

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. 17, No. 1

7th APRIL, 1972

Price: 50c Per Annum

2/1-2/2 REUNION FUNCTIONS

Your Social Secretary, Bob McGregor, and his Committee have been hard at work again organising your activities for 24th and 25th April, 1972 and your Committee would like to see a mighty roll-up on this occasion, so come along, join us, meet old friends and enjoy yourself. Make this a year to remember with the Wreath Laying Ceremony, Anzac Day March, our Reunion then our "Back to Greta" social event on the Queen's Birthday weekend.

The Anzac Day Reunion of the 2/1 and 2/2 Pioneers is a big thing for our Association and we welcome the amalgamation without the loss of identity of either Battalion. We will always remain the 2/1st and the 2/2nd.

Here are the dates, the places and the functions we wish you to remember and attend.

WREATH LAYING, 24th APRIL, 1972

As usual we meet at No. 19 Hunter Street, Sydney, at 7 p.m. on the above date, move off at 7.30 p.m. for a short march to the Cenotaph in Martin Place Plaza where wreaths will be laid by 2/1 and 2/2 and the Ladies of our Association and the rendering of the Ode, next comes our Annual Meeting.

ANNUAL MEETING, 24th APRIL, 1972

Once again as usual our Annual Meeting is held immediately following our Wreath Laying.

But this year we are holding our meeting at The Castlereagh Hotel not the British Ex-Servicemen's Club, where we previously held our meetings. This has been demolished and they have moved to premises which we find unsuitable for our needs, so therefore, we have decided to hold our Annual Meeting of the 2/1 - 2/2 Battalion Association on 24th April, 1972 at the Castlereagh Hotel on the corner of Park & Castlereagh Streets, Sydney, after our Wreath Laying, so come along and meet again the fellows who are running your Association and better still, help us run it, we need your support.

ANZAC DAY, 25th APRIL, 1972

Here again there has been a change, so Please Take Note. Owing to the fact that Philip Street, Sydney at Martin Place has been closed off for the excavation of Martin Place Station on the Eastern Suburbs Railway, our assembly points have been changed slightly. Six Division will form up in King Street head on to Elizabeth Street with the 2/1st forming up somewhere in Queen Square. The Seventh Division will form up head on

the junction of College Street and Macquarie Street with the 2/2 forming up somewhere behind the Registrar General's Office. It is suggested that members go to the head of their Division and walk back along the ranks till your respective Unit is located. Our banners will be there early and erected to assist you. Don't let this deter you. It isn't as complicated as it sounds. You will be well compensated for your attendance at the March by our Combined 2/1 and 2/2 Reunion.

ANZAC DAY REUNION, 25th APRIL

Castlereagh Hotel Park & Castlereagh Streets this year. We are back at our usual waterhole for our Anzac Day Reunion with the 2/1 and 2/2 joining together for another bumper Anzac Day Reunion.

The Castlereagh Hotel is only a short distance from the point where the March finishes, where from 11.20 a.m. you are served with a nice hot meal free of charge, to give you something to work on before the bar opens at 12.00 p.m. Ask anybody who has been before what a great day it is. Your Committee organises this for you. Show your appreciation by joining us for one of our functions, or even better, for all of our Anzac Day Functions.

See you, fellows,

WAL (DESSO) PAGE.

VALE

It is with deep regret that we report the sad passing of Roger Coogan.

A representation of Pioneers attended the funeral to pay their respects. To Mrs. Coogan we extend our deepest sympathy in her sad loss.

On Saturday, 18th March, Harold Leise passed away at Concord Hospital. Harold was a wonderful member of our Association and was instrumental in the holding of Smokos at Grafton. To his wife and two daughters we extend our sincere sympathy in their sad loss.

WELFARE REPORT

BY HARRY MONTAGUE

ANNUAL NOTES

In submitting the yearly report I am able to say all cases of assistance sought were expedited.

Pensions were the most numerous cases and we are in debt to people like Wal Newington and Hunter Campbell, pension officers at the R.S.L., who were willing to assist at all times.

New claims for War liabilities from the Repatriation Department were very disappointing.

The Legal Aid have been most kind to our members, widows and next-of-kin, when called upon to give personal advice and guidance.

Social Service problems were attended to and Legacy assisted in three cases of hardship which were brought to their notice.

Hospitals and public institutions within the suburbs were visited on more occasions than previous years. However it was a pleasure to cheer up our members while in hospital.

Five funerals were attended and personal sympathy extended to the families of our deceased members.

Twelve new members were enrolled and are now receiving copies of "Pioneer News."

Many thanks are extended to Padre "Mac" for his assistance - and to the Concord Hospital gate staff, who supply me with the names of all our Pioneers who are in hospital.

WAR SERVICE GRAVES ACT

During the last twelve months I have received three requests for assistance from widows and next-of-kin, requesting information about obtaining headstones from the War Service Graves Commission.

In each case we submitted all information to the Commission but was only successful in one case and the other two applications did not qualify because they did not come within the Act as follows:

(a) Who, irrespective, of cause of death, has been awarded the Victoria Cross;

(b) Whose death has been accepted by the Repatriation Dept. as being due to War Service;

(c) Whose death has not been accepted as being due to War service, but who was receiving at the time of his death a war pension:

(i) at the special rate for total and permanent incapacity, or;

(ii) for pulmonary tuberculosis (and whose death is so attributed).

COUNTRY REUNION & BARBECUE

The Committee are busy planning a Country Reunion and Barbecue, to be held at Newcastle on Saturday, 10th June and Greta on Sunday, 11th June.

The Reunion on Saturday night will take the form of a Cabaret at a Newcastle Club and wives or lady friends are invited. Cost will be kept down to a minimum and will be published in a special issue of the "Pioneer News" coming out in May.

The Barbecue will be held on the original camp site at Silver City, of the 2/1 Pioneers, on Sunday, 11th June, to commemorate the formation of the Unit on the 11th June, 1940 - in other words the 32nd Birthday of the 2/1 Pioneer Battalion. Wives or lady friends are invited.

Buses will be arranged to do a round trip from Newcastle to Greta and return on Sunday, 11th June. The return trip will be through vineyard country and if enough people are interested and time permits we will call at a vineyard.

General Details as follows:

TRANSPORT: Arrange own trans. to Newcastle. Buses will be provided for tour to Greta and return on Sunday, 11th June. Cost - pay as you enter.

ACCOMMODATION: We suggest you arrange your own accommodation but if you want assistance you may contact

Jack Bertram. Members of the Committee are hiring caravans in a Caravan Park and this way will be together so as to organise the week-end. Some are arranging to go to a motel together.

CATERING: The Cabaret on Saturday 10th June will be catered for and we will let you know the cost in the May issue of the "Pioneer News."

To the Barbecue on Sunday, 11th June, at Greta, you will bring your own eats, drink and cooking facilities.

NOTIFICATION OF ATTENDANCE

In order to arrange details and to arrange catering for the Cabaret, it is necessary that we know the number attending - so please fill in the form on page 3. To date we have the following names: Max Herron, Bob MacGregor, Wal Page, Bob Lake, Gordon Finlay, Allan McInnes, Doug Shearston, Harry Montague, Jack Bertram, Dick Seddon, Jack Griffiths (all with their wives) plus Mick Dodson (he is "the pin up" of all the wives so he will be right).

Remember - you did not have to be at Greta and it is a holiday week-end.

All members of the Association are welcome.

FORMATION OF THE 2/1 PIONEER BN.

On Monday, 10th June, 1940 the final draft of recruits arrived at Silver City, Greta, to complete the establishment of the 2/1 Pioneer Battalion.

Prior to arrival, the advance party had worked hard to prepare for the arrival of the men and all the necessary catering, accommodation and hygiene arrangements had been carried out.

Next day, Tuesday 11th June, 1940 the men were formed into companies and at 11 a.m. were assembled on parade as a complete unit for the first time.

The Commanding Officer, Lt. Col. "Paddy" MacGillcuddy, took the salute with Major Brown as his Second in Command and Capt. John Ledgerwood as his Adjutant.

On that day of formation, there were approximately 1,050 men brought together who were mostly strangers to one another, but it was not long before they were cemented together in a great bond of friendship - this bond is still intact after thirty one birthdays.

No one really knows how many men passed through the Unit, but from the time Col. MacGillcuddy took that first parade to the day Colonel Buckley disbanded the unit in 1945 there could have been three thousand or more pass through.

Many of these original 2/1st Pioneers were later transferred over to start the newly formed 2/2nd Pioneer Battalion and because of this there has always been a close alliance with our brother battalion.

Unfortunately, we only meet one another on the odd Anzac Day, so the Committee are organising a "Back to Greta" week-end, so we can meet and relive the memories of the past. This will be a

most historic occasion and we are confident of a good roll up of 2/1st and 2/2nd chaps with their wives.

You can be assured the Committee will organise a good itinerary. So cheerio for now and see you at GRETA on 11th June, - the birthday of the 2/1 Pioneer Battalion.

Remember - you did not have to be at Greta and it is the holiday week-end. All members of the Association are welcome.

— H. MONTAGUE.

HOSPITAL JOTTINGS

● TOM HUGO, C. Coy, the double leg amputee, has been discharged from Concord Hospital after a four month's stay. My appeal for members to visit him has been disappointing, so you can make up for it by visiting him at 58 Sherwood Street, Revesby, Phone 771-2136.

● TED SKOYLES spent a long period at Concord, but on being discharged, he moved and now resides at Mittagong, so if any Pioneers are up that way, Ted would be pleased to see them.

● ALLAN CRUTE of 2/1 Sigs and now from Woolgoolga on the North Coast, was in Sydney Hospital recently, but is now back home. Like others, it was a pleasure to visit him and it was appreciated.

● DON LAWSON, 2/2nd is to be thanked for assistance he rendered to the widow of one of our members.

2/2 JOTTINGS

By DON LAWSON

● Had word from Col. Shea in Melbourne with best wishes to his mates in Sydney. Col enclosed a very nice donation for the "Pioneer News" - many thanks, Col.

● KEN ASHTON of Maroubra, passed away in March. He had not been in the best of health for some time owing to a heart condition, but appeared to be on the mend when he phoned me some months ago. Our sincere sympathy is extended to his wife and family.

● WILL RYAN was down from Kempsey for medical treatment and says he has many sessions with the "Kempsey Kid," Snowy Eather. Both send regards to all their friends in the 2/2nd.

● From Melbourne comes a report on the deaths of ex 2/2 members: Harry John Thomas Peck, of Dandenong and a former ex P.O.W. Also Norm Connolly, Ken McGuigan, Bert Kohlman and A. Siphorn.

● MICK BYE 2/2, of Walgett, played host to Harry Montague recently, when he was on holidays. Mick and his wife Hilda could not do enough to make him most welcome. Their property covers 23,000 acres and it is unbelievable the amount of work they put into it.

"Monty" was shown over all the property and it was certainly an education to see the high quality Brahman stock, which have won many trophies at shows and exhibitions.

"Monty" raved about the hospitality bestowed upon him and states it is the best holiday he has had. He was most reluctant to leave an don expressing his thanks Mick replied by saying "It has been a pleasure for Hilda and myself to re-pay in some small way, the tremendous job you do for the Association, which we appreciate immensely."

VALE

ERIC "CAPPY" CHRISTIAN - 2/2nd

It is with deep regret that we report the sudden death of Eric "Cappy" Christian, aged 69 years.

"Cappy" was one of those happy characters, who made friends without any effort. At Anzac Reunions, Cappy was the centre of interest, with all his mates clustering around, listening to his opinions and remarks on various subjects.

His expression were forthright and not heard in the lounge rooms of high society, but that was Cappy - you accepted him as he was and loved him for it - not for him to be a hypocrite.

"Cappy" was always ready to volunteer his time and effort to any project. He was a Committee member of his local R.S.L. and a foundation member of the Hornsby R.S.L. Club.

He loved his game of bowls and took an active part in the administration of his Club.

To "Cappy" we say farewell. We know you will be holding audience, you won't be able to resist, so many thanks for the happy memories.

Our sympathy is extended to "Cappy's" wife, Rose and son, Don.

— DON LAWSON, 2/2 Reporter.

CONGRATULATORY COLUMN

● How old do you think Peg and Max Herron are? I don't know either, but they are brand new grandparents. Their daughter, Lynne, has just presented Peg and Max with a beautiful bouncing baby boy, so it's the first grandchild to Peg and Max Herron and all five are doing well!

I know that every member of our Association would like to send their congratulations and best wishes, so on behalf of all members of the 2/1 - 2/2 Association, I would like to congratulate and extend our best wishes to Lynne and John, Peg and Max, and wish you all health and happiness for the future.

● Now it's back to Max for more congratulations - Max Herron has achieved distinction by being presented with the Medal of Merit for "outstanding service to Scouting." Well done Pioneer!

Since the end of the war Max has spent many days away from his home, training boys to become good Scouts and real men. We all know that it's a wonderful Movement, and we also know that the boys have a wonderful guy for a teacher. So Max, here is a big "Bravo" from all the boys - "Well done Scouter!"

● The next to be congratulated is the McGregor family. Oh no! it's not a baby this time (I could have something along this line for the November issue) but congratulations are in order just the same for Bob and Joyce McGregor and particularly their daughter Linda, for Linda has achieved the distinction of obtaining six "A's" in her School Certificate Examination. With this distinction comes the Commonwealth Scholarship, the R.S.L. Scholarship and a bursary but, unfortunately Linda can only accept one and she has chosen the Commonwealth Scholarship. Here again the Association congratulates the McGregor family and to Linda McGregor we say "Well Done," and we wish you health happiness and success for the future.

Bob has something else he's proud of. He has a new car, an automatic, but I'll let him tell you about that when you see him at the wreath laying and our reunion.

● Well now, how about this for a good piece of news. My wife, "Lall" and yours truly, are grandparents once again. Our youngest son, Ross and his wife, Kerry, has presented us with another grandson. He is our 2nd grandson and 5th grandchild. Lall and I know you join us in wishing Ross, Kerry and Christiaan, health and happiness for the future.

WAL PAGE.

HOSPITAL JOTTINGS

● WARD 2 at Concord last November saw - Dick Watts, C Coy, from Maulamain, Gerry Collins, C Coy, Sydney, Harold Miners, H.Q. Coy, Cobar, Alec Cameron, A Coy, Maclean, Jack Hamilton A Coy, Kiama, Ted Skoyles, H.Q. Coy, Corrimall. This was quite a gathering indeed.

● JANUARY saw the following at Concord Hospital - Harry "Curley" Bentley, H.Q., Les Sullivan, H.Q., George Sheehan, A Coy, Bert Cooper, D Coy, Tom Hugo C Coy and Ted Skoyles - other coppers out there have been Bill Hayman C Coy, Norm Curly, Eric Hawkins and Ted Dolling.

NEWCASTLE REUNION

It was 20th November last that our Newcastle Branch of the 2/1 - 2/2 Pioneers Association held their reunion. Members from Sydney and the surrounding districts of Newcastle were invited to attend. It was without hesitation that five members from Sydney made their way to the "Smoky City." They were namely, Secretary and Editor Max Herron, Social Secretary, Bob McGregor, Co-Editor, Bob Lake, Welfare Officer, Harry (Monty) Montague and Yours Truly.

We were warmly welcomed and had pre-dinner drinks with Jack Bertram, Jack (Glido) Griffiths, Dick Seddon, Tom Cheetham, Bert Appleton (Bert is now at Fingal Bay), Mick Flynn, Jack Wallace, Larry Robson, Sid Williams, Sid Jopson, Dick Cowan, Joe Hickey, Bob Juleff, Jock Russell, Dick Lewis with apologies from Bill Steers Darryl Reed, Ivan Pepper, Ted Simpson, Jack Collis, Nip Kerslake. Sorry you fellows weren't there, you missed a good night. After quite a considerable amount of pre-dinner drinks we sat down at tables laden with a large variety of food to suite all tastes.

During the dinner we were officially welcomed by Jack Bertram, who made a very fine speech of welcome. Jack also told us of the plans of the Newcastle boys to organise a "Back to Greta" week-end in June. This weekend coincides with the formation of the 2/1 Battalion in June 1940, but this week-end will be for the 2/2 as well, as I believe a lot of 2/2 had their beginnings there also.

Jack Griffiths also had a few words to say on our visit to Newcastle, but as usual, Jack couldn't get to his feet and make a speech without adding a few well chosen jokes, which made the evening more entertaining.

A THANK YOU TO ESMÆE GRIFFITHS

However, when the food was gone and the bar steward decided he had better go home to his wife and kids, we decided to transfer to the Newcastle R.S.L. to continue our reunion. This continued until someone thought it was time to pull down the bar shutters. It was then that our party, with an invitation from Jack (Glido) Griffiths decided to continue at his home and to finish off with coffee.

Here I must mention what a wonderful person Esmae Griffiths is, to get out of bed at 2 a.m. and entertain a herd of Pioneers, with coffee, cake and bickies.

Thanks Esmae, you're a real sport. We tried to get Dick Seddon to take us around to see Pearl, but he wouldn't be in it. We couldn't really blame him, it was a bit early for Pearl to get up.

However, we had a wonderful night with a great bunch of fellows, and we would like to say thanks again to Jack Bertram, Jack Griffiths, as a matter of fact all the boys, for their invitation and a very enjoyable time; it was worth the trip up to Newcastle, thanks.

WAL (DESSO) PAGE.

AN APPRECIATION

Mick Bye, ex 2/2, with his charming wife, Hilda, were my hosts just before Christmas at their Brahman Stud "Willoring," Goodooga, via Walgett. What a wonderful time I had. It will be a vacation never forgotten.

The property consists of about 23,000 acres and an enormous amount of work is involved in running such a large place. The high standard of his Brahman cattle is only too well known amongst the buyers of this particular breed throughout the various States.

When one sees the numerous trophies, prizes and awards they have won at all principal shows and exhibitions, it emphasises the very high standard of his entries.

The station also runs thousands of sheep, which also takes quite a lot of time and effort.

Mick will be exhibiting some of the Brahmans at this year's Sydney Royal Easter Show.

Trying to express my thanks to both Hilda and Mick for their hospitality Mick said, amongst other things, "It has been our great pleasure to repay in some small way the tremendous job you do for the sick of the Association" and his remarks were very much appreciated.

HARRY "MONTY" MONTAGUE.

PLEASE CUT OUT

2/1 - 2/2 PIONEER BATTALIONS ASSOCIATION COUNTRY REUNION & BARBECUE

Newcastle - 10th June

Greta, 11th June, 1972

Christian Name..... Army Nickname.....
Surname..... Unit (2/1 or 2/2).....
Company..... Platoon.....
Address

Number in Party Attending Reunion and Barbecue
Attending Attending
Reunion only Barbecue only
Place in envelope and post NOW to:

M. HERRON, 3 Enoggera Road, Beverly Hills, N.S.W., 2209



A New Year, a new issue 1972 and a very poor start for same. Some six letters from members and wives, not a very substantial way to kick 1972 along. As we have appealed before, so we appeal again, without your contribution the paper must go backwards. You cannot expect the Committee to find the ways, the means and the functions and write the paper as well.

Gate Staff, Concord Hospital, a letter thanking the Association for the small donation granted them for their Christmas Party. These chaps are doing a good job and are a tower of strength to Monty on his weekly visits. We in turn thank the Gate Staff for the assistance offered Monty over the years.

MRS. THELMA CROCKER, wife of the late Eric Crocker, D. Coy., sends a short letter of notification of the death of her husband, and requests that the paper continues to be sent. This shall be done, Thelma and we can only say, keep your chin up and keep smiling.

STEVE SNOW, 2/2 Pioneer and now a resident of Arncliffe, N.S.W., requests the subscription fee to be a financial member of the Association. We have no fixed joining fee, a donation of any moneys and 50 cents a year covers the cost of the publication of the "News." Looking forward to hearing more from you and of course a visitation on the 24th and 25th April does help a lot.

MRS. I. HORDER, wife of the late Vic Horder, 2/1 and now resident at Malabar, sends a donation to the Funds and the best wishes to the Association for the New Year. Can assure you that the cheque is in the treasurer's hot little hand and doing some good to all.

TED SKOYLES, ex C. Coy, 2/1, resident of Corimal on the South Coast and at present a guest of the Repat. at the Country Club, Concord. Ted has been a patient for a while now and as they are trying some new treatment does not know just how long it will be. However, while he still sees Monty's face and body galloping down the Ward on Thursday nights he will still come up smiling. Ted has resigned from the P.M.G., paid off the home at Corrimal and has decided on a small selection at Mittagong. For your sake Ted, I hope you are a bowler, all you need do is look up John Dolahan at the Bowling Club. On the property at Mittagong Ted hopes to run a couple of poddies, some fowls and a vegetable garden - that's not going to leave much time for bowls, Ted! Good luck and will hear again soon.

FRED CALLAWAY, 2/1 ex committee and office bearer of the Association with a new address at Wahroonga, sends a short note of the above and best wishes for the new year and not much else, so I am afraid I can't make much more of same, good to hear from you Fred, a little more news would help swing the bag a bit, old mate.

TED JENSEN, 2/1 now at Doonside, sends a card to be forwarded to Jack Collis and also the news that three Pioneers had been selected to play for the N.S.W. R.S.L. Cricket Team in the Annual match against Victoria, namely Ted, Jack Collis and Bill Tasker. Well, I hope that you all had a good day and that the best team won the game and the wake afterwards. Good luck to the three of you.

PHIL CRAMSIE, B.H.Q., 2/1, of Brisbane, wrote in to tell us of his new address, at Clayfield, Brisbane. Phil is now mainly confined to the Brisbane metropolitan area and does not travel around as much as previously in Queensland and New South Wales, therefore he does not meet so many Pioneers.

Phil had a holiday to Sydney at Christmas and after two years absence was surprised to see so many buildings being demolished and new buildings going up. He met Pat Noonan and had a long session with him.

Phil conveys kind regards and best wishes to the boys and assures us he will be with us in spirit on Anzac Day. Thank you for your letter and donation, Phil.

BRUCE RICH, H.Q. Coy, 2/1, Narrandera, enclosed a donation with his brief letter of apology for not sending his subscription sooner. He sends regards to all his friends and in particular to those in 3 Platoon. He saw Jim (Bluey) Evans recently and he is in the best of health. Thank you for the donation and letter Bruce - how about writing us a long letter next time telling us of your doings in private life?

CECIL SNUDDEN, 2/2, of Cobar passed away on 23rd January. His wife wrote and told us it happened while on a fishing trip at Tilpa on the Darling River. After swimming the river Cecil had a heart seizure which took his life in a few moments.

It was a great loss to Bonnie, his wife and daughters Heather and Jill and to son Ken.

Cecil was 47 years of age and ever since demobilisation, he had followed the happenings of his Army mates with interest.

Bonnie passes on the message - "Let's hope that in the future you will all be united in the Grace and Glory of God."

The Association extend their sympathy to you in your sad loss, Bonnie, and also thank you for your very nice letter.

TOM HUGO, 2/1, Revesby. A very newsy letter to hand from Tom's wife, Margaret, who thanks us for publishing an item regarding Tom in the last issue. This resulted in a phone call from Gus Hunter, a Christmas Card from Sandy Gallagher and a call from Albert Green. Margaret goes on to say that a car pulled up in front of their house on New Year's Day and when the chap got out carrying two bottles of beer, she said

to herself: "this chap has the wrong address or he is a Pioneer" - it turned out to be a Pioneer in the form of Harry Corbey.

As Tom was in hospital, Maragret invited Harry inside and being a good Pioneer wife, helped him dispose of the beer, while having a good yarn. Harry then called at the Hospital the next day.

Margaret would like to thank all those Pioneers who have visited Tom and in particular a big thank you to Harry Montague for his weekly visits to Concord. she says it is an education to listen to Monty who is really a great person and only too willing to assist and they look forward to his visits, as he always has a laugh and a joke, as well as news of friends.

Tom has been back at Concord with a bladder complaint and although having a rough time he is a good patient and never complains. Margaret says he has been through so much in the last few years but he is still very cheerful and she is very proud of him.

Thank you for your letter, Margaret.

EDITOR: We are very proud of Tom also, and at the same time we are also very proud of you Margaret, for the time and effort you devote to our Tom. May God Bless you both.

ALLAN CRUTE, Sig. Platoon, 2/1, of Woolgoolga, sends a letter with a donation. He expressed thanks to Monty, Doug Shearston, Peg and Max Herron, for visiting him while in Sydney Hospital recently. He said it is quite a thrill to receive visitors, when you are in hospital so far from home.

The operation was quite a success and he is quite well again. He started back at his job at the Animal Sanctuary, outside Coffs Harbour, on light duties, but is now on general duties, in fact has been appointed in charge of the Animal Enclosure. He finds the creatures very interesting and amusing.

Allan said it was pleasing to have his son, Denny, home for Christmas from Parkes, where Denny is stationed with the P.M.G. as a technician. Denny has applied to work in the Parkes telescope during the next moon shot. On the last landing the P.M.G. technicians received a certificate from N.A.S.A. for their part in the project.

Allan sends regards to all Pioneers, especially his friends in the Sig. Platoon. Thank you for your letter and donation, Allan.

Our sympathy is extended to Cecil Blanch, of Kyogle and all the Blanch family on the death of their mother recently. Bill Hoffman sent a card on behalf of the Association - thanks Bill.

Well that is you Mail Bag for this issue - not much is it, well I can only say the answer is in your own hands.

Happy days,

LAKEY.

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COUNTRY RE-UNION AND BARBECUE AT NEWCASTLE AND GRETA

Arrangements are now complete for the Country Reunion on Saturday 10th June and the Barbecue on Sunday, 11th June.

Because of a State wide Basketball Competition at Newcastle on the same dates, Motel accommodation is becoming scarce, but we are still able to arrange Hotel bookings.

This is the only occasion this type of venture will be attempted, so make sure you avail yourself of the opportunity to attend.

RE-UNION DINNER

The Re-union will take the form of a sit down dinner at the RSL Club Hall, next door to Anzac House, Tudor Street, Hamilton. Pre-dinner drinks will be served at 6 p.m. and the dinner will commence at 6.30 p.m. The cost will be \$5 per head, including refreshments, payable at door.

WREATH-LAYING, MARCH PAST AND BARBECUE

On Sunday, 11th June, buses will transport all people to Greta where wreaths will be laid at the Soldiers Memorial. All members are requested to wear medals.

The buses will then take the people to Silver City Camp and at the Guard House all male members will disembark. From here they will march to the saluting base where a uniformed Army Officer, Colonel R. S. Garland, M.C., Commanding Officer, 3rd Training Bn., Singleton, will take the salute. All members are requested to wear medals.

BARBECUE ON ORIGINAL CAMPSITE

The Barbecue will then take place which will be provided at a cost of \$1, consisting of steak, coleslaw, buttered roll, coffee or tea. Plate, knife, fork and cup will be provided. Contrary to details published in April issue of Pioneer News, there is no need to bring cooking and mess gear as this would provide problems in carrying in the bus, so these will now be supplied—and even cooked for you by "volunteer" Army cooks.

Canned beer and canned soft drink will be sold at Barbecue at local prices.

Buses will then proceed to a vineyard where an inspection has been arranged.

After the vineyard inspection the buses will complete the round trip of 100 miles by passing through the famous Hunter Valley vineyard country.

This round trip will cost each person \$1.20 and tickets will be sold at the Re-union Dinner. Tickets for the Barbecue may also be purchased at the Re-union Dinner.

ACCOMMODATION

You may arrange your own accommodation, or if having difficulty you can write direct to Jack Bertram, 90 National Park Road, Hamilton, N.S.W. 2303, and he will endeavour to give you every assistance.

NOTIFICATION OF ATTENDANCE

The caterers of the Re-union Dinner and Barbecue have given the Committee strict instructions that a firm figure must be given to them by 9 a.m. on Monday, 5th June. Therefore it is essential that all members who are attending fill out the form on Page 6 & post to the Secretary before Friday, 3rd June. This does not apply to the following who have sent in their notification of attendance as at 8th May: Messrs. H. Montague, G. Walker, J. Lloyd, A. McInnes, S. Angus, T. Skoyles, E. Monckton, G. Rhind, A. Green, R. Callaghan, T. Jenson, J. Harvey, J. Fields, F. Wheaton, C. Scholes, B. Arthur, H. Baldwin, J. Bertram, W. Page, T. Davenport, M. Herron, D. Shearston, R. Lake, R. McGregor, P. Fisk, N. Trefoni, A. Brazier, B. Wright, R. Jardine, P. Seddon, M. Flynn, B. Juleff, I. Pepper, S. Jopson, J. Russell, D. Reed, J. Griffith, L. Robson, A. Crane, R. Burnside, P. Noonan and B. Chase.

Those people from the above list who have booked with L. Robson, are to report to him in the foyer of Hamilton RSL at 3.30 p.m. on Saturday, 10th June, regarding accommodation.

Turn to page 6 and fill in your notification of attendance. Cut it out and send to the Secretary — NOW.

Turn to page 8 and cut out Programme sheet and take it to the Greta week-end with you.

BACK TO GRETA —with Frank Allan

Officially of course, the 2/1 Australian Pioneer Battalion was formed on 11th June, 1940, but prior to that date a few members had been rustling around seeking out likely personnel to wear the guernsey of the Battalion and many originals, even to this date, do not know they had been drafted to the Unit by special request. It certainly paid dividends.

However, one of the most exciting experiences in the formation of an Expeditionary Forces Unit, is the arrival of the first draft.

It so happened, I had been cooling my heels at the Moore Park Depot doing some of the pirating when suddenly, I was instructed to report to the Royal Agricultural Showground the following day to take the first draft of the 2/1 Australian Pioneer Bn. recruits to Greta. This I duly did and eventually was handed a nominal roll and then escorted to where my noble charges were lined up.

Looking at the sea of faces, I recall thinking to myself, "they must be, they

are, a bunch of bloody good blokes." There were serious faces, excited faces, faces reflecting the night before and faces indicating the wearers still had something on the hip.

Obviously, it was not a situation where one gave a dissertation on military conduct etc., so the welcome was "good morning and congratulations, this is the start of the Battalion, lets help each other get this draft to Greta."

PLAGUE OF LOCUSTS HEAD FOR PUB

We moved to and entrained at Central Railway without a hitch and the ride progressed very smoothly even if rowdy, but with never a dull moment. Then it

happened—the train stopped at Wyong. Carriage doors opened as one, bodies poured out and within seconds, the scene was like a plague of locusts heading for a green crop but the difference here was, this mass was heading for the local pub.

My morale dropped, I couldn't see more than 50 per cent of the draft getting to our destination and I visualised myself walking down Pitt Street in a bowler hat.

Eventually, the train rolled on until we reached Greta where we formed up for entry into the camp. The marching was terrific, some quick-marched, some slow and others either skipped, waltzed or performed some other form of gyration.

GREETINGS FROM THE SIDE

An Advance Party consisting of all ranks had been in camp for a few weeks preparing to receive the troops and as the draft neared Bn. Headquarters, quite unrehearsed, they all appeared and gave the boys a loud, sustained hand-clap together with cheers and other vocals. (For-

(Continued foot of page 2)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1971-72

2/1 and 2/2 Pioneers:

On behalf of your Committee I have much pleasure in presenting the Association's Annual Report and Balance Sheet for the year ending 31st March, 1972.

As always, our year commences with Anzac functions and I was very pleased to note the good roll up for the Wreath Laying ceremony, the Annual Meeting and a most successful Anzac Day function at Redfern was well attended by both 2/1 and 2/2 Pioneers. All voted it a most successful day after both Battalions had a good roll call at the march.

You will observe by this report that the Committee has had some troubles and I would ask that all Pioneers assist in the matters mentioned in this report.

SECRETARY: Max Herron has been a hard working, tireless and most efficient man in this position and if you only knew, as I do, the work that he does on our behalf you would be astonished that he is able to put so much of his time into this Association. He is the man who organises the whole functioning of the Association and on all our behalf I say "Thank you, Max."

We have had three Committee meetings and one Social Committee meeting this year and while attendances were down on past years, we were able to successfully run the business. Three Pioneer News were printed and posted and Max Herron was to the fore in this, as with Bob Lake he edits the papers. Then Peg Herron loaned her home and provided supper for the wrapping committee, of which I am not a member but understand is a fantastic group — very happy and even assisted by three members wives. The Committee: Gordon Finlay, Doug Shearston, Wal Page, Mick Dodson, Graham Witham, Bob Burnside, Bob McGregor and Max Herron, plus wives Olive Finlay, Roma Shearston, Lal Page and Peg Herron.

PIONEER NEWS: Secretary reports that letters and news over the past year have been the smallest since this Committee has been in office and makes one tend to think the Pioneer News is no longer holding the interest of our mem-

bers. Considering the cost of the four page issue, it is not worth our while to make it more attractive by using blocks, which are not only costly in themselves but also increase the size of the paper and thus double the cost to \$120 from \$65. To sum up, members, is it worth the time and expense to carry on with Pioneer News. If the answer is YES, then you will all have to come to the party with articles, (not just one letter in five years) and this includes suburban, country and committee members. The news we want, and I think you all want, is about Pioneers, i.e. yourself, your families and other Pioneers you see and talk to. Articles back to Army days and happenings — you can all do this, it only takes a bit of effort and time.

TREASURER: Doug Shearston has always been a wonderful treasurer and with him at the wheel every Pioneer can be assured that every cent is accounted for and used with care and discrimination. Our Annual Balance Sheet to be presented by our Treasurer shows his worth.

SOCIAL SECRETARY: Bob McGregor has been most active and has in close co-operation with Max organised and finalised all the Anzac Day arrangements and has co-operated with Newcastle Pioneers in organising a re-union last November and has the "Back to Greta" re-union well in hand.

WELFARE: Harry Montague deserves a great debt of gratitude for his untiring efforts in this particular field. During the year he has given his time unstintingly in advising and otherwise helping those with pension, legal aid, social service and medical treatment problems and has achieved almost 100 per cent success. He has visited all Pioneers in hospital and every Thursday night he has visited Repat. Hospital with a small parcel.

PUBLICITY: Wal Page, as Publicity Officer, has worked hard and been a tireless worker on every committee.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Committee for the support and work they have put in and pay a sincere tribute to our Auditor.

As a motto we could perhaps use:
"Let the future excel the past."

ALLAN MCINNIS,
President.

IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE

Just as a matter of interest, a chap I work with at the Bank of New South Wales was asking me how I enjoyed my Anzac Day, and during the conversation he asked me who I was with during the Big Stoush. When I said 2/1 Pioneers, he commenced to go through his pockets, muttering, "that's an odd thing."

It appears he went to the Castlereagh Hotel for a drink two days after Anzac Day and found a blank 2/1 Pioneer name tag.

He immediately thought it was a good idea for his own unit, the 2/12 Battalion. He showed it to me, then asked would it be all right for his unit to copy it, with 2/12 plus colour patch. Permission granted. Have I done right?

WALLY (DESSO) PAGE.

LETTER TO A PIONEER MEMBER

Dear Pioneer,

It is quite obvious to your 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Battalion Association Committee, that all members of our Association like to receive and read our Pioneer News.

But it is more obvious to your Committee that it is costing more and more each year to produce this paper. In fact, it is costing more and more each year to run the Association. We have a credit balance at the moment, but unless we receive more help from our members we may not be in credit.

We would like, at this point, to advise you as to the ways you may be able to help your Committee and your Association.

Most members may not be aware of the fact that we have three accounts. We are compelled to have them and they are, namely:

2/1-2/2 Pioneer Association General Account.

Welfare Account.

Pioneer News Account.

We will explain them one at a time.

GENERAL ACCOUNT

This account, like the others, is more or less self-explanatory, but briefly it is for all general expenses incurred by the Association, such as all stationery, cheque books, wreaths for Anzac Day, your Anzac Day lunch, and afternoon snack on Anzac Day and cost of mailing all general correspondence, etc.

WELFARE ACCOUNT

This again speaks for itself, but it is a very important one to say the least. This one is used by our two Welfare Officers in their work of visiting all our members who have the misfortune to be hospitalised, and this is very important to any of our members who are in a hospital, far from home and family and friends. To have our happy friendly Welfare man walk into their Ward with a little parcel of goodies, such as smokes, sweets and drinks, is really necessary, but even here the costs are rising.

PIONEER ACCOUNT

To keep our Association alive we need this account. This has to cover the cost of printing your Pioneer News, cost of addressing wrappers and posting, also incidental costs, even the rubber bands that go around the bundles of papers before they go to the Post Office have to be paid for. Here again the costs are high.

By now, we expect you have a good idea of the message that this letter is trying to convey to you. So, to put it into Pioneer lingo, if you have not "Hit the Kick" lately, what about it now! Just send us your donation. You nominate which account you would like your donation to go to. Also while you are at it, what about sending us a little bit of news about your local doings, it's not much use having a paper and not having any news to put in it. So seeing you are going to write and enclose your cheque or money order, it would not be any trouble to write us a few lines for our Pioneer News. It does not matter what it is, we will print it, you depend on your Committee for your paper, now your Committee is depending on you.

H E L P

YOUR COMMITTEE.

BACK TO GRETA - from page 1

tunately, the famous yell "you'll be sorry" was not born then). Psychologically, the warmth of that spontaneous reception was a good tonic.

I need never had feared about a bowler hat, we arrived with 100 per cent strength.

Purposely, I have refrained from mentioning names of individuals, they would all have to be mentioned. To me, the important outcome of this draft was how it controlled my destiny. Some days after arriving I was instructed to report to Victoria Barracks where I underwent a grilling from the Top Brass as to why, as a trained Signals Officer, I had violated Regulations by not enlisting in a Signals Unit. I was therefore transferred to 6 Division Signals.

For days, I battled with them to allow me to remain with 2/1 and eventually, I won out.

It was because of that first draft, I was determined to get back. Thanks first draft.

FRANK R. ALLAN.

THE FORMATION OF 2/1ST - 2/2ND ASSOCIATION

"THE GREAT ARCHITECT OF THE UNIVERSE WORKS IN MANY STRANGE AND WONDERFUL WAYS"

It is just on thirty-two years ago in June, 1940, when I joined the 2/1 Pioneers at Silver City, Greta.

Silver City, 1940, and an exchange of second-in-command of both Battalions, was our first contact with the 2/2 Pioneer Battalion. The idea was to standardise training and to establish an esprit de corps between the 2/1 and 2/2 Pioneer Battalions.

The departure of the 2/1 for the Middle East ended the exchange system.

Perhaps it was at Greta where the 2/1 and 2/2 Pioneers Association was conceived. Who knows?

MIDDLE EAST — PALESTINE, 1941.

It was here that members of both 2/1 and 2/2 had the opportunity to really get together. The appointment of Brigadier (Red Robbie) Robertson to take charge of all training centres in the Middle East added a link in the chain of building a close relationship with both Battalions and the strong and active spirit of close co-operation that existed in the 2/1 and 2/2 Pioneer Battalions Association. "Red Robbie" demanded that experienced officers and NCO's from the forward units be appointed to the Training Battalion's staff. Both the 2/1 and 2/2 supplied experienced officers and NCO's from Tobruk and Syria respectively.

At that time, all personnel returning from hospital, schools, and courses had to report into the Training Battalion before returning to the parent Battalion. Fraternising in the officers NCO's and men's messes all played a part in welding the chain of co-operation.

Leave to Cairo, Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa and many places too numerous to mention, the bistros, night clubs, dancing girls, tall tales, little white lies and romancing all added links to the chain of mateship in the 2/1 and 2/2.

JOY AND TRAGEDY

1942—a year of joy and tragedy. Joy for the 2/1—they were destined to be returned to Australia, leave and loved ones. What a thrilling experience when rumour became fact.

Tragedy for the 2/2 — after a splendid record of courage and fighting ability in Syria were destined for the Dutch Indies. They were sacrificed to a lost and forlorn operation, human sacrifices to Japanese barbarity. Their suffering and courage on the Burma Road is in the history books and will never be forgotten.

The sad loss of the 2/2 in Java was a blow to us all. "The Great Architect surely moves in many strange ways." The 2/1's home, leave and loved ones! The 2/2's in Java, suffering hardships, torture, death and years of hell as Japanese prisoners.

RE-FORMING OF THE 2/2

Australia, 1942, saw the 2/1 march into Sandy Creek, South Australia, and the Training Battalion staff were at Mount Barker in the same State. A period of uncertainty — the 2/1 members hoping to rejoin their parent battalion, the 2/2 members not having any idea of their postings.

At this period of time, unknown to any members of either Battalion, a dynamic

personality known as "Big Joe" Lang (the original second-in-command of the 2/2) arrived back in Australia. Joe was wounded in Syria and had been hospitalised in Palestine when the 2/2 sailed for Java. It was due to Joe, now Lt.-Col. Lang, that the 2/2 Pioneer Battalion was re-formed.

I believe when Joe approached Sir Thomas Blamey to re-form the 2/2, he was asked where he could get experienced officers, NCO's and men to form the battalion. Resourceful and enthusiastic, Joe had done his homework very thoroughly. He produced a list of experienced officers and NCO's. The list included all members of the Training Battalion, officers and NCO's who had been hospitalised, at schools and courses or on leave in Palestine when the 2/2 sailed for Java. Some experienced officers from Gull Force, 8 Div. officers from the Independent Pioneer Companies.

2/1 REINFORCEMENTS FORM 2/2

So far so good. "Where will you get the men, Lang?" The clincher. The white rabbit out of the hat this time. Joe investigated Watsonia Camp, Victoria, and to his joy located approximately 350 men officers and NCO's who were to be reinforcements for the 2/2. At Bathurst, N.S.W., Joe ascertained there were approximately 400 men, officers and NCO's waiting as reinforcements to the 2/1.

Joe had the Battalion on paper OK, all he required now was permission from the various CO's of the officers and NCO's he had presented to Sir Thomas. It was only the close co-operation of all CO's concerned that Joe got his complement of experienced officers and NCO's.

The first knowledge I and other members of the Training Battalion staff had of the new 2/2 was by way of a telegram received in Bathurst which read "Report with 400 men, officers and NCO's to Wagga"—Lang, Lt.-Col. 2/2 Pioneer Battalion. We were all disappointed at being bulldozed in to a new battalion. However, on reaching Wagga, and meeting the fine body of young men from Watsonia and Bathurst, and meeting so many old friends and officers from the original 2/2, we felt quite at home.

VISIT BY MRS. O'MALLEY WOOD

At Wagga that charming and gracious lady, Mrs. O'Malley Wood visited the new 2/2 Pioneer Battalion. In 1940, Mrs. O'Malley Wood had banded together a wonderful association of women and formed the 2/1 Pioneer Battalion Comforts Fund. These dedicated ladies not only sent comforts to the troops but also cared for the loved ones left behind.

The wonderful work of the Comforts Fund is worthy of a more able pen than mine. When the Comforts Fund found that approximately 450 to 500 new 2/2 were originally to be reinforcements for the 2/1, they decided to take the new 2/2 into the Comforts Fund and formed the 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Battalion Comforts Fund. In my opinion, this was the birth of the 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Battalions Association.

It was only through the close co-operation of all concerned that the merging of the Battalions was accomplished.

Again the hand of "The Great Architect" guiding Mrs. O'Malley Wood to Wagga and the new 2/2. Taking the 2/2 into the Comforts Fund was a great tribute from this band of wonderful women who gave service to servicemen.

NEW GUINEA, 1943

1943 saw both Battalions in action in New Guinea. Although serving in different areas, officers, NCO's and men were able to get together and associate again — sometimes in hospital, at rest camps and on the sporting field. Again more links were added to the chain of close co-operation.

MOROTAI

During 1945 both Battalions again served together, working in close-co-operation in the tactical loading of the ships and boats for the invasion of Balikpapan. Both Battalions served throughout the campaign with great credit.

CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES

Peace — the war is over, an unforgettable moment. No more danger, a longing to be home.

It was here in Balikpapan that the 2/2 Pioneers were declared redundant and the men elected to transfer to the 2/1 Pioneer Battalion. The CO of the 2/1 again proved the chain of close co-operation was gaining strength, he permitted the 2/2 to retain their original colour patch, a gesture that was greatly appreciated.

Australia, demobbed, it was natural after so many 2/1 and 2/2 had served in both Battalions and through the friendships made that a Battalion Association would be formed.

The Comforts Fund, in their wisdom, had acquired rooms in which they operated and carried on the good work of providing comforts. These rooms were made available to the Pioneers, so that they could meet and form what we now have as the 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Battalions Association.

PIONEER NEWS LAUNCHED

To the best of my knowledge, the early committees were composed of 2/1 and 2/2 members and the Presidency alternated between the two Battalions. At first the Association concerned itself with organising Anzac Day and reunions. Some 20 years ago the Pioneer News was launched and it was hailed by one and all as a great medium of keeping in touch with mates spread all over Australia.

Through the co-operative efforts of the committee a Welfare Section was organised and is a great credit to the Association. A hospital visitation officer was appointed and what a wonderful job he is doing.

The 1971 Anzac Day reunion was the first occasion both Units had joined together for a joint reunion. 1972 saw them together again at the Castlereagh Hotel. These reunions are only possible through hard work and close co-operation of committee men, who devote themselves to giving service to their fellow mates.

In conclusion, I feel that the close co-operation that is so strong in the Asso-

(Continued at foot Col. 1, page 4)

ANZAC DAY WITH THE 2/1st AND 2/2nd

ANNUAL WREATH LAYING

Quite a good representation from both Battalions assembled at our rallying point on Anzac Eve for our march to the Cenotaph in Martin Place Plaza, to once again pay our respects to those who paid the supreme sacrifice.

Jack Lloyd took command of our parade and marched us to the Cenotaph, where we were joined by our Ladies Auxiliary, and where our traditional Service of Remembrance was held.

Wreaths were then placed on the Cenotaph. Allan McInnes for the 2/2, Mrs. Basil St. Vincent Welch for the Ladies Auxiliary, and Larry Robson from Newcastle for the 2/1. This was followed by the Ode, and our Bugler, Aub Brazier, sounded the Last Post and Reveille.

The whole ceremony was short, but certainly our honoured promise of "WE WILL REMEMBER THEM" was again most clearly demonstrated by those who gathered to pay homage to our departed, but never forgotten, coppers.

ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

After our yearly pilgrimage to the Cenotaph for our Wreath-laying ceremony, we all assembled at the Castlereagh Hotel for our Annual Meeting and the election of office bearers for the ensuing year.

Our President for 1971-72, Allan McInnes opened the meeting as usual with the "Ode to the Fallen," then after apologies were taken, the minutes were read and the Treasurer's Report, and before the President vacated the Chair for Election of Officers, he spoke at length of the wonderful work being done by the Executive and Committee for the good of the Association, but requested members to help by sending a contribution by way of news for our paper, The Pioneer News.

Our President outlined the wonderful job that was being done by our Secretary, Max Herron, and our Treasurer, Doug Shearston who, as we are all aware, are the mainstays in our Association.

Allan McInnes vacated the Chair but his retirement was only brief, as was the rest of the Executive and Committee, so it was, the Election resulted as follows:

President, Allan McInnes; Editor and Secretary, Max Herron; Treasurer, Doug Shearston; Social Secretary, Bob Mcgregor; Welfare Officers, Harry Montague and Jack Collis; Asst. Editor & Master at Arms, Bob Lake and Jack Lloyd; Publicity Officer, Wal Page.

It was then down to General Business and it was here that Don Lawson of the

2/2 said how it was appreciated that the 2/2 were able to join the 2/1 for the Annual Reunion. He also handed over the sum of \$79.00 as the Social Committee of the 2/2 had ceased to function. Now it has really happened, we are as one, two units, but one Association.

Larry Robson from Newcastle was down to give us the details of the "Back to Greta" weekend that has been organised, also to invite to Newcastle the Committee to help finalise the Queen's Birthday weekend.

All in all, it was once again a very constructive meeting, with too much detail to publish here, but the results do, as always, favour the members of the 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Association.

2/1 ANZAC DAY MARCH

It was really a great feeling to once again meet so many old coppers from the 2/1 Battalion at the assembly point for our unit's annual participation in the Anzac Day March.

The roll-up was good, and although not as good as past years, the bond of friendship is still there and it's always a great feeling renewing old memories.

On being formed up our contingent moved off under the leadership of Gordon Osborne, headed by Fairfield Police and Citizens Youth Club Pipe Band, which won the praise of all. The March continued to Hyde Park without any members dropping out. On arrival at the Park, members went to their allotted area in preparation for the Service of Remembrance with their fellow service personnel.

After the Service was over, and before leaving the Park, I approached Sgt. Ron Condon, Superintendent of the Police and Citizens Youth Club, who assembled the Band which ably led us in the March and thanked them on behalf of the 2/1 Battalion.

It was pointed out that it was the first time our unit had marched without stopping, this was because of the good steady pace of the band, and the distance they kept from the preceding unit. Again, well done everyone.

HARRY MONTAGUE.

2/2 ANZAC DAY MARCH

March was attended by an average roll call. Banner was carried by Jim Field and Archie Stanton. March was led by Bill Robertson and Allan McInnes.

Television coverage of the 2/2, we are told, was excellent, both by coverage given by announcer and picture.

Reunion was voted, by a good roll call of 2/2, as a tremendous function — the two units merged in a most satisfactory manner and the close unity is illustrated on these occasions.

Padre Claughton made his annual Anzac Day appearance and the boys appreciated seeing him having dinner with us and joining in with their chatter.

Don Lawson was present and did an excellent job checking on number of meals served and acted as host to the 2/2. Gavin Todd assisted at the door in writing out name tags.

Bernie Daly was down from Taree and he hasn't changed much since New Guinea days — looks just as tough and fit as ever.

Bert Beasley came from Queensland to be with all his mates and was quite emphatic the trip was well worth while.

Dick Kennewell turned up a little late, and was impressed by the set-up at the Castlereagh Hotel. He was so inspired by the coverage on Television he immediately got dressed and decided to join those mates he had seen on the screen.

ALLAN MCINNES.

THE CASTLEREAGH REUNION

One hundred and forty 2/1 and 2/2 Pioneers were served a meal at the Castlereagh Hotel Re-union Dinner on Anzac Day.

The gathering appeared to be the happiest bunch we have ever seen at a Re-union. Talking with Committee members we are of the opinion it came about because of the reunions of many 2/2 (particularly those who had at one time been a 2/1 member) with the 2/1 members.

A typical case of this was Bert Holmes, 2/1, who for many years had a wish to find time to spend with his brother—but just hadn't got around to it. Well this year it came about — and the two brothers certainly enjoyed their day.

Wal Page was in charge of serving the meals and with his helpers a terrific job was carried out.

Numerous apologies were received by the Secretary from those who could not attend. Bill Hoffman rang from Kyogle and also Ray Horne rang to say he was working. Tom Hugo's wife sent regards to all Tom's mates.

All attending voted it a good day, and so ended Anzac Day, 1972.

2/2 JOTTINGS

The 2/2 joined with the 2/1 again this year at the Castlereagh Hotel and a very enjoyable day was had by all. According to a few of my 2/1 acquaintances, our presence swelled their ranks and it was pleasing to see how they made us feel part of the show.

★ COL SHEA sent along a telegram of best wishes to all his mates in N.S.W. Col is still running a butcher shop in Footscray, Victoria.

★ CHARLIE GATEHOUSE was a casualty with a broken foot, although this did not worry Charlie, as he reckons you do not use your feet to drink.

★ BASIL ST. VINCENT WELCH was also a cripple on a stick as he had a cartilage removed in his leg. Basil's son, John belongs to the Haberfield Rowing Club and his crew are having a very successful season. Best wishes, Basil, and good luck, John.

★ DON LINTON, BILL LEWIS and DICK KENNEWELL attended after being absent for a couple of years — welcome back fellows — see you again next year.

★ TOM REYNOLDS sent word along to say he has left Sydney and is on a small property out from Bourke.

★ TED CROKE, son of our mate Jim, deceased, is bar manager at Homebush RSL and welcomes all Pioneers to call on him.

— DON LAWSON.

FORMATION OF 2/1 - 2/2 ASSN.

(from page 3)

Association today is largely due to President Allan McInnes, Secretary Max Herron, Treasurer Doug Shearston, Editor Bob Lake and correspondents Don Lawson and Wal Page. These gentlemen have been in office as a team for approximately ten years. Together with a band of hard working committee men they have demonstrated to us all the benefits and pleasures that can be gained by men working in close co-operation for their fellow men.

To each and every one, our eternal thanks.

BILL (Robbie) ROBERTSON.

ANZAC DAY JOTTINGS

★ To head the list comes "Charlie Kerr" from Maryborough, Queensland, one of the performing seals. Charlie had quite a session with all former Sigs in attendance, and issues a warm invitation to any Pioneers passing through his home town. He was pleased to see a roll-up of Sigs in the form of Arthur White, Max Herron, Ron Macfarlane, Pat Noonan, Bluey Chase, Bob Burnside, Doug Shearston, and Cecil Saloway.

★ Headquarters drivers had themselves a table also, Norm McEvoy, previously of Woodburn and Lismore, is now living at Blacktown and he didn't stop talking. With him were Wagga Grice, Snowy Jardine, Vic Whitely, Dora Black, Bob Lake and John Dundas. John is the son of Bill Dundas (Bill is in Queensland at the moment) and John is in the Navy. Nice to see you John. Come again.

★ I was taken in hand and introduced to some of Don Coy. boys this year. Some I did not know, I didn't know Don Coy. had so many. Jack Lloyd called his parade, Bert Moore, Ken Oliver, Ray Hill, Dick Chalmers, Bill Hodges, Blue Jones (I've seen him before) Jack Glover, Doug Watson (a special message to Mrs. Watson, Doug does go to the re-union), Bobby Gale, Peter Craig, Max Herron (I thought he was a Sig.), Jimmy Gray, sporting a big bushy beard, Eric Monckton, Bimbo Bell, George Tolmie, Pat Collins. Now Pat was reported being the best Sgt. in the 2/2. How come, he was counted in Don Coy. 2/1, also there was Kev. O'Connell and Bombo Reynolds, Boy, did they have themselves a party.

★ Bernie Daley 18 Platoon 2/2 and Alby Klaus Don Company 2/2. Now here were two very disappointed boys at our Anzac Day Reunion, but they were only disappointed about one thing, the non-appearance of the rest of Don Coy. 2/2 Pioneers. So fellows, make Bernie and Alby happy, turn up next time, if you like, write Bernie and Alby through the Pioneer News. Send it to us, we'll print it, and Bernie and Alby read it, how about that!

★ Tom Hugo, did you know you had a great admirer? Well you have, it's none other than George Brooks. George told me that you were the greatest guy that ever chopped wood for the cookhouse fire, and what's more, I believe him. George also told me that no matter what great things I said about you in this paper, it would never be good enough to do you justice. He thinks you're a great guy. Don't we all? George comes down from Queensland each year. Nice work George.

★ Some others there were Bill Doney, Ned Jennings, Leo Morris, Sammy Lewis, Bill Wright. Thanks for the beer Bill. Jack Clayton from C Coy. wished to be remembered to all his mates. Jack was there but very quiet. Bert Holmes A Coy. 2/1 and his brother Bill from 2/2 spent their first Anzac Day together. I think Bert is sporting a couple of grandchildren.

★ Percy Penrose, Bluto Brisbane along with George Bates spent most of their time eating Eric Monckton's chicken, to give Eric more time to drink, so he reckons.

★ Len Weymark, Frank Gillian, Brian Kybert, Bill Tasker and Casey Brown had

one corner of the bar monopolised. Casey bought me a beer!

★ Ray Lester was a late arrival, but he soon collected a few B Coy. boys together for a drink, like Harry Robey, Cecil Peak, Bob McGregor, Charlie O'Neil, Jack Lloyd. I thought he was in Don Coy. a while ago. Alfie Neal, Ray Callaghan, Bruce Smith and his brother Bill. He kept Bruce quiet too.

★ Another late arrival was Don Slater of A Coy. Don hasn't been well of late, but OK now.

★ Eric Guthrie had a message from Jack Copeland. Jack has been in Scotland for seven years. Hopes to be with us Anzac Day 1973.

★ Also there was Arthur Luddington, Bill Steward, Shaky Bill Arthur, Jack Clark (lost a lot of weight), Bobby Long, Sgt. Murphy, Henry Allan, Kevin Buckley, down from St. Mary's, not with one bottle of rum, but two this time, but someone drank it for them, thank goodness.

★ Ian Kirkwood and Ted Skoyles up from the South Coast again. Albert Brown got a leave pass from his three hundred dairy cattle to be with us. Nice work Albert, our regards to Eileen. Earl Jones was there and says I can't spell his name. So gave me one of his cards. Nice to see Major Bill Robertson with us again.

★ Punchy Bannister was late again, but said he's one of the poor unfortunates who have to work for a living. Pat Noonan and Bluey Chase came along after their P.I.B. reunion. Last saw them drinking with Bob Burnside. I shook hands with John Collins, but couldn't find him later to get some news.

★ A big vote of thanks to the girls behind the bar, Louise, Jo Jo and Jackie, you did a wonderful job serving our attendance of one hundred and thirty three, give or take twenty.

★ Charlie Kerr of Queensland was the winner of the raffle for a dozen beer but most graciously handed it over to the wrapping committee — thank you very much Charlie — we will drink your health when we wrap the paper on 26th May.

GORDON FINLAY.

ANZAC DAY —

"The day we celebrate"

You hear it said "just a lot of old blokes living in the past."

Anzac Day is **not** a celebration, it is a day of commemoration for the purpose of paying honour and a way of tribute to those who fought, suffered, died and were maimed, to preserve a way of life they knew to be best — and for the renewal of the bonds of comradeship forged during service.

"A lot of old men living in the past" — well, to reflect on that, without the past there is no future.

For it is the past that teaches us the things that bind us together as a worthwhile people — tolerance, courage, high endeavour, sacrifice and the will to serve.

And the need for this is no less in peace than in war.

A. McINNES.

THOUGHTS ON ANZAC DAY

They say that great events only happen once; well I guess that with this article it's happened. I must admit that this is the first time that I have put pen to paper on behalf of the Pioneer News in any shape or form.

Perhaps after reading this effort, there will be many who will say that it's a pity that I did this time.

If you feel that way chaps, just blame Allan McInnes, he whacked this task onto me — sorry about that Allan.

Some years ago, I was asked by Stan Claughton, what did Anzac Day mean to me? Last Tuesday, April 25th, as I drove citywards, I asked myself that very same question. I had my son, a returned soldier of Vietnam, beside me. He was off to see his mates for the first time; "if there's any there," he said to me. True, this was a great and proud start to this day of days for me.

Without question, this day means — I give my homage and respects to all who gave their lives for this country.

Yet to me it means more than that. It means once again I have that grand moment of meeting those mates with whom I spent so much of my life in years past. Being waylaid by the Nicholls brothers, Bill and George, and being whisked off for a couple of quickies before the march, in a club I didn't even know existed.

Marching side by side with the Padre of my old Battalion, Stan Claughton. Marching behind Jimmy Germ who remarked that "if those cameras are on me I'll give 'em some footwork Arthur Murray would be proud of." Marching behind my Battalion banner.

What does this day mean to me? It means a good meal shared with my mates in the Castlereagh, a few drinks, experiences of the past brought out and retold, and even re-laughed at.

When I saw the two banners, 2/1 and 2/2 side by side, I felt a great pride, combined with the fact that our two units had come back to where they had started, in a truer sense, and in a much closer association; but still retaining their separate identities.

I saw the Germ back to Bankstown, and after taking my leave of him, I drove home. As I drove, I asked myself the question I started with, and came to the conclusion it meant all of the things I have stated. It meant, too, countless things I have not, and could not state. It had been a great day.

By the way, the Vietnam warrior found his mates, and he reckoned it was the greatest day he had ever had. All I can say is, may they, and we, have many more of them.

I make no excuses for any mistakes of any kind, as I said at the beginning, great events only happen once.

Yours,
BOB DIXON, 2/2.

THE GRETA REUNION

For happy days Come to
10th - 11th JUNE, 1972
(Queens Birthday holiday weekend)
Bring Medals - Money and Wife



Another issue of Mail Bag, this time an early edition, due to our big week-end coming up in June. A few more letters to hand and this does help to swell the news.

NORM CURLEY, ex 2/1 & 2/2 Pioneer Battalions, and now residing at Mosman, N.S.W., sends along a thank you note for visitations at Concord over his recent spell there, both from Monty & myself and Norm also sent a hefty cheque to the Association, thank you very much Norm, cheque already doing good work. Norm was the 2/1st original Transport Sgt. and on Anzac Day, the following drivers wished to be remembered to him - Snow Jardine, "Dora" Black, Bert Herne, Vic Whiteley, Noel Schomberg and many others. While Norm is a widower of some time now, his daughter and her children attend to his more regular wants and help to keep him on his toes. Keep sober old timer, I will call over again soon.

JACK COLLIS, 2/1 and now residing at Umina, sends along more news from the Central Coast, to quote - the old "Balmmain Tiger" Jack Coates is out of hospital and fully recovered from his operation, so fully recovered that he already is able to participate in a few ales. Jack reports that LES ROSE is also back in business after his broken ribs. The most upsetting part of the broken ribs was the fact that he was cold sober when he took the tumble. Thank you for the news, Jack, and looking forward to more from the Coast at a later date.

BILL STEERS, 2/1st, another one of our old Sgts., and now resident at Marks Point, not far from Newcastle, writes of spell in Belmont Hospital for a month. Bill does not say what was wrong with him, but claims that he is OK again now. Bill sends his regards to all the Battalion chaps and knows that their

Anzac Day could only be successful with such a great team of blokes. Bill also enclosed a cheque and that of course, is in the treasurer's hot little hand, thanks Bill and Good Luck.

FRED DAVENPORT, 2/1st and now at Brisbane, a very short note - Best regards, Fred. Cheque per medium of Monty, can't make much news out of those two lines, Fred, however cheque is to hand and doing good work.

NOBBY COOPER, 2/1st, now at Balgownie. I think that is down the South Coast, Wollongong way, sends a letter, or I should say, Dorothy Cooper sends the letter, nothing wrong with Nobby, just can't write. However Dorothy wrote the letter, enclosed the donation and wishes everyone of the unit a successful Anzac Day. Thank you very much Dorothy and Nobby and lets hear from you again soon.

JACK CROSLAND, of Condell Park, or once again, Mrs. Crosland, sends a note apologising, for Jack is always going to write and send a sub, so she has taken the offensive and completed the job herself. Many thanks Mrs. Jack and to all the wives that have to stir us up occasionally, your sub is with the treasurer and I hope you continue to enjoy our little paper.

MR. T. JARVIS writes a letter informing the Association of the death of E. H. Jarvis, who passed away on 11th February, 1972. Ned Jarvis was a member of H.Q. Coy and respected by all who knew him.

STEVE SNOW, 2/2nd and now at Arncliffe, N.S.W. sends a short note with very little news and a cheque to the Association. Thank you Steve, remember, if you write a few lines, so you will encourage more of your mates to do the same and the News will grow. It beats writing letters - Just think, 1200 letters

for the price of one, not such a bad idea is it?

TED STAFFORD, our old stalwart from Lismore on the North Coast, sends along a newsy letter of the doings up in the Northern regions. Ted attended the service for the late HAROLD LEESE, as a personal friend, but was recognised by Harold's brother as a battalion member, and he expressed the appreciation that the unit was represented. Ted has passed his conv of the News onto Lloyd Butcher, whom he sees quite a bit during those suggested games of Bowls. Well, Mr. Butcher if you can manage to keep on rolling down a bowl, you can write a few lines to the paper and possibly include your address, as we have not got it on the books, that's not a request, that's an order. Back to Ted, I wonder who that Army bloke was Ted, sounds as though he must have meant what he said. We believe it anyway. However, it should have been good for a few jugs through the day! That's about all Ted's news, he wishes all the boys the very best for Anzac Day and enclosed a sub to keep that paper rolling.

BERT HUTTLEY, 2/2nd and now living in Bloomsbury, Queensland, thanks the Committee for his copy of the 'News' and was saddened at the death of "Cappy" Christian. Bert has two children married, a son and a daughter. Daughter has two children, so Bert and wife are grandparents. There are five children altogether, Bert works on a cane farm, tractor driving, etc. The season starts in about a month's time and then he will be flat out for about six months, with one son working with him and the other son in his final years as a Compositor, at the "Guardian" Office, in Proserpine. We shall have to watch our layout and spelling now, that's for sure. Only one other Pioneer in Proserpine, and that is Vic Norman, of Anne Street, who works at the sugar mill. Vic was a machine gunner in the Battalion and they will probably get together on the 25th, over a few noggins. In closing Bert wants to be remembered to all and a special mention to the members of 1 Platoon, who served at Tarakan and Balikpapan, also enclosed a cheque to the treasurer and finished off with a really good saying - "It's good to keep in touch." Thank you for a very newsy letter, I am sure that all the blokes will be pleased to read it and we look forward to further mentions.

JIM "TICH" YOUNG, 2/1st and now at Botany Road, Waterloo, sends an apology for his non attendance on Anzac Day. He really wanted to see the Boys, "Nuggett" Neal and Lofty Hannon. However, it was not to be, as he collapsed in Market Street, and finished up in Sydney Hospital for over three weeks. Bad luck Tich, however, you would not have found Lofty, as I had a letter from him also

2/1 - 2/2 PIONEER BATTALIONS ASSOCIATION COUNTRY REUNION & BARBECUE

Newcastle - 10th June

Greta, 11th June, 1972

Christian Name Army Nickname
Surname Unit (2/1 or 2/2)
Company Platoon
Address

Number in Party Attending Reunion and Barbecue
Attending Attending
Reunion only Barbecue only
Place in envelope and post NOW to:

M. HERRON, 3 Enoggera Road, Beverly Hills, N.S.W., 2209

and he has moved down to Victoria. I hope you take a little care and get back onto those two legs quick and lively, all my family are tip top, and a fourth grandchild arrived last Saturday, 22/4/72, so that makes me feel a bit older! Thank you for the note, Tich, and lots of luck, Keep Sober!

BOB "LOFTY" HANNON, 2/1st, ex resident of Manly-Warringah and now down at Shepparton, Victoria, sends a note with a donation for subs. and the news that he has not had a paper for some time. This can be fixed Bob, all we need was an address. Bob speaks of his son and wife being in England for possibly two years, while his daughter and her husband are in Canada. One thing old mate, you can't accuse them of living in your hip pocket. Bob has not been too good, has had a few trips to Melbourne to Repat. and is hoping for an increase in his pension. You do not mention why you went to Victoria, we would all like to know? Bob sends his best regards to all the boys.

ANZAC DAY at the Castlereagh - and "Dora" Black has done it again. You may remember a few issues ago, when we had a bit of a crack at the Shermans and Blackie about Grandchildren, well Blackie has been married again, honest, and when he went back to Kyogle with his wife, Val, Flo Sherman said, "I knew her before you did Dora." Looks like the Blacks and the Shermans are bound to clash. Also on the grapevine at the Castlereagh - that great big hunk of man, "Hollywood" Fred Wheaton, has a broken leg, fell down returning from fishing, I hear. Casey Brown was heard to remark - "I wonder what would have been broken if he had tangled with me."

BERN REINERS (Sig. Platoon 2/1) of "Reiners Hall" Corryong, Victoria had two weeks holiday at Austinmer, N.S.W. in May. With his wife Mona and daughter Mandy, they came up to Sydney and spent an enjoyable evening with Roma and Doug Shearston (another performing Seal), Joyce and Bob McGregor and Peg and Max Herron.

Bern invited the Herrons down for a weekend and Peg and Max (another performing Seal) readily took him up on his offer. According to Peg, the weekend was "a Ball."

BILL WRIGHT, 2/1 of Wyoming wrote in to say he derived great pleasure from spending Anzac Day with his mates. He sends a big thank you to each and every one on the Committee who, he considers, did an excellent job. After witnessing the mighty job they do he is very grateful for the giant task they perform.

Two days before Anzac Day Bill was at Nelson's Bay and saw C. "Ando" Anderson of C Coy. and spent a couple of hours with him over a few ales. "Ando" is in the building trade and has been working at Nelson's Bay for the past eight years and really looks a picture of health. He joined Bill in sending regards to all their mates.

Bill and his wife had a pleasant tour of Tasmania early this year with Pioneer Tours. and they thoroughly enjoyed the most interesting trip.

Bill's eldest son took a position this year with "Hemsley Iron" at Dampier in Western Australia and are living in a brand new home, air condition, furnished, etc. for \$6 per week, so are very happy.

LETTER TO THE EDITORS

Beaumont, S.A.

Dear Max and Bob,

I have been reminded by Bobbie Lake's opening paragraph on page four of the April issue of the Pioneer News that I had not written for quite a while. Now, let's get together and correct this.

Everyone has an excuse of course for not writing, but to make sure that my good intentions do not go too far astray, I am writing this letter from my Office.

All is going well in sunny South Australia and Ernie Hayden, who is **STILL** in the Army and myself had our own little Pioneer reunion on Tuesday last. I marched with Legacy and Ern with the Royal Australian Regiment Association. At the end of the Service we joined at a nearby hostelry and managed to spend a fairly quiet afternoon until early evening. We both commented on how sad it is to see some of the boys passing on, particularly names who are known so well to us. It is not difficult to remember however that we are all growing older. Ern looks very well and at the present time is in camp not far out of Adelaide with the recruiting training unit. He had the day off on Tuesday. Although he is now a grandfather he looks very fit although his wife is not as well as she could be.

As far as I am concerned things are still much the same and I am able to report that having passed the 12½ year mark of residence in Adelaide, I am still enjoying South Australia. With the family we drove up to Sydney in January in time to catch up with your "wettest wet" since 1911. I was there for the full three weeks of it and my holiday was literally a "wash-out." In this instance we were glad to turn round and come back home.

In March I headed North again for my first of three planned visits to the Northern Territory. This time however I went beyond Darwin and spent a week in Timor landing at Baccau and travelling on to Dili. While in Dili I was fortunate enough in meeting an old friend formerly of Darwin, now living high in the mountains at a place called Moubissie, which was well known as being over-run by the Japs during the war. My friend now runs the Army Rest House in the Mountains and the fifty mile journey took three and three-quarter hours in a Land Rover, so you can imagine the sort of road which leads over three mountain ranges averaging from 8,000 to 10,000 feet. The country was absolutely magnificent although there is very little to do on the island. It was a good experience and I was there to look for business opportunities but needless to say I did not come back with a briefcase full of orders. There may be possible future business but only time will tell. On my return I spent another week in Darwin prior to departure for Adelaide.

It is good to see the Pioneer News still coming out regularly and it is great to

Bill sends his regards to all his mates and concludes by saying "see you all at Greta." Thanks for a very newsy letter Bill.

That's about it for now, see you at Newcastle or Greta in June - Let's make it a honey.

LAKY.

read the various doings of people whom we have not seen for quite some time. Monty does a great job as do all of you and Ern and I appreciate receiving our copies of the News. We also had a nostalgic feeling when we talked of the Newcastle reunion and one of these days we may even get up there together.

We send our regards to my old mate Wally Page, all the fellows in Newcastle and particularly to you fellows who keep the Association going. To help you I am enclosing a small cheque which may help to cover postage.

That's all for now, with kind regards to all.

Yours sincerely,

MAX LAW, B Coy. 2/1.

NOTICE TO ALL PIONEERS

The Annual Remembrance Church Service will be conducted this year at the Leichhardt Methodist Church.

This will be the last time it will be conducted by Rev. Stan Claughton as Stan is retiring from his ministry in December 1972.

He is particularly looking forward to the attendance of all Pioneers at this service.

Try and make it this year fellows, for I know you will not regret it.

NEWS JOTTINGS BY "MONTY"

TOM HUGO of C Coy. 2/1 is home again after another spell at Concord Hospital and would like to have any Pioneers call on him at 58 Sherwood Road, Revesby, phone 771-2136.

FRED DAVENPORT of A Coy. 2/1 and his wife Nell were at Lightning Ridge on Anzac Day and sent regards to all Pioneers. Thank you for the generous cheque Fred and Nell - this was passed on to the Treasurer for the Welfare Account. Fred mentions having called on Jack Tatham of A Coy. "Sliprail" has a property at Currububula near Tamworth. Jack also writes to say how pleased he and his wife were to have the company of Fred and Nell. Jack extends an invitation to all Pioneers to call on him any time.

OWEN BURNS was at the Homebush RSL recently and was pleased to have a chat with me.

ALTHEA ALLEN, widow of Hughie Allen A Coy., attended the Wreath Laying Ceremony with her son and although for years they had departed after the ceremony this year they were introduced to Peg Herron who took them to supper.

GEORGE BAINS, C Coy. 2/1, was at Concord Hospital on Anzac Day and said it was quite a thrill to watch the 2/1 march on television. He said it cheered him considerably to see his old mates on the screen.

JOCK "SCOTTY" ARMOUR called on me and passed on the sad news that his wife had died, and then the following week his son-in-law had died. Please accept our deepest sympathy Jock.

Jock has returned from a rest in the country and will be resuming his duties as Bandmaster, staging recitals in the Botanical Gardens, Hyde Park and Randwick Racecourse.

Jock sends his regards to all Pioneers

PROTECT YOUR FAMILY BITTER PILL — DAD, A DILL — LEFT NO WILL

Don't let that triplet be your epitaph. No matter what your age, there are some matters we should all put in order before it's too late.

So ask yourself these questions (which are taken from the December issue of "Reveille") and see if you can answer them in the affirmative. If not, you should take steps to tidy things up.

Q. 1. Does my wife know where my Discharge is?

Q. 2. Does my wife know where my war medals are?

Q. 3. Have I any entitlement to a war pension?

These three questions must be considered as a group. They may not worry you but they could make the difference between your wife becoming a War Widow and treated by the Repatriation Department as such, or being an ordinary widow with no such claim to Repatriation benefits.

Q. 4. Have I made a will?

Q. 5. Has it been revised to meet current circumstances?

Q. 6. Does my wife know where it is and who the executor is?

Thirty per cent of those who die in Australia leave no will and this often causes extensive litigation, heartache and hardship, as Sub-Branch Officers can so sadly testify. Then the legal people gain most and your wife and family least!

Moreover, the Court could then appoint an executor who would not be as competent or desirable as the person you had in mind.

Anyhow what is the good of a will if no one knows where it is?

Q. 7. Has my wife made a will?

Q. 8. Do you know where it is and who is the executor?

These questions are really the previous ones in reverse and just as important because the same remarks apply.

Q. 9. Does my will take into account the simultaneous death of myself and my wife?

If this occurs the law assumes that you died first and your children could be called upon to pay death duties etc. on your estate and then your wife's, which would include all you left her.

This can be obviated by a provision in your will leaving the estate to your wife if she survives you for some stated period e.g. 30 days.

Q. 10. Have I any life assurance?

Q. 11. Have I any superannuation?

Q. 12. Do I belong to any mortality fund?

Q. 13. Does my wife know where my policies are, and whom she should contact regarding my superannuation or to obtain benefit from the mortality fund?

This last question may be an exercise for you: anyhow see if you can readily answer Q. 13 by asking "do I know where etc." You may not.

There are still more questions to ask yourself and your wife but before we go further, in this era, where the wife often works, get her to answer this question.

Q. 14. Do questions 10 to 13 apply to me so that my husband would know whom to contact if I died?

Now to continue.

Q. 15. Have we a joint bank account?

Q. 16. If either of us die can the other operate on the account?

This is no catch question. Upon the

death of either party the bank must freeze the account unless it is a "Joint and Continuing" account.

Q. 17. Is my house mortgaged? If so with whom and where are the deeds and mortgage agreement, etc.?

Q. 18. What is the extent of the mortgage and its terms of repayment?

Q. 19. Is the house (a) in my name, (b) in my wife's name, (c) in both as joint tenants?

Q. 20. If we are joint tenants can my wife prove her joint equity?

The final question appears redundant but it is not because the Stamp Duty Office will assume that the value of the house and land goes into your estate unless your widow has an equity.

That is, unless she contributed in some way towards its purchase using her own capital and/or earnings or received gifts or had other means of gaining such equity.

This is a tough one, is it not? This is the law.

Well how did you fare in your answers? If you want help in these matters and in arranging your will, the R.S.L. can help.

Perhaps you have your own legal advisor. If so, see him; if not, you may contact the State Branch and see one of the members of the legal panel there.

Whatever you do, in the interest of your family, please both husband and wife, make your will.

VALE

It is with regret that we report the passing away of the following members:

"HOOT" GIBSON — who was in Carlingbah Hospital.

RAY SCHUMAKER — "The Red Baron" of Murrumbidgee.

BILL THOMAS — who passed away in May.

GEORGE LEVY — who passed away in May.

LEST WE FORGET.

WAR SERVICE HOMES ACT

With the resumption of land and houses by the Main Roads Board for new roadways, there is still an Act operating for those who want to purchase a new place and a grant of \$9,000 is available.

The person to contact in this matter is Ken Hawkes and his number is BO349 Extension 3006, and he will be only too glad to interview those who want advice on this subject.

SHOULD I BE HONOURABLE?

Dear Dorothy Dix,

I am 35 years of age and have two brothers, one is in the Liberal Party and one serving six years for rape and arson.

My sister is on the street and my father lives on her earnings. My mother is pregnant by the boarder and because of this my father won't marry her.

I have recently become engaged to an ex-prostitute and I wish to be fair to her. Should I tell her about my brother in the Liberal Party????

2/1 - 2/2 PIONEER COUNTRY REUNION AND BARBECUE

PROGRAMME

Cut out this advert and bring with you

Saturday, 10th June - Newcastle — Sunday, 11th June - Greta

MONDAY, 5th JUNE, 9 a.m. — LATEST ACCEPTANCE FOR CATERING

SATURDAY, 10th JUNE:

3.30 p.m. Accommodation Bookings allocated in Foyer of Hamilton R.S.L. Club, Tudor Street.

5.30 p.m. R.S.L. HALL, next door to Hamilton R.S.L. Club, Doors open. Cost for Dinner \$5 each including — Refreshments — payable at door.

6.00 p.m. Pre Dinner drinks served.

6.30 p.m. Dinner served.

SUNDAY, 11th JUNE:

9.00 a.m. Buses depart from Hamilton R.S.L. Cost \$1.20 each, payable at Bus or tickets obtainable at Reunion previous night.

10.00 a.m. Buses arrive Wyndum Street, Greta.

10.20 a.m. Wreath Laying Ceremony - Medals to be worn - Greta Soldiers Memorial.

10.45 a.m. Buses depart for Silver City Camp.

11.10 a.m. March Past - Salute taken by Colonel R. S. Garland, M.C. - Medals to be worn.

12.30 p.m. Barbecue Lunch - Cost \$1 per person - payable on ground or by ticket obtainable at Reunion previous night. All eating utensils provided. Canned beer on sale at 25 cents. Soft drink on sale.

2.30 p.m. Buses depart for Vineyard inspection and tour.

MEDALS ARE TO BE WORN AT WREATH LAYING AND MARCH PAST.

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.

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

Treasurer:

DOUG SHEARSTON

Editors: R. LAKE & M. HERRON

President:

ALLAN McINNES

Vol. 17, No. 3

1st SEPT., 1972

Price: 50c Per Annum

OUR "BACK TO GRETA" WEEKEND

The weekend of 10th and 11th June, 1972 is now history, but it is two days that will surely live in the memories of those eighty-four Pioneers and wives that attended the two events of those days. On behalf of all those who attended, I would like to offer our heart-felt thanks to our Members who organised our two days, and made it all possible. Our thanks to Jack Bertram, Jack Griffiths, Bruce Mitchell, Larry Robson and to all who helped them, but we are most indebted to our own Hon. Sec. Max Herron and his wife Peg, who did the work of ten to put the finesse to the whole show. Our thanks to you all.

OUR REUNION PRELUDE

Our weekend started at Hamilton RSL Hall at 6 o'clock on the evening of 10th June. Members and their wives were received at the door and after the formality of issuing name tags, etc. were given pre-dinner drinks. We were offered - sweet sherry, dry sherry and apple cider. With the drinks came a large variety of Hors D'Oeuvres consisting of crab, oysters, caviar, cheese, stuffed olives and many more. This gave us all a chance to circulate and have a chat before we sat down to dinner.

Pioneers came from all points of the State to be with us for the weekend. The Wheatons were there from Sawtell, the Scholes from Casino, Ian Kirkwood from Wollongong, Ted Skoyles from Mittagong and that nomad, Fred Davenport and his wife, Nell, they came from everywhere. Of course there were too many to give them all a mention here.

But I would like to mention that there are six Pioneer Life Members of The Rats of Tobruk Association and of these six, we had five at Hamilton with us. Jack (Mick) Dodson, Sid Kent, Jack (Glido) Griffiths, Dick (Peter) Seddon, Jack (Split the Wind) Pearce. Nice to see you all fellows.

OUR REUNION BANQUET

After about 1½ hours conviviality, we were called to our tables for our dinner and this had to be seen to be believed.

Our dinner was catered for by "Hans Meyer" of Newcastle. We had roast suckling pig, curried meat, fish, sweet and sour meat, seafood cocktails, strawberries and cream, coffee and after dinner mints. Not exactly in that order, but you had what you wanted when you wanted it. On the table there was red or white wines and of course the good old amber fluid. "Hans Meyer" in his tall chef's hat came around to every table to ask how everything was and also to say there was plenty more for a back up if anyone wanted it, and he got plenty of takers too!

Well with most of the food devoured, it was time for our M.C. for the night, Col. Gordon Osborn, to take over. It was now

9 p.m. and time for the Ode. Gordon recited the Ode then asked Bill Jones, Secretary of the Hamilton RSL to propose a toast to our Queen, which he did.

Then it was a toast to the Association by Jack Griffiths, responded to by our Col. Norm Neal. Jack Turner, President of Hamilton RSL Sub-Branch welcomed us all to the Newcastle District and especially to his Club. Stan Claughton, 2/2 Bn. Padre, was another of the wonderful speakers. Every speaker was well received and besides sincerity in their speeches, there was also a lot of humour. They were short and to the point and a pleasure to listen to.

Now with the dinner over and everyone officially introduced, the tables were cleared and with Thelma Tiplady (sister of Jack Griffiths) at the piano, we had some dances, interspersed with more drinking and plenty of talking. It was a great night and take it from me, it could not be faulted, everyone there helped to make it a wonderful night. I know, because I was there till after midnight. I don't think anyone wanted the night to end, but end it must, because we all had to be back at 9 a.m. to meet buses for our Sunday outing.

ALL ABOARD FOR GRETA

It was now 9 a.m., Sunday, 11th June and like all good Pioneers everyone was on time for the buses to go to Greta. They duly arrived on time and with embarkation orders carried out, we are on our way.

On arrival at Greta we were met by Bruce Mitchell, the only Pioneer STILL living in Greta and also by Col. Ron Garland, M.C., Commanding Officer, 3rd Training Battalion and the Royal Aust. Artillery Band.

On disembarkation we were formed up about 200 yards from the monument with the Royal Aust. Artillery Band at the head of our column and under the command of Jack Lloyd, we were marched to the monument.

It was here that a solemn ceremony of laying of wreaths was enacted at Greta and of the fact that although we had returned we had not forgotten those that

left Greta with us, but did not return, not only by men of the 2/1 but also those of the 2/2 Bn. The 2/2 Pioneer banner was carried in the wreath laying ceremony by Jim Fields.

The wreath in memory of the boys from the 2/1 was laid by Col. Norm Neal, for the 2/2 by Padre Stan Claughton, and a wreath from the Ladies Auxiliary of the 2/1-2/2 Association was laid by Mrs. Jean Bertram. A wreath was also laid by Athol Partridge, of Branxton RSL Sub-Branch and the Ode was recited by Col. Gordon Osborn. Trumpeters from the Royal Artillery Band sounded the Bugle Calls. A very impressive and well conducted ceremony. As we turned and marched away from the monument every man felt as I did, that we had not forgotten our cobbles.

ALL ABOARD FOR SILVER CITY

Well clear of the monument we were halted and once again heard the call - "All Aboard" the buses for what used to be Silver City to us. By this time our convoy had grown, we had the bus carrying the Artillery Band, Col. Garland and Mrs. Garland's car and several cars belonging to Pioneers, who made their own way to the township of Greta. So with our impressive convoy we headed for Silver City.

DOWN MEMORY LANE

On reaching the gateway to the camp site, our convoy headed down a well preserved and a very familiar road past the site of the Chocolate City, the theatre, already it was starting to bring back memories. It was near the site of the theatre that the Band and members of the 2/1-2/2 disembarked. The official party and the Ladies went on to our old camp site. With the Band we did it the hard way - just like the old days. We marched. This time behind the banners of the 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Association. The official party formed a saluting base on the site of Battalion Headquarters. The ladies lined both sides of the road to give us the old Har-yoo, "You'll be sorry," led by Mrs. Mary Lloyd.

We were led up the Silver City Road by Col. Gordon Osborn. Given eyes right at the saluting base. The salute being taken by Col. Ron Garland. At little way past the official party we turned and then marched back to parade before them. It was then that our M.C. for the day, Jack Griffiths asked Padre Claughton, to offer a prayer of thanks that we were able to return to the same site where we formed exactly 32 years ago to the day. Again we remembered those not with us.

Before calling upon Col. Neal to speak,

Gordon Osborn spoke of his trip from Sydney Showground to Greta in 1940 in a train load of "then to be Pioneers" and said on looking at us all he didn't think he would make it, but he did and he has been proud to be one of us ever since. Col. Norm Neal gave a short emotional speech saying he too had happy and proud memories of those days from 1940 to this present day.

PRESENTATION TO COL. GARLAND

Gordon Osborn then introduced formally, Col. Ron Garland of the 3rd I.T.B., Singleton, who gave us his time and his and to be with us. Col. Garland said that he too had fond memories of Silverity. He also had camped there and had climbed Mount Molly Morgan (yes, it's still there). He said when he was asked by Max Herron if he would oblige us with his presence and with his band, he was so honoured he couldn't get there quick enough. Gordon Osborn then made presentation to Col. Garland and Mrs. Garland of a framed certificate outlining his participation in the celebration of the Thirty-second Anniversary of the formation of the 2/1 Pioneer Battalion at Silver City, Greta, on 11th June, 1940.

Our M.C., Jack Griffiths, then introduced Bruce Mitchell, a 2/1 Pioneer, who is the only Pioneer married to a Greta girl and he still lives at Greta. Bruce pointed out a lot of interesting features about the old Camp that we had forgotten, such as where certain companies were, where the cook houses had been, the old wine hop on the hill and a lot more points of interest. Before he finished he asked if anyone had any questions. Laurie (Three Course) Kelly had one important question "where was the butchers shop." It was then pointed out to us by Gordon Osborn that a lot of grog was stolen from the Officer's Mess. No doubt it had been buried under the butcher's shop, because they couldn't get it out of camp and it was too dangerous to drink it in camp. Laurie (Three Course) Kelly was later seen walking around the camp site with a divining rod. I haven't had any results yet on his "Operation Grog."

BARBECUE ON H.Q. COY. CAMPSITE

However, with the necessary formalities over it was on to our Barbecue of steak, tomato, cole slaw, beer, coffee and tea. It was indeed a very happy and enjoyable day.

At 2.30 p.m. it was back in the buses for a trip to the Rothbury Vineyards for sightseeing and tasting, and four Pioneers were sighted buying two dozen bottles between them.

Well to finish our Tour and our wonderful weekend, we again boarded the buses for a long trip back to Hamilton, via Kurri Kurri.

As they say, all good things must come to an end. So too did our weekend with most of us taking in the floor show at the Hamilton RSL. Once again thanks to all who had a hand in the organisation of our weekend and thanks to all who attended. WAL (Desso) PAGE.

"BACK TO GRETA" JOTTINGS

By H. (Monty) MONTAGUE

GORDON OSBORN was the master of ceremonies for the whole weekend and did a marvellous job. When approached two days before, he stated it would be more fitting to have someone close to the Association. The Secretary was adamant that if Gordon could organise the Queen's visit he was more than capable in handling the Pioneers - this proved to be the case.

Gordon and his wife, Belle, fitted into the proceedings very well - at the Dinner as M.C. - at the Wreath Laying as leader of the March - at the camp on the saluting base as M.C. - at the Barbecue looking after Col. Garland and his wife - in the bus leading the gathering, in community singing and back at the R.S.L., Hamilton as a member of a happy gathering of Pioneers - thank you Gordon and Belle Osborn for an excellent performance.

NORM NEAL proposed the toast to the Association at the Dinner and emphasised the need for all Pioneers to keep alive the bond of friendship which has always existed between them. This friendship he stated, was founded the very first day the Pioneers marched into Greta. Several interesting incidents were recalled and related by Norm and on completing his speech, the gathering stood and sang "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow." Thank you Norm Neal for your words of wisdom and your presence, we enjoyed having you with us.

JACK GRIFFITHS responded to Norm Neal and related many incidents of Norm's army career in the First World War and the Second World War. And of his exploits in New Guinea after the War, flying from place to place. Jack went on to say each Pioneer present was grateful to have had Norm Neal by our side in war time as well as in peace time.

STAN CLAUGHTON, Padre of the 2/2 was guest speaker and gave a wonderful account of the role both the 2/1 and 2/2nds played in the war. He recalled quite a number of fellows he had been with who had originally been 2/1sts. and had transferred to the 2/2nd. The Padre went on to say how proud the 2/2nds were to be included in the weekend festivities, which proved how the comradeship between the two units still remains.

Thank you Padre Stan Claughton, for a very well presented speech and for your contribution at the Wreath Laying ceremony and the March Past, where you led us in prayer of remembrance to our fallen comrades.

JACK LLOYD was March Marshall at the Wreath Laying ceremony and at the March Past at the campsite and carried out his role in a very capable military fashion. The scene at Greta township must have looked very colourful with the Royal Artillery Band in their smart uniforms, Colonel Garland in full military dress including sword and the two banners in the hands of Jim Field 2/2, and Wal Page 2/1. The floral tributes adding colour, were in the hands of Padre Claughton, 2/2, Col Norm Neal 2/1 and Mrs. Jean Bertram, Ladies Auxiliary.

LAURIE (3 Course) KELLY spent some time divining for the "lost" officer's mess beer and reports that while exchanging photos with some of Sig. Platoon, he put down his spectacles and he thinks one of the "Sigs" picked them up by mistake as he now has someone else's spectacles - please contact the Secretary and he will arrange the exchange.

JACK BERTRAM and his Newcastle Committee, consisting of Bruce Mitchell, Jack Griffiths and Larry Robson, did a tremendous job in organising the weekend and they are all to be complimented. The Bertram household must have been like a morgue after the departure of the Herron's, the Lakes, the Shearstons and the Davenports - at one stage in the lounge room there were 22 people. Thank you Jean & Jack for a wonderful weekend.

WELFARE REPORT

By H. MONTAGUE

Several weeks ago, Rev. H. Hawkins, of the Leichhardt Methodist Mission, where Rev. Stan Claughton conducts our annual Remembrance Service, was able to be of great assistance to a 2/1 member who was "down on his luck" and unable to find accommodation.

This 63 year old digger was a returned man, having served with the 2/1sts in the Middle East and New Guinea, and had been led to believe that he could not get a pension until he was 65, which was incorrect.

Dr. Hawkins was able to find him suitable accommodation and meals at a Salvation Army Home, where he is, thanks to the efforts of the good Dr., comfortably settled.

During a telephone conversation with Dr. Hawkins, I made an appointment to interview the member and as Dr. Hawkins was unable to accompany me, his representative, Mr. Jack Thompson, came along.

A pension application form was obtained without delay and Mr. Thompson contacted the Federal Member for Daly (which covers the Leichhardt area), who in turn was in touch with a Senior Officer of the Repatriation Dept. The case was immediately taken up and I am pleased to state the pension was granted within a couple of weeks.

To Rev. Hawkins and his friend, Jack Thompson, our grateful thanks for their assistance and co-operation.

JOCK ARMOUR, 2/1 Bandmaster stated he was at Dubbo recently and called on Mrs. Parker, widow of Jim Parker, who was also in the Band. Mrs. Parker extended a hearty welcome to Jock and says she would be only too pleased to have other Pioneers visit her in Jubilee Street, Dubbo.

JOCK McCULLOUGH, A. Coy and now at Lake Mummurah, is only about a mile from Doyalston R.S.L. and he said he would be only too pleased to see any Pioneer. He has not been in the best of health and cannot leave the house in Anita Road. Thanks for the donation towards the "Pioneer News," Jack, and best wishes to you and your wife.

OPEN LETTER Continued

ful uniforms and precision marching; the procession would be the poorer without them. But why, oh why, don't they realise the importance of the tunes they play. Many of them would be far better suited to a band recital than a march. What is needed on Anzac Day are bright lively tunes such as Colonel Bogey, the Saints Go Marching, or even the Old Grey Mare. There are so many marching tunes available that one wonders why they are not used instead of some of the wishy-washy ones we are treated to - in all sincerity, I am sure - that do not help the old-timers keep order in their ranks. If by some miracle the Bands of the 2/1 and 2/2 Battalions could be recreated and could take part in the March then there would be no more soldierly units present than those two. Gone would be the grey hairs, the tired feet, the sagging shoulders and we would be once again the Pioneers, marching in the belief that we were equal to the best that the Infantry could offer.

And finally - so Padre Claughton has decided to bow out of active service. You will be missed, Padre.

And Cappy Christian has passed on - I am sure the Re-unions will never be quite the same again. Vale Cappy.

MONTE REID.

AN OPEN LETTER TO MEMBERS

Dear Members,

I was interested to read in the last issue of the "News" that at least 3000 men had passed through the 2/1st Pioneer Battalion during its existence. Add also the men from N.S.W. who were in the 2/2 and there is quite a formidable total. The latest published figures show that there are 1200 in the Association. And yet, in the last twenty issues of the "News," there has not even been one article per issue from any member who is not an official or a recognised correspondent. Of course there are many letters written to the Association and the gist of these is published, but I am sure there are hundreds of you who could, if you wished, put pen to paper and with satisfaction and advantage, send in items of interest and incidents in which you have been involved that would be read and perhaps remembered, with nostalgia by the remainder of us and this would be to our mutual enjoyment.

With this letter I am sending a few impressions of this year's Anzac Day March which I saw on Television and also something of what being a Pioneer has meant to me over these years. I make no claim to being a readable author, but at least I have made an effort — why don't you do the same?

Yours fraternally, MONTE REID.

Dear Secretary,

After a lengthy absence, I have opened my typewriter and in doing so wish to engage in a good old fashioned Army "hate session." This has been brought about by the fact that as I was unable to attend the March in Sydney, I chose to watch it on T.V. In this way I hoped to see something of the men of the 2/1st and 2/2nd who would be there on parade. I chose the ABC as my Channel, Martin Royal being the commentator, and therein lies the reason for my 'hate.'

In the first instance I was annoyed by the excessive use of 'boys and girls' to describe the marchers. Here come the 'boys' of this ship, this unit, this battalion or the 'girls' of the AWAS, etc. Now, if I had been at the reunion I would have been proud to be with the 'boys,' meaning those mates I have been associated with over so many years, but when the announcer greets every unit with those words, and this for general distribution, and all one sees on the screen are groups of aging men and women — and we are aging — then I think the words are over used.

Secondly — who provides the material for these annual broadcasts? Martin Royal has for many years been the ABC main commentator at the march and while I have always had a lot of time for him as an announcer, if this year's effort is any criteria, then he would be far better advised to use less verbosity and stick to salient facts and this would go over far better with his enlightened audience — such as myself and many others — who have some knowledge of the various situations.

THE "KYOGLE" BATTALION

Let me deal firstly with his treatment of the Pioneer Battalions. The 2/1st for our information, were known as the 'Kyogle' Battalion. This was because of the large number of men who enlisted from that town and area. Now I have always had the greatest admiration for those men who came to us from Kyogle, but I am sure they would be the first to admit that they were only a small proportion of the whole. This was the only information given about the 2/1st.

Now it was the turn of the 2/2nd, and at least they were given the credit for having marched overland to Nadzab with many carriers and even at one stage (presumably in Syria) with having taken part in a bayonet charge.

By divisions, the 2/4th came next and their only claim to any fame was that they were attached to the 8th Division. Exit 2/4th.

However with the arrival of the 2/3rd, the Pioneers really came into their own and this Battalion had quite a good record of achievement and had been involved in Borneo and Alamein, among

other exploits.

Speaking generally about the Pioneers, I was interested to learn that each Battalion had chosen to work with a particular Division, rather than with Corps as would have been their normal role and because of this, marched with their chosen Division. This statement led me to speculate on what would have been the result if, on at least two occasions our C.O. had chosen some other course than that which H.Q. had laid down.

What, for instance, if on the completion of the first Libyan Campaign, Colonel Brown had refused to stay in the desert and had insisted on going to Greece with the Sixth Division as would have been the logical move. There would have been no Tobruk in the history of the 2/1st and when one considers the catastrophe of Greece, perhaps not much else either. And in the case of the 2/2nd, when the Japs had fled north and there was some talk of keeping the Battalion in the Island with New Guinea Force, Major Aitken had insisted on this and we had not returned to Australia. There would have been no Tarakan and no Balikpapan. And we were also told in passing that the Pioneers had often — meaning sometimes — been called upon to act as infantry. So much for our efforts in getting the PBI out of Trouble in Tobruk, Syria, New Guinea and Borneo not to mention the part the 2/3rd played at Alamein.

The next contentious statement concerned honours and awards. One unit, admittedly small had won 2 MC's, 4 MM's and 4 M.I.D.'s and yet when the 2/48 Bn. always recognised as the most decorated unit in the A.I.F. came into view in their position as the last Bn. in the Infantry, they were greeted with the announcement that they had also been in the 26th Brigade. So much for fame.

ENOUGH OF ANZAC DAY — BACK TO GRETA

One day at Greta, we who were in C Company were taken on a 24-mile march around the district. When we came over the Railway Bridge and the end of the ordeal was in sight, there was scarcely one who would not willingly have dropped by the wayside in exhaustion. Then as we approached the Main Gate we saw the Battalion Band waiting there and into our astonished minds flashed the question — surely the Sar-Major doesn't expect us to MARCH back to camp.

Outside the gate we were fallen out (and isn't that word 'fallen' expressive), for a smoke, then it was — tighten equipment, fall in, fix bayonets (ye gods, what next), slope arms, quick march and with the band leading off we went towards Silver City. You who were in Greta will remember that the camp nearest the gate

was occupied by re-inforcements to the Infantry and as we moved through their huts they turned out in their hundreds to see the 'Mad' Pioneers "turning it on."

I can picture it as if it were only last week, that afternoon in early September and a red letter day for C. Coy. Up until then we had been recruits and there must have been many times when Sar-Major Smith despaired of ever making us into something more useful, but on that march we certainly looked good. We wore the same baggy, ill-fitting giggle suits as the infantry and we certainly looked the same, but there was a difference. I am sure that no Pioneer who came into the battalion at a later stage ever could appreciate what it meant to be a Pioneer in Greta in those early days. Every man who had any information about the 1914-18 war knew that the pioneers were just about as low as one could get and still be in the Army — there were soldiers AND Pioneers. Any job that the fighting man considered too low for his unit was done by the Pioneers and this belief was carried over into the new A.I.F. That this was so was apparent by the attitude and remarks made by the infantry, especially when we were on leave in Maitland together and many a scuffle took place as our men reacted sharply to the insults.

NEW BREED OF PIONEER

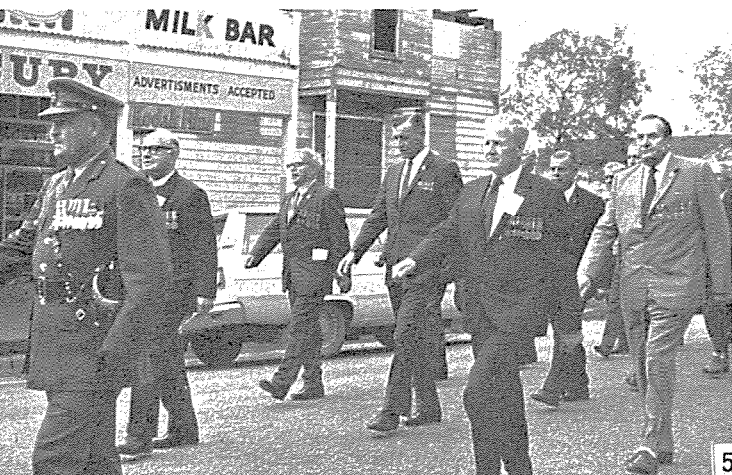
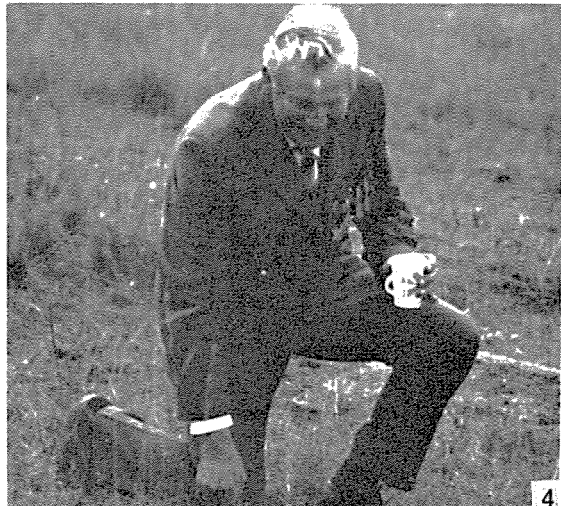
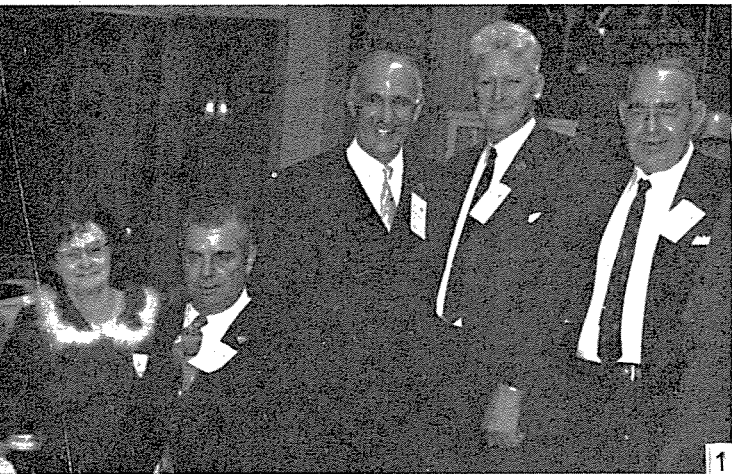
What the fighting men did not know was that we were a NEW breed, all the pre-conceived ideas had been scrapped and our role was prescribed as a specialist one, modelled somewhat on the lines of the German Panzers and we were destined as a spearhead for the infantry (this was the ultimate insult to them) when they went into the attack. Certainly we would be called upon to work with our hands, but also we were to be trained to use all the equipment that the fighting troops had and we would be taught to use it well. And as I look back over almost 32 years, I can say that had I had a choice and know what I do now, I would have still been a Pioneer.

On that march from the gate to our lines we showed that some of what had been drilled into us had penetrated, for, in spite of the weariness of body, there was not a hanging head, every line was straight, every rank as it should be, every rifle at the correct angle, every body erect and proud. This was the day that "Smithy" had worked for during those three months that he had cajolled us, berated us, praised us, despaired of us, criticised us, and called us "his boys" and on this afternoon he knew that we had come of age and never would he have occasion to doubt the ultimate result. We had finally learned discipline and esprit de corps — hackneyed phrase — in this case, the spirit of the Pioneers. And why did this transformation take place on those few minutes march from the gate. Well, I believe the Band with their rousing tunes had a lot to do with it, it brought out the best in us as it has always done. For weeks we had cursed these bandmen as they had each morning marched through the various lines of huts at Reveille trying to get us out of bed from our snug(?) palliases. On this day they too had their reward for we reacted as soldiers do to the call of the band.

RE-CREATE 2/1-2/2 PNR. BANDS

And that brings me to my last grouse of the Sydney March — the bands involved. I have always admired those who took part in each march for they certainly add colour to it, with their colour-

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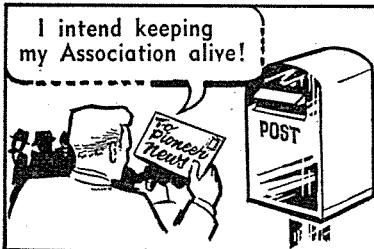
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from the MAIL BAG

Editor: BOB LAKE
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A further issue of the "News" and naturally another issue of Mail Bag. Apparently our earlier articles bore some fruit as we have to hand quite a good array of mail from the fellars and their wives, and subscriptions were also well to the fore. For this we say thank you and keep up the good work.

Per our Welfare Officer, "Monty" subscriptions from Jock McCulloch, and Clem Moroney per Desso, with Desso saying that he had to almost take Clem apart to prize same away from him. I would imagine that old hatchet face would put up a fair sort of a struggle, however, I still think he is not a bad bloke, even if he did not turn up to sing at my wedding.

OSSIE THURLING, ex 2/1 and now a resident of New Lambton, Newcastle, sends a good letter, a donation and the best wishes for the Greta weekend. Ossie tried to get to Anzac House on the Saturday afternoon, however could not make it. You will read of the Greta show elsewhere in this paper, Ossie, so I will not go into details, however I can assure you it was something we shall all remember for a long while.

SID ABERCROMBIE, ex 2/1 and now at Mosman Parw, West Australia, sends along a sub and the news that it is really good to receive our little paper when you are across the other side of Australia and the jottings of the doings of the boys help to keep little memories fresh in the mind. Sid has long been an occasional writer to the Mail Bag and we wish him well over there in the big state.

ROY SWANSON, 2/2 and now at Campbell, ACT, sends along a newsy letter. Roy, an ex-Victorian, was part of the number of men that were at Balcombe Camp, that reformed the 2/2 Pioneer Bn. at Wagga after Java. He was later transferred to 7 Div. Sigs. and served with various units until war's end. Roy and wife have been in Canberra some thirteen years now, but prior to that was a regular attendant at the Pioneer reunions in Melbourne. Many thanks for the letter Roy, and the subs are in the Treasurer's hot little hand.

ROD HAMILTON, 2/1, now at Picnic Point, N.S.W., sends a short note and a sub to help keep things moving. This being Rod's first letter, he explained that he joined the unit at Greta, but was discharged on medical grounds, at Dubbo. Was operated on and six months later was back in the Army, this time with a transport Coy. where he finished the war, minus his left leg, in 1945. Rod claims he will be a starter at the next Social and we will look forward to seeing him.

MRS. L. CREIGHTON, sends a short note informing the Association of the death of her husband, Bob Creighton on the 4th June, may we offer our sincere sympathy.

GEOFF ROBINSON, 2/1, now of Turramurra, due to non-attendance at Anzac Day functions over past years, speaks of a guilt complex worrying him. Geoff

sends a subscription to the treasurer and a vote of thanks to the Committee and dedicated blokes that keep the party going, thank you Geoff and remember also, without you blokes there would not be a party at all.

CHARLIE WILBY, 2/1, the old Pallymallywah Kid sends along a chatty letter and a sub and the news that Fred Brooks made a call to "Derna" a while back and Charlie claims that the only difference to Fred is that his face is getting longer. With no goodys in the frig, they had to stage an attack on the "Royal," at Moree. Fred apparently was quite taken up with the coloured girls around town, but more-so with the beer. I think also that he may be losing his nut a bit - said he was hunting for sapphires around Inverell. Charlie often sees Bob Steven, who is still in the barbering business and also a keen fisherman and apparently they don't all get away as he has promised Charlie a feed in the near future. Charlie had to forgo Anzac Day this year, as with good rain they had to hop into it and prospects look very bright for this year. Thank you for the very good letter, Chas. and we hope things continue to go as bright for you.

JACK HARVEY, 2/1, now of South Hurstville, sends along the news of a letter he did not expect to have to write. Jack was down as a starter at the Greta Weekend, however a lousy Hiatus hernia hopped on to Jack's bandwagon and doc suggested an operation as early as possible and so that's the way the cookie crumbled. Well Jack, as you will have read elsewhere in the paper, we had a good trip and who knows, perhaps we will have some others do in the future.

NOEL SCHOMBERG, 2/1, now at Dundas, and at time of writing holidaying with wife and family at Tuggerah. Noel's letter was mainly a confirmation of his booking for Greta and he attended the barbecue with his daughter. I hope you enjoyed yourself Noel, as much as the others who attended did.

ALBERT BARTON, 2/1 sends along a cheery note of greetings to all and an apology for the lack of letters over the years, claims he wrote too many in his Army days. "Curly" is still doing it "tough" with the Navy Ordnance Inspection branch, down at Woolloomooloo. I can imagine the sweat dripping off his brow and besides, what's an army bloke doing in Navy Stores? Alby intends being present at November and will say his hello's at that time, meanwhile the treasurer has your subs doing a wonderful job.

JIM DARRAGH, 2/2 and now of Melbourne, or actually per the pen of his good wife, claims he is not a letter writer but did tell the good woman what to say! Still a very fit boy, or should we say - middle aged laddie - and boasts of one only grandson of whom he is very proud. Jim always attends the reunions down south and wistfully remarks of a wish to attend the Sydney one on Anzac Day, however so far he has never gotten

around to it. Thank you for your letter, good lady, so pleased that you both derive some satisfaction from our little paper and thank you also for the subs to our treasurer.

JOHN DOUGLAS, 2/1 and now the proprietor of the Sports Store at West Wyalong, sends his best regards to all the boys and a special mention to his old platoon mates of 12 platoon, B. Coy. John emphasises the fact that anybody going that way should make it a point of calling on him. John closes his letter with the thoughts of those six white crosses on the little hill above Derna, where someone had written in pencil:

Here we lie dead, because we did not choose

To shame the land from which we sprung.

Life is perhaps no little thing to lose
But young men think it is,

And we were young.

Many thanks for your letter John and your subs in the worthy treasurer's hot little hand.

DOUG SCOTT, 2/2 and now at West Wyalong, coincidence, two letters from the one town, consecutively and Doug's letter has quite a bit of news. Doug was a member of the Tank Attack Platoon and writes of **DUD STANFORTH**, also of the same platoon, having a property just out of Wyalong until just recently, A good farmer, but health became a problem so he decided to take things a little easier somewhere along the coast. Another of the same platoon, **JOE WHITE**, arrived in Wyalong on a scorching hot day some few years back and announced with some delight that he was on his honeymoon and en route to Surfers Paradise. Joe and his wife Gwen enjoyed their short stay at Wyalong and the wife, being a Victorian, more than fascinated by the Club poker machines. Doug also speaks of our Peter Craig, who was out that way wool classing some years ago, and of Peter's ability of handling the beers of the various West Wyalong pubs. Doug for his own part, has remained on the old family property and keeps the wolf from the door with wheat growing, merino sheep and Hereford cattle. Thank you for a very good letter Doug, the subscription doing quite some good and our best regards to Margaret and children, Hugh and Ann.

EDDIE MOREY, 2/2 and now at Red Cliffs, Victoria, sends a donation to the treasurer and the good word of their wonderful Bowls Days at Wentworth. Eddie speaks of Jack Walters, Harry Walker, both of Mildura and Cyril Moore of Wentworth. This occasion has become a ritual at Wentworth, where they play as the Pioneers Bowls team. When one of the original four was not available, the team was filled with Peter Macintosh and Stan Catanach, of Robinvale, both boys 2/2 Pioneers. Eddy is past President of his Club. Jack Walters, President of his and Stan past president of his, almost sounds like a Yankee election. Eddy is growing grapes at Red

Cliff with one of his two sons in partnership. Thank you for the letter Eddy and your cheque shall find its way to where it will always do good.

A couple of items of interest from Manly Warringah way - a little bird told me that Cec Peak and John Dolahan played merry hell at the Anzac Dinner at the Balgowlah RSL Club. Our Cec, as usual, the casanova of old, still sports a little moustache, probably to make up for the receding hair on the top, was at his best with the girls of the entertainment, while John kept steadily sinking them down. Needless to say as the evening progressed, so did our John's condition and towards the end of the night was seen reversing slowly backwards on his heels across the bar-room floor. However our little bird was on tap and placed a chair where it would do the most good. John afterwards was helped by No. 1 son into a taxi and delivered home to the virtuous couch, poor Marie!

One more item of interest to the blokes and to the Signals Platoon, Jim Robertson and wife Margaret, arrived in Sydney on Thursday the 3rd August for a period of approximately one week. I received a phone call and they both spent Saturday and Sunday with us at Brookvale, where we did the usual things, went to the pub, went to the Club, went to the football and in between times, sat at home and drank beer and talked, what a wonderful way to spend a week-end! Jim asked of so many names, I finished up tongue tied, however, I did my best to put him in the picture of the mob. The old bloke does not enjoy the very best of health, but he still has that "You won't beat me" attitude and while he has that, he has got it made. His wife Margaret, besides looking after his nibs and the children, sorry, Ian and Sandy, the boys, also takes interest in most things that happen at Wentworth, down Mildura way, where she is actively engaged in the R.S.L. Aux., Parents and Citizens and you name it, Marg does it. Well Robbo, just one point, I got hell roasted out of me for your not attending the Seaforth R.S.L., both from Gunyon and Jack Dolahan and Cec Peak.

JIM STANNARD, 2/1 and now at Nam-bucca, sends along a few lines and a cheque to the treasurer. Jim gets quite a kick out of the old names mentioned and in turn has been in contact with Bluey (Gordon) Evans, at Narrandera, working in a flour mill. Blue has lost the sight of one eye, but still able to have a noggin or two. For your information there was a Sgt. Stafford and a Sgt. Stratford, so you were right both ways. Jim also saw Bluey Wade from Bulahdelah at the Grafton Races. Bluey plays bowls at South Grafton Services Club and puts a very mean one down. Jim sends his best regards to all C Coy. and claims the "Pioneer News" the best tonic to all the old blokes. Thanks for a very newsy letter, Jim.

BILL WRIGHT, 2/1 and now at Wyoming. I think that's near Gosford way, sends the news and an apology for his not being at Greta with us in June. Bill's wife took very sick and was in hospital for three weeks, now on the mend but recovery very slow. To add to this, one of the boys had a prang on the motor bike, both son and his girl friend pretty badly hurt. Bill has a special request - "Would there be any C Coy men who witnessed Bills fall in the Quarry at Moresby, be available to make a written statement of the accident, stating what they saw, approximate date, then duly post this information on to Bill Wright,

32 Renwick Street, Wyoming, 2351." As Repat. refuse to accept claim without proof.

JIM FIELDS, 2/2 now at Greystanes, writes a thank you to all who attended the Greta Reunion with special mention to those of the 2/2, Stan Cloughton and Monty Reid. Jim also pays tribute to the Committee, to the organisers at Newcastle and not least, the Hamilton RSL Club that made us all so welcome on the Sunday night. Thanks for the letter, Jim and so pleased you both had a grand week-end.

JACK (TOD) MORGAN, 2/2, now resident of Wagga, sends a sub to the paper and the writings about the Greta Reunion stirred some thoughts in Jack's mind. Why not a reunion at Wagga of all those boys that went from there to reform the 2/2 Pioneer Battalion at Kapooka in 1942. Jack spoke to two of his closer friends on this score and met with some success, so perhaps the idea will grow to maturity. We wish you every success. By the time this paper goes to press, your request for the names of all bods within a 100 miles of Wagga will be in your hot little hand. Jack also mentions the Engineers that were at Kapooka and or anyone that may have been there in 1942, so perhaps our own members around that area would have some small interest in a do of this nature. Keep it in mind chaps and thanks a lot Jack Morgan.

NEV. O'CONNOR, 2/2 Ballina, writes: Dear Editors,

It's been a long time, but at no time have I forgotten. The truth is that I was going to be at the Anzac Reunion with you for sure, but ended up in Repat. Hospital, Greenslopes instead. I was all the more disappointed after reading the "News" and doings of those fortunate enough to have made it. I would have liked to have seen Bernie Daley and Albie Klaus' reflection in a glass of amber fluid. I take it the latter gent is now naturalised and out of hibernation. The last time I saw Bernie was when Bernie and I conned a young pilot by name of Digman, to fly us over and around Port Macquarie in a plane hired by Alan McInnes and company. This was supposed to be a sobering up process after the night before and no doubt would have had the desired affect, could we have foreseen the future. Shortly after we were to read where the same pilot ditched his plane miles off the New Guinea coast and had several hours swim before reaching safety. Being a patient in Greenslopes saved me any such antidote after Anzac Day. As a matter of fact even though I had back surgery a few days before, as I lay in my bed on the morning of the twenty-sixth, it was my deduction and bet that I felt fitter than many a Pioneer colleague, who enjoyed the reunion at the Castlereagh.

I was also pleased to hear of Norm Curley. I suppose Norm had some "headaches" as Transport Sergeant with the 2/1st, but I am sure with such personnel as your truly, Dusty Fensom, Soupy Crump, Lofty "Mrs." Harris and other notorious drivers, to say nothing of the fitters of the 2/2, it amazes me to find Norm still alive. Good luck Norm!

I well remember that convoy down the West Australian coast. After a few hours out I ran a generator hot in Don Coy's kitchen truck. Got rid of my spare driver who wasn't partial to West Australian hops and picked up my great fitter friend, an original 2/2nd, "Snowy" Anderson. That one and only identity of the Battalion, original and reformed, "Ajax"

Nicholls was to follow our disabled vehicle in the fitter's van. We picked up another truck with two occupants of similar intent and despite insistence and pleadings from the Provost Don R's., the three vehicles gradually lost speed and ultimately the convoy. It was Melbourne Cup day and in the pub of some pleasant little town - it may have been Three Springs - we drank the health of the winner Colonis and his owner and jockey and all others concerned. On the long trek we became acquainted with every pub and timber yard or any other place that offered camoflauge from prying provost looking for lost trucks. Ajax was of course the master mind of this trip and was a revelation to us younger blokes with his ingenious methods of deception. For instance, when we arrived at our destination hours and hours late, Ajax drove straight to the boozer and fell out into the arms of his drinking mates. For stupid me, I ended up on the Parade ground and was greeted by a stern Major Tope, who expressed his concern for his lost trucks and pointed out that I wasn't in Don Company lines, but on the Parade ground. Being young and full of ale, I thought we had fooled the good Major, because he decreed to let the incident pass. Sorry I got carried away fellows, but you wonder why I think Norm Curley should never have survived Transport Sergeant of sister Pioneer Battalions.

It was good to read of Mick Bye and his stud at Goodooga. I was able to com-
(continued on page 8)

DESCRIPTION OF PHOTOS - P.4 & 5

AT THE DINNER:

1. Monica and Perc Penrose, Jack Bertram Albert Brown and Ted Skoyles.
2. Colin and Irene Scholes, Sid Jopson, Fred and Jean Wheaton, Bob and Joan Lake, Myrtle Jopson.
3. Joe Hickey, Col. Norm Neal, Eric Hawkins, "Clancy" Scholes, Jack Griffiths, Padre Stan Cloughton.
4. Laurie (3 Course) Kelly, at the Campsite divining for the "lost" beer.

AT THE WREATH LAYING:

5. Col. Ron Garland, M.C., with marchers Padre Cloughton, Max Herron, Harry Montague, Colin Scholes, Fred Wheaton and Perc. Penrose.
6. Jim Fields, 2/2 and Wal Page, 2/1, carrying banners of respective Battalions.
7. Col. Norm Neal, Col. R. Garland, Padre S. Cloughton and Mrs. Jean Bertram.
8. Jack Griffiths (back to camera), Colonel Norm Neal and Bruce Mitchell (inside memorial).
9. Royal Australian Artillery Band.

AT THE CAMPSITE:

10. "On Parade" at Silver City, with Jack Lloyd
11. A happy gathering at the Barbecue.
12. Eric Hawkins, "Bricky" Wall, Doug Shearston, Mick Dodson, Max Herron.
13. Smiling foursome - Colonel and Mrs. Garland with Colonel G. Osborn and Max Herron.
14. Padre Cloughton lunches with Monte Reid.
15. Rita Trefoni with Ruby and Percy Fisk.
16. Viv. Le Mesurier Eric Hawkins, Aub. Brasier, Arthur Luddington, Harry Montague, Bob McGregor and Joe Hickey.

Photos by courtesy Paul Wigen's son-in-law, Eric Hawkins and Bruce Montague, son of "Monty."

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

WESLEY CHURCH, Wetherill Street, Leichhardt - **SUNDAY, 5th NOVEMBER**, at 7 p.m. with **REV. S. CLAUGHTON**.

MAIL BAG — Continued

pare notes about Mick with two ex-Goodooga people by way of the Sergeant of Police in Ballina, Charlie Parsons and another ex-Cop, Don Dallas. By the way both Mick and myself as primary producers are favourably known to both mentioned gents.

In the last couple of years I have met and just missed a few Pioneers. The Henry boys, Bill & Charlie, were in the district some time back and spent an hour or two with us. Kev Heagney and his wife Rita, spent a day and night with us and about the same time missed Sid Booth by five minutes at Ballina RSL Club. Ian Willmore was reportedly looking for Pioneers on Anzac Day here, but as reported, some of us were absent. Ian is in the news here as Managing Director of Willmore & Randall. They have a new Real Estate development on the way around Ballina. As yet I haven't caught up with him. Am associated in Legacy with Phil Barnett, 2/2nd, Lismore, Ron Cross 2/1st who lives in Ballina and is Sheriff's Officer, Lismore and Leo Ferris, 2/1st Kyogle, Eddie Weston, 2/2 Deputy Mayor, Lismore, Kev Rayword 2/2, Auctioneer with Gordon's, Lismore, Pat Malone, 2/2, big man at Evans Head new RSL Club - its beautiful - Don Macgill, 2/1, P.M.G., Broadwater. All these I regularly see. Through Leo Ferris I hear of Brian Jackson, 2/1 Kyogle, who unfortunately lost his wife last year. I often think of you Doug and your family some of whom are similar age to some of ours. It only seems like yesterday since you stayed in Ballina and we got around a bit. The best to your wife and all the kids.

Mary and I had a busy last year when the two eldest boys were married. Alan, you remember Jim, whom you and I watched play for Country against City at North Sydney. He is married, went round the World on his honeymoon and is now at Brisbane Uni. in third year Vet. Science. He is a Bachelor of Rural Science, but is anxious to get this second degree. He was a bit unlucky in Union, played against all touring sides, played a great game for Junior Wallabies against the Springboks, but just couldn't crack a tour. He is now playing League for Brothers and getting pretty good dough, not as good as Sydney but helping him through Uni. Michael, the second boy, was married last September and is teaching at Deniliquin High. His wife teaches at the same town's primary school. He plays League and is Group 12's lock forward. No. 3 son Brian, has just successfully completed his Plumber's course and the youngest boy, Tony, obtained his High School Certificate and is at home on the property with Dad. Sue the only girl, passed her final a few months ago and is now a sister on the staff of the Mater Hospital, Brisbane. At the same hospital Charles Richardson, originally 2/1, later O.C. C Company, 2/2, is Chief Radiologist.

This has turned into a real epistle and should there be any extracts the editors think of interest for the paper, you have the author's kind permission to use - no copyright reserved. I know I look for news of our mates in the "News" so keep up the good work fellows and I am only writing in appreciation and acknowledgement of the job you are doing.

Should you use any of this please omit the bad writing and crook spelling as I don't get much practice these days. The other reason for this laborious scribble is

2/1-2/2 PIONEER REUNION AT GRETA

During the early days of June 1940, the 2/1 Pioneer Battalion was formed at Greta Camp in the Silver City. They came from Ingleburn Camp, from Broadmeadow Showground and the main body from Sydney. All new recruits, all with one thought: to serve their country. It was in those early days that comradeship began and continued throughout the siege of Tobruk and the duration of the war and still exists today. Many have passed on, but the others, whenever there is a mention of a reunion, turn up in force to renew acquaintances. It was during one of many get togethers of the Newcastle and Sydney members of the 2/1 Pioneer Battalion that the idea of a reunion at Greta Camp, for the anniversary of the forming of the 2/1 Pioneer Battalion thirty two years ago was begun.

The Queen's Birthday Week-end was chosen for the reunion for it was the nearest date to the formation of the 2/1 Pioneer Battalion. Months of organising were carried out to put into effect a very successful reunion.

Those men and their wives who worked so hard before and during the reunion must be sitting back now with smiles of satisfaction on their faces; a good job well done.

Saturday, 10th June saw the Hamilton R.S.L. Club busier than normal for it was the stopping place for the members, first to find where their weekend accommodation was, then for the Dinner which was the beginning of the reunion. Since the end of the war there have been good reunion dinners, but the eighty odd who sat down to the dinner, voted it the best yet. They were still talking about it when in the early hours of Sunday morning they made their way back to their various places of abode (as one member said "as usual swept out with the bumpers").

When the buses left at 9.00 a.m. on Sunday for Greta, there was no chance

to enclose a bit of chaff to help in some way. I will leave it to your discretion as to what fund it is needed most in - perhaps a bit in each, so long as you lot don't drink it out, unless of course I am present!

Once again, thanks a lot fellows and regards to all Pioneers.

Yours as ever,

NEVILLE F. O'CONNOR.

P.S.-Robbie's article brought back nostalgic thoughts - the Black Prince - hope he is well. I forgot to mention - on more than one occasion over the last few years, Clem McDonald 2/2, has made a pest of himself by way of relieving Commonwealth Bank Manager at Ballina. How he organises himself when he is here is nobody's business. Oysters, prawns fish and crab are his daily diet, washed down with anything but water. Apparently all the professional fisherman have overdrafts at the Commonwealth. Good luck Clem.

That's about all of Mail Bag for this issue. And in closing down I would like to again express our personal thanks to Jean & Jack Bertram for a wonderful Queen's Birthday week-end on behalf of the Shearston's, Herron's and Lakes.

LAKEY.

of catching up on the lost sleeping time, most of the talking was about what happened approximately thirty two years ago! On reaching the outskirts of Greta all were looking out for some familiar signs of those Greta days. They were there to be seen, but the only way we recognised them were by the markers that had been placed by the members of the Committee who had arrived earlier to prepare for the arrival of the main body.

The Military Band from Singleton Camp lead the marchers up the street of the township of Greta to the Memorial, where a short service was held and wreaths laid. Even though the years are catching up with the members who had come from between Wollongong on the South Coast and Brisbane, they were proud marchers striding behind the band.

If some of the early R.S.M's had been there, I am afraid a lot of us would have been on full pack drill. The buses then proceeded to the old camp site which is now a grazing property. After a short march past where Battalion Headquarters had been and speeches the party broke off to try and fathom out where the company lines had been. It was all guess work - even Laurie Kelly (Three Course) who had helped relieve the officer's mess of their liquor supply couldn't work out where they buried the loot. In typical Greta weather, fresh and overcast, all had a barbecue lunch and liquid refreshments. For the men and their wives who had travelled to Greta (approx. 110 in all) it was a memorable day. From Greta towards Cessnock the buses and cars made their way to the Rothbury Vineyards where arrangements had been made for them to be escorted around the winery. At the completion of the inspection, for those who wished, there were samples of the product (quite a different taste to that plonk bar on the hill where a track had been worn from the 2/1 Pioneer Battalion lines to Silver City thirty two years ago!)

This was the end of a wonderful week-end for some, those who had their cars began to find their way home - sorry that it had to end. On arrival back at Hamilton R.S.L. Club in the buses, others made their way back towards Sydney, while others carried on at the R.S.L.

Monday morning saw the last of the party wend their way home, all with the one question: When is the next reunion?

JACK (Mick) DODSON.

ALLAN McINNES RECOVERS

After a long illness, commencing before the Greta show, Allan McInnes, our popular President, is now recovered and at the time of writing, is holidaying in the sun on the Gold Coast.

Allan had four weeks in hospital at the Royal North Shore and was visited by the Herrons, Shearstons and Lakes - they had a lot to talk about as they took along slides and photos of the Greta week-end.

Both Mary (Alan's wife) and Allan were greatly missed at the Greta function. Allan and Mary had planned to go, even to the extent of booking a motel, but doctors orders stated Allan was not to leave his bed.

All Pioneers send their regards and best wishes to you Allan and we are all pleased to hear you are making a speedy recovery.