, and was assisted by Jim Field and Basil Welch, whose full beard gave the impression of having stepped straight from the Biblical era. The service was very impressive and was followed with interest by all. Following the service we were entertained at supper by the ladies of the Church, where we were officially welcomed by the Padre. Max Herron of the 2/1 and Basil Welch of 2/2 suitably responded on behalf of those present. So ended another enjoyable service.

2/2 NEWS

Attention all 2/2 members. Our annual Anzac reunion will be held once again at the York Hotel, King Street, opposite Grace Building. A good lunch is being prepared by the hotel and drinks will be served at the right prices. Make an effort to come along, fellows, and meet up with some of your old mates for a chin wag and a few convivial drinks.

By Don Lawson 2/1

ROYAL RECOGNITION For Salvation Army Stalwart

Well-known Bexley Salvation Army officer Sir Arthur McIlveen was one of the 18 new Australian Knights announced by the Queen in the New Year honours list.



St. George and Sutherland Shire's new Knight, Salvation Army Brigadier Sir Arthur McIlveen, of Bexley, is pictured with some of the hundreds of congratulatory telegrams he received following the announcement of the award. It is believed that Sir Arthur is the first Salvation Army officer in Australia to have been knighted. Sir Arthur, with a lifetime of community service behind him, has been extremely busy since New Year's Day answering congratulations. —Photo courtesy of St. George "Leader."

The first Salvation Army officer in Australia to be knighted, Sir Arthur, 83, was cited for his "work with ex-servicemen and women."

The citation is brief, but it covers a lifetime's devoted service by "an old padre," as Sir Arthur describes himself. Since his official "retirement" 18 years ago, Sir Arthur, former Salvation Army

Brigadier, has not missed a day visiting ex-Servicemen and women in hospital.

"I know of no better way of living up to the honour of the knighthood than to keep on working and die with my boots on," he said at his home, "Tobruk Cottage," in Eddystone Road, Bexley.

"I am staggered an old padre like me has been so honoured.

"You can give the credit to the Salvation Army and the Rats of Tobruk."

In addition to the knighthood, Sir Arthur's work has been recognised by the Salvation Army presenting him with its highest honour for outstanding service—a citation which conferred the Order of the Founder upon him in 1967.

The living-room of his Bexley home is crammed with mementos of his work.

One is an old-fashioned, wind-up gramophone, given to him by the H.M.V. company to replace one now in the War Memorial, Canberra.

Nowadays he plays the record player for lonely patients in hospitals.

MANY CALLS

The original, plus a pile of cracked records to go with it, were relics of the "rat holes" of Tobruk in World War II.

Prisoners from Long Bay and Parramatta gaols have honoured Sir Arthur with their own citations.

"They are far too generous," he says sincerely.

Hundreds of his former patients and friends, many of them Rats of Tobruk, sent congratulatory telephone calls and telegrams to Sir Arthur on New Year's Day.

The 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Battalion Association sent a congratulatory card and received very warm thanks from Sir Arthur in a thank you letter.

The secretary of the N.S.W. Rats of Tobruk Association (Mr. R. Scott) in his tribute said that during the famous siege Padre McIlveen frequently came under fire.

Dozens of times he had to dive for a hole to escape shelling.

MINE WORKER

"He is one in a million," Mr. Scott added.

Sir Arthur is the association's official national padre.

Sir Arthur first joined the Salvation Army when he was 19.

Born at Brodie's Plains in New England on June 29, 1886, he was a second-generation son of a pioneer family.

Later when the family moved to Inverell, he worked in the mines and there he met a man who changed his life—"Hellfire Jack," a Salvation Army man.

"That was the turning point of my life," Sir Arthur said.

"At 16 I came to Christ and decided to try in a practical way to make a better world.

"That can be done only by making better people."

Until he retired in 1951, Sir Arthur set about this work on the battlefields, among ex-Servicemen and in prisons and hospitals.

He became a Brigadier in 1938.

OTHER HONOURS

Sir Arthur describes himself simply as "a chap who has done an ordinary job and tried to do it with sincerity and enthusiasm."

Tsili-Tsili to Nadzab — First-Class

By STAN CLAUGHTON (2/2nd Padre)

Three reasons prompt me to write this screed. Firstly I promised Gordon Balmain on the first day of the Tsili-Tsili trek I'd write some impressions, secondly the editor of the 2/2nd Pioneer History journal has lent encouragement and thirdly, to use that endearing phrase, "the bloody old padre" hasn't forgotten. If at 38 years of age I merited the phrase, I'd better write now before my time peters out.

Sunday, the 5th of September, 1943, lives ever in my memory. The 2/2s had tramped from Tsili-Tsili to the Markham. It was supposedly 55 air miles and we learned the difference, only too well, between air and land miles.

NO MORE CHURCH PARADES

At Tsili-Tsili "Uncle Joe" called me aside and in his characteristic way said: "No more Church parades." I agreed, for close by was the reason, a white Cross. The previous Sunday, so I was told, an American Chaplain had gathered a group together and the self-same hour the Japs flew in. They were shot out of the skies, but one flew his machine ablaze into the group.

When we commenced the trek to Markham we kept to the ranges so as to escape observation. Our air support was at least comforting. Heavily weighted with gear we pushed on for 30 minute periods and at the end of most sessions threw ourselves into the mud. The majority remembered to rest the posterior on some piece of equipment. The BOP only once transgressed and he can still image the effects of that something which nipped like an electric needle.

Every inch of the way was dank and wet and into the air arose that indefinable and indescribable mouldy smell, arising from areas upon which Europeans had never travelled. For hours the sun was blotted out by tall timbers. Occasionally some would take off the heavy clobbers covered in mud, and because of that squelching oozy slime, feet were at times soft and bleeding. On such occasions Vince Putland and the magnificent R.A.P. group worked compassionately (could anyone ever forget Thatcher?). Two incidents I recall in particular, Bert Neville's compassion and Rayward trudging along with a semi-sprained ankle—and refusing to give up his 80lb gear.

We marvelled at the stamina of the native carriers. Some were mountain types, strangers to white men. The difference between the hill dwellers and those of the plain was well marked. The river types were scrupulously clean and bathed in every pool. Many wore earrings and the fantastic designs made from the soft flesh of the nose and lobes of the ear were amazing, sometimes sickening.

HYMNS BY NATIVE BOYS

Wild flowers on that trek were scarce, but occasionally we came to a wild red-creeper. The natives immediately secured the blossoms for headgear. They seemed

to thrive on walking and climbing. Some, however, were not immune from malarial effects. In rest periods they laughed and joked like young school kids. Some were Mission boys and on many a stiff climb as they shot past one would hear them whistling favourite hymn tunes. For a number of us these tunes were the bond of friendship.

Often the grade was one in one and we could only climb and crawl a few yards at a time.

On one such occasion I found myself next to Sapper Beros, who wrote that sentimental poem, "The Fuzzy Wuzzies." In the midst of that sweat someone started a secretarian argument, but found no takers. The little wild bees really enjoyed our sweat—our salt was precious.

If my "black book" is accurate, our menu consisted of No. 1 Kia. One of our mates said: "Padre, God never meant any man to climb like this." He accomplished a great job and I'm told today his memorial is somewhere on the York peninsula. Some will remember how Bluey Moss pulled Bill Brown out of the blue pool. The anophalene mossies found us good targets. Gordon Stratton kept me going despite the fact that on one of our unofficial detours in picnic mood I had nearly accidentally skittled him with a .303.

OFFICIAL FIGURES AT 302 PLANES

It was late in the evening of Saturday, September 4, when we arrived at Kirklands. Some slept from fatigue, but a sago swamp wasn't conducive to sleep. A number in the darkness awaited the arrival of the boats. Sunday at first light we were ready. At 10 minutes past 10 that morning the aerial armada arrived overhead. Official figures gave the number as 302 planes. Down floated the 503rd American Parachute Infantry Regiment in a haze of smoke. That was the day the 2/4th gunners made history.

At 11 up went the balloon and we crossed the river in formation. The natives were jubilant, some were on their own territory for the first time in two years. The crossing was colourful and exciting even without the enemy. Why they missed such an opportunity we wondered, but later the grapevine said that they had been mauled on air strips at Madang, Wewak and Rabaul.

Most of us arrived at Nadzab at dusk. Despite the heat of the day the creeks we crossed were icy cold. We were more than weary, but if we had been asked to press on we would have made the grade.

Uncle Joe had indeed toughened us. The pit pit and kunai on fire roared like an inferno. We were welcomed by the Americans and treated to the U.S.A. field ration D. They shared smokes and we enjoyed a few Lucky Strikes, Fleetwoods and Phillip Morris.

The next day needs no recapitulation. The section I joined had the assignment of finding missing paratroopers. A few we found were suspended in trees, injured and suffering from exposure. It was evening when our stretcher bearers brought them in. We were short of some necessities and Herb Stevens volunteered to go several miles through hostile territory for supplies. Immediately his mates volunteered to accompany him.

The injured paratroopers were from Alabama and Boston. They never winged and expressed more thanks than we deserved.

FIRST MILITARY CEMETERY AT NADZAB

The following morning I had the task of selecting with Father John Powers (U.S.A.) and another American Protestant Chaplain whose name escapes me, the first military cemetery at Nadzab. (I have a photographic record of this.) We cut out an area from dense undergrowth and buried that day five who were killed in the jump.

John Powers was an unassuming priest of wiry physique. He had the admiration and respect of all. His drawl was delightful. From a foxhole he dished out serenity and hospitality.

I often wonder what became of the painted portrait of Christ, once treasured in the Gabmatzung Mission. It was signed B. Plockhurst, 1895. It stood three feet by two. The warmth and facial expression of the Christ was virile—but on the canvas was a grim reminder—three jagged bullet holes which fortunately had not ruined the portrait. Here was a religious symbol in a place of tragedy, for within 12 days Gabmatzung meant life or death to many. They were the days when I saw Christianity really lived.

When the Administration several years ago placed a jeep at my disposal in Lae, I asked permission to visit Gabmatzung. They in turn asked, "Where is Gabmatzung?"

Some of us can never forget Gabsonkek or Gabmatzung.

I found Gabmatzung!

LEST WE FORGET

It is with regret that I report the passing of some of our old cobbles. Where possible I represented the Association at their funerals, and expressed our sympathies to the next-of-kin. Private Francis Delander, H.Q. Coy., 2/1; Private Harry Sheridan, 2/2; Captain H. R. Rich, A Coy 2/1; Private W. N. Lennox, 2/1; Private William S. Vance, 2/1; and Private C. V. Davies, 2/1.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.

Harry Montague.

Secretary Visits Kyogle

MAX HERRON, our secretary, with his wife, Peg, and daughter, Lynne, paid a flying visit to Kyogle over the Easter weekend for the wedding on Saturday, 28th March, of their only son, David, to Lynn Downes, of Kyogle. The service was held in St. James' Church of England, the same church in which the service was held for the late Ray Smith of the 2/1sts.

Peg and Max stayed with Maurice and Joan Powell at Geneva, just out of the town, and the Powell house was turned into a meeting place for Pioneers. It must have been a relief to Joan and Maurie to see the Herrons drive off, and peace descend on their home again.

BILL HOFFMAN finalised all arrangements for Max to meet some of the Pioneers in the district. He also attended the wedding, where he very ably proposed the toast to Peg and Max.

CECIL BLANCH, now working for a builder in Kyogle, visited Max on the Sunday morning and passed on the news that his son, Gary, had been involved in a road accident two days previously—fortunately he only suffered a few bruises and shock. Cec sends greetings to all his old friends in H.Q. Coy.

JIM HALL, together with Bill Hoffman, showed Max and Peg over Kyogle and even dragged **PETER BELL** out of the hotel to go with them. On top of the lookout, Peter made the statement it was the first time he had been there himself, and had not realised the town was so big. Jim took Max out to his property for lunch on the Saturday and Max was pleased to meet Jim's wife, Lil, who made him very welcome. Jim has two daughters, Margaret, now married, and living in England after serving in the Navy, and Anne, a Captain in the Army Nursing Service in Vietnam. Jim and Lil are hopeful of the two girls returning within the next two years.

While at Jim's place, Max met up with Robert Aitken (son of "Scotch" Aitken of the 2/1, killed in action at Balikpapan), who was holidaying at Kyogle. Robert and his wife, Christine, reside at Woodford, Queensland, near the old 2/1 Pioneer camp site. He works in the A.N.Z. Bank at Woodford and is the proud father of two daughters. "Scotch" Aitken's sister, Mary, was also visiting Jim while Max was there.

PETER BELL organised a session in the pub with Brian Jackson, Jim Hall, Bill Hoffman and Max. Peter reports that Junors Store, a landmark in Kyogle, is about to be pulled down and an arcade of shops to be built with Junors a self-service store.

FRED BLANCH came to see Max and reports he is working on the railways near Brisbane, but comes home each weekend. Fred sends greetings to all his friends in the 2/1. He passed on the news that the 17-year-old son of Jean and Alex George had been killed in a building accident at Lismore the previous week. The Association joins all Pioneers

Lahey And Harnetty Have An Innocent Purve (?) On Chloe

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

Brethren, if you ever have the experience of lifting your phone and listening to the plangent jangling of a half-hundredweight of rusty nails in an equally rusty five-gallon drum, you can bet the bloke at the other end is Robert Lake.

Don't mistake me! I love Bob as a brother, and it's not his fault he has a voice like an ill-tuned grinding machine.

Bob asked me to meet him in Melbourne with some cobbles. At first we opted for the main door of St. Paul's—then changed our minds for a pilgrimage to Chloe—the luscious nude adorning the saloon bar of the Prince's Bridge Hotel (Young and Jackson's to you!).

You might not find the front door of St. Paul's, but you couldn't miss Chloe. Why, I think her location appears in an ever-increasing rush of directories and street maps.

Anyhow, as art fanciers, Bob, self and mates paid due tribute to the well-nourished curves of Chloe, then moved on to the business of downing a few. My business of downing a few involves total Schweppesmanship.

The others didn't share my compulsory teetotal limitations. They knocked it off in foaming, brown guglets, and heretical though it may seem, they declared it a Right Good Drop.

I heard no rude remarks about the Yarra being upside down, and I was accorded full honours even though I'm a renegade New South Welshman. In other words, it was a mighty pleasant gathering, and the sincere wish of Bob and myself was that a few more of the old mob couldn't be with us.

It was an evening to be remembered. Why, we were so busy gassing about old times we forget (most of the time) to cast libidinous gazes on Chloe!

But it was good to cut up old touches. There was name-dropping galore. A few reputations gained credit, and others got

in extending their sympathy to Jean, Alex and family in their bereavement.

LEO FERRIS came in from Lynch's Creek on the Sunday morning and one can imagine how the lines were crossed when these two sigs. got together. After an hour's session at the Powell house, Brian Jackson called and Leo, Max and Peg accompanied Brian to the local bowling club. Leo sends greetings to Keith Reynolds, Wal Parsons, Arthur White, Ron McFarlane, Les Reynolds and all sigs.

(Peg and I would like to thank all those who made our stay in Kyogle such a pleasant one, and hope to return one day with more time on our hands.—Max H.)

SUBSCRIPTIONS NOW DUE

Your subscriptions should be posted NOW to **M. HERRON**, Hon Sec., 3 Enoggera Rd., Beverly Hills, 2209. When writing, please state your christian name and your Army "nickname," surname, present address and last address (if moved recently), Platoon, Company and Unit (whether 2/1 or 2/2).
The Order of the Lead-lined Brickbat.

But I wouldn't have missed it for worlds, and was sorry when it was over.

As a footnote, I might add that nobody really worried about passing the lustful eye on Chloe—much! To our delight, a couple of very respectable women came in and asked permission to photograph her. I wonder if they were art fanciers, or were going to take the pictures home to show that they had been in one of the Sinks of Iniquity of Melbourne?

I'd like to put in a word about this occasion that has so far missed mention. If any Pioneers, 1st or 2nd, are coming down from Sydney, I'll always be happy to troll a bowl with them. (Even if my grog has to be the soft stuff, it's not my fault. Blame the doctors!)

I'm not hard to find. I'm in the telephone directory, and in the Pink Pages under Journalists. What's more, it will not only give me a chance to renew old incidents, but will be a happy chance again to see the faces of cobbles in that five-odd years that gave us a bit of the horrors, deprived us of mates whose memories we still cherish, and in general separated the men from the bastards. With that passing thought, I'll shut my big yap.

But let's not forget each other. When I saw Bob Lake I realised what the last 10 years had taken from me. But with a bit of luck I'll be up in the Smoke for Anzac Day. We can tear things apart then, eh?

NAME TO REMEMBER

Last December a party of bowlers from the R.O.T.A. visited Bateman's Bay for the weekend. In the party were three 2/1 Pioneers—Harry (Curly) Bentley, Jack (Split the Wind) Pearce and Jack (Mick) Dodson. On arriving at the bowling club the steward inquired if there were any Pioneers among the party. When the abovenamed spoke up, the steward took them to a club member who was trying to make his fortune on the poker machines.

The steward asked if we knew this member. All answered in the negative. When the member spoke up, even though it was nearly 30 years ago, it was a voice that couldn't be forgotten—Captain (Jock) Macadam, the original R.S.M. of the 2/1 Pioneer Battalion.

Jack Macadam went to 10 Platoon, B Company, when he got his commission. From there he went to H.Q. Company. It was from there he went walkabout with an English officer on the Bardia Road Sector, and to many was not heard of again until this occasion at Bateman's Bay. He was overwhelmed at meeting some of his boys, and wished to be remembered to all.

Even though he does not keep the best of health these days, Jock is still able to sink a few. Any Pioneer visiting Bateman's Bay is asked to call at this Bowling Club on a Saturday and ask for Jock Macadam.

What an afternoon! What a reunion!
—Jack (Mick) Dodson.

Army Hero In 'War' Over Pop Show

A retired lieutenant-colonel who won the Military Cross twice was the centre of local controversy because he helped organise a giant pop festival on his Ourimbah farm.

Lieut.-Colonel H. W. Nicholls—locally known as "The Major"—held the festival, with pop groups coming from all over Australia, on his 700-acre property on January 24 and 25.

It happened because Colonel Nicholls, 49, befriended members of a long-haired pop group in a local pub and started to become interested in their music and their philosophy.

Colonel Nicholls took up farming after he retired from the Army four years ago.

In his distinguished Army career he won a Military Cross at Tobruk with the 2/1 Pioneer Battalion, and another in Korea. When the Japanese entered the war he trained as a parachutist and joined Z Force, which operated behind enemy lines.

His conversion to pop happened when he met members of the long-haired Nutwood Rug Band, who have a small property near his.

"We got talking in the pub and I found I liked them and started listening to their music," he said. "When they suggested that we hold a pop festival on my land I agreed."

Colonel Nicholls lives on the property with his wife and five children.

"The funny thing is that since I've got mixed up in this pop business I'm much closer to my children. They regard me as some sort of a hero now."

NEWS ITEM

Our Welfare Officer sends news of Vic Walmsley of B Coy. 2/1, whom he visits each weekend at the Old Aged Persons' Home in Victoria Road, Ryde. Vic has been confined to bed for over three years now and looks forward to Monty's weekly visit. On Christmas Day Monty took along a can of beer and he assures us that Vic was as pleased as a child with a new toy. He appeals to members to call in and see Vic sometimes—their visits would be more than welcome.

Leo Morris, who had a long spell in Concord over the Christmas period had Ray Lester as a wardmate and you can rest assured these old mates had many a yarn over old times. When Ray was discharged, Ted Skoyles from Wollongong moved into the ward, so Leo once again had someone to talk with.

NEW MEMBERS

During hospital calls, I was pleased to enrol the following mates from both Battalions into our Association: 2/2nd, Tom Behan; 2/1, John Hockley, James Bogan, William Quayle, Syd Morton, Basil Hayes and John Burns.

—H. Montague.

Another Disgruntled Medico Has a Shot At The System

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

Eight years ago, a medico with a chip on his shoulder was quoted in the newspapers as having said, "Seventy-five per cent of the men drawing pensions for nervous disorders have personality disorders with which they were born."

"THESE DRONGOS HAVE BEEN FALSELY CALLED NEUROTICS. THEY'RE USING NEUROSES AS AN ALIBI (SIC) FOR THEIR FAILURE IN LIFE."

"THEY ARE PEOPLE WHO SAY 'I WAS NEVER ANY GOOD' — AND THEY NEVER WILL BE, EITHER."

Now a new medical critic has come on the scene. Nobody denied that he had guts in World War II—they don't hand out D.F.C.s with tins of bully-beef, and he was awarded a D.F.C. as a Lancaster skipper.

I'm not taking issue with Dr. John Whiting, author of "Be In It, Mate," because he's a disillusioned ex-Serviceman doctor. I can admire the determination of a man who fights in a war, rouses about for a few postwar years, then qualifies in medicine, even though I doubt his dedication to humanities.

Dr. Whiting has panned the Repatriation system with very great vehemence and very little literary skill. He produces one or two characters whom he deems worthy of recognition, and has a number of shots at the rest. In fine he classifies them as column-dodgers, bludgers and general no-hopers.

His book is a farrago of half-truths, with a little bit of angled fat thrown in. Anyhow, it had such public impact that it fell flat on its face. I wasted a dollar on it for the sake of reading it.

I'm one of the bludgers to whom he refers—or am I? Without bragging, I joined the C.M.F. when Chamberlain voiced his plaintive "policy of appeasement," and when it was apparent that Hitler and Mussolini meant war, and Stalin was prepared to aid them until they turned on him.

Then I served in Korea, aggravating the osteo-arthritis which a tough medical board conceded me when I came out of the A.I.F. with a little encore for Chin Peng's Malaya revolt. I might add that there were other medical notations on my papers.

Dr. Whiting quotes one patient as defending his fatness because his pension depended on it. Codswallop!

That was just one case cited by the doctor. He mentions other phoneys who didn't get outside the Heads, but got fat pensions; he mentions one patient who did his service behind a bar—and was mighty proud of it.

Any Repat. patient who is honest with himself—and there are a lot of them, in spite of the critics—takes stock of himself and boxes on as well as he knows how.

But there are times when you can't box on. Forgive me, brothers, for quot-

ing myself again. Three years ago, I was earning an "A"-Grade journalist's salary. Now my pension is a very handy thing to have, because it pays the rent. Medically, I've been forbidden to work in an office, so bang goes \$6,000 a year.

I do quite comfortably, if frugally, on freelancing and public relations.

But I wouldn't be able to do that if I didn't pay my regular visits to the local Repat. M.O. and the consultant psychiatrist at the St. Kilda Road Outpatients' Clinic.

Don't cry, mates, but I've just come out of Heidelberg. I didn't go there for a holiday. It was a dose of amnesia that put me there—and if I hadn't saved a few hundred dollars in the days when my physical and mental health were better than they are now, I'd probably still be in the convalescent hospital at Rockingham.

So there's my story—five months in the Repat. Mental Hospital, two months in the psychiatric ward at Heidelberg, and two months at Rockingham.

The only pension I battled for was my first 10 per cent—the increments came through medical decisions. I asked for nothing.

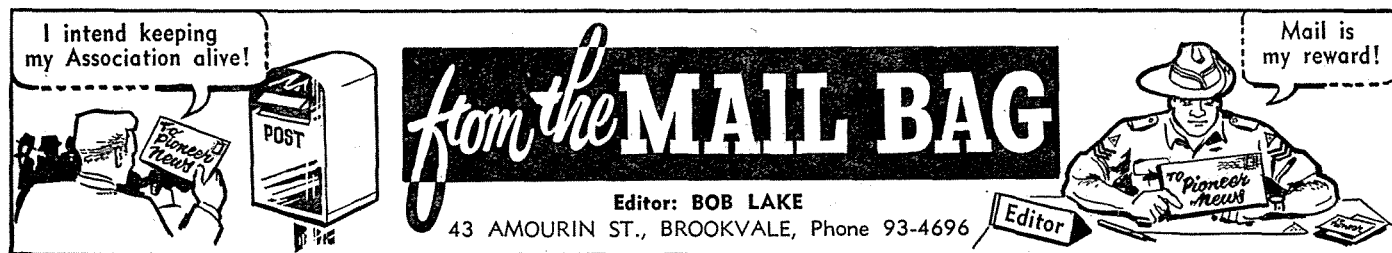
Dr. Whiting's book speaks of retiring Repatriation officers getting the T.P.I. on the evening of their packing it in. It may be true. I'll believe it when I see it. I think I've said enough. I said it all before in the News of July, 1962. If Max would like to make a reprint, I have a cutting which I will cheerfully type for a rehash.

FATHER AND BROTHER LOST

But it's things like this that make my blood boil. I lost my father because the old coot was patriotic enough to rejoin the R.N.R. at 66, and got a fatal wound from a shell splinter fired by a Jerry aircraft off Northern Ireland.

I lost my brother because of an issue in the head he copped in New Guinea, and was silly enough to keep quiet about it. His medical papers—such as they were—got lost in the postwar mucking around.

All right, I've damned Dr. Whiting, and told you my own sad story. I'll bet London to a brick that Monty and many others of the Committee could tell more cogent ones. They say no man should be judge in his own cause. They say there are rotten apples in every barrel. But let me say this—with due respect to Dr. Whiting, D.F.C., M.B., B.S.—that there are more decrepit Digs battling on than are dreamt of in his philosophy. We all should know. We've seen a lot of them—and they all weren't Skid Row graduates!



Well, here we are 1970 and really going with a bang; some eight letters for a publication from October to April—that's not equivalent to one letter per month from 1,085 papers posted regularly to 1,085 members that have not got the time or energy to put a pen to paper, so that we, in turn, can put something into print for you blokes to read. After all, we have not got the Telegraph or the Herald reporters sending us notes, so how the bloody hell do you think we can operate. Bombo Reynolds, ex D Coy. and now living at Coogee, sends along the information that he and his wife spent a few days in Brisbane, where Bombo put in a few days around the old haunts. He mentions the Gresham Hotel, where both he and Ken Parkin used to wait for the doors to open. Also poked his nose down to the L.T.D. where R.S.M. Smith used to always be on the prowl, with that self same grin still shining on his face. Bombo also called into the Windsor Hotel and about eight pigeons walked in with him, as he said, Nobody—not Nobody, drinks with the flies in Brisbane. Strolled into Maitland on the way home, where they stayed a few days with his first and only (so far) grandson; I would imagine a great few days Eric?

On his return to Sydney Bombo ran into Jack Lloyd and Ron Webster; would that be a bloke we used to know as "Plonki" Webster, "Transport Driver," if so, I would like to know where you met him. Thanks a lot, Bombo, for a grand letter, and for all the good news you have passed on, also, of course, your sub. is in the treasurer's hands.

CLARRIE PAKES, ex Quartermaster and now at Erskineville, and last time I saw him, was working on the waterfront. I presume you are still there, old chap—Clarrie does not say a lot; however, he does give the Committee a pat on the back for their diligence to duty, and sends along his donation for the financial year.

Our old pal, "Round the World" **WITHAM**, "SAILOR" to you blokes, sends along a sub. to the treasurer. Sailor has had the misfortune to have had a spell in "Concord." However, he is still in the O.K. and now home at the mansion at Waverley.

MRS. DOREEN ELLISTON, widow of the late Phil of our battalion, and now in residence at Narooma, on the South Coast, sends along a letter of thanks to our secretary Max for some assistance he was able to provide in reference to her appeal to the Repat. Doreen also hopes to be able to attend one of the newspaper wrapping nights; this no doubt will be the forerunner of many more, I hope. Thank you for the letter

Doreen and I hope that your appeal to the Tribunal meets with the success that it deserves.

TICH YOUNG. After many years Tich Young elected to send a card, a note and a sum of money to the Treasurer, and for this, the Association shows its appreciation. However, we all know how that little blighter can play the piano, so why don't you give us one two-hour flash of your life and come along and see us. I, Bob Lake, needed no reminder of the time I spilt you out of the truck, nor would our old friend "Nugget" Neal; he never lets me forget it, but by letting the whole lot out of the bag, do you think it's O.K. now to tell them that we drank his bottle of rum (actually it was better for us to drink it than the sand just absorb it). After all, Tich, we all know that sand has no feeling, and we, after such an ordeal, needed help. Many thanks for the card Tich. As you probably guess, my wife opens the Xmas cards and all she told me was that there was a pleasant surprise for me. It's really great to hear from someone like yourself and I can assure you that I will call out to the old Cauliflower one afternoon just for old time's sake.

FERGUS ROBERTSON, A Coy. 2/1, and now a city dweller of Mosman, writes a letter, not newsy as we wish, but with a bash at the Government and the Service pension. With regard to your statement, I do not profess to know how the Repatriation works, but I do know that if you are in receipt of a war pension and over 60 years of age, even on the sliding scale, on the burnt out Digger's pension, you still get medical attention, but you do not get the 100 per cent pension if you are in Concord for any illness apart from sickness due to your war service. However, thanks for the letter Fergy, and don't let them get you down, as for the B... old Chap, you said it Mate, not us.

JACK HICKEY, C Coy. 2/1, of Lithgow, sends a welcome donation to the Treasurer and his very best wishes to all who keep the "Pioneer News" alive. Thank you, Jack, and we are pleased to see it makes interesting reading. Jack sends news of his family and reports that his daughter Margaret has just given birth to a baby daughter. She and her husband, Peter Compton, already have a young son nearly two years old. Peter has almost completed his 5th Year at University of N.S.W., where he is studying for a Master's Degree in Engineering. Our best wishes to you, Peter. Jack's son, John, is employed with the Commercial Banking Co. of Sydney at Baradine, and at the moment is showing plenty of interest in the "fair sex," and

finding this very interesting. In regard to the notice re the late Ernie Hunt, Jack, we will pass this on to Mick Dodson to bring to the notice of the Rats of Tobruk Association.

TOM CONNOLLY, B Coy., 2/1, formerly of Wallabadah, writes to say he has left that district after 14 years and is now moving around the State with his wife. Your mail will be forwarded to your sister's address at Waratah until further notice, Tom, and we will be pleased to hear from you again when you settle down. Your donation has been passed on to the Treasurer.

"SAILOR" WITHAM, ex 2/1, of Waverley, is off to New Zealand on a seven weeks' tour and sends his apologies for non-attendance at Anzac Day functions. Both he and his wife, May, have not been enjoying the best of health over the last 12 months, and we sincerely hope this trip will do them both the world of good.

Well, that's your mail bag fellows. As I said at the start, we can't print what we don't have, so it's up to you, one and all, to give us something for your old mates to read. After all, the paper only comes out three times a year, and between all of us, surely we should be able to fill one page of it with happenings about yourselves. Till Anzac Day, good luck, good health and keep smiling.

LAKEY.

WELFARE REPORT

There has been a steady increase of patients at the various hospitals since the last Welfare Report and we are grateful to Don Bailey and Tom Gittens, who are the R.S.L. Pension officers at Concord Hospital, for continued assistance.

In other fields welfare was carried out: **LEGACY** were approached recently on behalf of a member's widow and children for assistance regarding education; Canteen Trust Fund approached concerning financial assistance for educational books for a member's children; Major Brooks of the Salvation Army assisted one of our members who needed guidance; Roy Cuttall of the local pensions advisory representative has been of great assistance about entitlements after reaching the age of 60 years; Legal Service Bureau has been most helpful when seeking advice about appeals.

We thank all the people connected with these bodies for their continued support.

The welfare section of your association is always ready to assist, so please ring or write, Harry Montague, 46 Pomeroy Street, Homebush, N.S.W. 2140. Telephone 76-6657.

PIONEER NEWS

759 5491

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

759 5491

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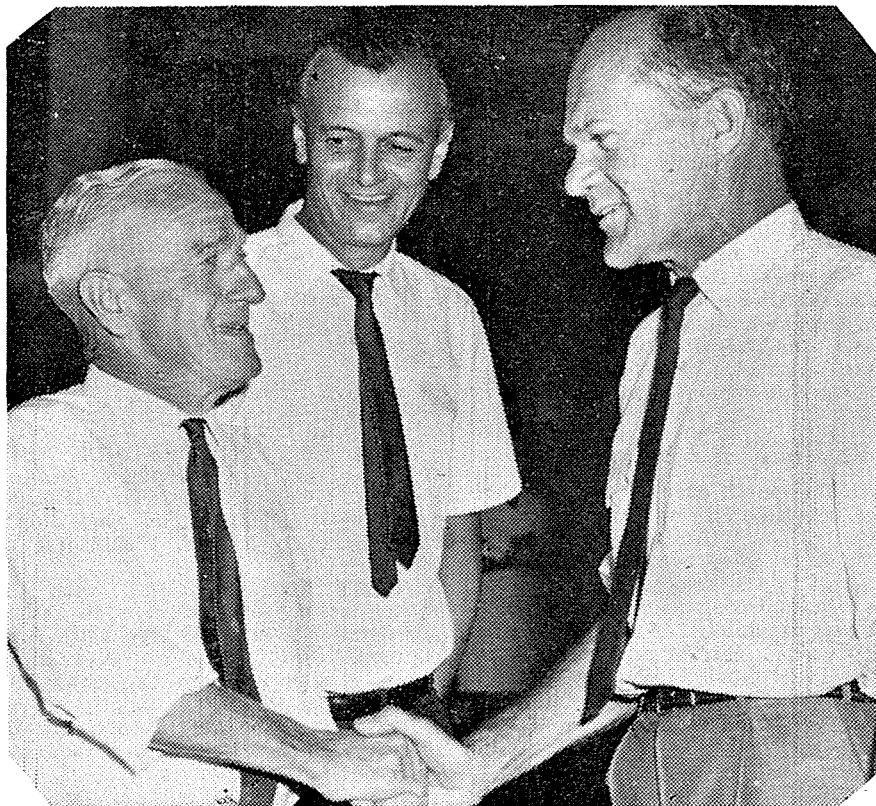
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It Was "Au Revoir" But Not Goodbye

A man who has spent a lifetime serving Kyogle district people retired recently after being with the one firm for 47 years.



He is Mr. Peter Bell, of Junors Pty. Ltd., hardware department.

Mr. Bell joined the firm when it was on the opposite side of the street from its present location and was known as A. J. Junor Pty. Ltd.

The only time since then that he has not been behind the hardware counter was when he was serving Kyogle people in a different manner—as one of the "Rats of Tobruk."

Peter was a member of the 2/1 Pioneer Battalion and was Sergeant in the R.A.P. He was wounded in Balikpapan.

Peter—few people have ever called him "Mr."—has watched Kyogle grow and change with the times.

When he started with Junors in 1923, bullock teams were common in what was then called Kyogle Road and most stores delivered customers' orders by horse and cart.

There was no through rail to Brisbane and cars were a rarity.

For many years Peter has been a keen bowler and is well known to bowlers all over the North Coast.

One of his other interests is the work of Legacy and many a soldier's widow and children have good cause to thank him.

But although Peter has retired "under his own steam," the firm does not mean to lose him altogether.

In May, the managing director, Mr. H. C. Junor, pictured with Peter (left) and the assistant manager, Mr. Dick McGregor, arranged he would still be "on the strength" even if only part time.

Whenever the need arises, Peter will drop in and get on with the job at which he shines—being helpful to everyone with whom he comes in contact.

"Pioneer News" gratefully thank the "Kyogle Examiner" for permission to print this article and for the loan of the block.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP PRESENTATION — JACK COLLIS

A short effective ceremony was held at our May meeting to present Jack with his certificate of life membership. Jack came down from Umina in the Woy Woy district to receive his honour. A short presentation speech was made by our president.

In his reply, Jack said it was an honour and something he will always cherish. He also said the work he did in the welfare field, to him was no more than anyone else would or could have done and that he enjoyed being of service to the Battalion.

Congratulations, Jack! And a big "well done," Pioneer.

ANNUAL DINNER AT IMPERIAL SERVICES CLUB

On Friday, 5th June, the Third Annual Dinner of the officers of the 2/1 Pioneers was held at the Imperial Services Club.

Twelve officers attended and partook of a very nice dinner and a good yarn.

Those who were able to attend included Lt. Col. Norm Neal, Tom Blamey, Steve Clarke, Gordon Finlay, Jack Lloyd, Kev, John and Cyril Monahan, Rod Pegg, Bill Robertson, John Trevethick, and "mine host" of the Imperial Services Club, Gordon Osborn.

There were many who apologised for non-attendance, so it is hoped they can make it next year. It is held on the first Friday in June—so make a note of it NOW as Friday, 4th June, 1971. All officers conveyed their best wishes to all members of both Battalions and to the Association's Committee.

2/1-2/2 Anzac Functions

WREATH LAYING

We started our Anzac functions as always with a short march from Hunter Street to the Cenotaph via Pitt Street to pay our homage to our departed mates. We are pleased that there are some 2/1 and 2/2 Pioneers that take the wreath laying as seriously and as reverently as we want it to be. We would like to see more members take an interest.

But we must admit we were pleased with our attendance of over 40 members. We also had 10 ladies present at the Cenotaph.

The banners in the march to the Cenotaph were carried by 2/1 Wal Page, 2/2 Jim Fields. At the Cenotaph we came to a smart halt under the command from our Marshal, H. (Pasha) Jackson. The wreaths were laid by (for the ladies' auxiliary), Mrs. Marg Wheeler (wife of Johnny Wheeler), 2/1 by our country president, Bill Hoffman, 2/2 by our president Alan McInnes. Alan also recited the ode to the fallen.

After the ceremony was over, the ladies, Peg Herron, Mary McInnes, Marg Wheeler, Roma Shearston, Kath Fields, Dot Ronan, Joan Lake, Eileen Dick, Olive Finlay and Mrs. St. Vincent Welsh all went to a cafe for supper, which the association pays for, for their help and interest in the association, while the members held the association's annual meeting.

OUR ANNUAL MEETING

Our meeting this year was attended by 33 members. We were sorry to see that although some members were able to attend the wreath laying they were unable to attend our annual meeting, some owing to ill health, others for personal reasons.

The meeting, as usual, was ably conducted by our president, Alan McInnes, and in general was very constructive and informative. As was expected, the same work team was re-elected for another year. I don't think, as a matter of fact I am sure, that Alan McInnes, Max Herron, Doug Shearston, Bob McGregor and Bob Lake will ever retire and we certainly won't want them to. These men certainly have your interest, interest of the association at heart, and on behalf of all members I would like to say many thanks for a job well done in 1969 and thanks for standing again for 1970.

I think the highlight of the meeting was to hear Harry (Monty) Montague and Jack Collis made life members of the association. These two wonderful men have spent their own time and some of their own money at times, to visit our sick members in various hospitals.

After all the correspondence and general business had been handled, members attending the meeting settled down for a few beers and snack and a good old-fashioned chin wag. As I said before the meeting was very constructive and very informative and very well conducted. We could have gone on for hours more, but

our thoughts went out to the big day that was to follow, the 55th Anzac Day, so we reluctantly closed another good annual meeting.

ANZAC MARCH

The 55th Anzac Day march was held in perfect sunny weather. The day before wasn't the best and it looked as though it could be cold and wet for the 25th April, but someone up there must like us because the weather was to order and according to reports there was 100,000 people watching from the sidelines. When it came our turn to move off we were called into line 16 abreast by Jack Westwood. Then we moved off behind the 2/1 Banner carried by Wal Page. Our march leaders were Col. (Nugget) Neil and Gordon Osborn, and as the pace became a little too much for Nugget, and Gordon had to go back to see how things were at work, it was in George Street that Brig. Johnny Gilcrest took over till we reached our destination in Hyde Park.

Of course, the streets of Sydney were decorated for the Captain Cook Bicentenary, which certainly added a lot of colour to the march, but it didn't add to our numbers in the march—we only had 120, which was certainly down on previous years' figures. So boys, see if we can't double that figure next year.

The 2/2 banner was carried by Jim Fields and the 2/2 marchers, led by Alan McInnes and Bill Robinson, numbered 68. But, as usual, it was only the beginning of another good Anzac Day.

2/1 REUNION

With the march over for just another year it was time for our members to join the committee at the Castlereagh Hotel for the usual good hot dinner supplied free to all by the association. By unanimous request we again supplied braised steak and vegetables, or one could have if they wished, curried prawns and rice with oodles of bread and butter. We supplied 110 hot meals, most of them before the bar opened at 12 noon and then the conversations were really on in earnest with a lot of chaps renewing old acquaintances, but there were still a lot of chaps very conspicuous in their absence.

To name a couple, Dick Seddon and Jack Griffith from Newcastle. They said they were coming, but didn't arrive, but then that was true for a lot of members. But we still had a lot from out of town. Like Col Shea of the 2/2 from Melbourne. Col also had his son "Vernon" with him.

Vernon has just finished his stint in Vietnam. Nice to see you both. We also had, as usual, Bill Hoffman from Kyogle, Ted Scholes from Wollongong, Scottie Angus and Fred Devenport from Queensland, Bill Jolly Goulbourn, and Bill did the right thing again and got us a band to march by. Thanks Bill. We also had Larry Robson from Newcastle with us. It was very nice to see all these out

Reported by H. Montague,
W. Page and G. Finlay

of town fellows, but I wonder why these interstate and country fellows can make it and the suburban fellows can't? I wonder.

But on behalf of the association committee I would like to say "thanks" to all those who came and made our Anzac functions the success they were. This makes us feel that our work has not been in vain.

ANZAC DAY JOTTINGS

BOB GRATTEN came to our reunion and he had somewhat of a success story to relate to me and I don't think he will mind me repeating it. There was a time when Bob was on the skids so to speak—no job, no money, no decent clothes—until he found himself at the assembly point one Anzac Day and saw so many well dressed Pioneers with money in their pockets that he said to himself, "Well, if they can do it, Bob Gratten can do it," and Bob Gratten did it. He is on top there now and we give our congratulations and our wishes that you stay on top, Bob.

BOB LONG came along (no pun intended Bob) on Anzac Day and brought two of his mates in the name of John Jones and Alex Steward. I think Bob said they were ex spare wing commanders from World War II. Nice going fellows. Call again.

JACK GRIFFITH and **DICK SEDDON**. No, they were conspicuous in their absence. I had it from Harry Robson that they would arrive, but they didn't. Next time, eh fellows. Would like to see you.

JIMMY TROTTER. Still with the P.M.G. looking as fit as ever. He issued an invitation to his mate, Noel Little (one time "A" Coy. 2/1) to join us next reunion. Noel is with the Commonwealth Bank, Martin Place.

FERGUS ROBERTSON. Met him on the way to the march. He marched, but couldn't be at our reunion.

ALAN BLACK, down from Coolabah for the first time since 1945. He sank a few and talked a lot with Lakey, Joe Barker, Snow Jardine, Vic Whiteley, Dora Black (Alan couldn't believe Whiteley could get so big).

YOUNG SCOTTIE ANGUS down from Brisbane to see us all and he tells me he is going back to Scotland (at least they may be able to understand him there).

TOMMY LAPHORNE downed several middies with old Murphy again—the first time they have met since 1945.

FRED DAVENPORT down from Queensland reports that he started his trip around Australia and after three days, at Tennants Creek it was, his wife broke her leg. Bad luck. Fred and Nel. How about that, eh.

ANZAC DAY JOTTINGS (Cont.)

CASEY BROWN had a gathering in the corner (as usual). Some of those he was buying for—Bert Holmes, Frank Gillian, Bill Tasker, George Bates, Smiler Burns, Ron Gallagher, Fred Calloway, Blue Lacey, Mick Dwyer, Brian Kybert, Bruce Smith, Snowy Hemmings and myself (one beer).

BERT HOLMES will be pleased to see any Pioneers going over to the north side. Visit his club, the Forestville R.S.L.

IAN KIRKWOOD up from Wollongong and he looks very prosperous—must be that Lottery Office is rubbing off on to him, because that's where Ian works.

JACK COATS came down from Umina in the Woy Woy district to spend the day with us and had himself quite a time with Bob Burnside and Bob Scott.

TICH TURNBULL turned up again, the old evergreen. Doesn't seem any older than he looked at Greta.

BILL CALVERT another first upper. Come again Bill. Bill, ex "B" Coy. 2/1 spent some time with the P.I.B. in New Guinea. He had his wife with him, as did Pat Noonan and Bob Burnside. Nice to see you people again.

COLONEL NORM NIEL was another very welcome visitor to the reunion. Norm goes to his old reunion first and then to ours every year. With him was Gordon Walsh and Ray Lester. Gordon brought greetings from Alf Carter.

DARBY SELLWOOD, another "A" Coy. identity, had a few stories and downed a few with Don Slater and Jimmy Trotter. How's that Mr. Trotter! You got your name in our paper twice now.

HENRY ALLEN was down from St. Marys with his R.A.A.F. mate, who still sings a good song.

BILL WRIGHT, TED JENNINGS, SAMMY LEWIS, ex "C" Coy., had themselves a time also.

TERRY BIRD, son of Joe Bird, seemed to be looking after Bob Lake quite well.

DICKIE CHALMERS, of "D" Coy., doesn't seem to get any older and he was asking after John Flood. Let's hear from John.

JACK COLLIS, our life member welfare officer from Umina, had himself a ball, but he never seems to stop working for the association.

ERIC HAWKINS. You're almost a stranger. Eric, nice to see you. Eric came along with his son-in-law. Eric and the old Browne rolled quite a lot of bandages or something for quite a while after lunch.

Thanks to our barmaids, especially Doreen. She has been working for us for quite a while now and seems to know a lot of the boys. Thanks to all who made the effort to come along. Nice to see you all.

—G. FINLAY

ANZAC DAY WITH 2/2nds

Quite a good roll-up of the 2/2 at the Anzac march this year. The contingent was swelled by a number of members from the Clovelly R.S.L. and Air Force Club, headed by Clem Macdonald. All members are pleased with the shorter march.

The Anzac reunion was held at the York Hotel, King Street, once again, with an attendance of about 50, who voted it a good day. Our old stalwart and ex-Padre Stan CLAUGHTON was in attendance, having a yarn with the boys. He is holding his usual Sunday Remembrance Service at the Leichhardt Methodist Church, Wetherill Street, Leichhardt, at 7.15 p.m., the 8th of November. He is looking forward to a good roll-up of all Pioneers.

Among the new faces was LES STARES, ex Victorian P.M.G. employee and now living in Queanbeyan.

BILL (PUNCHY) HANSON from Timboora, south-west Victoria. Bill is a master butcher. This was his first visit to the reunion and had a good day renewing old mates. Pleased to see you "Punchy."

TOM MORGAN, D Coy. Tom is a keen bowler and is champion of Central Coast Bowling Association. He has a son and daughter. His son is a Bachelor of Science, now at University.

Noticed **LEN HOPE** enjoying himself. Len is manager of Hope's Holiday Homes. Free plug for you Len.

A few of the fellows who had been in hospital mentioned that they had been visited by "Monty" and were very appreciative of the visits.

First visit by **BOB BRUCE**, B. Coy., from Bundaberg, Queensland. Bob is partner in an electrical business. Also he runs an amateur broadcasting station.

THE R.S.L. 9 P.M. RITUAL

The ode to the fallen, which is strictly observed in all R.S.L. clubs today, originated in the United Kingdom at the commencement of World War II.

The main news bulletin of the day was broadcast to all British and Commonwealth forces at 9 p.m. each night by the B.B.C. short wave network.

It was introduced by the chimes of London's famous Big Ben. The chimes echoed for approximately two minutes. During these two minutes, those at home prayed for their loved ones who were away with the forces.

It really became tremendously appreciated and more or less became a ceremony of remembrance during the whole period of the war.

Following the cessation of hostilities the R.S.L. adopted this sacred service as part of their constitution at the federal congress.

And so it is today we have a two minute remembrance ceremony for those who paid the supreme sacrifice.

—HARRY MONTAGUE.

JACK MORGAN, D Coy., was up from Wagga with news of other Pioneers. Ken Knight, son of the late Claude, ex R.S.M., sent apologies because of an attack of hepatitis. Tom Carter is a foreman with the Wagga Council. Les Pridman is working with the Department of Interior. Jack reported that Maurie Armstrong has now transferred to Adelaide to take up duties with the Southern Command.

Another newcomer was **STEVE SNOW**, C Coy. Steve had been with the A.N.Z. Bank in Victoria. He has now retired and is living in Arncliffe, N.S.W. Nice to have seen you once again Steve. Hope you enjoy your trip overseas.

Good to see **BOBBY LEE** looking so well after his spell in hospital. Good health in the future Bob.

PAT COLLINS was along as usual, accompanied by his son Bruce, who was proudly wearing his grandfather's medals, which included the D.C.M., M.M. It is something to be proud of.

COL SHEA came from Melbourne with his son Bernard. Bernard is now back in civilian life after 12 months in Vietnam with the 5th Regiment.

—DON LAWSON

SOCIAL EVENT

We would like to thank Frank Dynon and his highly efficient staff for the wonderful night they gave the undermentioned:—

Allan and Mary McInnes, Max and Peg Herron, Doug and Roma Shearston, Bob and Joan Lake, Bob and Joyce McGregor, Lall and Wal Page, Pat and Mary Noonan, Jack and Nel Stone, Bob and Jean Burnside, Bluey and Carmel Chase, Mick Dodson and Harry Mostyn, on Saturday evening, the 30th May.

You see, we had the privilege of visiting the North Sydney Anzac Memorial Club, of which Frank Dynon is the Secretary/Manager.

We were certainly afforded the V.I.P. treatment in the Ambassador Room at the club.

We would like you to know, Frank, that we all had a wonderful night, so much so that a couple of Pioneers were swept out with the bumpers (no names mentioned).

Frank, it is our wish that you convey our thanks to your staff for us on a job well done.

We also request the pleasure to visit your club again, let's say about November. How about it Frank?

However, we will be in touch. Thanks again.

—WAL DESSO PAGE.

President's Report—1970

The decade of the sixties is behind us and we enter the new decade with strength and unity, which makes this Association second to none and a very united group.

The successful year we now put behind us was, no doubt, due to the efforts of the elected executive committee and the support from our members.

SOCIAL FUNCTIONS were organised and supervised by our social secretary, Bob McGregor. As always, when a function has been organised by Bob it has gone like clockwork.

The first function for the year was our annual wreath laying ceremony at the Cenotaph on Anzac Eve and I am pleased to report a very good attendance on this very important occasion. I would request every member to make an effort and come next time—I am certain he will appreciate this service. Wreaths were laid by both Battalions and the ladies' auxiliary, and I thank all who attended.

From the wreath laying, members proceeded to the Annual General Meeting of the Association at the British Ex-Service-men's Club and here again we had a good roll call—some members were rather vocal, but at annual meetings we expect this.

Anzac Day followed, and this, of course, is a big event. The march was very well attended by members of both Battalions and both reunions had good roll-ups. The reunions were enjoyed by all and a credit to the organisers.

The Bi-annual Smoko in November was a wonderful evening for the SMALL number in attendance and with the organisation that has to be done, surely a reasonable number of members could make the effort to attend and have a few drinks with their mates. I think we will have to have an inquest on the Bi-annual to find out why the meagre attendance. The function must be worthwhile. Thanks to Bob McGregor for a very hard working year on the social side, and I appreciate the many hours spent by Bob on our behalf.

WELFARE WORK has been carried out by Harry Montague (City) and Jack Collis (Central Coast). Harry has been most active, and has visited all Pioneers in Concord Hospital every week with a parcel of books, smokes, etc. He has made contacts to find out what Pioneers are patients, ward, bed numbers, etc. Apart from visiting, Harry has done a great amount of social welfare work assisting re pensions, legal aid, etc. Jack sees to the Central Coast area and our thanks go to these two wonderful welfare officers.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT: Our finances are healthy as your annual report will show, and for this we have to thank Doug. Shearston, our hard working treasurer. Doug. always works hard and keeps our financial balance as we need it—very healthy.

OUR SECRETARY is the man who makes the association what it is. He is the receiver of all correspondence, the

sender of our correspondence, the receiver of complaints, the receiver of requests, the man who keeps files current on 1,200 members, changes all addresses as necessary, looks after association's equipment, takes telephone enquiries, books meeting places, arranges wreath laying, arranges Pioneer News printing, helps edit Pioneer News and many more duties. I don't know how our secretary has time to go to work and still do the volume of Pioneer work he does. My very sincere thanks on behalf of the association to Max Herron, our secretary.

PIONEER NEWS has been edited, printed and posted three times this year, and my thanks go to our editors, Max Herron, Bob Lake and John Harnetty. These are the people who do the work and I must say their task has not been easy as there has been little support from members by way of letters and news items. I request that you **MUST** write or the Pioneer News can't go on. My thanks go also to the committee who wrap these editions of Pioneer News for posting to us all.

PUBLICITY has been organised and carried out efficiently by Wal Page. I thank you, Wal, for a job well done.

I have been honoured to be president of this grand Association and, in conclusion, would like to thank all committee members who by their attendance at meetings and constructive ideas have contributed much to make this a good year.

—ALLAN McINNES

ANNUAL WELFARE REPORT

During the past year 51 visits were made by our Welfare Officer to Concord Repatriation Hospital, totalling 280 calls on members.

Parcels containing books, tobacco, cigarettes and chocolates were distributed. Assistance was given in repatriation and pension matters.

Thirty-seven visitations were made to other public and private hospitals and during these visits 32 new members were enrolled.

The gate staff at the Concord Repatriation Hospital are to be thanked for their continued support in supplying names of our members who are inmates. It is important that the Association is kept up in numerical strength and it is because of the information received from the Gate Staff that we are able to enrol new members.

Vic Walmsley is visited each week at Ryde People's Home, 600 Victoria Road, Ryde, and he would appreciate any Pioneer visiting him. He has been an inmate for three years.

H. MONTAGUE.

ATTENTION 2/1-2/2 BOWLERS

On Anzac Day, "Curley" Bentley issued a challenge on behalf of the "Rats of Tobruk" bowlers.

If the 2/1-2/2nds can make up a team he will arrange a Sunday match, probably at the Fivedock R.S.L. Club, where the greens are superb.

If you would like to be a starter, give Doug Shearston a ring and drop him a line and he will make all the necessary arrangements as to date, time and place.

We can't let a challenge like this go unheeded, so ring or write as soon as possible.

—DOUG SHEARSTON, 24 Tarrilli Street, Beverly Hills. Telephone 50-8374.

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE FOR A PENSION?

Many requests have been made regarding pensions and it is surprising the number of members who have been denying themselves.

Some consider that because they have finished work and have certain assets or incomes it prevents them from receiving the pension.

Every year there are alterations to the Social Service Act which makes more people entitled to some form of pension.

Remember, you were compelled to pay for these benefits, so now, having reached the age of eligibility, it would be to your benefit to make representation. Don't be guided by other people. Don't think you are not entitled to any pension benefits.

You are advised to contact your local Social Service Officer in Sydney at Australia House, Carrington Street, Wynyard.

The following will give an idea of present pensions.

PENSIONS

To apply for the age pension the male must be 65 years of age and in the case of the female 60 years of age.

However, where the male has been an ex-Serviceman and served overseas he is entitled to a pension at 60 years after his Means Test application has been inspected and approved.

In the case of a single returned man he can own his home, have it fully furnished, a car, \$5,620 in money and assets and receive the standard rate of pension of \$15 per week or \$780 a year.

A single person is allowed to earn or have an income of not more than \$520 per year and still get the full pension rate as mentioned above.

MARRIED COUPLE'S PENSION

Where the man is the same qualification in respect of war service as in previous case, with his wife, who must be at least 60 years of age, they can apply for the married rate, which is \$13.25 each per week.

They can have their own home fully furnished, a car and \$9,680 in assets or money; also they are allowed between them to earn \$884 annually.

THE LAST POST

2/1: NX58375, S./Sgt. G. A. Case; NX29762, Pte. G. Horder; NX23859, Pte. F. R. Adams.

2/2: NX177613, Pte. H. Sheridan; VX48190, Sgt. P. Gooney; NX153698, Sgt. J. Willis.

THE HOLIDAY OF A LIFETIME

Continuing story
By "Sailor" Whitlam

Now a little about St. Alban's. This is a very famous country town some 30 miles from London. The town itself is very modern and well laid out. The main reason it is so famous is on account of the huge Abbey there.

For more than 1600 years a church has stood on the site of St. Alban's Abbey, which was once recognised as the premier Abbey in England. Time was, for instance, when the nation cared nothing for education of the people, but here in St. Alban's—at least from the time of Edward the Confessor—an educational ladder was in existence by means of which children of the humblest origin might rise, and some of them did rise to the highest position in the Church and State.

Examples can be found here of ancient British, Roman and Medieval fortifications. There are records of visits of almost every English sovereign from William the Conqueror to Elizabeth II, who visited the Abbey in April, 1957. It was on the historic site of St. Alban's that the first British Martyr gave his life for Christianity early in the fourth century. Alban, a Roman soldier stationed in the town of Verulanum nearby, had sheltered Amphibalus, a British priest, who was being persecuted, and was so impressed by his holiness that he became converted, and to enable the priest to escape gave his life for him. He was brought to the hill on which the church now stands and was beheaded.

In the early days the Abbot of St. Alban's had jurisdiction over the town as well as his Monastery, and the gate-house served as a prison. The dungeons in which the offenders were confined still exist below the building. During the Napoleonic War some French prisoners were confined here.

Nearby are the old Roman ruins of Verulanum, where excavations are still going on. Near the old ruins is the oldest Inn in England—it is called Ye Old Fighting Cocks. It was originally the fishing lodge for the Monastery. So much for St. Alban's.

Now let us leave London and the surrounding countryside and pay a quick visit to Keukenhof Gardens in Holland, the centre of the tulip growing industry. The journey to Dover from Victoria Station by train is approximately 70 miles and it takes one hour and 20 minutes. Of course, one leaves London by the back door, like you do in most capitals of the world, including Sydney, but in a very short time one is in open countryside, with green fields, and through the attractive county of Kent, where there are hopfields and orchards.

One cannot help noticing the lack of fences, bushes serve the same purpose and I think it looks much nicer. Another thing I noticed, along the railway embankment primroses are growing wild and there is a good variety of colours.

The journey across the English Channel to Ostend takes just on three hours. The day after our arrival at Ostend the morning was free, but it was 1st May and all shops were closed. In the afternoon we went on a

coach tour of Bruges, the Venice of the north.

During the Second World War the Germans used the canals of Bruges as a U-boat base, so England blocked the entrance to the canals by sinking a battleship. Bruges is an old Flemish seaport and all new buildings have to keep to the old Flemish architecture.

The next day we left the hotel at 7.30 a.m. for Koukenhof. All the way through the Belgian and Dutch countryside again one cannot help noticing the neatness of fields, etc., everything is so symmetrical. On the way to the gardens we passed through Blankenberge, Knokke, and Breskens, crossing the River Scheldt by ferry-boat to Flushing and Middleburg, main town of the Isle of Walcheren. Later we arrived at the world-famous Zierikzee Bridge, the longest bridge on the continent; it is three and a quarter miles long.

On arrival at Rotterdam, the second largest port in the world, we spent an hour there. In the main shopping area in the centre of the city there is no traffic at all, a marvellous idea. During the war the only buildings left standing in the main part of the city were the post office and the Town Hall. From there we went straight to the "Tulip Gardens".

For about five miles before reaching Keukenhof, you pass by tulip fields and there are tulips of every possible colour as far as the eye can see. On arrival at the gardens there are touring coaches from all over Europe. We stayed at the gardens for three hours. Oh! what a sight; any description of these famous gardens is beyond me. In all my life I have never seen such an array of colour set in such beautiful surroundings. All large trees have been left, and waterfalls, fountains and small bridges make a perfect setting for pure beauty. To see the beds of tulips, blended with daffodils, forget-me-nots, wallflowers, hyacinths, etc., is really a sight to remember. There are other beds of tulips in colours I have never seen before. Then there are tulips which are variegated with every imaginable colour. This is the only time I have regretted not having a camera so as to have views of my own, but I did the next best thing, I bought a book on the gardens which has coloured photographs.

On our return to Ostend we came through Breda and into Belgium, via Antwerp, Lokeren and Ghent, arriving at our hotel at midnight. From the time of leaving Ostend to our return we covered 350 miles. It is a day's outing that will live in my memory for years to come; in fact, I am sure it will never be forgotten.

There is just one thing I have forgotten to mention, and that is the roads. They are really wonderful. Out in the open country the highways take three lanes of traffic each way and there are underpasses and overpasses every few miles and all traffic moves very fast. In old villages and towns the old cobblestones are used and all seem to be set in the shape of a fan. In the old villages of Flanders, so well known to the First

World War men, even the footpaths are cobblestones—these are hard on the feet, I can assure you.

The tulips of Holland are big business. The flowers are sent all over Europe, and so are millions of bulbs each year.

"SPEED'S" THE NAME

So you have noticed that we have given Mr. Harry Montague, our Welfare Officer, the new title of "Speed." How come?

Well, it appears our secretary received some correspondence from a certain party requesting the whereabouts of a Pioneer. Our secretary didn't have the answer, so kept the correspondence to be read at our annual meeting. No sooner had the secretary started to read it out at the meeting, than "Speed" Montague was on his feet and blurted out "that matter has been attended to Mr. Secretary," the party found and inquirer notified.

Then "Roy Bounds" jumped to his feet and requested that forthwith Monty Montague be known as "Speed" for his fast and efficient service.

Thanks "Speedy Boy."

18 BOTTLES

I had 18 bottles of whisky in my cellar and was told by my wife to empty the contents of each bottle down the sink or else. I said I would and proceeded with the unpleasant task. I withdrew the cork from the first bottle and poured the contents down the sink with the exception of one glass, which I drank.

I extracted the cork from the second bottle and did likewise with it, except for one glass, which I drank. It then took the cork from the third bottle and poured the whisky down the sink, which I drank. I pulled the cork from the fourth bottle down the sink and poured the bottle down the glass, which I drank.

I pulled the bottle from the cork of the next and drank one sink out of it and threw the rest down the glass. I pulled the sink out of the next glass and poured the cork down the bottle. Then I corked the sink with the glass, bottled the drink and then drank the pour.

Then I did everything, emptied and steadied the house with one hand, counted the glasses, corks, bottles and sinks with the other, which were 29, and as the house came by I counted them again, and finally had all the houses in one bottle, which I drank.

I'm not under the affluence of incohol as some tinkle pep I am. I'm not half as thunk as you might drink. I fool so feelish I don't know who is and the drinker I stand here the longer I get oh!! me.



Thanks to our strong editorial in the last issue of the paper, the response has been quite gratifying, both with the number of letters and the financial support forwarded to the secretary. We do not apologise for the strong words, they were so necessary, and the result is all that counts, which in this case, more than proved the point, that any club or association is only as good as the general members make it.

Many letters are to hand, some with the usual few words of good wishes and donations of subs, and others with items of interest to all the mates that they shared some four or five years of their lives with.

Several letters came from members of the 2/2. We realise that these chaps have not the members in N.S.W. to provide great numbers, and we appreciate their efforts to boost the paper along.

DON MURRAY, 2/2, and now a resident at Tinonee. For those of you who don't know, that's via Taree on the coast of N.S.W. He sends his apologies for not having put pen to paper earlier. However, Don has written quite a newsy letter of a visit to Victoria, where he renewed acquaintances with Jack French, now of Geelong, and formerly Sgt. Mortar Platoon 2/2. After much bashing of ears Jack organised lunch and then out to Timboon, where Don spent a few days with Bill "Punchy" Hansen, one time Sgt. Mortar Platoon 2/2. Bill is butchering at Timboon and has quite a large business. They had quite a time at Timboon and spent many enjoyable hours; but apparently Bill then introduced Don to the sausage making and so Don thought, time to go. Next call was to Geelong, where he teamed up with Cliff Preston, an ex Mortar man. Don was fortunate enough to be at Cliff's place for the regular Saturday night card game and with probably the nicest private bar in Victoria, believes this has some bearing on the card nights being so very successful and so very popular. The photo of the card room and bar, I am sorry to say, was not suitable for reproduction, Don. Bad luck, but I am sure your description will help them all fill in the blanks. Don also met Stan Blanch, H.Q. 2/2 and Stan also reports a fair medium of success. Sold a potato farm and then bought a cafe, has now sold the cafe and is just pottering around until he decides what to do next. So much for Victoria and now back to Taree, where with Bernie Daley they had the word of Bill and Charlie Henry and in no time at all much big bashing was taking place. Anzac Day and Don and

Bernie having lunch decided that they would put some money on the table for their subs to the association and Don to write the letter. Well, Don, the subs are in the right place and I am sure all the 2/2 blokes will be more than pleased at the literary masterpiece you have turned out.

LEN PREEDY, 2/2, and now living in West Australia, sends along a big cheerio to such chaps as Gus Pike, Nev O'Connor and Pat Dowd. Len claims that Nev O'Connor must be a very proud lad with his boys playing football. Of course, being from the West, Len refers to it as "that game." His comments that the smokos and reunions really sound good shows and that he would love to be in them, but is a bit far away. I think that on that one particular point I would have to agree with him. Many thanks for your letter Len and subs in the worthy hands of treasurer.

ARTHUR STAFFORD, 2/2, and now a resident of Strathfield, Sydney, sends along a sub to the treasurer and quotes "as one of the backsliders hoped that the appeal has the same response to a lot of others that the paper must never go out of existence, as in many cases, it is the only line of communication between lifelong friends, mates and the old days of 1939-1945." Thank you for your letter, Arthur, and your letter is thanks enough for the committee of our association.

ERNIE LUNN, 2/2 (we of the never never), writes from Wellington, N.S.W., where he does business as a stock and station agent. I suppose Ernie will be selling sites for oil, aluminium, bauxite and all those other wonderful things that are being dug out of the country today, before very long, and if that happens Ernie, well then a few more familiar faces may cast their eyes over your doorstep. Podge Sullivan and Vince Digges are the only ones that Ernie does see and not very often now, although Podge is only 30 miles away. Ernie pinned a copy of the "Pioneer News" on the local R.S.L. Club notice board and does not think that anybody took it down to read, so surmises that not many of the troops of our association pass that way. Thanks for the letter, Ernie, and subs again in the treasurer's hand. That is the total of the 2/2 letters, so all you other blokes can drop a note and let these boys know how and what you are doing.

NOEL PETERSON, 2/1, our old friend from Panonia Road, Wyong, and I might add, one face that was commented on

as missing from the Castlereagh on Anzac Day. However, Noel had quite a good week with the Rats at Newcastle on Sunday, and then Anzac Day at the local R.S.L. at Wyong. For Nan, Noel's wife, the session was also quite strong—TIN-HAT on the Friday and then on the door for the Anzac dinner, raking in the dough, as she quotes, on the door not because of her ability, but because she is a Scot and everybody knows what an eagle eye a Scot has for a shortage of any description. However, both Nan and Noel have been good members up there since 1947 and Noel still plays bowls a couple of times a week, although Nan reckons it's only to keep the strength in his schooner arm. Thank you for the letter and the subs and also the personal par to myself.

PHIL CRAMSIE, 2/1, and now at Hamilton, Brisbane, sends along subs to the treasurer and his apologies for the omission, then signs it Cramsie of the Overdue. Cheer up Phil, all is not that bad and we realise the impossibility of yourself to make Sydney on Anzac Day. Your mention of Fred Davenport seems to ring a bell. I am not sure, but I think he was at the Castlereagh on the 25th April. Fred did have some photos of the Tobruk Ceremony at Canberra last year, and these did stir quite a few memories. Thanks for the letter Phil and keep sober on that Queensland firewater.

SNOW MORRIS, 2/1, and now of Chatswood: "Dear Max, enclosed is cheque for overdue subs to the Pioneer News. All the best, Snow."

Well, Snow, we thank you sincerely for the subs and the note, but why not let your secretary write a few lines of news for you, or a story like "How I Ran the SWY from 40 to 45." Good luck, Snow.

KEN BOWDEN, 2/1, and now at Woodbine Street, Balgowlah, sends along a subscription and the word that he had been conned by Vic Whitely into taking an interest again. Nice to hear from you "Brig" (his name among the transport platoon for many years). Let's hear more of you and how about a story about that girl in the bank at Walcha. You could do it if you tried.

BOB BREWSTER, 2/1, and now proprietor of "The Surf Shop" at Manly, sends along a subscription to the Treasurer and a suggestion that we could sell advertising space in the news. The idea is quite good, Bob, but very early in the piece we tried this and it was not successful as the ads added more to the edition and each page increases the outlay. However, thanks again for the sug-

MAILBAG CONTINUED

gestion and we hope that the boardies continue to frequent the business for you.

MRS. BANNISTER, wife of Arthur of C Coy. 2/1, sends a note and a subscription for Arthur, who at time of writing was an inmate of Concord for an operation. Our welfare officer, Monty, has visited Arthur and has been of some assistance to him and we all wish him a speedy and satisfactory result to his operation. Many thanks for your interest, Mrs. B.

AUB BRAZIER, our bugler at the Cenotaph and functions for many years, and sadly missed at the Wreath Laying and Anzac Day, had written from Finley, Riverina way, and explained that he would not be available for 1970. Aub sends his best regards to all that know him and vows that he will be available next year. We in turn hope that your second valve finger recovers O.K.—silly bugger jammed it in his car door.

MRS. RUBIE, wife of Phil, writes a few lines and a donation to subs, says that Phil really enjoys the paper and news of his old mates. Phil has the misfortune to be a victim of rheumatism in both knees, so has quite a bit of difficulty in getting around too much. However, we wish you both well, and hope that you both continue to get some enjoyment out of the paper.

MRS. JOYCE WALKER writes on behalf of George, ex Don Coy 2/1, and explains that because of shift work George has been unable to attend as much as he would have liked. However, it's now back to day work, so things may improve. From the rest of the letter, I can see a busy and hectic season ahead. Joyce quotes "son David to be married February, 1971, daughter Susan to be married August 28, 1971, and George will have his fiftieth birthday also in that year." I can only say that whether it be hectic or rough, I can certainly see some dollars having to change hands. Thanks again for the subscription and we hope that we hear from you again.

JESS DULLAWAY, 2/1 Don Coy., and now at Auburn, sends along his apologies for his short note, but claims he is no letter writer and this one the first for years. Jess sends his best wishes to all and a special mention to STAN JONES, CPT. Your subs are in the worthy treasurer's hot little hand, Jess.

JOHN DOUGLAS, 2/1 12 Platoon B Coy., and now a resident of West Wyalong, where he leads a pretty busy life. John felt that the appeal in the News was directed at him personally and sent a subscription to fit the occasion. John has a family of four—two girls, two boys. One daughter married, second daughter doing an Arts course at, I think it's Canberra. (It would appear that John writes as he used to move around, in a hurry and flat out, so some of these words appear to be racing the train.) No. 1 son just completed two years' National Service and prior to this had achieved his degree in Forestry—first

job out the back of Kyogle, where dad has told him to contact Leo Ferris. No. 2 son still slugging it out at school—5th year. John is president of the Golf Club and controller of Civil Defence in the Shire. Apparently he still finds time to play golf, but I reckon it would be a pretty quick round if he led the field. John especially wants to be remembered to all the members of old 12 platoon B Coy. His recent visitors were Porky Graham and Col. Adriane Buckley. As John said, last time he saw Col. Buckley he had that lean and hungry look. However, good food and passing years have considerably increased the measurements of the girth (that's Lakey's way of saying it, Colonel).

John would also like a special mention to George Nicholls, Fred Ness, John Trevetick, Arch Campbell and Dave Coleman. Will pass on all those good wishes, but I am not sure if we have Dave "Happy" Coleman's address; I know we have not seen him for many years. John also wishes to remind the old 12 platoon boys of the time when "Baldy" fired a full magazine between the feet of the Jap R.S.M. just to convince him that it might be a good idea to open up his gear for inspection. Many thanks for the really good letter, John, and our best wishes to wife and family. Think up a few more incidents, they always make good reading.

CHARLES HANSON, ex D Coy. 2/1, and now residing in Mudgee, N.S.W., where I would imagine he would be feeling this cold weather at the moment. He also apologises for the neglect to the News and enclosed his subscription. Charles also sometimes thinks of those happy days at Greta and Dubbo and wishes to be remembered to all his mates of Don Coy. and that the paper continues on its merry way.

BERT MOORE, our old stalwart of committee for many years, apologises for his lack of attendance at the last two meetings. However, I am sure that after 10 years or more you are allowed a couple of misses, Bert. We of the committee are happy to know that you have got that bit of help at the Sailing Club and hope that you can enjoy it for many more years.

PORKY GRAHAM, 2/1, and now at Drummoyne, sends along his usual sub to the treasurer and the suggestion that perhaps if we could start a good argument it would perhaps liven up a little news and at the same time perhaps create a monster that I hope we can handle if necessary. However, here is Porky's question, all we need is a good answer.

"The pleasure in attending a Pioneer reunion of any type is one to be remembered, but as the years go by little things happen to make one a little sad.

Now take a case in point, No. 15 Platoon C Coy. There are today two fellows who have the rare distinction of having joined the Army and who went into N. 15 and were discharged from the

same Platoon when peace was declared. Namely Billy Chisholm and Stumpy Curtin. The latter being a great asset in that it was only to ask Stumpy what won the Epsom in 1937 and who rode him? In fact, not only could you get the latest rumour, but cricket, football, tennis, you name it and Stumpy's computer mind and memory would come up Bingo every time. So at a recent reunion the talk got around to the late Tommy Crick and when he joined C Coy. and it was stated that he came over with Sgt. John Westwood in about August 41 to 21 post. Jack came as Platoon Commander and with him he brought from B Coy. one Cpl. O'Neill, Pte. "Odd Nut" Dolligan, "Wild Mick" Anselmes and Tommy. Stumpy wouldn't have a bar of this, so as a fair question to the forementioned, Mr. Westwood, were you ever in C Coy. and what Platoon were you in and what position did you hold? And that's the reason I get sad to think that time dims such a wonderful memory. Your shout, Stumpy, Porky!

JOHN HUNT, 2/1, and now a resident of Chermerside, Queensland. John sends along the news of the engagement and forthcoming wedding of their only daughter, Merelie, the coming of age of their son Bill in April and their youngest son still attending school at Bald Hills, Brisbane. The family have recently returned from a holiday in the south, where they stayed at Canberra and five days at Thredbo where the boys, who had never seen snow, had their wishes confirmed, when it snowed for three days. John was also hoping to get to Glen Innes in the June weekend where he has ideas of renewing acquaintances with Tom Manuel. John also speaks of a new Sub Branch being built and its name will be the Kedron-Wavell Sub Branch. Thanks for the news John and the subs are in the treasurer's hot little hand.

JOHN WILSON (alias DRY GULCH, DIZZ ET), C Coy. 2/2, and now at "Nairn Farm," Oberon, sends a subscription and a half-hearted promise of a letter later. Thanks Dry Gulch, will be watching for it.

PHIL BARNETT, H.Q. 2/2, of Lismore, with one line on a sheet of note paper, "Subscription to Pioneer News." The old saying "no news is good news" really means something to you, Phil; how about more next time.

BILL STEERS, 2/1, and still a resident of Marks Point (Newcastle way) sends a short note with a subscription and the news that he had a visit from Arthur Murphy—for those of you who cannot place Arthur Murphy, he was more well known by "Murph" and was Armourer Sgt. of the 2/1. Bill quotes that the weather up that way has been pretty crook lately and he is looking forward to the warmer weather with open arms. Thanks for the letter Bill, always good to hear from the old blokes.

PETER (DICK) SEDDON, 2/1, our old stalwart from Hamilton, Newcastle, sends the secretary a thank you letter for the volume donated to the library of

MAILBAG CONTINUED

the "T.S. TOBRUK" by Association. The Newcastle Pioneers are working toward a goal of some \$3,000 for the deposit for this training boat for the local boys up there. Dick writes that most of the Newcastle boys are still plodding along steadily and still able to take a little nourishment—a small party are about to take a trip through to Dorriggo and perhaps this could mean trouble, with big "Fred Wheaton" as the mine host of the local pub up there. I only hope that this list of a trip could bring forward a little news on behalf of the party for next issue. Your subs safely installed with treasurer Dick, and all the best to all the boys up there.

SID ABERCROMBIE, 2/1, and now over with the Sandgropers in Western Australia, sends along a sub to the association and the paper. Apologises that he is a poor correspondent and, together with a failing memory, does not encourage too much letter writing. However Sid still looks forward to receiving the news and some names still ring a bell, after 25 years. Sid is still employed by the C.S.R. at the Cottesloe Refinery and would gladly welcome any of the boys should they decide to visit the Sunny West. Thanks for your letter Sid and we hope to be able to carry on, as the response as you would have read earlier, has been really good.

FRANK PERCIVAL, 2/1, and now at St. Leonards, Sydney, sends a short note enclosing his sub and like "Snow" Morris that's about all. Thanks Frank, but you will realise it's hard to make a bit of news for those Don Coy. blokes out of three lines.

DOT PRIEST, for and on behalf of herself and husband Peter, 2/1, and with their postal address still at Kyogle, sends along a very good letter on the doings of herself and Peter. Both were in Sydney over the Easter period and did ring Lakey, who I might add was mighty pleased to hear from him. It just happened that I could not arrange to meet him on that particular time. As previously mentioned, some three years ago Peter and Dot decided on a working holiday around Australia. However, there has been a bit of delay in the programme, as so far, they have only been to Canberra (where it's too bloody cold) and twice out to Alice Springs, where this letter was posted. Both Peter and Dot apparently like Alice, and at present have their daughter, son-in-law and two grandchildren in a caravan with them. With three years behind them in time, Dot says that although it's been that long, with time really no object, she presumes that they eventually will get over to the West Coast. Thank you for a very good letter, Dot, I realise it would be too much for our Peter to do. Thank you also for the subscription and we hope for another news item in the near future.

MAX LAW, 2/1, and still down at South Australia, "that's Crow Eater country," writes a bit of news and a

cheque to the treasurer. Max, with headquarters in Adelaide, does quite a bit of hopping around Melbourne, Darwin and through the Territory. Visions of the Territory stir up thoughts of gold mines, minerals and the old Abbo selling his wife for a bottle of plonk and a couple of boomerangs, but I suppose to Max, it's just another bloody desert. On his last trip to Darwin he did go to a place called Mica Beach where he met a chap that runs a restaurant, tourist centre, complete with a Corroboree on a Sunday afternoon. Over a couple of Stubbys it comes out that the chap, Jim McLeod by name, was in the Army with the 2/2 Inf. Battalion and made enquiries of our old stalwart Vic Walmsley. Jim sends his best regards to Vic, and wishes him better health—Max also reports on Ernie Hayden, back from Vietnam and still in the Army, although Max has not caught up with him on his return yet. Also mentions phone calls to himself at the office, but if he is not present, no names are left, so if any of the Pioneers are guilty of this, please remember, a name or address does help if you want to be found. Thanks for the letter Max and if you are up in Sydney don't forget to give us a ring.

On a more sombre note, I am sorry to say that Merv Rees was killed in an accident in May, a very close friend of myself and a good mate to all who knew him. We offer our personal sympathies to his wife Betty, his son Peter and his daughters Cheryl, Carol and Jan.

"SAILOR" WITHAM, 2/1, our old globe trotting friend, reports the sad loss of his wife, May, recently. "Sailor" and his wife had gone on a tour of New Zealand, but in a few weeks Mrs. Witham developed pneumonia and had to return to Australia. After a very short illness, she passed away at the end of May. To you, "Sailor," the Association extends our very sincere sympathy.

JACK ALLISON, D Coy. 2/2, of Eastwood, sent along a welcome donation and his good wishes. He thinks the Association is still doing a mighty job. Thanks, Jack, for your encouraging words.

SYD WICKENS, B Coy. 2/1, apologises for non-attendance at our functions owing to continued ill-health, but is always pleased to receive the news and visits from "Monty" when in Concord. Thanks for your donation, Syd, and sincerely hope you will soon be on the mend.

FRANK MOODY, also of B Coy. 2/1, and living at Peak Hill, was also to the fore with his sub. Reports that Peak Hill is an old gold mining field and has some very big open cut mines—also three pubs and three clubs.

RAY (JOEY) BLANCH, H.Q. Coy. 2/1, of Beaudesert, Queensland, sent along a newsy letter and a donation—many thanks Joey. The Blanch's younger daughter Dell was married on 27th June, which is their third child married in 10 months, so you can imagine the Blanch bank balance has been hit to leg. Ray sent along the sad news

about Merv Rees being killed, as well as a newspaper clipping of the semi-trailer involved. Ray and Mavis attended the service in Lismore. There was a service also at Coff's Harbour in the morning. Ray sent word to the Kyogle boys in case they had a chance to attend. Ray mentions that his son married at Kyogle in the same church as the recent Herron wedding. Ray goes on to say that he is playing bowls every Saturday and indoor bowls every Wednesday night. He is still toiling at delivering goods for a transport firm.

BILL HOFFMAN, 2/1, of Kyogle, wrote in and gave us all the details of the tragic accident in which Merv Rees, of Coff's Harbour, was killed. This happened outside Beaudesert on Monday, 8th June, 1970. Merv's remains were cremated at Lismore on Wednesday, 10th June. To Merv's wife and three children we extend our heartfelt sympathy. Thank you for the information Bill.

FRANK WAKELIN, of Gordon, writes in to say his legs are playing up of late and is being committed to Hornsby Hospital for treatment. Sorry to hear this Harry. Hope all goes well. Many thanks for your letter and subscription.

WAL BAIRD, 2/1, of Collarenebri, wrote in to say he was greatly concerned at our statement regarding the last issue of Pioneer News in sight. This thought spurred him into action as he mildly puts it. He states they are on the verge of a drought and coupled with low wool prices and rising costs, the grazing industry is going through very tough sailing. Their last rain was in January, while shearing was in progress when 420 points fell overnight. Wally has not run into any of the old mob of late, but extends best wishes to all his friends in the Pioneers and thanks the committee for the wonderful job they are doing. Many thanks for your newsy letter Wal, and for the donation.

That just about closes mail bag for this issue. We are all more than pleased at the response from the members, and as readers, you will also realise the difference to your paper, so keep up the good work and keep those pencils rolling.

—LAKEY

PIONEER NEWS CARRIES ON

The secretary would like to thank the numerous members who came to the rescue with financial aid as well as letters since the April issue of "Pioneer News."

The "Mail Bag" in this issue is a result of your continued support, as it is the largest we have seen in many years and we collected enough subs to pay for the next two issues of the Pioneer News. A hearty big thank you.

—MAX HERRON

PIONEER NEWS

Phone: 759-5491

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

Phone: 759-5491

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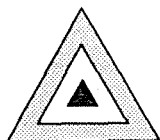
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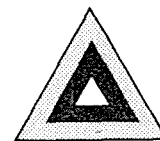
ALLAN McINNES



Vol. 15, No. 3

1st NOVEMBER, 1970

Price: 50c Per Annum



MIXED SOCIAL NIGHT IN PLACE OF BI-ANNUAL SMOKO

In view of the fact only 27 members attended the 1969 Bi-Annual Smoko, the Social Committee have decided to change over to a Mixed Social Night instead of the usual Bi-Annual Smoko.

The Social Night will be held at North Sydney Anzac Memorial Club, Bellevue Street, Cammeray, at 6.00 p.m. on Saturday, 21st November, 1970.

It will be for members and their wives or friend and will be in the form of a Dinner. Cost will be approximately \$3.50 each with drinks additional.

NOTIFICATION FOR CATERING

The Social Secretary must be notified

before Friday, 13th November as to the number attending, so as to arrange catering.

Address all enquiries and notification to

BOB MCGREGOR,

Social Secretary,

2/1 - 2/2 Pioneer Bns. Association,

120 Glamis Street, Kingsgrove,

Telephone: 759-0313.

LEGACY

To many people it is difficult to understand why this organisation is still so active, as they are of the opinion that as World War II finished about twenty five years ago, the widows and dependent children of servicemen killed during the hostilities are well and truly able to take care of themselves.

However, since then, Legacy has been endowed with three other legacies, the Australian widows and children of our forces who were killed in Malaya, Korea and Vietnam, and whilst they are few in number, nevertheless the total number of Legatees each year greatly increases.

It was at a casual get-together in Melbourne of servicemen in 1923, when the plight of the widows and children of their fallen comrades was discussed and they agreed to form the association now called Legacy to look after them, and following this the Sydney Branch was opened in 1925.

Not one of the founders could have possibly imagined what a tremendous institution had been originated by them, as today there are over 50 clubs throughout the Commonwealth which cares for about 100,000 war widows and children. In New South Wales alone there are about 32,000 war widows and roughly 14,000 children. Of these, there are 55 widows and 120 children who are dependants of men who have paid the supreme sacrifice as a result of the hostilities in Vietnam.

However, what the originators of this magnificent scheme did foresee was that Legacy would keep most sincerely its special warrant and purpose in helping

the dependants of their departed comrades-in-arms. There are about 600 legatees, as members of Legacy are called, to act as advisers to Legacy families and assist on different problems.

Education today is much greater and here again the Organisation assumes tremendous responsibility in this field. Every possible assistance is given to the young folk to further their learning in whatever course they may take, which obviously can cost a great deal.

Books, school uniforms, full fees as the various high schools and colleges are also paid by Legacy, which gives these children a wonderful start.

TORCH BEARERS FOR LEGACY

In the previous yearly report Sydney Legacy had an income of \$538,722 and expenditure of \$628,462; a deficit of \$89,740. However, this year's expenditure is fully expected to be much higher. It must be fully understood that all the senior people who run this Association do it voluntarily and nearly all this State's fund is obtained by that great band of volunteer ladies known as "Torch Bearers for Legacy." Also a large sum is raised each year on Legacy's Button Day Appeal.

Medical attention is a major item and the wives and children of our fallen comrades are given the very best which is arranged by Legacy, free of charge.

If anyone had any doubts about the usefulness of this organisation, it would open their eyes if they only knew of the wonderful job Legacy does.

HARRY MONTAGUE.

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

SUNDAY, 8th NOVEMBER

LEICHHARDT

A Remembrance Service is to be conducted by Reverend Stan Claughton, Padre of the 2/2 Pioneer Battalion, at the Leichhardt Methodist Church, Wetherill Street, Leichhardt, on Sunday, 8th November, at 7.15 p.m.

All the members and their wives and friends of the 2/2nd and 2/1st Pioneers are cordially invited to attend to pay homage to their fallen comrades.

After the service the Padre has a discussion group over a cup of tea and all members have really enjoyed this very happy gathering in past years.

So let us have a bigger gathering this year than ever before.

THE CORNER SHOP

Hands up all those who remember Jack Corkish?

Well I had the pleasure to run into Jack at the Sutherland United Services Club, and over a few drinks, Jack told me he was a qualified Accountant and tax agent, also a Justice of the Peace but apparently Jack is taking a little spell from his chosen profession.

Jack has opened a small corner grocery store, also selling a few vegetables as well, but if anybody is interested in Jack's real profession he still practices as an accountant and tax agent.

On the other hand if any of our Pioneer Association members would like to patronise his grocery store, I am sure Jack would consider a discount on a weekly order - I think the discount could be about 5 per cent (Pioneers only).

Speaking of Pioneers, did you know that Jack was our youngest Pioneer, just seventeen when he enlisted (anyone for an argument). Jack is also playing cricket for Mortdale Heights "A" team and made the first catch of the season.

Well I said I'd give Jack a free plug, so here it is -

Mr. J. R. Corkish, J.P., Accountant & Registered Tax Agent and grocery store proprietor,
115 Morts Road, Mortdale.

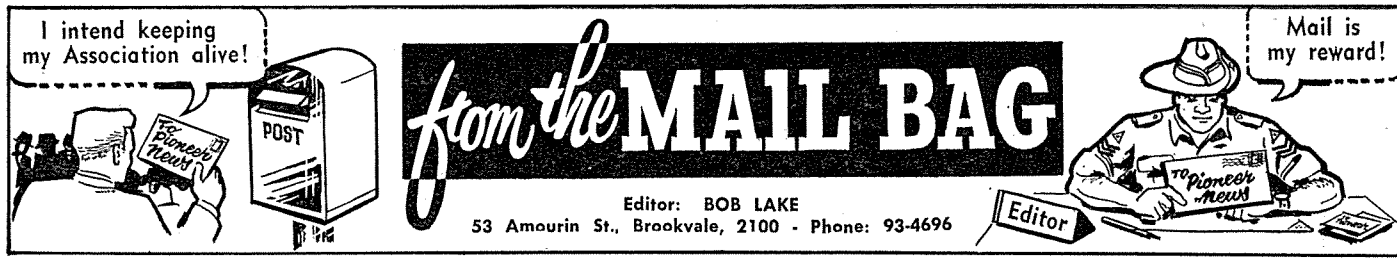
Wal (Desso) Page

ANZAC RE-UNION

COMBINED 2/1 — 2/2 PIONEER BN.

SUNDAY, 25th APRIL, 1971

SOUTH SYDNEY TOWN HALL



CHARLIE CARTWRIGHT ex D. Coy. and now at Fairlight N.S.W., quotes of his good old days and of the times that he played the harmonica alongside Gabriel on the route marches at Greta. However as time goes on, route marches and mouth organs pass by and as a T.P.I. Charlie is quite content to have a few "ambers" at the local and among other things, reminisce about old times. Thanks for the letter Charlie and the donation is in the hands of the treasurer.

J. McFADDEN 2/2 and now at Neutral Bay sends a very short note with the information of a change of address, a donation and very little else to say. Thanks a lot, you don't even quote your first name, lets have a little more next time.

NORM GOODCHAP 2/1 and now proprietor of the Golden Fleece Service Station at Tamborine Mtn., Queensland, sends along a newsy letter, a cheque for the treasurer and the remark that he is going to look up Joe Blanch, at Beau-desert to have a good old yarn. Actually Norm, you have quite a few around that way, and possibly Joey will give you some of their names.

FRED WHEATON 2/1, retired butcher, and at present the manager of the "Hotel Dorrigio," wrote a newsy letter, enclosing a cheque for the treasurer and the information that Sid Jopson was relieving at Coffs Harbour. Well Fred, I have to apologise for not ringing you while I was up the coast, however, things did not work out according to plan, so we did not get up to Dorrigio. However, I shall keep in touch and find out what happened with regard to the situation at the Hotel. In reference to the "Rats" trip to Perth, there is quite a few of the fellows with the intention, so you would not be alone. Keep smiling Fred and Jean and I will write again soon.

CLARRIE PIKE, JNR., son of one of our most respected (deceased) members, sends a sub to the treasurer and a change of address. Clarrie has attended a few of our Anzac Day functions and has kept his association with the battalion through his receipt of our paper. Thanks for your letter Clarrie and always glad to receive some news from you (I hope you are not still smoking those cigars).

JACK RICHARDS 2/1 and until recently, been travelling around Australia with his wife, have had quite a wonderful time, but apparently, finances have become a little on the strained side so they have settled in Ballina and Jack has a driving job with the Shire Council. His wife reports that he seems to like the job okay, or as much as any man of his age likes work. Olive also reports that their son is employed at Young, where

he is doing very well and contemplating matrimony where at the tender age of 25, Mum thinks it's about time. Thanks for the letter Jack and Olive, sorry I did not strike you on our trip, however we were not there very long and perhaps later on we shall be more fortunate..

FRANK HEPBURN 2/2 and now at Bankstown sends a short note, a cheque and an apology for the late return of same. Thank you Frank, lets have a little more news to pass on next time, your mates like to read about your doings.

TOM MANUAL 2/1 and now at Glen Innes enclosed a letter to be forwarded to Arthur Luddington, which would have been fulfilled by now. However, Tom has sold his property and is taking a course in explosives and he needs the support of Arthur. Tom also passes on the information that he still has contact with Jack Marshall, Jack Rodgers and Bob Donald, contact taking place at the Services Club. Could not think of a better place for contact, hope you have plenty of time to carry it on and keep the old spirits going. Good luck.

KEN KERR 2/1 - better known to all Pioneers as MUM and per medium of his wife June, sends a cheque and the knowledge of a change of address from Forestville to Lane Cove. June remarks that the old bloke has not enjoyed the best of health lately, but still enjoys the news and to know what some of the other blokes are up to. Thank you Ken and June and we hope for a better report later on.

REG THOMPSON 2/1 and now at Frenchs Forest, sends a short note with a cheque and the news that Monty had paid him a visit at Concord. Well Reg, you may get a visit from myself, as you live in the same street as my daughter and we often call up there, so you may get a surprise.

KEN GOULD 2/1 and now at Erskineville sends a letter and a cheque. Ken has not been the best - six months at Concord would be an indication of this, however he wishes to thank Monty for his visits and he passes the best wishes to all 10 Platoon especially. Ken does still see Clarrie Pakes and Tommy Rowley occasionally. However, we hope that things improve and we of the paper wish you well.

ANDY BEEBER 2/2 and now of Catharine Fields sends a donation and the news that they have a small property, about five acres where he and his wife have two calves, goats and a few fowls. Andy has been with the transport for 23 years and is now a Revenue Clerk at Burwood Depot. Two sons, the youngest in the Signals in Vietnam, and the older

boy engaged to be married next year. Thank you for your letter Andy, and I assure you that your old B. Coy mates will enjoy reading about your doings.

RUSSELL MILEN 2/1 and now at South Grafton sends a cheque and a letter, adding that he finds it much easier to read other chaps letters than to write them himself. Russell is a Wardsman at the Grafton Base Hospital where he works five days a week, irrespective of public holidays so his time is quite restricted. Four children to the family with one girl working, one girl in her last year at school and two still in the lower classes, so you are not out of the woods yet old mate. Russell does quite a lot of work for the Church and this, together with a bit of fishing occasionally, manages to eat up all his spare time. Thanks for your letter Russell and good wishes to the family.

FERGUS ROBERTSON 2/1 and now at Mosman sends along a blast at Gordon Finlay and "Speed" Montague. Something about eyesight tests, reported in the last issue of not being in attendance on Anzac Day. However, Fergus this could be my error (Lakey) and although I don't mind anyone having a shot at Finlay and Monty, I suppose I should admit that I wrote the paper and I must have commented on your non-attendance. Hope you will accept my apology and I will try to do better next time.

MRS. DOREEN ELLISTON, wife of the late Phil Elliston of the 2/1 writes a letter of appreciation to Max Herron for the assistance given her by our Secretary. Of a personal nature this is not for writing in the paper, however Doreen is just that so much more secure now and with her two sons, although away from home in their work, are still able to get home each week-end and while they are still single mother can look forward to their company and attention in the future. Doreen also had a visit from Ossie McCurtin and his wife Rae on their way home to Booker Bay after a trip down the Murray Valley. Ossie and Phil being very old friends through the battalion and a friendship that has grown stronger through the years of civilian life afterwards. Thank you for your letter Doreen and good health for the future.

MRS. DOROTHY WICKENS, wife of the late Sid Wickens 2/1 and of Greenacre, writes a letter of appreciation to "Monty" for the time and assistance to Sid at the hospital. Dorothy has friend, Wal Newington following up the application to the Repatriation both on the account of her late husband and for herself, for the widows pension. Thank you for your letter Dorothy, we all sympathise with you and we all wish you every success with the Repatriation Department.

MAIL BAG (Continued)

MRS. RUBY WILLIS - letter to Max Herron for assistance with regard to medical history of her late husband Jack Willis 2/2 Battalion as a Sgt. - letter from Max advising her of the people who may be able to help and I am asking through this column, anybody with any information on Jack Willis in New Guinea could write a note to Mrs. R. Willis, 12 Fitzroy St., Moruya, 2737, she would appreciate same.

RON COYTE, H.Q. Coy, 2/1, of Wentworthville, sent along a newsy letter and welcome donation to our Treasurer, and passes on his kindest regards to the Committee and all who keep the paper going. Ron mentions that his position as Senior Technical Officer at Animal and Physiology at Prospect keeps him very busy, sometimes seven days a week and he finds little time to attend the functions of the Association as he would like. Hope your spell in hospital, Ron, was successful and we look forward to seeing you at some of the functions in 1971. The Association has those addresses you asked for Ron, and they will be forwarded on by our Secretary.

MRS. NORMA GARLAND, widow of Keith Garland, B. Coy, 2/1, of North Balgowlah, wrote quite a newsy letter enclosing photos of some of the boys taken during the war. Unfortunately Norma, they are not suitable for reproduction, but our secretary shall take them along to the next Committee meeting and see if some of the "boys" can recall the faces for you. He shall return them to you in due course. We are so pleased that Legacy have been so helpful to you, they are certainly doing a wonderful job. In regard to the News, we are only too pleased to send it direct to you in future, and are glad to know that it brings back so many happy memories to you. Our very best wishes to you and your family, let's hear from you again some time.

MRS. ALMA WOOLRIDGE, of Byron Bay, widow of John Woolridge, B. Coy, 2/1, was in touch on a visit to Sydney during September. Jack passed away on Anzac Day, 1969, while playing bowls. Mrs. Woolridge was formerly Alma Bunston of Kyogle, where her parents still reside and sent her best wishes to all Kyogle boys. Copies of the News will still be sent on to you Alma, and hope you find them of interest.

MRS. NANCY WAKELIN of Gordon, contacted the Association recently with the sad news that her husband, Frank Wakelin, of the 2/1st had passed away unexpectedly on the 9th September. Mrs. Wakelin had a military service for Frank and our Welfare Officer, Harry Montague, represented the Association at the funeral. Our sincere sympathy to you, Mrs. Wakelin, and we shall be only too pleased to do all we can for you in your endeavours to gain the war widows pension, if needed.

ALLAN SHAW, 2/1 has been having a spell in hospital in Victoria, and we hope by now Allan you have been discharged and once more in the best of health. Allan wishes to be remembered to all the Boys in A. Coy, especially the stretcher bearers.

TOM ANGUS, our mate "Scotty" from Holland Park in Queensland, formerly of D. Coy, 2/1, passed through Sydney on his way to Scotland for a year's holiday and called in to see our President. Allan McInnes, before he left. Thanks "Scotty" for your kind donation towards refreshments for the paper wrapping nights, it was very much appreciated. We hope you enjoy your stay in the old country and look forward to hear from you on your return.

Since the last paper I have made a trip up the North Coast, strangely enough I did not see many of the fellows. However, on a couple of occasions a very healthy hour was spent with Harold Lees, Bruce McNaughton and wife and another occasion with Harold and Grace, his wife. Sought, but failed to find Ted Fulton and on the return journey at Nambucca Heads bumped into old Charlie (NELLIE) Wilson. Asked for Speed Gordon at Sawtell, but he was not available and at Buladelah said hello to Billy Wade - not much else, failed to fulfil my promise to Fred Wheaton, but did spend an hour with Betty Rees and her son Peter.

That's about all my story. Bruce McNaughton kept plugging for a Smoko at Kyogle, this I have written and will possibly get some thought. One more thought, "Old NELLIE" especially asked for and after Jack Dodson.

Thats all for now,
LAKEY.

WELFARE REPORT

It is with regret that I report the death of Frank ("Wak") Wakelin, early in September, after being in hospital for quite some time. Frank was the original pay Sgt. of the 2/1.

I represented the Association at the Cremation and recited "The Ode" on our behalf. A floral tribute in the colours of our old colour patch was deeply appreciated.

Syd. Wickens, also of the 2/1, died at Concord after many weeks suffering and again as representative of the Association I attended his cremation and tendered a wreath on our behalf.

About a week later, as usual, I visited the widows and was able to assist with a few problems which was very much appreciated.

Lest We Forget.

HARRY MONTAGUE, Welfare Officer.

STATISTIC DEPARTMENT

I came across some interesting figures referring to the statistics of three wars. I thought I would like to pass them on to you.

Did you know that up to 1970 the survivors of the Boer War, World Wars I and II are as follows:

Boer War survivors	286
average age of 88.8 years.	
World War I survivors	79,300
average age of 79.4 years.	
World War II survivors ..	714,000
average age of 52.8 years.	

Of course these figures are only approximate and were given by the Minister of Repatriation at a recent R.S.L. Congress.

WAL (Dresso) PAGE.

LETTER TO THE EDITORS

D. George,
Darwin, N.T., 5791.
11th Sept., 1970.

Dear Max & Bob,

Enclosed please find our cheque for \$10.00 being in respect to subs due, overdue or about to be due. Was more than pleased to know that the "News" had survived the crisis and is still in business although somewhat conscience stricken, at my tardiness in heeding the appeal, contained in the previous issue.

Managed to meet up with some of the crowd whilst on leave last year. We came down from Darwin via Cloncurry, Normanton, then across to Cairns, through the old haunts at Mt. Garnett, Raven-shoe, Atherton, etc. The area hasn't changed a great deal except for the Tinaroo Dam which certainly has altered the Keiri area. Lakes Eachem and Barrine are unchanged and as pleasant as ever. One big change is that the Gillies Highway down through Gordonvale to Cairns is now a dual lane highway instead of the old "two hours each way" single lane track that so many of the drivers will remember.

On the way back home from Cairns via Brisbane, N.S.W., Vic and S.A., we met up with Joey Blanch at Beaudesert and Bruce McNaughton and Ted Felton in Grafton. Unfortunately Harold Leese was away in Sydney for medical attention, hope he is OK again now. After an early start that morning, Kyogle loomed up in the windscreen at an hour when any sensible person would be still in bed, so we kept going and I regret that I missed seeing Peter Bell before he retired, although I did see him the leave previous, also Bill Hoffman. Tried once again, the third time, to locate Freddy Brooks and missed him once more. That lad certainly covers some ground.

Was interested to see the names of Pat Noonan, Bob Burnside and Bluey Chase mentioned, among others, as attending what was apparently a most enjoyable evening at Frank Dynon's establishment. Quite a roll up of the old Sig Platoon. Perhaps next year we will call at Sydney and may be able to get together and discuss a beer or something. Don't mind visiting the deep cold south every couple of years just to look around, but after seventeen years we think we are beginning to like Darwin and its climate after all, and at the end of a leave we are glad to get back.

Still play a bit of golf occasionally but if the weather is good enough for golf its good enough to get out in the boat and I am afraid the boat wins. If you see Johnny Harnetty would you give him my regards, I haven't seen him since we were in Japan in '52, just before I came here in fact, also any others who may remember me.

Also hope to see more of John's interesting articles in the "Pioneer News."

Not much else Max & Bob, except to wish you and the Association every success for the future and to say thanks for past efforts.

Yours sincerely,
DENIS GEORGE 2/1.

THE HOLIDAY OF A LIFETIME

Continuing Story by
"SAILOR" WITHAM.

We left London by coach this morning at 7.30 for Dover, passing once again through the beautiful English countryside. We should have gone to Harwich on the east coast of England for the ferry, but owing to the Railway go-slow strike, the port is closed. From Dover, we did a four hour car ferry journey to Zeebrugge. There we joined another coach to Amsterdam. The journey from the Belgian port of Zeebrugge was a very unpleasant one, as it was cold and wet all day, but for all that, there were many little things of interest. From Zeebrugge, it is only a short run to the Dutch border; from then on the country is flat for many miles. The country is beautiful and green with windmills and canals adding beauty to the landscape.

On the way we pass on the outskirts of The Hague, Holland's capital and the seat of the International Courts of Justice; Delft, famous for its porcelain, Rotterdam, the largest port in Europe. Speaking of Rotterdam, I am not sure if I mentioned it before, during World War II the Germans flattened Rotterdam in the end and the only buildings left standing at the end of the war were the Town Hall and Post Office. Since it has been rebuilt, the main shopping centre is in the heart of the City and all traffic is barred. There are some very modern shops there now. After a tiring trip we arrived at Amsterdam at 10.30 p.m. and had dinner at 11 o'clock - much too late to our liking.

Next day we left Amsterdam for Hanover in beautiful sunshine. Both Holland and Germany have wonderful Auto Bahns with three lines of traffic each way. In the fast lane cars are doing well over 70 miles per hour, but of course a coach is slower, but it still moves round 50 m.p.h. As one passes through the countryside you cannot help noticing how neat and tidy the fields are, and when passing through a town or city the first thing you notice is the cleanliness.

So far on this tour our courier has had very little to say. He does not mention the cities and towns we pass through, and when I asked him to mention the places as we passed through them, he made a very poor excuse - he did not want to bore us with his talking - but the truth is, I have found out, he had never done a tour in this part of the world. Let us hope he improves in Denmark, Sweden and Norway.

There is one thing I must mention and that is the hotel accommodation. In Amsterdam we had a nice room with our own shower and toilet, etc., but the one in Hanover is a huge place, even better in every way than the one in Amsterdam and the evening meal tonight was really delicious - roast chicken with all the trimmings and nicely served. It is too good to last, I am afraid. Tomorrow we go to Copenhagen in Denmark.

The run from Hanover to Copenhagen was a very enjoyable one. After leaving Hanover, the country was a little hilly, but as we approached Puttgarten the countryside changed again to a terrain, with plenty of trees and fields of oats and wheat, it looks like, and plenty of sugar beet and several orchards. Cherries seem to grow well here and so do strawberries.

I forgot to mention on our way to join the car ferry we went round a by-pass and missed the cities of Hamburg (one of the biggest ports in Germany) and Lüneburg.

Puttgarten is the Baltic Sea Port in Germany, where the coach joined the ferry for the hour crossing to Rodby in Denmark. The ferry, by the way, also takes railway carriages and cars. During our crossing we went to the restaurant and had a Smorgasbord lunch. It looked good before the people started attacking it. The food is delicious and so is the beer. We both thoroughly enjoyed our meal. After leaving the ferry at Rodby, it is nearly 2½ hours run to Copenhagen.

The hotel is not as good as the one in Amsterdam or Hanover, but it is much better than I thought. Again, we had our own shower. When we did this part of the world six years ago, if you wanted a shower or bath, you had to pay extra and that applied all over Europe. Another service the hotels give free is the use of an electric razor.

Last night a party of us went to the world famous "Tivoli Gardens." It is really a must for anyone stopping in Copenhagen. This is a huge area right in the centre of the city where there is every type of entertainment along carnival lines. If one wants to listen to classical music, it is there, or if you want something in a lighter vein, it is there also, as well as numerous stage shows.

There are several water fountains and water displays with wonderful lighting effects. All the trees are illuminated with coloured lights. Some of the lights twinkle like stars, which look very attractive; all buildings are outlined in different coloured lights, others are floodlight; flowerbeds are lighted with soft lighting to suit the particular flowers, etc. The lighting is very effective. One can have a very cheap and enjoyable night there.

The next day we spent in Copenhagen. The morning was free to do as you please, but in the afternoon there was a tour of the city by coach.

The city was itself founded 801 years ago. A few of the principal places of interest are: There are a number of beautiful parks with trees and in most cases, small lakes with fountains or in some others water displays. These are all floodlit at night with different coloured lights.

The Zoo here is considered to be one of the best in the world, laid out like a garden. There are reputed to be 700 different animals in it.

There is a very fine old Lutheran Cathedral here which was started in 1170 and has been added to from time to time by the different Kings. It is also the burial place of the Royal Family of Denmark. The buttress to several old forts have been planted with grass and the moats have been filled with water and where possible trees have been planted making a beautiful setting.

There is an old people's home here which was once a palace. They pay for their keep out of the old age pension and in addition they receive pocket money.

There is a huge lake here not far from the city which is divided. One end in the winter is heated for the benefit of the wild life, swans, pelicans.

The University here was founded in 1479.

There are three or four blocks of flats which have been specially built for handicapped people.

The shops here are very expensive, particularly clothing. The china and glassware is also expensive and very famous and attractive. I was told by the guide that years gone by a member of the Royal Family was connected with the porcelain works, hence the name Royal Copenhagen Porcelain.

I forgot to mention that Denmark, like Holland is very flat, with the result that there are thousands of bicycles in both countries. Many have a small motor mounted over the front wheel.

Tomorrow we leave for Sweden.

(To be continued next issue)

SAILOR WITHAM.

ANZAC RE-UNION

COMBINED 2/1 - 2/2 PIONEER BNS.

SUNDAY, 25th APRIL, 1971

SOUTH SYDNEY TOWN HALL

(formally known as Redfern Town Hall) - Pitt Street, Redfern

Dinner served Free after March — Draught Beer available

For Further particulars . . .

WATCH APRIL ISSUE "PIONEER NEWS"