

# PIONEER NEWS

Phone: 759-5491

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

Phone: 759-5491

Registered under the Charitable Collections Act, 1934-41 — Certificate No. 10462

Wholly set-up and printed in Sydney by Vaughan Douglas Pty. Ltd., 2 Dale St., Brookvale Registered for post as a Newspaper - Category A.

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Vol. 16, No. 1

1st APRIL, 1971

Price: 50c Per Annum

## APRIL FUNCTIONS, 1971

Hello fellows! Well here we are back again to tell you about our April Parades and we would like to see as many as possible attend at least one of our parades. Come on, surprise us, everyone turn up!

### WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

Saturday, 24th April at 7 p.m.

The first of our Anzac Day Parades is for our annual wreath laying on the Cenotaph in Martin Place (which from now on will be known at the "Plaza") as we have done in past years, members of both the 2/1 and 2/2 will assemble outside No. 19 Hunter Street at 7 p.m. on Saturday the 24th April. At approximately 7.20 p.m. we form up to march to the Cenotaph where the 2/1-2/2 and the Ladies Auxiliary will lay wreaths.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, 24th April, at 8 p.m.

Now that we have you up at the Cenotaph, how about coming to our Annual Meeting. We are holding it straight away just around the corner at the British Ex-Servicemen's Club, Hamilton Street. You all have a say at our meetings and your votes count, so after the wreath laying on the evening of the 24th of April, come to our meeting.

### ANZAC DAY MARCH

Sunday, 25th April

Well fellows I guess its the same story all over again - same place, same time - for any new members who may not know, we would like everyone, and I mean everyone (O.K. Sarg., pull your head in) I mean we would like to see as many members as possible parade at their respective assembly points for the Anzac March which is only  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a mile long. The 2/1 Battalion will assemble at the King Street end of Phillip Street on Sunday morning the 25th of April, the 2/2 will do exactly likewise outside Sydney Hospital (I said outside) in Macquarie Street. See you there boys.

### REUNION

Sunday, 25th April

Now pay attention fellows. We have made a switch. Remember the time we had our reunion at the Burlington Hall, in 1965. Everyone had a fantastic time, you wanted us to book the hall again. Well you all realise Anzac Day falls on a Sunday - no pubs are open and we couldn't use the Castlereagh. Well after a lot of work to arrange for kegs of beer and for catering we were able to get the South Sydney Town Hall. It is also known

as "The Redfern Town Hall," and is situated in Pitt Street, Redfern, five minutes or less (depending on how long your legs are) from Redfern Station. This year we expect our biggest roll up and the 2/1 and 2/2 will be having their first combined reunion. This is something we have been hoping for and we hope it will continue. We will have caterers at the Town Hall to give everyone a meal free of charge.

There will also be a snack later in the afternoon. So don't forget the 2/1 and 2/2 after the March, will proceed to South Sydney (or Redfern) Town Hall, Pitt St., Redfern, only five minutes from Redfern Railway Station. Incidentally, "Pat" Murphy, a 2/1 Pioneer, is caretaker of the South Sydney Town Hall. He would like a see you all there and so would your Committee.

There has been a lot of work gone into getting the Town Hall, getting someone to cater for us, getting the kegs out of the Hotel on the Saturday, putting them in the iceworks till we need them on Sunday, then getting them from the iceworks to the South Sydney Town Hall.

So show your appreciation by every 2/1 and 2/2 member turning up at the South Sydney Town Hall. After the March on Sunday the 25th of April. One more thing, April the 26th will be a public holiday so you country fellows will have a chance to get back home and you city fellows will be able to see them off. So its a long weekend chaps. See you on the 24th and 25th of April fellows.

The best way to travel to the South Sydney Town Hall after the March, is to catch a train at Museum or St. James Station and proceed to Redfern Station - from there follow the "mob."

Doors will open at 11.15 a.m.

WAL (DESSO) PAGE.

## CONDOLENCES

We regret to hear that Mrs. Stan Baling has recently passed away. It was Peter O'Brien who gave me this information and it is his request that his condolences be added to that of the Pioneer Association.

Our deepest sympathy Stan Baling, ex. D. Coy.

## 2/2 REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

Members of the 2/2 and 2/1 Pioneer Bns. attended the yearly memorial service on Sunday, 8th November, at the Leichhardt Methodist Church.

The service was conducted by our 2/2 Padre, Rev. Stan Claughton, and was assisted in the reading of the lessons by our 2/2 members, Jim Field and Basil St. Vincent-Welsh.

The service was very impressive, with the banner of the 2/2 Pioneers displayed and the Australian flag draped from the Pulpit.

After the service, the Ladies Church Auxiliary entertained the members to supper and the Padre with his little black book out, related a few incidents of the 2/2nds and called on anyone present to say a few words.

Bob Dickson, Alan McInnes and Max Herron responded on behalf of those present. We hope to see a better roll-up this year - you will not regret it.

DON LAWSON, 2/2.

## 2/2 PIONEER NOTES

Would all 2/2nd Pioneers please note we are joining the 2/1 Pioneers this year in a combined Reunion, at South Sydney Town Hall (ex Redfern Town Hall), Pitt Street, Redfern, on Sunday, 25th April - see front page for all the details.

Three 2/2 members are on the organising committee - Alan McInnes, Gavin Todd and Don Lawson, and everything is being done to ensure you will have as good a day as in past years.

See you there, on Sunday, 25th April.

DON LAWSON.

## LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Once again we had the pleasure to witness a very impressive ceremony when our President, Allan McInnes made the presentation of a life membership certificate to Harry (Monty) Montague. These aren't handed out like purple hearts or gift stamps - they really have to be earned and Monty surely earned his for his welfare work for the Association after he took over from Jack Collis when Jack went to live at Umina in the Woy Woy district. Like Jack, Monty has done a tremendous amount of work in his visits to hospitals and for the number of new members he has found.

With that certificate Monty goes the heartfelt thanks of the whole association, particularly our hospitalised members, that you have given so much of your time to visit, and may we long have the pleasure of having you as our welfare officer.

WAL (DESSO) PAGE.



Well here we go - 1971 and lets hope for a bigger and better year for the Association and all those people that contribute towards keeping it alive.

Some 18 to 20 letters to hand and this makes for a good start, while ever this continues we must publish and this means more news for you.

As with 1970, we shall give 2/2 mail first cab off the rank, only three letters, but we do realise that the circumstances of this Association makes things a bit difficult to put words onto paper.

**BOB EVANS**, Hon. Sec. of the 2/2 Pioneer Bn. Association and a resident of Essendon, Victoria, has enclosed a cheque to the treasurer and a lot of news that does not come under Mail Bag, but news which will be of great benefit and much memorising to the members of the 2/2 to whom they refer. Many thanks Bob for your letter. We hope for many more of these in the future.

**MICK BYE** ex 2/2 and now at Goodooga via Walgett, a staunch supporter of the Association and the 2/2 Pioneers, sends along a note to say that anybody, and he especially means you 2/2 blokes, anybody on holidays up in that area you just must call on Mick at the "Brahman Stud," "Willoring" Goodooga, and all that means somewhere out Walgett way, but he wants to see some of you. Mick is a supporter of Legacy and each year he runs a Gymkhana at the Stud for the benefit of same, whereby all accounts, profits are quite up to the standards necessary to keep this wonderful body going. Mick always looks for words or knowledge of chaps like Reg Hann, Splinter Morgan, Jack Morgan, but as he quotes "they like himself, are pretty lazy when it comes to quill driving." He will be attending Bob Molyneux's daughters wedding sometime in December, so would imagine that he and Bob will have quite a few on that night - not a bad idea either, on this occasion it will be "Bob Shout." Thanks for your letter Mick and may you get plenty of visitors in the future.

**JACK O'NEILL**, D Coy., 2/2 and now a resident of Bankstown, sends a donation and a few lines (apparently wife Francis has been the driving force to this letter and so, here is a letter). However Jack is a postman and letters to him are quite a problem. Jack was in Sprag Harris' Platoon, Don Coy. 2/2 and quotes that most of the boys will remember "Old Haywire." Thanks for your letter Jack, and I am sure that all the 2/2 boys will appreciate your few words.

**PETER "DICK" SEDDON**. The Newcastle newspaper and official organ of the Pioneer Association at the coal city sends along the official news that "Glido" Jack Griffiths has done it again. This time it was the ladder at the house, it slipped, and like a good jockey, Glido rode it to

the ground, result, a broken wrist in two places, two lovely black eyes and paint, well you know, from there to breakfast time. However he has not had to miss work, he has someone to drive and write for him and as schooners are both left and right handed he has managed to survive this crisis also. You know, as one thinks back, he must just be awkward, a leg broken in Palestine, same leg broken getting off the boat in Australia, and now this. Its got to be that "Tooheys Old" Newcastle style that does it.

Also words of Joe Hickey, he has been in hospital again, this time for a "re-bore." Sounds quite good, will have to get more "info" on that small piece of the works. Steve Clarke has also been wined and dined at Newcastle, they had quite a night. Steve was there on a job, so "after work" down to the Legion, then home very late for tea, but that telephone call did save all those problems from the cook, wonderful what a leave pass will do. On a more serious note, Dick did take Mumma to the Melbourne Cup, had a wonderful time, also had 50 cents on the winner, which provided drinking silver for the trip. Also at the Newcastle area, one Charlie Wilby, who was entertained by the squad, Glido, Sid Jopsen and Dick, and he closes with these "Famous Last Words" See you on Anzac Day) - (We hope so too).

**"SANDY" GALLAGHER**, C. Coy. and now at Peak Hill decides to put pen to paper and away we go. He reads the paper, some names he knows, some he doesn't but reckons that one look would suffice in most cases. Sandy had the good fortune to play golf at Parkes one day, where he met Steve Clarke and Johnny Douglas. Three blokes from the 2/1 at the day, and of course, they won the ball competition. It just had to be that way. Sandy was in Sydney just prior to Anzac Day, 1969, but unfortunately became unwell and had to return home, where he was in hospital for five weeks, out for two weeks, and then off to Dubbo where they operated for a ruptured lucer. Has had quite a few problems over the last few years and is now on the invalid pension, plus a small one from Repat. Sandy has a family of four girls and one boy, two of the girls were at Repat. for some time, one as a nurse, who did look after one "Dolly Green" and the other girl a hair-dresser. I don't suppose that she would get much business from "Dolly" and as my hair recedes, a dam sight less from me. Sandy speaks of the time when he may get to Sydney and see a few of the boys. He only thinks of the good times they had and of the strength - C. Coy to be exact - and he wishes them all well and that he gets the chance to see them all once again. Thanks for the letter Sandy, we wish you well and hope that the opportunity does come that you may drop in sometime.

**ERIC "BOMBO" REYNOLDS**, D. Coy. and now a resident of Coogee sends along a donation and a really good letter. Eric and Joyce just had a wonderful tour of the outback. They flew to Alice Springs on an Ansett Pioneer Tour, a Boeing Jet to Adelaide then changed to a Fokker Friendship to the Alice. About 8 hours. It was cold for the first few days but then the weather warmed up. Flew out to Ayres Rock, where for a short time, he thought he was 25 years younger, however, after a lot of rests, he made the top at Ayres Rock, 1143 feet and had a good look at Australia. Spent two days at the Rock and another eight at the Alice, where they visited the John Flynn Church, the Flying Doctor base, the School of the Air and the Art Gallery. The Namatjura paintings are really something to see.

Visited a mission station, saw a few roos, and even a herd of donkeys. Thought he was back in the land of the Wogs. On their way home stayed in Melbourne for a few days with the married daughter and complains about the cold, rain and old electric trains. Our sincere regrets on the loss of your mother, Eric, and we sincerely hope that you have the company of your Dad and brother Ray, for many years to come.

**KEN STUART**, H.Q. and now a semi-permanent resident of California, U.S.A., actually on loan from Australia by the good wishes of Qantas. Ken remembers Jack Corkish, Mortar Platoon, couldn't you guess, and Ken hopes to pay him a visit in 1971 sometime. Ken quotes of having his fourth Christmas in California and probably his last, as he expects to return to Sydney about the middle of this year. Seems as though the weather over there is much the same as what we have had here, rain continually since December. However, we all wish Ken the best and we shall be glad to throw out the "Welcome Home" mat when he does get back. Treasurer has hand on the few "bucks" Ken, one thought, don't bring that accent with you!

**CHARLIE KERR**, ex 2/1 Sig. Platoon, one of those Seals that Q.M. Thomas used to rave about. However, Chas. is a resident of the Sunny State, of Maryborough to be exact and has passed along a little information. While at the local R.S.L. had the pleasure of meeting "Toby" Palim, ex A. Coy. and they had a few of the ambers together. Apparently Toby has the habit of moving around a bit, however this time the address is for keeps as he is buying the house and sends special regards to that Redhead Reprobate Bluey Eather - Charlie goes on to say that his son Frazer received his scouters warrant on his eighteenth birthday and has since visited Melbourne and Sydney with the Queensland Group. (As our Hon. Sec. informs me, he met Frazer at Leppington in "Challenge Valley")

## MAIL BAG—Continued

sounds good, and Max quotes "they had a great yarn but of course it was Scouting not Pioneering." Well Charles, as for the Sigs., we see quite a few at times and your special message to Keith (Skinny) Reynolds is passed on. I guess he knows what the message is.

**LLEW JONES**, B Coy. 2/1 and now at Bexley writes that he has been having trouble with ulcers, and as we know them Desert sores. Repat. claims the only way to get them recognised would be medical records of B. Coy R.A.P., so if any of you blokes know of any records of B. Coy or C. Coy, R.A.P. orderlies, do the right thing and contact **Mr. L. Jones, 6 Stotts Avenue, Bexley North.**

Hope that this helps you on your way Llew.

**BOB LONG**, 2/1 and now at Sutherland has had a few setbacks over the past few months and unfortunately has been an inmate at Concord. Bob cannot speak highly enough of the visits by "Monty" and remarks that if, he, "Monty" is not rewarded in this world, he must surely be in the next." A really wonderful statement, Bob and it must surely help Monty to know how much he is appreciated. Apparently quite a few of the boys were in at the same time, however as none were mobile visits were just not to be. Bob has sold his business at Bankstown Airport as an Instrument Maker and now intends a good holiday before taking up the reins again. Good luck Bob and lets hope the holiday does the trick and you come back as good as ever. The donation is doing good already.

**BOB JULEFF**, 2/1 and now at Cardiff, and per pen of wife Jean, send along a sub to the treasurer and the news that Bob has just had his 70th birthday and is quite well, quoted Better than ever and must be improving with age. He sees Jack Bertram, Jack Griffith, Dick Seddon and Joe Hickey every month where they spill stories over a few jugs of ale. Jean has been elected President of the R.S.L. Womens Auxiliary and has quite a full and interesting time. Both send their best wishes to the Association for the coming years.

**JACK SPENCE**, B. Coy. and now at Wingham, sends a few lines and a sub towards the paper. Mentions that Larry Robson calls on him every month as he travels up the coast and so keeps Jack posted with the doings around the Central Coast anyway. Jack speaks of a very good R.S.L. at Wingham and where most blokes are welcome, also that he hopes to make Anzac Day this year where he will be looking for all those B. Coy. gents that so frequently make a good quota at our days. Hope you make it Jack, there will be plenty of those blokes to make you welcome.

**JACK SHERMAN** per pen of wife Flo, sends along, I would think, possibly the first letter we have received from the Shermans since our army days. Of course, at different times we have received news of Jack and his doings, but this time Flo has taken a glove. She tells of his interest, still in the shooting "I would say possibly the best rifle shot in the 2/1 Pioneers" and of the trophies that arrive home from time to time as a result of

his good eye and steady arm. Flo tells of their settling on the land and after farming for many years went into grazing a couple of years back, and now Jack does a little mill work. Jack and Flo have only two children, son Doug and wife Shirley and four children, and daughter, Jenny who has just recently married. Even at that, I would say Jack and Flo would nearly be the senior grandparents of the Association (2nd War of course) because most of those we know are only just striking that grandparent level. This is a really grand letter as when Jack's daughter Jenny was married, among the guests were Paddy and Gloria Gray, all the way from Barmedman, and Nobby Felton and wife Jean from Grafton (we almost met Jean at the M.F.A. Motel, but it was not to be) and Jack Boyd from Koreelah (not sure of that name) whose wife Zoe could not attend as she has somewhat indifferent health. Flo tells of Paddy - 5 children now, his eldest boy in the bank down south. Eighteen years since they saw Paddy and Gloria and what a night, ended up at the Bowling Club and if there had been any more Clubs open they would have ended up there too! Just to top that little lot off, "No show without Punch" in popped Peter Bell and he just sort of helped things along somewhat. A really nice letter, Flo, and we sincerely hope that now you have started, we down here will have to go down on our knees and beg you to stop, it will have to be good though.

**MRS. I. HORDER.** Many thanks for your letter and enclosed cheque for the Welfare Fund. As no subs. are expected from the wives of deceased members, we would like you to accept future copies of the News with our compliments, Mrs. Horder, but would still like to hear from you at any time.

**MRS. MARY HICKEY**, wife of Jack Hickey, late 2/1 and now resident of Lithgow, writes the sad news of the death of her husband Jack late in November, and as Jack looked forward to receiving the paper so much, Mrs. Hickey would like to continue to receive same. This shall be done Mary for just as long as you wish and you do not have to send any moneys whatsoever. Mary speaks of such good friends of her husband, one Peter Bell of Kyogle and also that Alex Cameron was best man at their wedding 26 years ago - with regard to the plaque you speak of, I do not know the procedure of this arrangement, however I am sure that your local R.S.L. would be able to fill in these details for you. You have the sincere sympathy of the whole of the Association and we can only add, keep your chin up.

**RUBY WILLIS**, Moruya, sends a letter of thanks to our Secretary for the assistance rendered (personal) but has intentions of visiting Gordon Walsh on advice received and we hope that Gordon can perhaps further your cause. Mrs. Willis also makes reference to Colonel Geoff Graham, and hopes that he is showing the recovery we know he is capable of.

**GORDON BELL**, 2/2 and now at Tumburumba on the border of N.S.W. and Victoria, his first letter to the Association after a copy of the paper was given to him by his brother Fred. Gordon has a mixed farm 18 miles south of Tumburumba,

has been there since 1948 and likes the area quite well. Gordon sends a sub. to the Association and with his name added to the mailing list, gives us one more avenue of news from the south west. Seems like there is a bloke called McCallam down that way, Tumburumba or Tallangatta or Tarcutta, if you should bump into this bloke give him a good nudge for the mob.

**MRS. EVELYN MILEN** now at Grafton, whose husband passed away September, 1970, our sincere sympathy to you and you may be assured that the paper will be posted to you each issue and as we have tried to explain before, no subs are ever expected from wives of our members. So Evelyn, you should get your copy and I am sure that the Grafton boys would keep you informed of all the doings.

**GEORGE BAIN**, now at Guildford and lately a member of Concord, sends his thanks to Monty for his visits and for the words that have passed along about the old C. Coy boys. Monty has also been a great help with the pension appeal. George sends his best regards to Jock Russel, Sandy Abercrombie, Stumpy Curtain and I would assume "Speedy" Rock Charlie all of C. Coy. at that period. Thanks George and drop us another line sometime, keep in touch.

**MRS. D. WICKENS**, wife of our late member, Syd Wickens, wrote in to say how Harry Montague had assisted them in getting a T.P.I. Pension and because of this, she is able to get the War Widow Pension. She is very grateful to Monty for his assistance in this matter and for his frequent visits to Syd when he was in hospital.

For my own percentage of news for this issue, I have to report a letter from a very old and good mate of mine "Tich" Young, ex B. Coy bloke. A little guy but only in size, a good heart, one that entertained so many hundreds of blokes on the "Johan De Witt" with his tickling of the ivories every night in the saloon on our way to the Middle East. Tich sent along a substantial donation to the Funds and a photo of Bob McGregor taken when he too was a boy. Thanks for the letter, Tich, I appreciated it. Now there is one more thing you can do. As you know Anzac Day is on Sunday this year, so you should not be otherwise engaged, and as the Redfern Town Hall is only a short few steps from where you reside (even with your short legs) how about making a big event of the day and making an appearance. I promise not to be driving anything so I can't tip you out. Think it over "Tich" it's been a long, long time.

Also since our last paper, I have had a visit from Peter Rees and his mate, Gary Goodenough. They left their car at my home while they did a tour of New Zealand and the islands on the "Arcadia." I think that was the boat, not sure even though I took them over. They returned some ten or twelve days later. Fagged but happy. They must have had a real wing ding judging by their eyes when they arrived at my home. Presents for everybody at Coffs and Grafton and I would imagine very close to broke. While

(Continued next Page at foot of Column 1)

## OUR BI-ANNUAL REUNION (With a difference)

For a few years now we have been concerned with the decline in numbers of our members attending our bi-annual. Your committee has been working on several ideas to remedy this.

Last November we decided to make it more of a social reunion and ask members to bring their wives or a friend along.

And to add a bit more glamour (so to speak) and with the aid of Bob Lake and Frank Dynon it was held at the Anzac Memorial Club at North Sydney. Frank is the Secretary-Manager at the above-mentioned Club and he spared nothing to see that we enjoyed ourselves and had a good time.

Frank made the Club's "Elizabeth Room" and staff available to us and I think I can safely say all 43 who attended enjoyed the night.

Our President Allan McInnes, after dinner was eaten, thanked all present for attending. He also recited the ode and thanked Frank for having us at the Club. Frank in response said nothing pleased him more than to have the Association members and his army buddies at the Club.

After Frank had finished speaking, a few members in turn also thanked Frank and the committee for their work and ideas to keep the association together. Another speaker was Mary Lloyd, wife of Jack. Mary was the only lady to speak but she spoke on behalf of all the ladies present and thanked the committee for having them along. Our thanks to Mary Lloyd.

I think I can find enough space to give a list of names of those present:

Doug & Roma Shearston, "Pasha" & Mrs. Jackson, Bob & Mrs. Burnside, Bob & Joan Lake, Olive & Gordon Finlay, Eileen & Albert Brown, Harry & Daisy Mostyn, Peter & Roma O'Brien, Harry & Joan Huggard, Bluey & Marg Kerslake, Allan & Mary McInnes, Fred & Aileen Callaway, Dr. Basil & Molly St. Vincent-Welsh, Jack & Mary Lloyd, Pat & Mary Noonan, Bluey & Carmel Chase, Max & Peg Herron, George & Jean Nicholls, Bob & Joyce McGregor, Wal & Lall Page and Charles Cartwright.

I seem to have forgotten a few names. If you were there and your name isn't here - I'm sorry - come again - I won't forget next time!

## MAIL BAG - Continued from P 3

down of course, we had a good yarn and Gary told me of Fred Wheaton, who I think has sold the home at Dorriga and is suspected of taking up residence at Sawtell. Also that Fred's son, Gordon is a Major in the army and is recruiting officer at Grace Building. Next time I go over there, I am going to make myself known, might even enlist again.

However Fred, the big message is, how about coming down for Anzac Day. I am sure both you and Jean could put up with a couple of days in the hustle and bustle and we would all be glad to see you. As you would have read earlier, Griffo, Dick Seddon and quite a few of the Newcastle mob have made the statement "They will be there."

That's all for now.

LAKEY.

## WELFARE OFFICER REPORT

### VALE — VIC WALMSLEY

After being confined for five years in hospital, "Capt Yuki" Vic. Walmsley, passed away in November, 1970.

Although he suffered greatly, he would never admit to it and enjoyed my visits greatly. He was on a restricted diet but the doctors never once refused him the three cans of beer I would take each visit.

The funeral at Newcastle, was attended by Dick Seddon and other Pioneers and the Association sent a wreath.

The hospital staff and Ladies Auxiliary were thanked for their devoted care of Vic.

★ ★ ★

### NEWS ITEMS

TED DOLLING, H.Q. Coy. was in Concord Hospital recently and during visits he sent regards to all Pioneers and extended a cordial invitation to any Pioneer passing through Lake Conjola to visit him.

★ ★ ★

"SCOTTY" ARMOUR, the 2/1 Bandmaster, now conducts the Professional Musicians Band, which gives recitals at various City Parks. He invited me to the Annual Christmas recital at Burwood!

★ ★ ★

"SNOWY" TED EATHER (The Kempsey Kid) was involved in a nasty fall and has spent some time in the extensive care ward at Lewisham Hospital, but is now making a speedy recovery.

★ ★ ★

"STRAWB" DALE of 7 Platoon, was in Concord Hospital recently and had a great chat with me over old days.

★ ★ ★

"MUM" KERR of H.Q. Coy. was in hospital at the same time.

★ ★ ★

LEN SMITH, C.S.M. of C. Coy. was at Concord Hospital and promised to see all his mates on Anzac Day.

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BOB ASHCROFT, 2/2 from Maroubra was a patient recently at Concord Repat. Hospital and it was a pleasure to visit someone so cheerful.

★ ★ ★

FRED DAVENPORT of A. Coy. and his wife Nell, are doing a tour around the country side and he called in at Tumbulum, Tweed River to see Len O'Conner

(7 Platoon) but unfortunately he was away on business.

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MEMBERSHIP of the Association has increased by 14 over the last year due to the efforts of the Gate Staff at Concord Hospital and we thank them for their assistance.

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CONCORD Repatriation Hospital do not extend treatment to wives of Ex-Servicemen. The only females admitted are Ex-Servicewomen and those receiving War Widow pensions.

★ ★ ★

In acknowledgment to a question received when the 36th Bn. moved to New Guinea in 1942, Lt. Col. A. Brown was the Commanding Officer.

However, when the 2/1 Pioneer Bn. arrived in New Guinea, he was transferred to his old unit.

H. MONTAGUE.

## MANY THANKS DEPARTMENT

Many thanks to "Scottie" Angus for his very generous donation to the paper wrapping team. Scottie sent along five dollars to purchase some liquid refreshments for the hard working team of wrappers.

Thanks come to you Scottie from Peg and Max Herron, Roma and Doug Shearston, Lall and Wal Page, Mick Dodson, Bob McGregor, Don Lawson, Gavin (Snowy) Todd and I know two others, Olive and Gordon Finlay, who were not at our last wrapping owing to holidays, would also like to thank you.

Here's to your very good health, Scottie. WAL (DESSO) PAGE.

## THAT OLD AGE FEELING

Bob McGregor was telling me he was getting old and feeling it, but I told Bob, and I would like to tell anyone else who has the same feeling, growing old is only a state of mind - brought on by grey hairs, false teeth, wrinkles, a big belly, short breath and an overall feeling of being constantly bugged.

So if you can overcome all those things you would probably find you would be feeling a bit of allright.

WAL (DESSO) PAGE.

## 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

Follow the crowd from Museum or St. James Station to Redfern Station, to the South Sydney Town Hall, Pitt Street, Redfern.

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Registered under the Charitable Collections Act, 1934-41 — Certificate No. 10462

Wholly set-up and printed in Sydney by Vaughan Douglas Pty. Ltd., 2 Dale St., Brookvale Registered for post as a Newspaper - Category A.

Correspondence: Secretary, MAX HERRON, 3 Enoggera Road, Beverly Hills, 2209

Treasurer:  
DOUG SHEARSTON

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

President:  
ALLAN McINNES

Vol. 16, No. 2

1st AUGUST, 1971

Price: 50c Per Annum

## 30th ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIEGE OF TOBRUK - REUNION PERTH, W.A.

This Easter Reunion will be something that will live for always with me. It is one that, those who missed coming to Perth will never see the likes of again, they certainly missed a fantastic time. The comradeship, the organisation, the friendly way the people of Perth received us, even the weather was with us. It was all too wonderful to explain with words, so please bear with me if I seem to get carried away with the Perth Reunion.

After the Canberra Reunion five years ago the delegates and organisers of the W.A. branch of the R.O.T.A. set to with one thought in view, to make the Perth reunion - one that would not be forgotten, they achieved that. The organising and long hard work that they put into it was indeed a credit to them, at no time during the events was there any criticism, it was a tremendous effort by all those who worked so hard for so long, not only the men and the women connected with the Rats, but business people and leaders of Perth all helped to make it a success.

From Sunday 4/4/71 every plane - train - ship and bus arriving in Perth with Rats aboard was met by members of the W.A. branch and taken to where ever they were booked in, either in the city or suburbs.

On Tuesday morning 6/4/71 the reception centre was opened and staffed from 9.00 a.m. till 10.00 p.m. each day, all the Rats and their wives were checked in, handed their tickets and instructions of all events taking place during the Reunion period. Buses left the centre each day to take all to where ever the events were to take place that day.

Tuesday 6/4/71 and Wednesday 7/4/71 two delegates from each state sat at the Federal Conference. Thursday 8/4/71 saw the beginning of a very heavy schedule.

We delegates from all States were entertained in the Council building by the Rt. Hon. The Lord Mayor of Perth, Sir Thomas Wardle.

Thursday night the people of Perth saw over 600 Rats march through the streets to the Town Hall. There the largest ever crowd packed in to hear the Presidents and delegates from all Australian States and other dignitaries introduced to the Rats. Certificates of appreciation were presented to a woman for the work that she did for the R.O.T.A. Two honorary Life Membership badges and Certificates were presented to members of the R.O.T. Association.

Good Friday morning saw a Church Service held at the R.S.L. War Veteran's Home, the main speaker was our own

Padre, Sir Arthur McIlveen, K.B., O.B.E., O.F. This was, I think, the most impressive speech I have heard the Padre make.

Good Friday afternoon at Kings Park was the venue for the 30th Commemoration Service. Again an impressive march took place, lead by the R.O.T.A. pipe band. The service was held at the memorial in King Park, an exact replica of the memorial in Tobruk.

The Governor General and Commander in Chief, His Excellency, the Rt. Hon. Sir Paul Hasluck, G.C.M.C., G.C.V.O., K.St.J., blessed us with his attendance. Among other dignitaries present was the Premier of W.A. The Hon. J. T. Tonkin, M.L.A., and heads of the Churches who were in Tobruk. In the night a bus trip to see the lights of Perth - truly something to remember.

The comradeship was shown when Rats from as far away as North Queensland travelled to Perth and back, three weeks from home just to spend five days among their mates of 30 years ago. In most cases they were only remembered by their name, gone was the thick hair and straight backs replaced by high foreheads and stooped backs - even many with walking canes. One thing was still in common, the friendship. N.S.W., I am sorry to say, was poorly represented, but it was pleasing to note that the 2/1 Pioneers had more representatives than any other unit.

Easter Saturday morning a bus trip to Freemantle then to the Zoo where we had a barbecue lunch. In the afternoon there was a free invitation to the Races and Saturday night saw the big event of the reunion, the Commemorative Dinner - which was held at the Pagoda, at Como.

To see 740 persons seated was again a credit to the organisers. Easter Sunday a full train of Rats and their wives went to Bunbury, 109 miles from Perth.

The people of Bunbury turned it on for us. To the showground for another barbecue lunch - the refreshments we had must have been drugged, for a lot were snoring on the return trip to Perth.

A mention must go to the Salvation Army for the wonderful effort they added to the stay in Perth - at the reception centre, staff were on duty from 9.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m. to provide meals at a very small charge. Easter Monday it was out to the Perry Lake Stadium (where the Commonwealth games were held), for our final day of entertainment. Monday night saw the beginning of the exit of the Rats from Perth. Those travelling by plane and buses left at various times during the night and Tuesday. The first train load

left on Tuesday night, the longest train ever to leave Perth, all those who left couldn't find words to express their appreciation to the organisers and people of Perth for the most successful and wonderful reunion of 1971. There was one thing in common, if they are spared they would meet again in Adelaide in three years time for our next Reunion.

Most of us will have to go on a diet and the water waggon for a month to dry out after all the food we ate, both solid and liquid. It was early to bed every night - that is early in the morning, how we managed to soldier on, I don't know.

The main thing, all conducted themselves in an orderly manner. I hope I have made all you Rats in the Pioneers envious of a wonderful reunion. If I cannot get some new members for the R.O.T.A. out of this, it looks like I will have to get you down, put my foot on your chest and take the subscriptions out of your wallet.

One thing I must mention - comradeship was not only with the men. Three ladies from the R.O.T.A. Auxiliary travelled with others via the bus to Perth, two of the ladies were widows of 2/1 Pioneers, on arriving in Perth one of their suitcases was missing. Naturally the lady was upset for she only had the clothes she stood up in. Her first thought was to return home & here is where true friendship was found with the other two ladies, the three of them shared two suit cases of clothes. That is what I call friendship. I hope you have enjoyed my version of a very wonderful reunion in Perth, 1971.

JACK (Mick) DODSON.

## OUR ORGANISATION'S APPRECIATION

A most impressive presentation was made at this combined meeting with the Ladies of our Association when our President, Allan McInnes presented to Mrs. Lake, wife of the one and only Bobby, and Mrs. Roma Shearston, wife of our Treasurer Doug, for their husbands work for this organisation, in every way possible - a beautiful engraved large silver tray each.

Truly these tributes were most thoroughly earned after many years work, and they fully represent our members' deepest respects and sincerest congratulations.

HARRY (Monty) MONTAGUE

## LAST POST 2/1 PIONEERS

Sgt. G. F. Hickey  
Pte. G. L. Hockley  
Pte. L. Bridle.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.



## ANZAC FUNCTIONS

By W. PAGE and H. MONTAGUE

### WREATH LAYING

As is usual we started our Anzac Reunion with a short march to the Cenotaph in Martin Place, after meeting and forming up on the Corner of Pitt and Hunter Street, Sydney, the 2/1 and 2/2 marched as one Unit, under two banners the 2/1 carried by Wal Page and the 2/2 carried by Jim Fields, under the command of Jack Lloyd, as Marshall.

On reaching the Cenotaph the Banners were lowered, the Ode was recited, the 2/1 wreath was laid by our Country Vice President, Bill Hoffman, the 2/2 by our President, Allan McInnes and the Ladies Auxiliary wreath by Mrs. Mary Lloyd.

The usual bugle calls were given by Aub. Brazier. The Bugle calls brought to a close another solemn wreath laying ceremony by our Association. But it also signals the start of our Annual Meeting, with the Ladies Auxiliary going off for supper and then to rejoin us again at the British Ex-Servicemen's Club after our meeting.

HARRY (Monty) MONTAGUE

### ANNUAL MEETING

The Association's Annual Meeting was held at the British Ex-Servicemen's Club in Sydney, after the Wreath Laying Ceremony and again the attendance was very good.

Refreshments and plates of food awaited us, provided free by our Organisation which was appreciated.

In opening this meeting our President, Allan McInnes welcomed everybody, especially those who had travelled from neighbouring States which was endorsed by loud acclamation. During his address the Chairman thanked the Executive Committee and members for their continuous loyalty and co-operation, which has made our Association a Company to be proud of.

This was followed by Max Herron our Secretary, submitting the report from his department which was indeed a credit to him, and showed the tremendous amount of work he does for us.

Doug Shearston, our esteemed Treasurer introduced the audited Balance Sheet, and Financial Statements, and what a tribute it was for his outstanding work in being able to present such a report of our very healthy position.

Bob McGregor on behalf of the Social Committee gave a very interesting report on their activities, which emphasised the tremendous amount of work they did on our behalf.

Truly we are indeed most fortunate in having such fellows as these as our Executive who do everything humanly possible for its members.

On arriving from their supper, organised by their Secretary, Peg Herron, the Ladies Auxiliary were introduced to the meeting, and were warmly welcomed by our President, who emphasised what a wonderful asset they were to our organisation.

The Welfare representative gave his yearly report, which also was greatly accepted.

In conformity with our Constitution, all officers were declared vacant, and Bill Hoffman, the Returning Officer then conducted elections for these positions, which resulted in all members being returned.

HARRY (Monty) MONTAGUE

## ANZAC MARCH, 1971

The Marchers moved off in perfect weather, a little later than usual owing to the fact that this is the 50th Anniversary of the R.A.A.F. I am not too sure of why this fact caused the delay, but I am told it was. However, the 2/1 were led out of Phillip Street into Martin Place, by our one and only Norm (Nugget) Neal. Norm stayed with us till we reached Barrack Street then he had to race off to meet his First World War Buddies, but he left his 2/1 Battalion of 150 strong, in the very capable hands of Brig Johnny Gilchrist and Stan Jones. The March finished once again in Hyde Park. The 2/1 Banner was carried by Mick Dodson.

It is noticeable that the years are taking their toll of some of our boys, they do not seem to march as they used to, although the numbers of Marchers are getting less, the numbers at the actual Reunion seem to hold up. So it seems that although some are not able to march, they still get to meet their old mates at the Reunion.

Well done fellows!

The 2/2 also got away to a good start with a roll call of 70 bods, led off by Major "Bill Robertson." The Banner, as usual was carried by Jim Fields and he was relieved on the last leg by Archie Stanton. Jim not only carries the Banner for the 2/2 but is also the Custodian of same and keeps it in repair. Quite a few visitors helped to swell the ranks of the 2/2.

Central Coast: Len Hope, Tim Morgan, Bob McTaggart.

South Coast: Charlie Henry, Bill and George Nicholls.

From Goulburn: Jack Crouch, an apology came from Padre Claughton, who was very busy on Church work, (being a Sunday of course) this is the first time "Padre" has missed our March and Reunion for quite a few years, but the boys do appreciate the fact that you were with us in spirit, Padre.

### MANY THANKS DEPARTMENT

Our Social Secretary, Bob McGregor and myself would like to thank all those men who gave us a hand to make our Annual Reunion at Redfern Town Hall, the success it was. Our thanks go to the Pioneers like Vic Whiteley, Sailor Witham, Harry Mostyn, Gavin Todd, Don Lawson, Archie Stanton and there were more pioneers whom I cannot recall at the moment, thanks fellows for your help.

But I think a real big thank you must go to the visitors to our Reunion, some of them were not even born when we were away, but they did a good job for us on Anzac Day.

Fellows like Ted Dick (Bob Lake's son-in-law), Terry Bird (son of a Pioneer, the Late Joe Bird), Paul Lowe (son of Jack Lowe, the Publican of the Woolpack Hotel), Jack set the kegs up for us, Billy Murphy (son of Pioneer Pat Murphy), thanks fellows and a big B-R-A-V-O-O to Stan Kennedy, Reg Ward, Charlie Burgess, the Scouts who gave us a hand dishing out the food, the best Mess Orderley I have ever had.

Thanks to Bert Hern for donating the dozen beer he won in our raffle, back to Pioneer News Paper Wrappers, Charles Foley of the 9th Division Engineers won the Bottle of Whisky, but I am afraid Charlie Foley has never heard of the Pioneer News Paper Wrappers.

WAL (Desso) PAGE.

## President's Report

Pioneers - it gives me very great pleasure to be in the chair presenting the report for 1971, which, thanks to much help, has been once more most satisfactory.

We have held five Committee meetings over the year with an average attendance of fourteen members present. There has been an exceptionally heavy lot of business this year which, thanks to our Committee has been dealt with in a most satisfactory manner.

The Rural Bank, owners of Hunter St. property have put a lot of difficulties on our plate. As you know we are tenants of No. 10 Hunter Street and we sublet same making a profit for the Association. The Bank has asked the Association to vacate the premises and have made two substantial rises in rent. The Committee went into our lease, had legal advice and many discussions about the property and took a very firm and positive attitude in this matter and this has now been resolved and the Association still has our profit.

Secretary, Max Herron has done a tremendous job this year (as he has done every year now for a long time), he has done all the work entailed in this Association, plus the extra work caused by the Hunter Street premises and the Sunday Anzac Day, which made a lot of extra toil, finalising arrangements.

Treasurer, Doug Shearston, our very wonderful treasurer has done his usual capable job and our Balance Sheet is quite solid.

Thanks to Doug's guidance, costs which have been rising very steeply, have been kept down to a minimum and by keeping "Pioneer News" down to a four page issue and cutting out costly blocks, we are still able to print and distribute at a reasonable price.

Auditor - Our auditor has always been available to assist when needed and look after our tax returns. We are grateful for Arthur Watson's help.

Welfare - our welfare work has been in the capable hands of Harry Montague, who has done a tremendous job with weekly visits to sick Pioneers in hospital and distributing parcels. Harry has also given much assistance to members in regards to pensions, wills, legacy, etc., and I am sure all Pioneers are proud of him.

Social - Bob McGregor has been very active this year and has had a very big job arranging Anzac Day.

A Social Evening was held at the Anzac Memorial Club, North Sydney, in lieu of bi-annual Smoko and our attendance of forty three members was very good. The function was most successful and very enjoyable.

"Pioneer News" - three issues have been edited, printed, wrapped and posted and my thanks go to the Editors, Publicity Officers and the Wrapping Committee, who wrapped and labelled the "Pioneer News."

Remembrance Sunday - On 8th November, at Leichhardt Methodist Mission, a Remembrance Day Service was held by Padre Claughton (2/2 Pnrs.). A good attendance of 2/1 and 2/2nd Pioneers enjoyed a fine service and supper afterwards, served by the Ladies Auxiliary.

In conclusion I wish to thank the executive, the Committee and all Pioneers who have assisted us in any way, to make this year another very good one.

ALLAN McINNES.

## 2/1 - 2/2 ANNUAL REUNION

After the participation in the yearly Anzac Day March by both the 2/1st and 2/2nd Pioneers we adjourned to the Redfern Town Hall for the Association's Annual Get Together, and what a tremendous attendance there was.

Pat Murphy D Coy 2/1st is the caretaker there and we are terribly indebted to him for getting this place for us, as it was indeed all that could be desired.

On entering the foyer all were welcomed by our President, Allan McInnes, Secretary Max Herron, Treasurer, Doug Shearston and Social Secretary, Bob McGregor, and then directed to the large and small halls of the building which had been most beautifully decorated for such a great occasion.

Next a delicious hot meal was served, which was appreciated, and provided gratis by our Organisation.

Great credit must be given to "Desso" Wally Page, Bobby Lake, Harry Mostyn, Jack Collis and those other great fellows who were the waiters, or mess orderlies as they did a tremendous job.

Incidentally they started at 7 a.m. and continued until 6 p.m. working continuously to make this session such an overwhelming success which it most certainly was.

The amber ale was everlasting flowing and a more happier occasion would be impossible to imagine. To see the coppers who had not met for ages sitting recalling past times, places and events was a real pleasure. Even after lunch plates of all varieties of foodstuffs were distributed and also added to making the function most outstanding.

The whole atmosphere was a happy one and indeed a privilege to be present at such a Reunion.

I personally interviewed many old friends from both Battalions and everyone expressed their greatest thanks in being made so welcome as it was something they would never forget. Each requested me to express their respects, so:

To the President, Executive Committee, and the many helpers, please accept our heartfelt thanks and sincerest appreciation for the happy time we all had at the Reunion, due entirely to your untiring efforts, and sincerely trust that such an arrangement can be made next year.

Thanking you on behalf of all those who attended.

HARRY MONTAGUE.

### REUNION ROUND-UP

Incidentally, Harry Allan, with his R.A.A.F. mate Kevin Buckley, and a bottle of Old Kedge Rum was first to meet me in Phillip Street, and after a sip out of Scotty Angus' bottle of Special Kind of Rum, I was off to a good start on this Anzac Day, 1971.

Several out of State visitors were present, Peter Priest, ex H.Q. Coy, was there from Alice Springs, he went out there 5 years ago for a trip, he liked it and stayed on, and is now with the P.W.D., and wished to be remembered to all the gang. Lofty Hannon was up from Shepperton in Victoria, and carrying quite a bit of weight. Mick Anselm was down from Ipswich with his wife, nice to see you Mrs. Anselm. They brought news of Mick Reilly, ex B. Coy., Mick is now Treasurer of the Local branch of the Rats, down from Newcastle were Dick Seddon, Jack Griffith, Larry Robson, J. Pepper, Oh Yes:

I must tell you, present at our March were the three Morahan Brothers, only Kevin actually marched with us, John and Cyril, joined the Korean and Vietnamese boys.

The directions printed and handed out before the March, on how to find the Reunion at the Redfern Town Hall, must have been very good, because every one seemed to find their way out to the Town Hall. The only ones to get lost were Harry Montague, Bob Burnside and yours truly, a few surprises as always, Joe Blute Brisbane was there, and very proud of the fact that he has a wife, and a young daughter, he was ably entertained by Percy Penrose, Georgie Bates, Bill Arthur (a little too well I would say), "Nobby" Norm Cooper, Bert Holmes, good to see you boy. "Nobby" passes on his best to all, especially Geoff Robinson.

Porky Graham came along, Ray Horn turned up, after several years in the country, running a hotel. Ray brought news of Fred Wheaton, Fred now has a butchers shop at Sawtell. Geoff Williams spent several hours and several jugs with Steve Clarke, and Bill Jolley, the one and only "Cosgrove" was also very noticeably seen around the place. Jimmy Drummond was kept in check by Bill Robertson, these two were kept very busy seeing old friends as both were first in the 2/1 and then in the 2/2, good on you, boys.

"Casey" Brown, Bill Tasker and Bill Wright, Frank Gillian, Brian Kybert, had themselves quite a good time, several old C Coy. fellows got together. Bill Doney, Sammy Lewis, Leo Morris (up from the South), Ned Jennings and Dick Chalmers (how did he get into C Coy).

Albert Brown from Bringelly, George Murphy, Curly Bentley were another group having a good time. Albert brought news of Len Humphries. Len who was a former President of the Blacktown R.S.L. has not been in the best of health lately, sends his best to all.

Earl (Stinker) Jones was with us, Fred Davenport was down from Brisbane on a working holiday, but he says it is too cold down here for humans. Bob Scott, Brick Wall, Mick Dodson, were another group to keep things turning over.

Believe it or not Bob McGregor actually bought a Jug of beer, I know because I sold him the ticket and I also got a glass out of his jug. Ray Lester put in a late run, nice to see you Ray, lost a little weight Ray? Good for you.

Another happy table consisted of Bob Lake, Wagga Grice, Snowy Jardine, Vic. Whiteley, Dora Black, Bert Hearne, Noel Schromberg, Charlie Wilbey and Bob Steven, both from Moree, come again Charlie and Bob, nice to see you. Hiding behind a goodly sort of beard was Jimmy Grey, ex D Coy. Roy Bounds was another one whooping it up with visiting Scouter friends of Max Herron, Stan Kennedy, Reg Ward and Charlie Burgess - really nice to see you with us.

Dick Seddon, Jack Griffith and Jack Bertram came down from Newcastle to brighten up our lives and we were very pleased to see these chaps with us.

Don Coy. 2/1, were well represented in the form of George Tolmie, Jim Gray,

Peter Craig, "Bimbo" Bell, George Brooks, Max Herron, Bob McGregor and Harry Cole.

The Sig Platoon were down in quantity but certainly not in quality in the circle of Ron McFarlane, Cec Saloway, Allan Jensen, Doug Shearston, Max Herron and Bob Burnside. As seals they said they could not perform because some other blighters hogged the stage.

It was nice to see some of our officers at the Reunion in the form of Jeff Williams, Steve Clarke, Jack Lloyd, Jim Drummond, Bill Jolley, Bill Robertson and Allan McInnes.

Mick Dodson was the man counting the dinners and we would like to extend to Mick our hearty congratulations on being made a Life Member of the Rats of Tobruk Association.

Well that is all the boy's names that I can recall at the moment, to all those I have mentioned, and to all I failed to mention, thanks for being with us and thanks for making the show the success it was, and for making all our work worthwhile.

GORDON FINLAY.

### ANZAC DAY WITH THE 2/2nds

The Anzac March was held in perfect weather this year. There were about 40 marchers and among them some new faces and some that had not been along for some time.

After the March we adjourned to Redfern Town Hall, where we joined the 2/1 for the Anzac Reunion. This was the first time we had joined forces since 1947 and all voted it a real success, due to the efforts of Max Herron and his band of willing workers.

★ Had a phone call from Col. Shea early Anzac morning, he sent best wishes to all his friends over here. Bob is now a grandfather for the fourth time. A boy for a change, after three girls. Good luck to you Col and Frances from your friends in Sydney.

★ Reg Armstrong S.M. C Coy., at the March for the first time. Reg comes from Melbourne and has now retired and is living in Sydney.

★ Steve Snow looking well after his World tour said that he had run into Alan McInnes in London, it is a small world!

★ Pat Gallagher was noticed renewing acquaintances with old mates. Pat is living in Blacktown and is working for the Electricity Commission. See you next year, Pat.

★ Keith Mason was down for the celebrations from Kyogle. He brought regards from Eddie Weston. How about making it down here some time, Eddie.

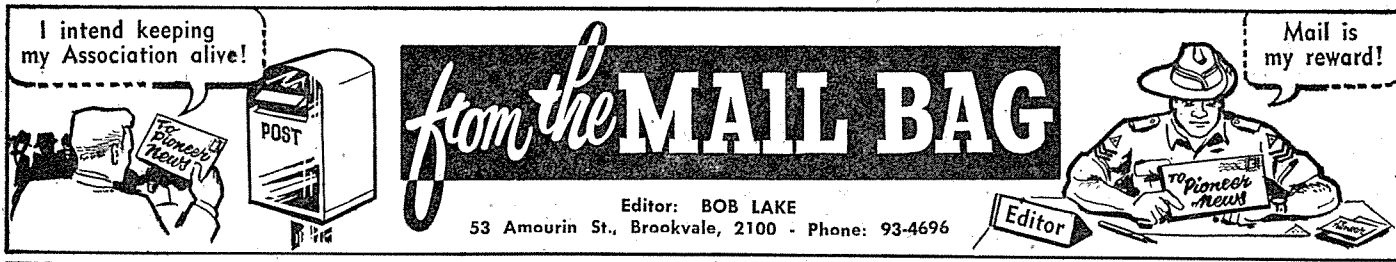
★ Jack Crouch was a visitor from Goulburn, along with John, one of his four sons. Others of his boys are away from home, one in Germany and one at the University. John is working with the Railways and extends a welcome to anyone down in his district.

### REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

The usual remembrance service will be held in the Leichhardt Methodist Church, on 7th November, at 7.30 p.m.

The service will be conducted by the Rev. Alan Claughton and he extends a very warm welcome to all. The Church is in Wetherill Street, Leichhardt, off Norton Street.

— DON LAWSON.



Here we have another edition of Mail Bag. As usual after Anzac Day, this is a quiet response with regard to mail.

**DICK SEDDON**, B. Coy, 2/1 and as everyone knows, a Newcastle boy, one of the many. Only a short note from Dick telling us that Joe Hickey is having his ups and downs but is still managing to carry on. Dick's note mainly was a thank you for the donations from the Pioneers to the Newcastle Rats of Tobruk. Thank you Dick and all we can say is carry on the good work up there.

**GEORGE CREASY**, 2/1 and now a resident of Portland. This letter comes per medium of his wife, Betty, who has had to take the pen and write for old George. Betty does not say very much but encloses a substantial donation which I should imagine will carry you over for another year at least. Thank you Betty and George and we hope to hear more from you in future.

**VIOLET HOCKLEY** who is now residing at The Entrance, N.S.W., sends a letter informing us of the death of John in December last. Violet requests assistance and if the Association can give it. Our secretary suggests that you should contact Harry Montague, 46 Pomeroy Street, Homebush for any matters such as pensions, etc.

**MAY HICKEY**, wife of the late Jack Hickey of the Pioneers, has forwarded a subscription and a request that she receive the paper as usual. You may certainly receive the paper, May, but you are not expected to send any money whatsoever. The paper will continue to be posted to you until such times as you request otherwise.

**JACK COLLIS**, 2/1 and now at Umina, N.S.W. Jack has been a very good member of our Association and also our Committee, and had the honour of being made a life member at our last meeting. Jack has had a few ups and downs this last six months but is kicking on again now. Jack speaks of seeing the old Balmain tiger, Jack Coats, and he still manages to keep down an ale or two. A few Sundays ago I called into the Club and Billy Moore was sitting with Jack. Both Bill and Jack looked very well in front of a schooner each. Jack Coats still takes quite an interest in football and last year he coached the local team to win the Grand Final. Thank you for the letter Jack and we sincerely hope that the back business clears up and that the painting game continues to show much profit.

**SAILOR WITHAM** - 2/1, has trotted off to the old dart once again. He will be away for about 12 months visiting friends and relatives in England. While in London he is looking forward to meeting Tom Carr, another babbling brook, who has made a trip overseas. Tom Carr made the trip on the "Women's Weekly World Tour" and left Sydney by the "Australis" which would be remembered by many 2/1 Pioneers as the old West

Point, which transported so many of us back from the Middle East in 1942. I'll bet that rings a bell. Sailor would also like to take the opportunity to congratulate the Social Secretary and his voluntary aides, for the splendid job he did on making such a successful Anzac Day. Thank you Sailor, I am sure that Bob McGregor will make every effort to take a bow for you.

**MRS. ESTHER STEVENS**. Mrs. Stevens is the widow of Chris Stevens, who passed on on 16th February, at the Repat. Hospital. Mrs. Stevens is leaving Australia sometime this year, just waiting for matters to finalise. She does not say where she is going, so we cannot print it. However there will be no need for any donation as we do not accept them from widows. We wish you well on your trip and hope that you enjoy yourself as best as possible.

**NOEL PETERSON**, ex B. Coy. and now living at Wyong. Noel claims that he has finally got over Tobruk Sunday and Anzac Day and is now trying to get back to normal. I suppose normal, where Noel is concerned, would be a poke round the garden, a few odd jobs, and then up to the Club, where I believe, they have imported a special schooner, said to hold 9 gallons at one time. I don't know whether this would be right. However, I do know that the old fellow would have no trouble dealing with same if necessary. Thanks for the good wishes Noel. Keep smiling, maybe we'll see you soon. Lakey.

**GEORGE WALKER** - per his wife Joyce, sends a few lines telling of holidays to come, renovations being completed to the house, speaks of 18 year baby of the family and of a son David whose wedding was set down for 20th February. That's certainly a mixed up grill as far as mail is concerned, however when you get cracking like that, one thing about it you do get things moving. Special mention, our Secretary Max Herron sends George and Joyce his personal regards, apparently Max spent some time in the same hospital as Joyce, at Hurstville.

**BLUEY WALSH** - a face conspicuous by its absence on Anzac Day. A terrific stalwart of the Association and later news had it that the old Blue has been a bit crook. We all hope and wish you a speedy recovery and then back to business, like Raffles.

**PAT LAUGHREN**, 2/1 C. Coy and now at Nambour - pride of the sunshine Gold Coast according to Pat. Pat's special mention is to all that C. Coy push naming same Joe Hickey. Sandy Abercrombie, Jim Rhodes, Jock Russell, Tin Hat Jennings, Roy Cheers and all the members of 13 Platoon. Pat also sends regards to the football players of those good teams in those times. He also quotes that even though the years roll on, his shadow never grows less. All Pioneers travelling up his way or anywhere around Nambour are always welcome to call and discuss old times with Pat. He is glad to have

them. Pat sees Bill Simpson, late of Headquarter Company occasionally. Bill has his address at Mitcheltown, Brisbane. Anybody knows where Mitcheltown is, good luck to them. Back to Pat, he has a son at the Queensland University and a daughter studying for her M.A. at Nice University on the Riviera in France. It's nice to be some people. That's all the mail for this issue, however I have a few lines to quote myself.

Anzac Day of course was a beauty. I think every man enjoyed themselves, they'd be bad and hard to please if they didn't. As I imagined, a few of the articles throughout the year had caused a few remarks. My remark of Doug and Flo Sherman as to being the most prolific grandparents brought a hard comment from one Alwyn Black, of Kyogle, who claimed he would be in front of Doug and Flo, but only because he got a start. Blackie also mentions of the night that he and Flo won the ticket dance, how could he lose, he had all the tickets? Do you remember this night, Flo?

As usual on Anzac Day, we receive many offers of help of our fellow men. That great stalwart, Vic "Pearshape" Whiteley turned up in all his glory and proceeded to walk around the hall, doing absolutely bloody nothing. However, he did bring two friends who in his usual style, Victor put to work. At the close of the afternoon at Redfern, Alan McInnes and myself made a trip to North Sydney where we paid a call on Geoff Graham and Pat his wife, where we stayed for perhaps 45 minutes with them.

Geoff remains his bright cheerful self although his health has been causing some problems.

To close off, I would like to thank my nephew, Terry Bird and my son-in-law, Ted Dick, for the wonderful job on the beer on Anzac Day.

That's it for now.

LAKEY.

## ANNUAL WELFARE REPORT

During this last year, fifty weekly visits were made to the Concord Repatriation hospital and thirty one calls to Public Hospitals, Institutions, Convalescent Centres and members' homes, in keeping with this section of our Association.

Pension issues have been obviously the main question, and again it was a pleasure to approach our Pension friends, and the yeoman service rendered by them, greatly benefited our mates.

During my visits, twelve new members from both Battalions were enrolled into our Organisation.

At four funerals of our late comrades I represented this Association and personally expressed our sympathies.

Much could be written of the Welfare doings, but to be brief, everything possible was done for our members, and each case of distress and sickness attended to.

Again my address is No. 46 Pomeroy Street, Homebush, 2140, Sydney - phone 76-6657, so if I can assist you, let me know. HARRY (Monty) MONTAGUE



# PIONEER NEWS

Phone: 759-5491

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

Phone: 759-5491

Registered under the Charitable Collections Act, 1934-41 — Certificate No. 10462

Wholly set-up and printed in Sydney by Vaughan Douglas Pty. Ltd., 2 Dale St., Brookvale Registered for post as a Newspaper - Category A.

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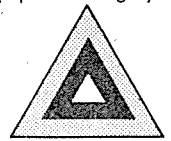
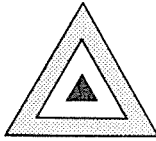
President:

ALLAN McINNES

Vol. 16, No. 3

1st DECEMBER, 1971

Price: 50c Per Annum



## 2/2 REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

Members and wives of the 2/2 and 2/1 Pioneer Battalions attended the Annual Memorial Remembrance Service, on Sunday, 7th November, 1971, at the Leichhardt Wesley Church, conducted by our Padre, Rev. Stan Claughton. He was ably assisted in the reading of the Lessons by 2/2 members Jim Field and Dr. Basil St. Vincent Welch. The Ode was recited by Don Lawson.

The banner of the 2/2 was prominently displayed and the service was, as usual, very inspiring. Quite a few members of both battalions and their wives were present, but sickness prevented many of the old stalwarts from attending.

Following the service, the ladies from the Church Guild entertained the members and their wives to supper in Martin Hall, which was very much appreciated. After supper, the Padre in his usual style related incidents from his "little black book" and then called on members present "to have their say."

Quite a few responded, including President Allan McInnes, vice-president Don Lawson, secretary Max Herron, our wel-

fare officer Harry Montague (to whom special mention was made for his untiring efforts on behalf of members of both Battalions who become hospitalised and needed help in regard to pension etc.), Bob Dixon, Jim Field, Basil St. Vincent Welch. "Snowy" Todd and George Perry were other 2/2nds present at the service.

During the evening, the Padre announced that he would be conducting his last Remembrance Service in November, 1972, as he was due to retire from the ministry in December. We would like to see a big roll-up next year to say farewell and hope all members will make a special effort to attend.

—DON LAWSON, 2/2.

## ANNUAL REUNION, 1972

So you think its a bit early to talk about our Annual Reunion for 1972.

Well, these things do not organise themselves and the necessary arrangements take quite a lot of time.

However, the main reason for this paragraph is just to let you know that your Committee is on the ball and arrangements are in hand to hold our Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Cenotaph in the Martin Place Plaza on 24th April, 1972, and our Annual Reunion will once again be held at the Castlereagh Hotel, on the corner of Park and Castlereagh Streets, Sydney, after the Anzac Day March, where a hot meal will be supplied free, before the Bar opens at mid-day, so forget your Club for one day fellows.

The 2/2 Pioneers, under the leadership of Don Lawson, have accepted our invitation to unite with us in one big Reunion at the Castlereagh Hotel on Anzac Day, 1972.

Come and see us on the 24th and 25th April, 1972.

Regards to all on behalf of your Committee.

WAL (DESSO) PAGE.

## WELFARE SECTION

Since my last report I have been very active on behalf of the Association assisting some of our members, and through the generosity and kindness given by those good friends at the Repatriation Department, a number of pensions and increases were granted. These take time and patience, but the results were gratifying and well worth the trouble.

The weekly visits to the Repatriation, Public Hospital and Institutions have been regular, and every possible assistance has been given. Much could be said on this subject, but all requests were attended to promptly and generally the results were very favourable.

## LEST WE FORGET

It is with regret I report the deaths of three old esteemed members over the last few weeks.

Jack Buchanan, A Coy., 2/1, from a car accident.

"Straub" Dale, A Coy., 2/1, after a long illness.

Greg Davis, C Coy, 2/1, ill for some time.

The Association's deepest respects and tributes were forwarded to their widows and families, and all possible assistance rendered.

## GENERAL NEWS

Our old mate, Tom Hugo, C Coy., 2/1, has just returned home after being an inmate at Concord, where both legs were amputated. During the long period there, he was very cheerful and I do appeal to any old Pioneers with a few minutes to spare to call on Tom at 58 Sherwood Road, Revesby, Phone 771-2136, and their visit would be very welcome.

Wally Copp, 2/1 was also at Concord for some time, but is now recuperating after a spell of very bad health.

Wilfred Ryan, 2/2 was down from Kempsey for treatment and conveyed best wishes from our old pal. "The Kempsey Kid" (Snowy Eather).

Vic. Le Mesurier, C Coy. 2/1, from Katoomba was also an inmate at Concord and requests that if any of the old Brigade are ever in Katoomba to call on him at the local Golf Club, where they will be heartily welcomed.

Ted Skoyles, 2/1 from Wollongong, also a patient for some time, sends his best wishes to old mates.

Two new members were enrolled who are old originals, Harold Townsend, D. Coy., and Harold Whittaker of C. Coy, 2/1.

This Welfare work is part and parcel of our Association, and if I can be of any assistance please write me at 46 Pomeroy Street, Homebush, 2140, or phone me at 76-6657.

HARRY "MONTY" MONTAGUE.

## 2/2 NEWS

★ Our congratulations to proud grandparents HARRY and JOAN HUGGARD, whose daughter Susan, presented them with a grandson in October. Sue, a former hostess and compere on Channel 10, Sydney and her baby son, Benjamin, are reported to be doing very well.

★ JIM DRUMMOND is recovering after a severe stroke several months ago and now back at work for a few hours a day. We wish you a speedy return to good health, Jim.

★ We extend our sincere sympathy to ALLAN McINNES and his family on the sad loss of his father in Cooma recently.

## 32nd ANNIVERSARY PIONEER REUNION - GRETA CAMP

How would you like to re-enact the formation of the 2/1 Pioneer Bn.? Make a note of the date at Newcastle

**SOCIAL NIGHT - SATURDAY,  
10th JUNE, 1972 - AND BARBECUE  
SUNDAY, 11th JUNE**

**At the Original Greta Camp  
WIVES CORDIALLY INVITED**

# SAFARI TO OLD HAUNTS

Published below is an account of a six-week trip to Cairns and all places south, made by our Secretary, Max Herron and his wife Peg,

We left Sydney on 23rd August for a leisurely trip to Cairns and it took us six days after staying in overnight vans in caravan parks at Coffs Harbour, Burleigh Heads, Urangan (near Maryborough) Rockhampton, Bowen and then on to Cairns. On our return trip we also included Mission Beach, near Tully, Townsville and Maroochydore.

While in Cairns we took the train up to Kuranda, which is reported as THE gardening station of Australia. We also went up to Mossman and Trinity Beach, where 2/1 Pioneers did beach landings during our stay on the Tablelands in the 1940's. From Cairns we went over to Green Island - visiting the Underwater Observatory, Marineland Theatre and across to the reef to view the coral from a glass bottom boat.

## ATHERTON TABLELANDS VISIT

Visiting the Atherton Tablelands, we called in to such places as Atherton, Tolga, Kairi, Malanda, Yungaburra, the crater lakes of Barine and Eacham, the crater at Mt. Hypipamee and then down the Palmerston Highway through 45 miles of rain forest to Innisfail. It was our intention to see some of the places where I had camped with the 2/1 Pioneers during the year of 1942, but it is now mostly covered by the huge Tinaroo Dam at Kairi. The country is still a lush green and the hills looked just the same as when we were there so many years ago. The towns have progressed and changed, but the hotels still looked the same as when we were there drinking "Blameys."

From Innisfail, we went on down to Mission Beach, near Tully and stayed five days. From here we went on trips to Dunk Island, Bedarra and Purtaboi Islands. These were lovely tropical islands and a great place to retire in your old age.

Next stay was at Townsville, where we went across to Magnetic Island. The Army is still in occupation there, but on a much grander style than in the old days. From here we travelled down to Mackay and stayed two days visiting sugar mills and plantations. After driving through so many sugar farms up north, it is fascinating to see how it is grown, harvested and processed.

## ST. CHRISTOPHER'S CHAPEL BY AMERICANS

Next stop was Bundaberg, but as the weather here was not treating us to kindly, we moved on to Rockhampton. Rockhampton is a city of parking meters and policemen who don't take too kindly to "southern tourists," so we kept out of the city as much as possible. At Rockhampton we drove some miles out of the town to see St. Christopher's Chapel. It was built by the American forces stationed around Rockhampton during the war and is kept in perfect order by the R.S.L. and allied services club. Built of hewn logs and stones, in open style, it is a sad reminder of many young ex-servicemen of all religions who have prayed and worshipped and gone

away to war. Services are still held there on special occasions.

Our next stop was at Maroochydore on the Sun Coast of Queensland and we stayed here a week visiting Toowoomba, Maleny and even Kilcoy where the 2/1 sts were camped on their return from the Middle East.

Coffs Harbour was our next port of call for a week and we spent our time visiting Woolgoolga, Sawtell, Dorrigo and the Bellinger River districts. From here it was a case of home to Sydney - and work.

We were sorry we could not call on more friends than we did, but we did manage to see quite a few and news of them is as follows:

## KYOGLE

**PETER BELL.** While walking down the main street of Kyogle we ran into Peter, who retired from Juniors Store last year. He is looking really fit and told us he had become interested in Legacy work and, together with Leo Ferris, is spending quite a lot of time assisting the young people of the district. Peter says he is enjoying the life of a retired gentleman - on Army pay. Apart from his other interests, Peter still manages to look after the interests of our Association by visiting all Pioneers who are hospitalised locally. He sends his regards to all his friends, especially those in H.Q. Coy.

**CECIL BLANCH.** While talking to Peter Bell, Peg sighted a familiar face, none other than Cecil Blanch. He came over for a brief chat, as he put it, and some time slipped away. Cec was very pleased to state his first grandson had been born recently. The day prior to our visit, Cec said "Bluey" Cross had paid him a visit and sent his regards to all Pioneers. Cec looks in the pink of condition and also sends his best wishes to all his mates in H.Q. Coy.

**BILL HOFFMAN.** Our Country Vice-President, was next on the visiting list and we found him at the local baths, of which he is manager. The swimming season was just about to commence, so Bill was busy giving the baths a coat of paint. He looks really well, just having returned from his annual holidays at South Molle Island. Before going on holidays, Bill was involved in a car accident - with a horse. The horse jumped from an embankment on the bonnet of his car, at night, and as Bill was unable to stop in time, the horse was thrown on the road and then back up on the windscreen, smashing it in and then up on the roof. Naturally the horse died - and then, according to Bill, the trouble started. To make an insurance claim, Bill had to find the owner of the horse - but no one was willing to claim ownership, in view of the damage to Bill's car. It would be cheaper for the owner to buy a new horse!

Bill is a very keen Lodge member and spends many nights visiting nearby

country centres for meetings. He would like to be remembered to all his old friends, especially those of the Committee.

**JIM HALL.** After finally getting out of the main street of Kyogle, we headed for Jim Hall's property at Wiangaree, a few miles out of Kyogle. We were made very welcome by Jim and his wife, Lil, over a cup of tea. (I did see Jim put a bottle of beer in his freezer, which he no doubt intended to share with me, but we talked about so many things, he must have forgotten it. I remembered it in Coffs Harbour several days later and hoped Jim had also remembered or he would have had quite an explosion). Jim had a set-back in health last year, but is now recovered and still spends a lot of time with his second love - horses.

Jim's wife, Lil, told us their daughter, Margaret, is a Ward Sister at Lewisham Hospital after a lengthy period in Vietnam and their other daughter, Ann, is married and living in England where her husband is in the Air Force.

Peg and I really enjoyed our visit with the Halls, and said good-bye rather reluctantly, but we still had quite a bit of ground to cover.

**LEO FERRIS.** Next on our visiting list was Leo Ferris and his wife, Nita, at Lynch's Creek, where we arrived just in time for another "cuppa." After tea, we were taken to the cattle yards to see their son, Jim, rounding up the cattle for their injections, then over the mill which was being operated by Leo's brother.

Leo then drove us up into the hills to watch his eldest son, John, falling huge trees and loading them on to a long trailer drawn by an old army blitz buggy. John is very versatile, doing all the mechanical work around the farm and is an expert handling tractors and other vehicles. Both Peg and I were very interested with the logging operations and would like to return one day in the future with more time on our hands.

Leo and Nita have two other sons - Bill, who is an expert on refrigeration and works in Kyogle and their young son, who is still at school. He is very clever at cabinet making and has done some very fine work with the local timbers. Daughter, Doreen, is married and lives at Mudgee, but they are hoping to be home in Kyogle by January - to make Leo and Nita grandparents. Delma, the younger sister, works at the local chemist and called on us that night in Kyogle to introduce herself and have a chat.

Leo is very busy on his property these days, but still has time to devote a lot of his time to Legacy work.

We were very taken up with both his property and Jim Halls, and wished we were able to spend more time with them than we did. Thank you Leo and Jim for some very pleasant hours. We hope to make a return trip in the not too distant future.

## WOOLGOOLGA AND SAWTELL

**ALLAN CRUTE** and Beulah, his wife, were next on our visiting list. The Crutes

(Continued foot of Col. 1 next page)



Once again another edition of Mail Bag. On this occasion, we have to apologise for the loss of some six letters, due to circumstances beyond our control. We can only assume that they went astray in the post. We have three letters from ladies and on this occasion we give them first on the line.

**MRS. CHRISTINA BLACK**, wife of the late Allan Black sends along the sad information of the death of Allan on 17th July last, from a heart complaint. Allan was a member of the Coolamon R.S.L. and the president of that Sub-Branch read the service at the funeral, while a guard of honour of members was also present. Our sincerest sympathy to you Christina, and your son Keith, and I can assure you that the "News" will continue to be mailed to you.

## JAUNT TO OLD HAUNTS — (continued from previous page)

had been in Brisbane visiting Allan's brother when we first called, but we managed to catch up with them on their return. They were then off to Parkes to visit their son Dennis, who is stationed there with the P.M.G.

Allan works at Kumbaingeri Wild Life Sanctuary, which Peg and I had visited and enjoyed.

Beulah is still the Lady Cubmaster of the local Woolgoolga Cub Pack and was recently presented with her Certificate for Good Services to scouting. Allan is Group Scoutmaster of the same group.

We had a pleasant evening with them talking about old days in the Army, especially those we had in the Sig. Platoon with Leo Ferris as our officer. "Those were the days," said Allan and he sends regards to all sgs, with a special hello to Keith Reynolds, Wally Parsons, Fred Brooks, Jim Robertson, Charlie Kerr, Ron McFarlane, Les Nichols, Bernie Reiners and Doug Shearston.

**FRED WHEATON** owns a butcher shop at Sawtell and while staying at Coffs, Peg and I took a trip down to see Fred and his wife, Jean. Fred looks very well and has quite a thriving business and, according to Jean, it should be "because he is a hard worker and a hard boss." (Why don't you go on strike, Jean).

Fred advised us to take a trip up to Dorrigo. We did and it was certainly lovely country - some of the best we saw on the trip.

Fred and Jean send their regards to Bob and Joan Lake, also Vic and Peg Whiteley, and all 2/1 Pioneers. Fred mentions having seen Ray Horne, when he and his wife, Sylvia passed through on their holidays earlier in the year.

It was a terrific holiday covering nearly 5,500 miles and 215 gallons of petrol. The weather was excellent and we can thoroughly recommend the trip to any Pioneer with the time - and the money - to spare.

**MRS. MARJORIE HANN** of New Lambton, wife of the late Reg Hann, also sends the information of the death of Reg, on 10th July, 1971. Reg, among other problems, also finally succumbed to a heart complaint. He again was well known, respected and loved by all that knew him and his funeral was very well attended. Marjorie has two sons and both married and two daughters, one still at school in 3rd Form. There are also two grandchildren, so Marjorie, although the loss is great you do have this lovely family to care for and to be cared for yourself, by them all. Thank you for a very charming letter.

**MRS. ELSIE LINCOLN** wife of Tom Lincoln has moved into a War Service Unit at Belmore, 54 Etela Street, to be exact and though with a daughter and three grandchildren, still has periods of loneliness especially so at the new address. However, Elsie requests that we publish her address and should any of the members of the Battalion or their wives, that may reside in or around the Belmore area care to call or write she would be glad to meet them and to talk of old times. Elsie knows quite a few of the chaps as when Tom was alive, they both got around a bit, so nobody would feel strange if calling.

**SAM BRITAIN** of Belmore sends a donation to the club funds and our worthy treasurer has treated same in the usual manner, however, I should imagine that this sub was sent through Monty as there is no other news in the note other than the address. Surely you could do a little better Sam - and old H.Q. man.

**ERIC (WAGGA) GRICE** wrote our secretary for information regarding pensions and so on. This information has been passed on by Max personally. However, quite nice to receive the few lines Wagga, and as you say, you are only a bit of a kid at 59, I reckon you could still do a diff and gear box of a C.A.S. all on your own - course you might need Ken Newling to tell you what to do!!!

**ERIC (BOMBO) REYNOLDS** sends along a very newsy letter and a nice cheque to the treasurer. Bombo and wife have had a holiday, this time a little quieter. They visited the wet city to the south, Melbourne where they stayed with daughter, Alison and husband at their new home at Appendale. Bombo trotted into town a few times and called on the Melbourne Branch of the firm he works for. He had a good visit and met one Soapy Blake (ex Sydney Store) he claims that we being Pioneers with a good sense of humour would guess why he is called "Soapy." Bombo on this occasion also found "Young & Jacksons" and this time he also found "CLOE." What happened last time Bombo, were you blind or something. After all "CLOE" does hang on the wall all ten to twelve feet of her. However on Spencer St. Station and the long road home to face when out of the

blue came the voice - "Bombo." He looked round and old Charlie O'Neill of B. Coy also making the journey back, needless to say, plenty of chatter on the trip to Sydney. Good letter Bombo and thanks for your news and subs.

**GEORGE PATTERSON**, ex Major of C and D Coy. and now at St. Ives, Sydney, sends along the information of another overseas visit with some two months duration. However, George does like to receive the news and the doings of the boys and sent a cheque to the treasurer to help things keep going. All the best G.B.P. and good travelling.

**BILL WRIGHT**, ex C. Coy and now at Gosford, sends along a thank you to Monty. Bill has not been so fit but feels a lot better at time of writing. Bill does not say very much in the way of news, however we wish you well Bill and hope things go okay.

**MICK ROBERTS** now a resident of Leeton, sends along a cheerio to all, a cheque to the treasurer and a feast of information about Leeton and the boys that are down that way. As quoted the Leeton contingent comprises PHIL MAHEY, LES GAVELL, JACK PURCELL, JACK PAINTER, ALF TONGS, ALF GELTCH, ANDY COLLINS (Canberra), NIPPER HODGE (Deniliquin) and PADDY WALSH, KEITH FITZSIMMONS COL REYNOLDS, all of Grong Grong. All of these chaps are good, apart from Jack Purcell, who had a slight coronary, but has recovered very well. Strange Mick my wife and I have not long returned from Melbourne and we looked twice about going to Leeton and decided against it. As it was we never struck one Pioneer in all our travels on this holiday. Mick also passes on good wishes to John Douglas, Jack Hayden, Trevor Beckett, Tommo Robbo, Peter Riddell and all the boys of B. Coy. and another mention to all the Newcastle boys. Any of the boys and any Lions Club passing through Leeton are advised to call at Hairdresser Sports Store and ask for Mick. Thanks for the news Mick and we wish you all down there the best for the festive season and all year too.

**JACK BERTRAM** - our Newcastle rep. sends a short note with the idea of a reunion of 2/1 and 2/2 Pioneers to be held at the United Services Club, Watt St. Newcastle on Saturday, 20th November, at 7.30 p.m. Dinner will be a Smorgasbord and the cost will be Four Dollars a head which covers food and drinks. This suggestion came from Larry Robson, who travels for Hardboards between Newcastle and the border and meets quite a lot of the boys. Jack reports that Joe Hickey and Bob Juleff have been in hospital but are OK again now. Sid Jopson not quite up to his usual self but is still at work while Nugget Lourie is home on five months leave.

(continued next page)

(Continued from page 3)

Dick Seddon has reached retiring age but is very active as Secretary (unpaid) of the Services Club, while Griffo is still the busy bee that he always is. Thanks for the letter Jack and Max has the reunion business in hand.

**BILL HOOD** writes telling of the death of Jack Buchanan in a car accident on the Tenterfield Road, in May. Bill writes a very nice and personal letter to Mrs. Buchanan and I'm sure same would really gratify her in this time of trouble. Bill is at the Bank at Gosford (Commonwealth) and reports that he sees a lot of Harry Nicholls regularly and that life on the Central Coast is good. His best regards to Allan McInnes and the committee and your sub is in really good hands.

**MRS. JOYCE WALKER**, wife of George and now at Hurstville, sends along the news of George and his inability to attend the Anzac Day Reunion because of a wedding the night before and quote: "He was a mess the day after" and that just proves that age is taking its toll. A long time since one night out flattened a Don Coy bloke. Joyce also remarks that his 50th birthday went over very well and so did the present he bought himself, a new car. Well fair enough, but I think its much better when someone buys the present for you. Thanks for the note Joyce and I'm sorry that I missed it, or

it would have been in column one with the other ladies.

**BERNIE REINERS**, H.Q. Coy, 2/1, of Corryong, Vic., sent along a welcome donation to funds and a long, newsy letter. Bern does not see many Pioneers around Corryong, but is always glad to see any who may be passing through. Just recently he had a visit from Joyce and Bob McGregor who made it a point to look up Corryong on the map when in Cooma and decided it was close enough to make a trip. Then Roma and Doug Shearston took a bus trip down round the Murray and Snowy Mountains and found they were also close enough at Khancoban to spend a pleasant few hours with Bern and his wife, Mona. Bern's family are growing up fast - eldest son, Brian, is now teaching in a Victorian school, son Lex after some time spent in the Air Force, has gone back to matriculate and young daughter, Mandy, is also at High School. It was nice to hear from you, Bern, and Max Herron sends his very best wishes to you and Mona. I believe he has written you a long letter personally and hopes to see you one of these days.

**GORDON BELL**, 2/2, of Tumbaramba, N.S.W., wrote requesting his name be placed on the mailing list after being given a copy of the paper by his brother, Fred. Sorry, Gordon, that due to some clerical error same was not forthcoming, as explained in our letter to you. How-

ever, this has now been done and back numbers sent on, so hope you enjoy catching up on the doings of the Association for the past few years.

**JOHN KELLY** of the A.B.C. at Wollongong contacted the Association in July informing us of the death of his brother **TOM KELLY**, of Queenscliffe, on the 14th July, from a heart attack. Tom served with the 2/1 in the Middle East and New Guinea and then went on to Japan and Korea. Our sincerest sympathy is passed on to his family.

**GRAHAM ("Sailor") WITHAM**, 2/1, our globe trotting friend has been corresponding with our secretary while staying in England. So far, the English summer has not been the best and "Sailor" is looking forward to his return to sunny N.S.W. He leaves Southampton on the 4th November, after spending quite some time at a small English pub in Lincolnshire. Hope your trip has been of benefit healthwise, Graham, and that you have a safe journey home.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** We would like to apologise to any of our readers whose names don't appear in Mail Bag. A few of the letters went astray on the way to Bob Lake, but we thank you for them and the donations. Receipts have been forwarded.

That's all for this issue and we wish all members, their wives and families and friends the best for Christmas and the New Year. **LAKEY.**

## THE HOLIDAY OF A LIFETIME

Continuing Story by  
"SAILOR" WITHAM.

### TOUR TO BALKAN STATES

Today, the 28th August, 1968, we have started on another tour in our "Holiday of a Lifetime." This time we hope to tour all the Balkan States. Our overnight stop is in Brussels in Belgium. From then on we pass through Germany, Yugoslavia, Greece, Turkey, Bulgaria, Hungary, Austria and perhaps Czechoslovakia. The last country mentioned may be in doubt, but only time will tell. This tour is for 29 days. Looking through the places we stop for the night, I notice in some cities we spend two and sometimes three nights in the same city, which is a relief as travelling day after day in a coach one becomes very tired.

We left London, as usual, early in the morning, passing through the County of Kent again to Dover, where we join the cross channel ferry to Ostend, in Belgium. These ferries do the crossing in just under four hours. Once they leave the wharf things can be bought duty-free, just like a large liner.

At Ostend, we join our European coach for the run to Brussels, where we spend the night. Brussels is the capital of Belgium. The run by coach from Ostend to Brussels takes about 1½ hours. The country is very flat between villages and towns. It appears to be mixed farming.

Tomorrow is a very long run by coach, around 550 miles to Munich. They are calling us at 5.30 a.m. and breakfast is at 6.00 a.m. and we leave at 6.30 a.m.

Today we pass through the famous cities of Aachen (famous for spa water) Cologne (where the 4711 Eau-de-Cologne

come from). There is a large Gothic Cathedral there with beautiful glass windows and very large tapestries. Then we pass through the commercial and industrial centre of Frankfurt-on-Main. Here we had a lunch break for an hour, then off again on the autobahns to Stuttgart, Ulm and Augsburg, and so to Munich, which is the capital of Bavaria.

One cannot help noticing the difference in the people and the country we pass through. Like Germany and Austria it is mainly agricultural, but their methods of farming are done the hard way, mainly by hand. Women work alongside the men in the fields making hay and planting out sugarbeet. Their ploughs and trucks are drawn by horse or oxen. The farmers work in the fields from daylight till it is too dark to see.

Yugoslavia is a Republic in the middle of Europe, and has been ruled by the Turks, the Romans and till after the First World War, by Austria. The morning after our arrival in Zabreb, we did a sightseeing tour of the city. We visited the quaint upper town, the Gothic Cathedral, the interesting market with its colourful peasants in native costumes. The afternoon was free. The next day we leave for Nis.

Continuing along the route of the autopot, following the valley of the river Sava, southwards to the capital Belgrade which on this occasion is passed. We continue along the valley of the Morava, one of the tributaries of the Danube, to Nis, the birthplace of Constantine the Great, and the site of the infamous Death Head Tower constructed by the

Turks from 912 Serbian skulls in 1809.

The run from Nis to Larissa was not a very interesting one as the country was very poor and the peasants even poorer. The further south we travelled the worse the country and people got. About ten miles before reaching the Greek border the living conditions of the people were terrible. They lived in dirty squalid houses with filth all around them. All work on the land was done by hand, even the women working in the fields alongside the men, either planting things on the hands and knees, cutting their crops with sythe or reap hook and using the old donkey as beast of burden.

Their crops were mainly maize, sunflowers (from which they get oil for cooking), tobacco, and some kind of wheat. You see small children and old men and women minding a few goats or a couple of cows, or even a few pigs, and occasionally a few sheep. These people must be very gentle with their herds, as it is common to see the shepherd in the centre of his flock. They seem to have no fear of their keeper.

(To be continued)

### ANZAC REUNION

COMBINED 2/1 and 2/2  
TUESDAY, 25th APRIL, 1972

CASTLEREAGH HOTEL  
Castlereagh Street, Sydney

Dinner served free - after March