

PIONEER NEWS

Phone: 759-5491

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

Phone: 759-5491

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ALLAN McINNES

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2/1-2/2 REUNION FUNCTIONS

Well, what do you know. It's that time again. The time when all good Pioneers answer the call to assemble for their annual get-together. So the call goes out to you fellows. We need your support. Your Committee wants you to make an appearance at one of our functions.

We were pleased to see some old friends turn up last year that hadn't made an appearance before. But in 1973 we would like to see more make the effort. Your Committee works for you right throughout the year. We ask for just a few hours of your time to attend either the wreath laying, the Annual Meeting, the Anzac Day March, or our Annual Lunch and Get-Together after the March. We realise that it is becoming increasingly difficult for some to come along. However, if you make just one function, we will be pleased and happy to see you.

Here are the dates, and places and functions we would like you to remember and attend:

WREATH LAYING 24th APRIL, 1973

As always, we meet at No. 19 Hunter Street, Sydney at 7.00 p.m. on the above date. We move off at 7.30 p.m. for a short march to the Cenotaph where wreaths will be laid by 2/1 and 2/2 and the Ladies of the Association, followed by the Bugle Calls and the Ode.

ANNUAL MEETING

Our Annual Meeting will be held immediately after the Wreath Laying and again we will hold our meeting in the lounge of the Castlereagh Hotel, and we are looking forward to having a big roll-up this year so fellows, don't disappoint us. Be at our Annual Meeting on the 24th April, 1973, at 8.00 p.m. in the lounge of the Castlereagh Hotel, corner of Park and Castlereagh Streets, Sydney. As we have said before if you have not been to any of our Anzac Day functions before, come along this year and meet the fellows that are Running your Association, and better still help run it.

ANZAC DAY MARCH - 25th APRIL

Here again it's the same as last year. As a matter of fact it's the same as it has been for a long time.

2/1 assemble in Philip Street, just off King Street. But like last year we move off down King Street into Elizabeth Street, then into Martin Place. This is because they have Philip Street blocked off at Martin Place, excavating for the Eastern Suburbs Railway. It doesn't make the March any longer, and it gives us a change of scenery. For the 2/2 Bn. they assemble as usual in Macquarie

Street near the Sydney Hospital and they move off around Queens Square into King Street. They too are getting a change of scenery. Even though the route has been changed a little the 2/1 and 2/2 Battalions still finish up at the same place, in Hyde Park just two short blocks from the Castlereagh Hotel.

OUR ANNUAL LUNCH AND REUNION, 25th APRIL, 1973

Once more it's back to the Castlereagh Hotel for our lunch and reunion. Again it looks as though the 2/1 and 2/2 are in for a great day at the Castlereagh. We assemble there at 11.20 a.m. for a free lunch. This time we have a change of cook, so we can expect an even better meal than before. Your free meal gives you something to work on before the bar opens at 12.00 noon.

So if you haven't been with us before, just come along this year and see what you have missed in the past. Your committee organises these functions for you. Please show your appreciation and make an effort to be with us this year.

WAL PAGE, Publicity Officer.

ANNUAL WELFARE REPORT

The year has been a busy one, acting on behalf of our members, but the results were very gratifying.

Representations to the various Departments such as Repatriation and Pensions Dept. were most satisfactory and our thanks are due to the members of these Departments who assisted me at all times.

Much time was spent in travelling and in arranging interviews in addition to visitations to the hospitals. My thanks to the Gate Staff at the Concord Hospital for the assistance in providing information regarding the entry of our members.

Seven funerals of our members were attended and expressions of sympathy were extended to the families.

Everything possible was done on your behalf and assistance as well as advice was given in all cases presented.

HARRY MONTAGUE.

ANZAC DAY, 1972 IN CANBERRA

It was on Monday, 24th April, that a car load of members of the Rats of Tobruk Association left Sydney for Canberra as guests of the R.S.L. to join in the Services for Anzac Day. After several stops for petrol we arrived in Canberra in very windy conditions. There our problems started, we had to find our motel. Even though each one in our party had been to Canberra several times before, it was only after five times around the City Circuit that we arrived at our motel!

That evening we visited some of the Clubs and in most cases the ten members were all that occupied the club.

Anzac Morning we were up early for the dawn service at the War Memorial. Once again we were lost and had to be piloted by one of the locals. It was very fresh when we arrived at the War Memorial to see the most impressive Dawn Service I have seen. In the darkness people were packed around the Pool of Remembrance and on all the other levels. Candles and torches were flickering like fire flies. As the service finished with day breaking, one was amazed at the huge crowd who were packed into the area.

After breakfast, the Anzac March, which commenced at 10.30 a.m. began in warm weather half way along Memorial Drive to the area in front of the War Memorial, where the service was conducted. The crowd packed around the Memorial steps and terraces where the bright sunshine picked out the different colours of clothing. After the service was finished one of the first men I saw was Jim Rhodes of 2/1, who wished to be remembered to all. Jim informed me that Billy Nicholson of 2/1, also resided in Canberra.

We played bowls in the afternoon and visited other clubs in the evening to fall into bed that night very weary.

Wednesday morning saw us on the way home from Canberra - the city of clubs - ask us, we know. Even though arrangements had gone astray, we all voted we had a very good and heavy Anzac Day in Canberra.

JACK (Mick) DODSON.

ASSISTANCE REQUIRED

Bill Wright, of 32 Renwick Street, Wyoming, is urgently in need of someone coming forward who could say they witnessed his fall at the quarry in Port Moresby.

Surely someone in C Coy., 2/1 was with Bill at the time, who could say he was injured in the fall. Bill is suffering because of this fall and can only claim a pension if someone is prepared to say they saw it happen.

— EDITORS.

FAREWELL TO OUR PRESIDENT

Last October our Association arranged a farewell get together for Allan and Mary McInnes. They have now left our State and are residing at Palm Beach, Queensland.

Our farewell night was started off by the M.C. for the night, Wal Page, who thanked everyone present for their attendance, and briefly outlined our reason for being at the Duntroon Lounge of the Combined Ex-Servicemen's Club.

After all had partaken of our smorgasbord dinner, it was down to the serious business of the night.

Our Vice-President, Mick (Jack) Dodson was first to speak. Mick said we have had a few leaders over the years that our Association has been in existence and all have given their best for the Association, but Allan, being such a well known public identity and businessman was outstanding, he had helped tremendously to make our Association what it is today. It would be impossible to express our thanks for his ability, integrity, wisdom and sound good advice which was beyond all measure of praise and which merited the tremendous admiration of the Association, particularly the Committee.

It was Gordon Finlay, our Senior Vice-President, who said thanks for us all, by presenting Allan with a volume of Churchill's "Memoirs," on behalf of the members of the Association.

THE PRESIDENTS SPEECH

Then it was Allan's turn to say thanks for our gift to him, but he wanted to say more and he did too, and I quote:

"It is with regret that I must tender my resignation as President of the 2/1-2/2 Pioneer Battalion Association.

"I have always considered it a great honour to have held this position for so many years and I am going to miss very much being part of what I consider the best and most efficient ex-servicemen's Association in N.S.W.

I hope my terms of office have been of some benefit to the Association but our success can only be attributed to our hard working Executive and Committee and as President, I have been heavily dependant on them and thanks to their loyal support and generous efforts at all times, my position has been very simple."

Whilst I am not going to say much I must mention two fields I feel must be noted.

1. **Pioneer News** - This I think is the most significant factor to cement members together and keep in touch and it is a wonderful publication. The news would not function without the tremendous energy and time given by your editors, Bob Lake and Max Heron, and when published the wrapping committee assemble and finish the job.

2. **Welfare** - Another very important function and my thanks for the work done in this field go to Harry Montague and Jack Collis. Harry spends many hours of his time visiting our sick members weekly with his cheery smile and news and then following up their troubles re pensions, wills, repatriation, etc.

This Association is blessed with a wonderful executive and while you have Max Herron as Secretary and Doug Shears-

ton as Treasurer, the Association can only keep going in the same successful way it has done in the past.

In the future I will be waiting for the postie with my copy of the News to keep me in touch with you all.

I would like to pass on my best wishes to my successor and wish the Association every success."

DON LAWSON REPLIES

It was Don Lawson who spoke next and said it was Alan who was instrumental in getting the 2/2 Battalion boys to join the 2/1 boys and make the Association known as it is today the 2/1-2/2 Battalion Association, he also spoke of how highly Allan was respected as a member of the 2/2 Battalion during the War years and to this day he still carries the admiration and respect of all who have known him.

PRESENTATION TO MARY McINNES

Mary McInnes wasn't left out either. Peg Herron, Secretary Ladies Auxiliary, presented Mary with a sheaf of flowers as a token of thanks for the part she has played as President of the Ladies Auxiliary.

The night was a great success and it proved how much Allan and Mary meant to the Association. When so many turned up to wish them both well. We had five large tressle type tables to accommodate the following - Max & Peg Herron, Bob & Joan Lake, Bill & Phyllis Jollie, Gordon & Olive Finlay, Harry & Jean Montague, Doug & Roma Shearston, Bob & Kathleen Field, Gavin Todd, Bill & Toss Robertson, Peter & Roma O'Brien, Bob Burnside, Joe & May Olliffe, Harry & Joan Huggard, George & Joyce Walker, Mick Dodson, Pat Noonan, Graham (Sailor) Witham, Jack & Mary Lloyd, Eric & Doreen Burland, Harry & Daisy Mostyn, Wal & Lall Page. So you can see we had a mixture of 2/1 and 2/2 boys.

As Allan has stated he and Mary have not given the Association away, only his title as President, and we are sure we will see them both down here from time to time.

To Allan and Mary McInnes, on behalf of every Member and the Ladies of our Association, I would like to say good luck, good health and a long and happy retirement and many thanks for the effort you both put into the Association.

— The Committee and Executive.

RETIREMENT OF OUR ESTEEMED PADRE

There was quite a good roll up of both 2/2 and 2/1 Pioneers at the yearly Remembrance Service held at the Leichhardt Methodist Church, in November. As our Padre, Rev. Stan Claughton has now entered into retirement, this was the last service he would be conducting at Leichhardt.

Among those attending were quite a few Pioneers who had not been along for some time, including Bill Henry, George Wood, Jack Henderson and Alby Barton.

Jim Field and Bob Dickson read the Lessons and the theme of the Padre's service was of being born a free man and it gave food for thought when we think of how fortunate we are to be Australians, enjoying a freedom which is denied to so many. The "Ode to the Fallen" was given by Don Lawson.

After the service we were entertained by the ladies of the Church Guild at supper and it was here that we learned that the Padre had been conducting these services for twenty years, quite a large number of the boys having passed on in that period. Among these were Ken Ashton who first suggested these services, Jack White and Jack Howie, who were always there if a job for the Pioneers had to be done, and "Cappy" Christian, a character that Charles Dickens would have written in one of his books. I don't have to say much about "Cappy" other than to say it was a privilege to call him a cobbler. Then we come to Basil St. Vincent-Welch, who passed away in September. He was a kind and gentle man who was respected and liked by all who came in contact with him.

It was pleasing to see Basil's wife, Molly, her two daughters and son John at the service. Our sincere sympathy to the relatives of our mates who have passed on.

PRESENTATION TO PADRE CLAUGHTON

A presentation was made by Allan McInnes, our President, to Padre Claughton, on behalf of the Pioneers, wishing peace and happiness to himself and wife Jean, in the years to come and congratulated Stan on a job well done. Stan is a man whom we all looked up to, he was an Officer, Padre and friend who understood the weaknesses of the average fellow. Even now, when his name comes up in discussion, it is firmly stated that he is a good bloke — and you have to earn that as a title.

After the presentation, Bill Robertson and Max Herron paid tribute to Stan, their remarks being endorsed by the whole company. It was a very pleasant evening, enjoyed by all who attended.

— DON LAWSON, 2/2.

WELFARE NEWS

● It was a pleasure to meet up with Cyril Amies recently. He was with B.H.Q. Orderly Room in addition to John Harnetty, Doug Grey, Cecil White and John Douglas. The fellows had a task with the large amount of paper work which was successfully accomplished at all times.

Cyril has a printing establishment in Victoria Road, Ryde and resides in a modern home at Thornleigh. He sends regards to all his friends from the 2/1st.

● Bill Hunt, of A Coy, 2/1 (Wagga) was recently a guest at Concord Hospital and was visited many times. Bill comes from Wagga and meets Tom Budd another member of Major White's Co.

Bill has now returned home and requests all Pioneers to visit him either at his timber mill or at the Leagues Club.

Bill said Tod Morgan and a few others are trying to round up members with a view to holding a Wagga Reunion.



Another issue of Mail Bag, and it also starts off the 1973 year, which we all hope will be a good and successful one for all Pioneers and for the paper.

To date, some fifteen letters on hand from far and wide so will answer them as such.

Bern Reiners, H.Q. Coy, 2/1, writes to say he and his wife Mona, were pleased to have the company of Max and Peg Herron at Christmas for six whole days. While there, Bern says he took Max everywhere in the district, even organised him to travel sixty miles doing the deliveries on the milk truck from his Dairy Co-op where he is merchandise manager. Took both Peg and Max to the local races and also to the local Folk Festival and to the local ball.

In reply Max and Peg say thank you very much to Bern, Nana, Lex and Mandy for a delightful, restful holiday. Max also thanks you Bern for the use of your house - the use of your garage - the use of your bed - the use of your food and amber liquid. He reckons the next time he comes will be on his three months long service leave.

Pioneers - you find them everywhere. **Sid Booth** and his wife Jean, were on a visit to Queensland and called into a little pub in Rockhampton. There was only one other person in the parlour and after striking up a conversation with him, Jean went to the bar to get a drink. When she came back there was Sid and the stranger all buddy-buddy. Somehow they had got round to Army days and the stranger turned out to be Ray Leadbeater from D Coy - and that was good enough excuse for a celebration.

Dick Lewis, 2/1, of Wickham was recently in Concord and sent along a welcome donation per our Welfare Officer. Many thanks, Dick and we hope you are well on the road to recovery.

George Walker, 2/1, sent along apologies for a social meeting he was to have attended in February. The matter had to be cancelled so no excuse next time. Thanks Joyce, for penning the letter for him. Sorry to hear George has been in hospital and that your holiday at Evans Head was a "wash out" weatherwise. Better luck next time.

J. Anderson, I presume ex 2/1 and D Coy., but I have to plead guilty, I cannot read the address, next time you write, would you please print your address. Your subscriptions are in the Treasurer's hot little hand and doing good.

Eric Reynolds, 2/1 and still going strong at Coogee, send along a healthy subscription to the Treasurer and a little news. Eric had a big paint job on his house going at time of writing. Eric and wife Joyce, did have a few days at Jenolan Caves, where they enjoyed themselves no end, one of their favourite places. Bombo, as he was known to so many in the Battalion, still works for McPhersons, the big hardware people,

in Sydney and remarks that he is still packing many parcels of nuts and bolts and also many picks, shovels and crow bars, mainly to go to New Guinea, who wants to use crow bars and shovels anyway, let alone in N.G.

Many thanks for your letter, Bombo, and hope to see you on Anzac Day.

Clarrie Pakes, that old Q.M. Sgt. and master of the waterfront, sends a short note of his change of address and very little else, how about a few of your doings old mate, you can't be a hermit altogether.

Arthur Stafford, 2/2 and now a resident of Fairlight apologises for his non attendance at some of the functions in the past year, however Arthur has had his share of hospital and operation to contend with. The operation was not a complete success and he has lost the sight of one eye, however, he says that he can still see enough to clutch a glass of ale and is looking forward to Anzac Day, already.

Allan McInnes, our retiring President, sends a letter of thanks to the Association on behalf of his wife, Mary and himself, for the presentation given him on his retirement. As you should all know, Allan is retreating to the Gold Coast, where he reckons he will find time to read these books. However Allan, by the time you receive this issue of our news, you will be well and truly settled in the Banana State and your suggestion that any of the troops going that way call, would be accepted, I am sure.

Do not forget that as a semi man of leisure, there is no reason that you and Mary cannot take a leisurely trip down South on an odd occasion, and there is a room and twin beds at Lakey's place, if you should feel that way inclined!

H. A. Blanch (Joe), to most of the troops of our Association, is still cavorting at Beaudesert, Qld., where he is still associated with the transport Coy. Joe had a trip south some time ago, however he did not have time for too much socialising as the occasion was a new grandson, born to Joe's son, Bill and wife. Joe missed the Greta Show, like you say, its a long way to come for two days, however something may come up again in the future. Joe and wife still roll a bowl down each weekend and were heading North on a trip for the Annual holiday just to have a look at the country, happy motoring Joe, and the treasurer is giving your subs his strict attention.

Norm Curley, ex 2/1 and 2/2, wrote me a bit of a note with a cheque for the Battalion funds. Norm has had his ups and downs this last year, in and out of hospital and I called to see him on one occasion, and he told me that there was nothing left, but they couldn't make him love the baby. On his better days he and his daughter get around a little and on one occasion, he rounded up Three Course Kelly, who lives at the back of Oxford Falls in the Warringah area.

Three Course has quite a bit of property down in the gully where he has glass houses and what have you. Norm, although he lives alone, is not left that way, as Lofty Barlow, Ken Stuart and myself give him a ring on the phone periodically.

Tom O'Scott, Mt. Gravatt, Queensland sends a sub along to the Treasurer and a request for any DX numbers that may have been in our Battalion. However, Tom our roll does not include any member's army number, nor we as an association have a badge.

Tom has an interest in the collection of Army numbers and he believes there were some 1006 DXs issued in 1939-45, however, we are afraid that we can not be of any assistance in this line. Thanks for your letter and good hunting.

Jack Bertram, Newcastle, writes a short note that he would not be able to attend the send off to Allan McInnes, however, he wishes Mac all the very best in his retirement and comments that we will all miss his smiling face. Jack is coming down on Anzac Day, so we will look forward to seeing you then. Our best regards to Jean and yourself.

Len Preedy, West Australia, send a very good letter of the doings in the West, so will quote some extracts as he wrote them. Reading the last two editions of the News which contained so many names that were familiar, he is prompted to add to the list. Nev O'Connor's account was very interesting, he even mentioned West Australia without the usual flies and sand. Len now quotes about some of the "characters" of the units that really made things interesting in those days. Chaps like Harry "Poppa" Martin, "Joe Palooka" Gerard, Bill Burke, Snowy Dodds and Rags McFadden, perhaps Nev O'Connor could fill in a few of these blanks. Len, his wife and son have just completed a 3000 mile car ride around the North of their State, plenty of number plates from all states up there and it was probably the best time of the year to go, wild flowers galore, wonderful colours in great variety, new towns and terrific activity in the mineral development, climate just perfect and at the end of a day's driving, there is always a nice cold beer, anyone thinking of a tour through the North West, September is just right.

Len is in the motor game at Subiaco, a couple of miles west of Perth, mainly wrecking and spare parts, and the various inquiries from all States with regard to vintage spares is tremendous.

Your request for previous copies to be sent to your mate has been attended to and his name has been put on our roll for further issues. Now a return request, our Secretary, Max Herron, would be interested in getting all the details of your Northern trip as he, Max and his wife, plan on doing the same in 1974, so see what you can do Len. Thanks for a very good letter, Len and your sub is where it is doing most good.

MAIL BAG (Continued)

Padre Stan Claughton sent a thank you note to the Association and to all who attended the service. The Reunion again proved a happy function and the presentation made to Stan was a big surprise.

The Padre has made suggestions as to the future continuation of the functions, however, I should imagine that this will be dealt with by the Secretary in the next issue of the paper.

Newcastle Notes - by "Filthy Dick" Peter Seddon, who sends some wonderful news at times, but whose writing gets progressively worse page by page, sorry Dick, just had to have a dig there. In reference to your enquiry re Colonel Garland, yes papers were dispatched promptly at time of posting. Subs per yourself and Jack McCracken in the hands of the Treasurer. **Dick's Roll Call.** Joe Hickey - up and down at present up. Jack McCracken has been down again, unable to attend R.S.L. for a short time, back to normal on Schooners and Red Mill, Peter a bit sick next day.

Nugget Laurie is in port for a few weeks, had a few beers with him, seems ok.

Jack Bertram and Glido Griffith in very good condition. Harry Nicholls (Lt. Col.) Gosford R.S.L. filling in a bit of time. Nicky wanted Dick to stay but as Dick says, its too far from home to get tangled up down there.

Claude Campbell in Newcastle for a couple of days, rang Dick and is enjoying reasonable health.

Sid Jopson hasn't been a 100 per cent but is getting by. Bob Juleff is keeping as well as can be expected. Noel Peterson never alters, keeps good health on the biggest and best of schooners.

Ted Simpson was with the boys on Tobruk Day and was in very good form, always available at the Bowling Club.

Charlie Wilby still Inverell way, letter to Dick saying health quite good but the weather against them, they need rain very badly.

Dick, your request of news of Max Law and Ernie Hayden, we received a letter from Max about two issues ago, I think, and he told us that they were all well in South Australia and that Ernie Hayden was still in the Army, although I would imagine that he must be close to retiring age now.

Thank you Dick, for a very good report on the Central City and we are looking forward to a big influx on Anzac Day this year.

Jim Robertson, 2/1 now on the Murray at Wentworth, sent along a cheery note with subscription and an address, all this has been attended to and news will be posted regularly. Glad to hear from you Jim, everything much the same up this way, our best regards to Margaret and family and still keeping that October date in mind.

Picnic Day - Council employees. Recently Council employees closed all their buildings and depots to celebrate their Picnic day. A 2/1 Pioneer (no names no pack drill) decided instead of going to the picnic, he would catch up on some jobs at home.

After cutting the grass a thirst was developed, some excuse was found to have medicine to quench that thirst. His brilliant brain began to work - pay the Council rates!

Off to the bank he went, drew the money and marched up to the Council Chamber doors only to read - Closed, Council Employees picnic day!

What chance have we got when Council employees get caught? The bright side was that he was able to have the medicine to quench that thirst (what a thirst).

Mrs. Daisy McKewen, of Kedron, Qld., has just informed us of the death of her husband, Capt. Doug McKewen, of the 2/2nds, late in December. Our sincere sympathy to you and I am sure Doug's friends of the 2/2nds will be saddened by the news.

Mrs. McKewen makes mention of the late Harry Tope and his wife, and a friendship dating back to days at Wagga, also a visit to Norm Tranter and his wife. (We do not have Norm on our mailing list)!

Should any of Doug's mates in the Association like to drop Mrs. McKewen a note at 51/14th Avenue, Kedron, Qld., 4031, she would be happy to hear from them, or their wives.

We usually do not like accepting donations from widows, Mrs. McKewen, but as your donation was sent in memory of Doug, please accept our sincere thanks and rest assured that the paper will always be sent to you. We hope you will derive some pleasure in reading them.

Noel Hibbard, "I" Section, 2/1, of Newport, sent a welcome donation and a change of address for Ian Hodge, who Noel believes is now a Master at Deniliquin High School. "Three-Course" Kelly is still hale and hearty, and was in good form at the Greta show. He has promised to be there on Anzac Day. **Why not join him?**

Well chaps, that just about closes off this issue of Mail Bag, so will say cheerio and looking forward to seeing a lot of faces on Anzac Day. **LAKEY.**

VALE

It is with sorrow that we heard of the passing of **Dr. Basil St. Vincent-Welch**, of 2/2nd Pioneers, early in September.

Basil and his wife Molly, were held in high esteem and were regular attenders at the Remembrance Service each year, with Stan Claughton.

The service was held at St. James Church, King Street, Sydney and there was a large attendance including eight members of the 2/1-2/2 Association.

The service at the Crematorium was represented by Stan Claughton, Padre 2/2 and Harry Montague, Welfare Officer 2/1 Association. We extend to Molly and her family our deepest sympathy.

Jock Macadam, of the 2/1st, passed away at Bateman's Bay, in August last. Jock will be remembered as the R.S.M. who relieved Frank Sellick in the early stages of training at Greta. Much could be written of Jock, both as an R.S.M. and later as an Officer, at Greta and in the Western Desert. We will always remember him as a gentleman. To his widow and family we extend our deepest sympathy.

William Clogg, who played the trombone in the 2/1 Band, passed on suddenly from a heart attack, whilst playing bowls at his local Club.

Bob Scott, of the 2/1st and for a number of years as Secretary of the Rats of Tobruk Association. To his wife and family we extend our deepest sympathy. Mrs. Scott was well known for her activities with the "Rats."

Albert Hoole, B Coy., passed on recently, after a long illness and many visitations to Concord Hospital. Our deepest sympathy to his wife.

HARRY MONTAGUE.

WELFARE NEWS

● **Jim Reilly**, A Coy. 2/2, was receiving treatment at Concord Hospital and was enrolled as a new member. He was introduced to quite a few 2/1st, with whom he had some interesting chats.

● **Jack Norton**, C Coy. 2/1 (Rose Bay), was out at Concord Hospital for some time, but was fortunate in having with him in the same ward Charlie Smith, D Coy. 2/1.

● **Richard Blackwell**, D Coy 2/1 (Ryde), was extended an invitation to join the Association when visited at Concord Hospital. He looks forward to joining his mates at the next Reunion.

● **Frank Stansbury**, C Coy. 2/1, of Greenacre, was a patient recently at the Concord Hospital and enrolled with the Association as a new member and promised to join his mates at the next Reunion.

● **John Kelly**, C Coy. 2/1, of Cabramatta had a long sojourn at Concord Hospital and appreciated the visits from the Association. He was enrolled as a new member.

● **Harry Waite**, 2/2, of Gympie, was a guest of Concord Hospital and enjoyed the visitation from the Association. Harry was originally with the 2/1st and later transferred to the 2/2nd as R.S.M. His health has not been the best of late but still sends this regards to all his friends who, in his own words, "were the greatest crowd of fair dinkum fellows it was possible to be associated with."

● **Fergus Robertson**, Q.M., A Coy. 2/1 was recently an inmate at Concord Hospital but would definitely be on deck at the Anzac Reunion.

● **Dick Lewis**, one of the "Don R's" of the 2/1 was for awhile at Concord Hospital and on the last visit stated he saw a lot of the Newcastle crowd and will be with them in Sydney for the great Reunion.

● **Fred Davenport**, of Brisbane, and his wife Nell, have travelled the N.S.W. State quite a lot and since we saw them in Greta they have paid a visit to Harry Bunton. Later Fred and Nell called on Jack Tatham and his wife Pat, who really made them at home. From here Fred and Nell proceeded to Quirindi, where they visited Con Bush at Murrumbidgee. Fred and Nell will be arriving in Sydney on 15th April and will be staying at the Sundowner Caravan Park, at Ryde, so if anyone is in that vicinity, Fred and Nell would be pleased to see them.

● **Dr. Aubrey Seymour** was with the 2/3rd Field Ambulance during the Western Desert War, including the Tobruk siege and remembers many members of the 2/1 going through. He was later with the 2/6th A.G.H. in the Islands. He is now Deputy Director of the St. John's Ambulance and also the Medical Officer for the Army at Victoria Barracks. On talking with him recently, he requested that I send his regards to all Pioneers.

● Following the many enquiries received as to the overall total number of personnel passing through the 2/1st Pioneers, I approached the Record Office, Melbourne and the History Section, Canberra, for assistance.

However, I have been notified by both Departments that this information is just not available.

HARRY MONTAGUE.

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Treasurer:

DOUG SHEARSTON

Editors: R. LAKE & M. HERRON

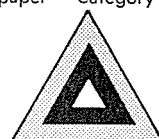
President:

J. (Mick) DODSON

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ANZAC DAY - 2/2 PIONEER BN.

The activities in connection with Anzac Day seem to confront us more frequently as the years go by. I don't know whether the years are shorter, or whether there are two Anzac Days in each year. Anyway, they seem to be landing along at a greater pace than they used to.

The combined Unit wreath laying ceremony on Tuesday night prior to Anzac Day was most impressive, and one was very much aware of the added names from our Units who, during the year, have passed on. The wreath laying was followed by the Annual Meeting of the 2/1 - 2/2 Pioneer Battalions Association.

Personally, I think it would be beneficial if the 2/2 Pioneers were represented at this meeting by a larger number from our ranks, including myself. Allan McInnes, now on the Gold Coast, was naturally missed but we just have, and had, to get along without him. To add to this 2/2 wise, Don Lawson was absent due to sickness. It was a good meeting, nevertheless.

ANZAC MARCH AND REUNION

The Anzac Day march was attended by not quite so many as usual. It was good to see Wally Baird down from the country to see his old C Company mates. Don Lawson was missed at this event also. "Robbie" led the boys in the march and Jim Field carried the banner right through this time. However, he had to pay the price by being lodged in Syd-

ney Hospital. Glad to say Jim is now O.K.

A good meal at the Castlereagh Hotel followed the march, and was much appreciated by all. The boys then settled down to much talk, bolstered by a few glasses of the old amber fluid.

The Monte Reid - Bob Lee group sure put in some high pressure yap. Also the Bill Holmes, Jimmy Drummond, Bert Beasley mob did likewise. Another group was Mick Egan, Dick Kennewell and Doug Scott really having a good time. It was nice to see so many of the boys really enjoying themselves. "Jimmy Germ" put in a good day, both in the march and at the reunion - I know, I can testify. Noted with pleasure the getting together of the 2/1 and 2/2 boys in various groups.

I do not know if there are many units who are in the fortunate position of having their Unit Padre as a constant, friendly and active member of their group. If they have, they are a lucky Unit, like we are. Good to have you with us, Stan Cloughton.

All in all a good day, a little hard to push off for work the following day, but the Pioneers are marching on.

— BOB DIXON.

THE YEARLY SACRED RITUAL

Anzac Eve saw quite a large number of our members parade at the assembly point in Hunter Street, for participation in the Wreath Laying Ceremony, at the Cenotaph.

The Marshall, Jack Lloyd, formed up the marchers and headed by the Standards of both units, the members marched very smartly down Pitt Street to Martin Plaza and took up position alongside the Cenotaph to pay respects to our departed comrades.

Wreaths were laid by Padre Stan Cloughton 2/2, Mick Dodson, 2/1 and Joan Lake, representing the Ladies Auxiliary.

Mick Dodson recited the "Ode" and Aub Brasier gave a rendition of the "Last Post" on the bugle.

Members were then broken off and after joining the Ladies for a while for a chat, they proceeded to the Castlereagh for the Annual Meeting, while the Ladies went to a restaurant for supper.

It was most gratifying to see such a gathering of members and their wives which proves — We will Remember Them.

HARRY MONTAGUE.

ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting was chaired by Mick Dodson, Vice-President, who read to the meeting the report given by Allan McInnes at his Presentation Dinner.

This was a fine tribute to Allan McInnes who had served so well and faithfully, as President of this Association. The report was carried by acclamation in recognition of the work Allan had done.

Other reports were from the Secretary, Max Herron, who gave an account of his doings, which are continuous from one General Meeting to the next, and we are indeed lucky to have such an industrious fellow. Of course he is lucky in having such a good assistant as his wife, Peg.

Then came Doug Shearston, the Treasurer, giving his financial report and presenting the Balance Sheet as audited by Arthur Watson, our Auditor. This showed each cash transaction and these sheets were passed around for inspection.

It was a most methodical and comprehensive report and Doug was congratulated on a job so nobly done.

Next was Bob McGregor, who gave a most interesting report of the Social activities of the year.

Our Executive have worked hard over the past year and the highlight was the Greta Reunion. A lot of work went into this and they are all to be congratulated on their excellent organising abilities in this regard.

Welfare Officer, Harry Montague, gave an account of his activities and was thanked by the Chairman for his splendid services.

Our Bugler, Aub Brasier, was thanked for his rendition at the Cenotaph. Most members now regard Aub as a Pioneer and why not - he is at every function we have (many thanks Aub for a job well done).

MAX LAW CONDUCTS ELECTION

The Chairman then handed the meeting over to Max Law, ex Secretary and Editor of "Pioneer News," who came over from Adelaide. It could readily be seen, Max was accustomed to keeping a meeting in order as he had a couple of characters who wanted to talk about everything except the subject in hand.

Election of Officers resulted as follows:

Patrons: Geoff Graham, Gordon Osborn.

President: Mick Dodson.

Vice-Presidents: G. Finlay, W. Hoffman, R. Dixon, D. Lawson, J. Bertram, W. Jollie.

Secretary: M. Herron.

Treasurer: D. Shearston.

Social Secretary: R. McGregor.

Welfare Officers: H. Montague and J. Collis.

Publicity Officer: W. Page.

Trustees: T. Crossman, F. Allan.

Masters at Arms: R. Lake, J. Lloyd.

Editors: R. Lake, M. Herron.

Reporters: 2/1 - G. Finlay, H. Montague; 2/2 - D. Lawson, R. Dixon.

Extra members to the Committee were Bob Dixon, 2/2; Mick Egan 2/2; Rod Pegg 2/1; Vic Whiteley, 2/1.

PADRE CLAUGHTON

CONGRATULATES EXECUTIVE

In general business, Padre Stan Cloughton congratulated the office bearers and stated how proud the 2/2 nds were to be joining the 2/1st at their Reunion again this year. Bob Dixon joined the Padre in this statement and said he too, was pleased and only sorry it had not happened before.

The meeting closed at 10 p.m. and all adjourned to have a drink with the Ladies Auxiliary, who were waiting in the Lounge. All told a most enjoyable evening was had by all.

HARRY MONTAGUE.

ANZAC DAY 1973 REUNION

CASTLEREAGH HOTEL

Once again another Anzac Day has passed. Another day that we all look forward to seeing old mates again. The phrase "old mates," I'm afraid, is all we can be referred to now. Even though some may think they are young, this was the 28th Anzac Day since the end of World War II, so that would eliminate any chance of being young. In those 28 years a great number have attended our Reunions and a lot have passed on in that time - "Lest We Forget."

There are others who have, unfortunately, reached a stage where the state of their health does not allow them to take part in our marches or reunions any more. I feel that they are with us in spirit all the same. Those who attended the reunion this year wouldn't think this was the case.

The large attendance was very pleasing to the executive and committee who worked hard to make it a successful day. There should be more extra holidays around Anzac Day each year so that our interstate and country members can join us on this day.

MEMBERS FROM ALL STATES

Without mentioning names, we had members from Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria, Queensland and even a few from New Zealand. Of course, we had our country members who travel down without fail each year for the reunion. Last but not least, it wouldn't be a reunion but for the old stalwarts who turn up each year, rain or shine. Our marshal, Jack Lloyd did a good job in settling our men into their ranks prior to the march, which was led by our Co-patron, Gordon Osborn.

SOUTH AFRICA CALLS

We were even remembered in South Africa by none other than Henry Nicholls who phoned Gordon Osborn to pass on the message wishing the 2/1 and 2/2 the best for a successful Anzac Day reunion. Thank you Henry. It couldn't be said that anyone was sitting in the corner on their own, for the lounge certainly was packed. However, they thinned out by the time afternoon snacks were served (which by the way was very good) enough for one to see the different groups collected together.

2/2 WELL REPRESENTED

It was pleasing to see the 2/2 well represented in their groups. A Company 2/1 had the biggest attendance - some down for their first reunion in Sydney. It was pleasing to see those old faces again. Among the A Company group were five members who at the Julis Camp in 1940, shared their first tent. Just imagine the talk that was going on.

Two noted members of H.Q. Coy. were our hard working secretary and treasurer who both went home early. B Company and C were well represented by their regulars, but H.Q. Coy. I think were down in their numbers this year.

As usual, Colonel Normie Neal arrived, with escort, to see his boys for a short while. Noted absentees this year were our past president, Allan McInness, who has now retired to the Gold Coast (lucky man), but he sent his regards and best wishes for a good Anzac Day.

Vice-President Gordon Finlay, who with his good wife Olive, was holidaying up north was also conspicuous by his absence. (We don't want any excuses for

not catching any fish when you get back, Gordon).

Our publicity officer Wal (Desso) Page has retired from work and he and his wife are travelling the country enjoying a well-earned rest. Sorry you were not with us, Wal. When he returns, I am afraid we are in for an earbashing.

To you gentlemen who regularly attend our reunion and those who sometimes attend - hope to see you all next year. To those who didn't make it due to prior commitments, please give it first priority next year.

Once again, thanks to all those who attended the reunion and to the hard working committee who made it a successful Anzac Day.

For a few years now Bob Lake has brought his son-in-law or his nephew, sometimes both of them. The boys do a good job and we are grateful to them for their assistance. Thanks lads.

Before I complete my report, I must mention Harry Allen, who once again produced his large bottle of overproof, as usual donated by his local publican. After a small sip most of the boys were gasping for breath - it sure was strong.

JACK (Mick) DODSON,
President.

ANZAC DAY JOTTINGS

Anzac Day has been and gone once again. It was a good roll up with 150 in attendance, but it would be really good if we could see many more faces next year.

Fred Davenport was down from Queensland and really enjoyed the company of Arthur Luddington, Jack Tattam, Clem Moroney and George Bates.

Con Bush was there from Murrumbidgee and was in good form, as usual. All members present were pleased to see him.

Dick Seddon and Jack Griffiths came down to the Reunion from Newcastle, and raved on about the Greta show of last year. They were busy at the bar with Bert Herne and "Baby" Crane. This little corner seemed to be a B Coy corner.

"Casey" Brown had the misfortune to fall down the stairs at the Castlereagh and landed in Sydney Hospital with a broken arm. Latest reports are that he is now on the mend - our good wishes to you, Casey, better watch out next year.

Don Company was the best represented company (perhaps that was because I was in D Coy) in the forms of Bill Hodges, Albert "Bimbo" Bell, Eric Reynolds, Bob McGregor, Bert Moore, Bob Gates, Peter Craig, "Bluey" Jones, Jack Lammerton and George Brooks (all the way from Ipswich in Queensland). Nice to see you again George, this would be

your sixth year in succession. You are an example for others to follow.

George Tolmie was there and never stopped ribbing Jim Gray about the suit he was wearing (personally, I think it was a good suit) and the fact that Jim really looked like a human being now - since the removal of the beard!

Jack (Jeep) Paul was there with the D Coy crew and really enjoyed his first reunion. Jack comes from Victoria and said it was well worth the trip. If all the same crowd would turn up, he would be back next year.

A Company were well to the fore with Alby Barton, Bill Anthony, Larry Robson (all the way from Newcastle and another one of those blokes who never stopped talking about the Greta Reunion) and Laurie Kelly ("Three Course" to you), in the company of a few members of the Army. Laurie's daughter, Jennifer, arrived late in the afternoon to join her father.

Max Law came all the way from Adelaide and we were very pleased to have you with us, Max, after so many years away. Max was the original editor of the Pioneer News (which was his brain child) and I heard him telling the secretary that he still had a copy of the first issue (only a duplicated sheet) that he would send along.

Ian Kirkwood of Wollongong, made the trip again to be with comrades and to him most of them are as young and healthy as ever.

George Hobley, of Katanning, W.A., came over and really enjoyed his stay with us. I am sure he told me he towed a caravan to Adelaide and left it at Max Law's place, then came on by car. He was in touch with our secretary, who he said was most helpful in giving him names and addresses of members he could visit on the way back. (A thought just occurred to me - if people like George can travel this far to come to our reunion, who are we to think twice about travelling ten miles or so). It was nice to see you, George, and we really appreciated the effort you made.

Transport Section was represented by Bob Lake and Vic. Whitely ("Pear Shape" to you). They appeared to be arguing about something and I still don't know if it was football or trucks. But I did hear the secretary whispering in Vic. Whitely's ear and at the next committee meeting the said secretary moved a motion that Vic Whitely be co-opted on to the Committee. Nice to have you with us, Victor.

Ted Jensen, Eric Monckton, Jack Harvey, Don Barraclough were all together in a mixed group and I still don't know whether they were all together. However, they were all enjoying themselves.

Charlie Wilby, of Crooble (that's near Moree I'm told), was seen in a large group, but by the time I made the spot he had moved on. Anyway, Charlie, it was nice to see you.

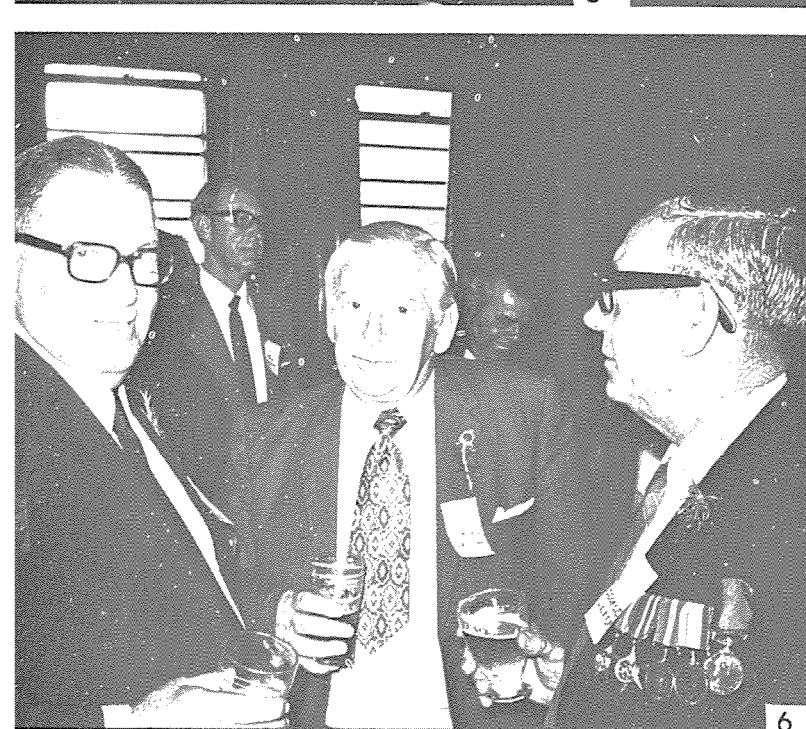
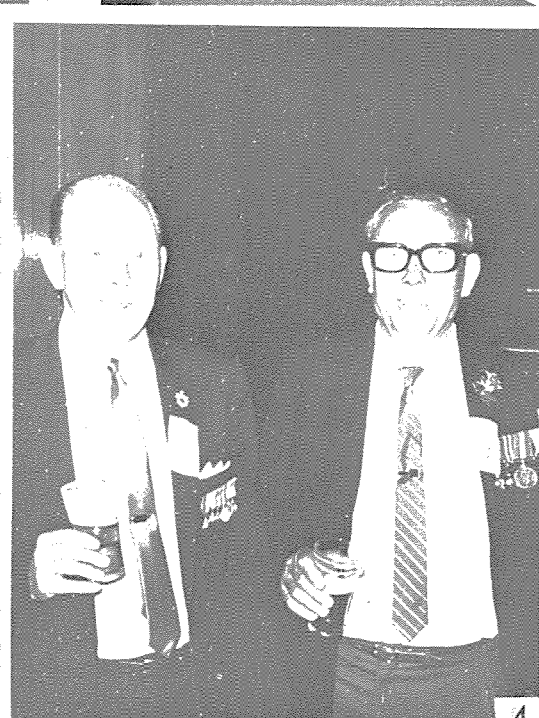
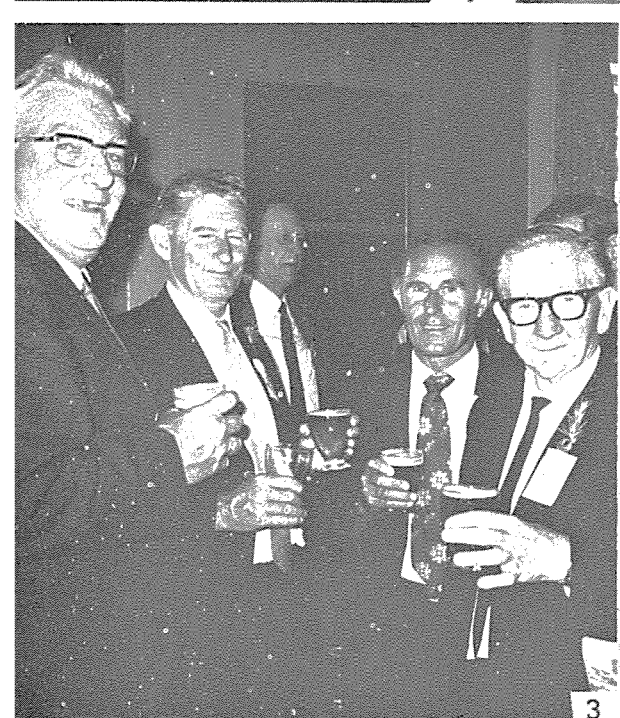
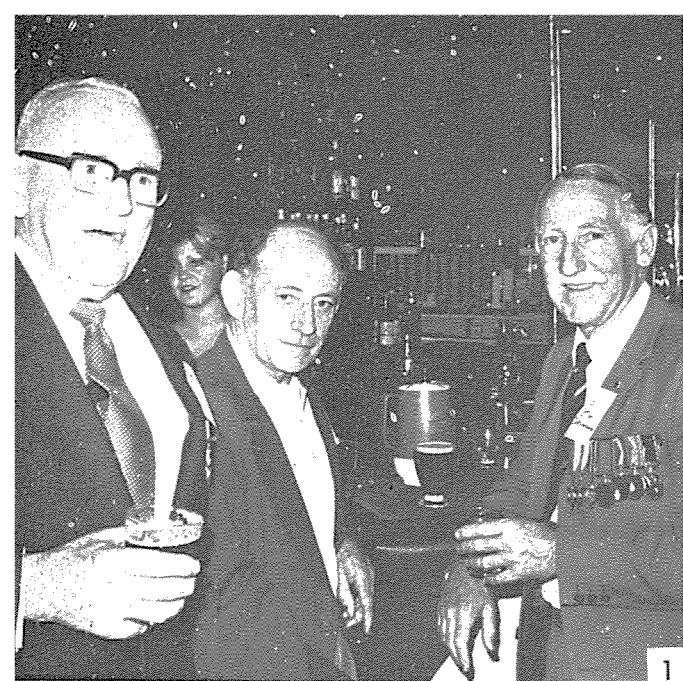
Norm McEvoy was in a mob with Fred Wheaton and they were really turning it on. Fred carried the banner at the March and looked the part - carrying it like a true Pioneer. We were very proud of you when we saw it on television that night, Fred.

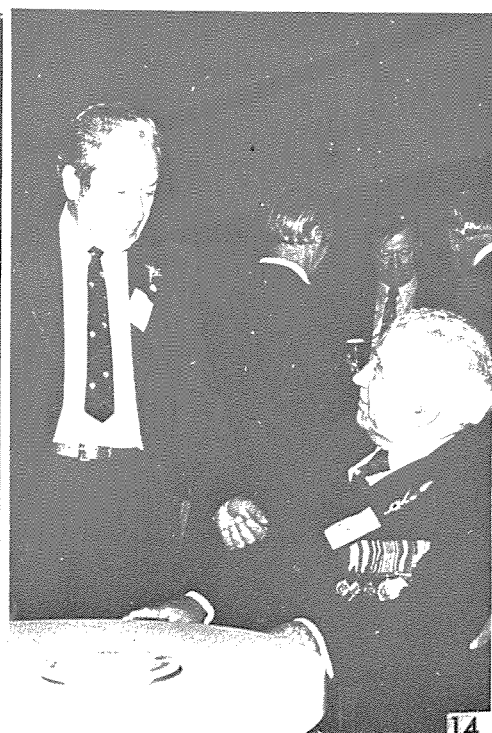
Bill Wright, 2/1, of Wyoming near Gosford was enjoying himself in a group

ANZAC DAY PHOTOS

1. Bill Jollie, (- - -), Jim Drummond. 2. Larry Robson, Alby Barton, Bill Arthur, Lance Gayden. 3. George Hobley, Ted Jensen, Ivan Pepper, Roy Bounds. 4. Bob Lake, George Walker. 5. Roy

Jardine, Bob Scott, (- - -) N.Z. visitor. 6. Mick Dodson, Tom Crossman, Dick Seddon, George Walker. 7. Seated: Arthur Luddington, Clem Moroney, Con Bush. Standing: Fred Davenport, (continued page 3)







Here it is the first issue of Mail Bag and the paper since Anzac Day, and what a good day it turned out. We had our usual run of regulars, plus the normal sprinkling of occasional visitors, members of the Battalions that live too far away for a visit every year. These are the fellows that we are all so very pleased to see, and so sorry that they cannot find the time to attend more regularly. From my own point of view it was so very good to see Charlie Wilby, Fred Wheaton, Punchy Lamington, plus all my other mates, while the noticeable absentees were Alan "Dora" Black and Joe "One Round" Barker.

Mrs. N. Petersen, of Wyong wrote to say husband, Noel, did not come down to Sydney for the March as he attended the March up there, and then relaxed for the rest of the day. She said the years were catching up on him, but he sent regards to all and hoped everyone had a good day and no big heads the next day. Thank you for the letter Mrs. Petersen, with your kind thoughts and donation to News fund.

George Creasy, A Coy, 2/1, of Portland wrote in to say he had a spell in Concord Hospital recently and appreciated the visits from "Monty." Thank you for your donation, George, and your best wishes.

Tom Manuel, H.Q. Coy, 2/1, of Glen Innes wrote to say he had recently at-

ANZAC DAY JOTTINGS (cont.)

with Doug Scott, 2/2 of Wyalong and Bill Doney, 2/1, of Lane Cove.

Gordon Osborn came along during the afternoon and said he was pleased to see so many members who had come from far away places. In his party were Jim Drummond and Normie Neal, who was also very pleased to see so many of both battalions united in one reunion. Norm said he was very impressed with the "togetherness" of the two Units.

Roy Jardine won the raffle which was kindly donated by the Licencee of the Castlereagh, and run by Graham Witham. Roy donated the beer to the Pioneer News wrapping committee and we thank you, Roy, for your kind gesture.

Mick Anselmes, of Ipswich, Qld., came down to the reunion and was pleased to see so many new faces. We thank you Mick for the substantial donation to the "Pioneer News," it will come in very handy.

Reg. Blackwell was visited by me (George Walker) a week after Anzac Day. Reg is not always in the best of health and not able to get about, certainly not to the March, so I had a good talk about the old days.

— GEORGE WALKER,
(Standing in for Gordon Finlay).

tended a Reunion with Jock Rogers, Steve Clarke, Vic and Bob Donald. It was a very happy show, and even though Mrs. Rogers had so much food they were still able to consume quite a fair amount of liquid refreshment. Jack Marshall, who is now retired, was to have attended but could not do so owing to a previous engagement. Jack has not been in the best of health lately, but is still at the Services Club.

Tom had a beer with Gordon Walsh when he was last in Sydney and received some very good advice on how to do Legacy pensions more efficiently. Thank you for your donation and your newsy, cheery letter Tom, it was nice to hear from you.

Gus Daly, of Essendon, Vic., wrote to say he was pleased to receive the Pioneer News and sent along a nice donation - thank you, Gus.

Pat Laughren, C Coy, 2/1, of Nambour Qld. sent along a telegram on Anzac Eve reading - "Regards to all 2/1sts and tons of luck." Thank you, Pat, for your kind thoughts and I can assure you we all had a good day.

Graham ("Sailor") Witham, 2/1, has recently sold his home at Waverley and by the time this goes to press will be on his way to London for a six months holiday. The generous donation you left with the treasurer was very much appreciated "Sailor," and we can assure you it will be put to good use.

Len Preedy, D Coy, 2/2, of Shenton Park, W.A., wrote to Max Herron and gave him full details, with maps and brochures, of Len's trip up the Coast of Western Australia. Max and Peg would like to thank you Len, for the maps and information and will take your advice and contact you when close to going, next year.

Snow Jardine and Vic Whiteley both commented on the same two fellows, so you see you two, you have some explaining to do. We were looking forward to a resume of a couple of years of marriage from "Dora."

Ern Lunn 2/2, and now a resident at Wellington, where he is on the land. At time of writing Wellington has had 2½ inches of rain, and so all the blokes on the land were laughing their way to the bank. Ern nominates that he is reasonably fit and well, plays golf most Saturdays and some Sundays, and guarantees good golf to any of the crowd that may be travelling that way. Glad to hear from you Ern and your subs ably established with the treasurer.

Mick Tassell, 2/1, wonders will never cease, I would say the first letter from Mick, I might add, per daughter, that we have received from Mick for many years and we find out that he still lives at Hay, sorry old mate, but I had to have a shot. I mentioned your letter to

Cec Peak, and he made some remark about that cranky bugger, don't know just what he meant by that. Mick also makes the statement that he will make the trip to Sydney one of these days. I have noted your address, Mick and hope to call in on you in October, as I am going down to see Jim Robertson at Wentworth, at that time, hoping to be on holidays, so will definitely look you up. Thanks again for the note, and the subs in the treasurer's hot little hand.

Bill Hoffmann, our old stalwart, from Kyogle and our Country Vice-President, sends along a note explaining the lack of attendance on Anzac Day. However, we all know that Bill is one that only misses because he has to, and when you have to work, there is nothing much you can do about it, unless of course if you are fortunate enough to be able to say forget it, which I am afraid, does not apply to too many Pioneers, unfortunately. Thanks for the letter, Bill, and your subscription added to Doug's list.

Gil Short by name and by nature, Gil sends a cheque to the treasurer and four lines informing of a change of address to Panania. Well, old chap, all noted and attended to, but I am afraid that I can't make much news to pass on to your mates out of that little lot, thanks a lot, try a little harder next time.

Eric Face, now at Dapto, sends along a sub and a cheery note informing us of his change of address and the fact that he was an asthmatic for about 3 years, but on his settling at Dapto, has been more free of this complaint and is enjoying much better health at the time of writing. Glad to hear from you Eric, and pleased to hear such good results.

Jock McKie writes from Yarrabandai to let us know he is still going strong and still enjoying life out that way (I can't keep writing that name). Jock has retired and has had a 12 month's trip over to the "Old Dart" and Scotland, too of course, and enjoyed it very much. Met many Aussies over there, and as he says, in some of the funniest places, "well that figures" (they have been doing that for years), and makes the remark that he hopes to see a bit more of the boys now and in the future. To whom it may concern Yarrabandai is a small village between Parkes and Condobolin. Many thanks for the letter Jock and the sub and hope to hear again at some later date.

Jack Bertram, one of our stalwarts from Newcastle, explaining that he would not be available at the Anzac Day function, but wishes the Association and all members the very best of good cheer on the big day and he hopes to improve public relations next year. Jack also

ANZAC DAY PHOTOS

Bert Holmes, Baby Crane. 8. Ted Skoyles, Jack Standen. 9. Charlie Wilby, Norm McEvoy, (- - -), Jack Pearse, Bob Dixon. 10. George Walker, Mick Dobson, Ian Kirkwood, Bluey Kerslake. 11. Standing:

Laurie (3 Course) Kelly. Seated: Lofty Hannon. 12. Standing: Bill Tasker, Beau Hannaford, Peter Craig, Jack Griffith, Ivor Garnon. Seated: Curly Bentley, Ken Parkin, Jack Pearce.

sends regards to some of the ladies and we in return wish him and Jean the same.

Jack "Dog Tired" Clarke writes from Rockdale with a sub and the misfortune that diabetes is not going as good as it could be, plus the feet and legs not quite up to scratch. However, Jack reckons he will be looking for everyone on T.V. and making renewals per that medium, besides wishing everyone a good day and many more to follow. Thanks for the note old timer, what's got me beat, how come your legs and feet want renewing with all that rest you used to get!

Peter O'Brien, subs to treasurer, and another of the boys whose health is not doing the right thing by him, sends a big Cheerio to all and wishes them well, and that the roll up will be as good as the Battalion deserves. Thank you Peter, can assure that those present enjoyed themselves and appreciated all the good wishes.

Allan McInnes, our retired President and now at Palm Beach, Queensland, sends along a cheery note, and that he is missing the Association and his many interests, especially at this particular period, the preparation for the big day of our Association. However, perhaps next year he will make the pilgrimage to the smoke. Allan and Mary are both enjoying Queensland, the climate, the casual living, the attitude to life and the casual dressing being his cup of tea. I can quite imagine that with Mac after so many years having to wear suits practically all the time. Wally "Desso" Page called in on them and they had a few jugs just to keep the arms in working order. "Desso" being on long service leave and retired, also another one of the Committee that was not on hand this year. Thanks for the letter, Mac, and our best regards to Mary and yourself.

Dan Collins, A Coy. 2/1 and now a resident of Nymagee, N.S.W., sends along a cheery letter and a little news of his enjoyment of the paper and a very useful piece of information for Bill Wright, with regards to his accident in New Guinea, which has been dealt with personally by our secretary. Thank you very much for the information for Bill, and I am sure he will also appreciate same. Dan's letter did not say very much as to what he himself was doing, so cannot pass on any information. However, perhaps a letter later on will remedy this situation.

Bill Wright also sends a letter, telling of his appreciation of Anzac Day with the boys. Bill is still seeking a couple more letters of confirmation regarding his accident in the Quarry, New Guinea. Now come on you old C Coy. men, surely one or two or you could put this information on paper and send it to Mr. W. A. Wright, 30 Renwick St., Wyoming, 2251, N.S.W. Bill has a son in Western Australia, and has hopes of visiting him in the very near future. The addresses you asked for have been dealt with and enclosed in the letter from Max Herron. Many thanks for your letter, Bill, and the kind words to the Committee.

That's about all my issue of Mail Bag for this issue, however, to close down I will add this little article of "Transport Jottings" written by the one and only Vic. James "Pearshape" Whiteley.

ANZAC DAY - 2/1 TRANSPORT JOTTINGS

A few absentees from the M.T. ranks this year - Al (Dora) Black, Wagga

Grice, gone back to live at Wagga so I hear. No "One Round" Joe Barker.

Good to see Charlie Wilby again this year - he's a staunchy, the old Charlie, only about 40 miles out of Moree now. Soon be a city slicker! Charlie asks where is Terry Kearney? Don't know if anyone can help on that score - to my knowledge he has never been sighted.

Our condolences to Charlie on the death of his Mother-in-Law at the nice age of ninety years.

Talking of staunchies, Glido Griffiths and Dick Seddon did their yearly trek from Newcastle. Dick wasn't a M.T. man but its nice to bung in a few words about him. Also not M.T. but closely allied was Freddie Wheaton. Fred looks well with his huge frame, but he assures me he is not as well as looks will have. Fred is caravanning down to Melbourne to visit a son (or sons) - one or two down there Fred? When the Wheatons settle down, it will probably be at Sawtell.

Jack Pearce "Split the Wind" on deck. No tram lines to follow up George St., now, but plenty of horse dung. Have to get those mounted police at the end of the March - not up in front!

Bob Lake - who was it said he could talk under water? Noel Schomberg, Roy Jardine still working hard on the Committee of the "Rats." Berty Hearn a bit quiet but about time. Norm McEvoy, Vic Whiteley. Hope I haven't missed any Six Platoon, M.T. Section names.

We have a new Association President, Mick Dodson. Let's get behind Mick and the Association and keep on our wartime acquaintances.

Cheerio for now and let's keep those letters rolling in.

LAKEY.

P.S. Had occasion to visit Lady Davidson Home last night (3/7/73) and while there happened to see Bob Long and Jim Budd, both with medical problems, but both still able to keep a cheery grin and laugh at adversity.

LAKEY.

APPEAL BY TREASURER

During my sixteen years as your Treasurer, I have only made one appeal for extra funds, but as I mentioned at the General Meeting, it is time I made a second appeal.

We are cutting into our capital due to rising costs. No doubt this condition would apply to most any organisation or business, but may I point out that during our last financial year, only 246 Pioneers paid a donation to the Association and we send out almost 1100 papers, so it will be noticed that less than a quarter of the members are doing their bit financially.

This appeal is not directed to them, but I do wish the other 800 odd would realise the paper they enjoy reading does cost a lot of money to print and that I was left with a mere \$116.00 last year to meet General expenses to run the Association. No wonder our accumulated capital suffered.

Don't worry if your donation is small, after all, a lot of drops of water can make a mighty river and I don't mind what the amount is, so long as I am banking it and not paying it out.

DOUG SHEARSTON.

MIXED SOCIAL NIGHT

We are holding a Mixed Social Night in the Colonial Room, at Coogee-Randwick R.S.L. Club, Carr Street, Coogee, on Saturday, 20th October.

The doings start at 6.30 p.m. There will be a Smorgasbord meal and dancing and entertainment afterwards, all at a cost of \$3.50 per head. Liquor will be sold at bar prices.

We have had several of these mixed functions and they have been really enjoyable.

So bring along your wife or girl friend (for heaven's sake don't bring them both) and have a night to remember.

To arrange a booking, ring our Social Secretary, Bob McGregor, at 759-0313 no later than 12th October.

But book early. The Colonial Room holds a maximum of 60.

RATS OF TOBRUK ASSOCIATION SOCIAL EVENING

Gentlemen, don't forget. On Saturday, 27th October, at the Five Dock R.S.L. Bowling Club on the corner of North Road and Lyons Road, The Rats of Tobruk are holding their monthly dance. This night is a special, called the 2/1 Pioneer Night.

All Pioneers and their friends are invited to attend the social evening as guests of the Rats of Tobruk. Come along and enjoy yourselves, you don't have to dance to enjoy yourself, gentlemen. Don't be afraid that you won't know anyone - the Rats will see that you know everyone present by the end of the night, for the Rats always endeavour to make it a friendly night for everyone present. Bring a plate for supper and start making up your party for the R.O.T.A. Social Evening in October.

See you then, gentlemen.

6th AUST. DIV. ASSOCIATION (N.S.W.) REUNION

One of the aims of the above Association is to provide a meeting place for members of the Division, so that they can renew friendships with men of other units and cement ties of comradeship as a Division.

They do not usurp any function of Unit Associations, but in the case of members who have no Unit Association they try to fill that gap.

They are holding a short March, a Wreath Laying Ceremony, at the Cenotaph and a Lunch in the Lower Town Hall on 2nd September, 1973.

Tickets are expected to cost \$4.50 including liquid and solid rations.

Ring or write before August, the Secretary, Fred Toner, 153 Greville Street, Chatswood.

APOLOGY

To **BOB SCOTT**, 2/1, an apology is extended by Max Herron (Editor) for an error in the April, 1973, issue of "Pioneer News."

The article inferred that Bob had passed away, whereas it was Bob's dear wife, Marion. Our deepest sympathy is extended to you and your family, Bob, and please accept my apology for the mistake.

MAX HERRON.

PIONEER NEWS

Phone: 759-5491

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

Phone: 759-5491

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President:

J. (Mick) DODSON

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EARLY HISTORY OF PIONEER NEWS

By Max Law, Original Editor
BEAUMONT, S.A.

Dear Max and Bob,

I was very glad to receive the latest issue of the Pioneer News. In fact I have been waiting for it since my return from Sydney, following the visit there for Anzac Day.

First of all Max and Bob, may I say how happy I was to be able to attend the Annual General Meeting, the March and of course the reunion later in the day. It was the first attendance in eight years. No need to say how delighted I was to meet so many of the boys again, even though some of us are now looking a little older than just "boys."

As you know, George Hobley from W.A. travelled across to Adelaide in his "Komby," arriving a day or so after my departure for Sydney by car. George had previously phoned me and arrangements were made for a key to be left in a suitable place and George of course, spent a couple of days at my home and placed his "Komby Van in the car port. Later he flew to Sydney and of course was in attendance for Anzac Day.

On our return, I arranged for George Hobley and his wife May, together with Ernie Hayden and his wife Win, to join my wife and myself for a meal and a few drops of the doings. We had quite a time going through some old photographs of the war years.

THE ORIGINAL PIONEER NEWS

As promised, I have pulled out a couple of copies of the original Pioneer News. Enclosed are copies of the first six issues and I trust that you will find them of interest. I further trust that if you do not have such copies that you will accept them on my behalf for the Archive. As you will see the Pioneer News was born in December of 1952 and was really the brainchild of the then committee but with an extra recommendation from the newly elected president of the year - Hec Page (Major, 2/2). This first issue was to have been on foolscap paper but at Hec's suggestion we folded the paper in halves and then turned it around to make it in the form of a news letter. Compared of course to the present day issues, our efforts were fairly old fashioned but we believed at the time it would serve a useful purpose.

If you are interested in a little history, the membership at that time was very low and it was decided that we would start some sort of a publicity campaign to get former members of the two units together. Subsequently, as secretary, I wrote to just about every group of newspapers in Australia (and I mean "Australia"). In almost every case our hand

written plea for a little assistance in publicising the 2/1 - 2/2 Pioneer Battalion Association was acknowledged and we were given space in country and city newspapers alike. As a result letters were received at our rooms at Hunter Street and quite a list of new members were enrolled.

THEN CAME THE PIONEER NEWS

Frank Cheal (2/2) was elected Assistant Secretary and Assistant Editor and between the two of us we began to gather some information which would enable us to publish Volume 1 No. 1. Out of the next few issues as letters began to pour in to us, we kept reminding members that whenever they met an ex-Pioneer they should pass on the message that the "Association needs them." I, at that time, personally hand wrote all of the information and took excerpts from the letters as they came in over the next few months.

We attempted to get enough news to continue printing the magazine each quarter. Frank enlisted the aid of a lass in the Commonwealth Bank where Frank worked and for two nights each quarter this lass worked without charge and typed the contents onto a rough prepared sheet. We then added or deleted as space would allow. The lass then cut the stencils and processed to run off the roneoed sheets. As I remember the imitation of our two coloured patch, was drawn by hand onto the first stencil of each first issue.

After our first three issues I received an offer by two good friends of mine who were not connected in any way with the Association, but who were printers, to set up and print our magazine quite free of charge. This arrangement carried on for quite some time and as you will see from issues 4, 5 and 6 the Pioneer News began to take on a much neater look. Apart from a break of three issues (I cannot just remember why there was such a break) we commenced again and there has not been a break in the printing of the paper from that time on.

WRAPPERS HANDWRITTEN

Referring back to the actual printing and distribution of the early issues, Frank and I used to hand write wrappers for each issue and as the membership increased, so of course did the work load. Frank and I averaged about five nights working together prior to the posting of each issue.

Of course there were others who contributed in many ways and helped us to establish the Pioneer News. I would particularly mention Alf Carter who used to "stand over" the boys at every function we organised and at the Anzac Day

March to bully them into paying 'a few bob' to keep the Pioneer News going.

So Max and Bob, although there is a lot more which could be said about the early history of the beginning of the News, I will not bore you with the details. Those connected with it in those days I know, enjoyed working at it as an effort to achieve something, and I know that they would support me right now in saying that the efforts which are being put in by you and the committee are more than ever, truly appreciated.

In closing, my congratulations once again to Mick Dodson as our new President and to the members of the Committee.

Please find enclosed a small donation to assist with expenses.

With kind regards, Sincerely,
MAX LAW.

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

A Remembrance Service will be conducted by Padre Stan Claughton, at his residence, 64 Victoria Road, West Penrith Hills, on Sunday, 4th November, at 3.00 p.m.

This is a 2/2nd Pioneer get-together, but 2/1sts are also cordially invited to attend with their wives.

Ladies are requested to bring a plate for afternoon tea. Any enquiries, please contact Peg Herron (Secretary, Ladies Auxiliary), Telephone 759-5491.

In the past the Remembrance Service for our fallen Comrades has been attended by 2/2 and 2/1 at Stan Claughton's Church, at Leichhardt, but as the Padre has retired, he has graciously offered the use of his home so as to carry on the tradition.

NEWCASTLE SOCIAL

A Social-Get-together of 2/1 and 2/2 members and wives is to be held at the Cardiff R.S.L. Club, Macquarie Street, Cardiff, on Saturday, 2nd March, 1974, at 7.00 p.m.

A Smorgasbord Dinner will be served and the approximate cost will be \$3.

Notification of attendance is required by Friday, 22nd February, 1974, so as to arrange catering. Sydney members to contact Bob McGregor, 120 Glamis St., Kingsgrove, Phone: 759-0313 and Newcastle and Country members, Jack Bertam, 90 National Park Street, Hamilton.

It is suggested all members arrange their own accommodation.

BOB LEE, 2/2 TRAVELS TO CAIRNS AND ATHERTON

Dear Editors,

Thought I would pen a few lines which may be of interest to a few 2/2, particularly those of H.Q. Coy. - so if considered appropriate you may wish to convey through "Pioneer News" some of my ramblings.

Last month, my wife Joan, and youngest daughter, Adrienne, were fortunate enough to take a trip to Cairns. This had been looked forward to for many years, as I wanted to again see some of the sights almost forgotten since the war years.

Our first stop was at Proserpine which took priority on the itinerary as there I was able to look up a really first class soldier - Vic Norman of 5 Platoon fame - in fact, I'm proud to say, from my Section.

The last time I saw Vic was in Balikpapan at the end of November, 1945. Perhaps like us all, he is a little older but he still looks the same to me except that he is slightly heavier.

It was lovely to meet his wife, Sally, who was known to us all as "our gal Sal," and his daughter, Sandra, who is far better looking than her father ever was!

Vic also has two sons, one a Bank Officer, married and living in Townsville and the other was away during school holidays, so we didn't see him.

Vic was anxious to hear about those whose names he could readily recall -

Monty Reid, Arthur Daldy, Pat Egan, Jim Fields, Butch Phillips, George Thuel, Jim Cameron of our Platoon and many others too numerous to list here.

However, he asked me to pass on his good wishes to all Pioneers and expressed the hope that one day he may get to Sydney and see a few.

Vic's address is 25 Ann Street, Proserpine, but it is for incoming mail only, as Vic suffers from "crampitis" of the writing hand. I can say that here, where he can't have a shot at me.

After going to Hayman, Daydream and South Molle Islands, we continued our trip up to Cairns, where we enjoyed looking around at local sights, up to Atherton, Mareeba, Port Douglas and Mossman.

Our old camp site near what was known to us at Trinity Beach is quite undistinguishable as it is now a cane farm.

PALM COVE LANDING PRACTICE

The beach, which during the war we used for landing practice, is known as Palm Cove, there are quite a few holiday cottages and it is a most popular spot, looking out onto Double Island. Seeing Double Island brought back many memories, as it was there that our old departed, but not forgotten mate, Norm Phillips, together with Pat Egan and myself, built a hut which was used as our headquarters for week-end fishing excursions. We had the hut well stocked with food, hand grenades, gelignite (for

fishing) and anything useful which could be moved and rowed over in a boat.

We continued our trip going up to Cooktown by boat from Cairns and returning to Cairns by bus. This was quite an experience, a bit rough, but well worth doing once!

Unfortunately, our trip was only of 12 days duration but it has served to freshen memories and as an inducement to go again as soon as circumstances permit.

The scenery, climate and steady pace of living is a far cry from the rat race conditions which many of us Southerners put up with, so to anyone contemplating such a trip, I can only say - do it, you'll enjoy it.

I thought last Anzac Day's function at the Castlereagh was quite good. It was a bit unique having Joan's cousin, Jack Collis, serve my lunch, although I think he had his thumb in the gravy deliberately. He must have gone early as I didn't see him during the latter part of the afternoon.

Well, I've rambled on enough for this session, Max, so will finish off wishing you and the Committee well and adding my appreciation for efforts in fostering the comradeship of our Association.

Kind thoughts,

BOB LEE,
5 Plat., H.Q. Co.

DONABABU (N.G.) R.A.P. PARADE

By LAURIE (3 Course) KELLY

On listening to the Editor's pleas for each one of us to relate a humorous incident in our army career, my thoughts went back immediately to one R.A.P. parade at Donababu, in New Guinea.

Mould was prevalent in the jungle - tobacco and cigarettes were mouldy, clothes and boots were mouldy. Even the human body was mouldy with fungus or tinea.

Well, I copped tinea on the most tender part of the body. Some bright spark suggested I try that issue of mosquito oil. I used a full bottle of this, plus two tins of issue tinea powder, but all to no avail. Then another bright specimen suggested that I visit the Armory Sergeant as he had some beaut rifle oil, that would cure it. Half a pint of rifle oil certainly lubricated certain parts, but it left me with practically no skin on the posterior.

The time had come, I said to myself, to go on tinea parade at the R.A.P. It was a Sunday morning and when I reported to the R.A.P. I was told to strip off all except boots, hat and a towel around my waist. About twenty men were on parade in the same condition. Jack Collis came out and told us to line up in two ranks facing each other and said "When I paint each man with this green tinea paint, the man opposite will fan with his hat the effected part. This stuff is very hot."

GREEN FIRE OF HELL

All went well, with the opposite rank, when we fanned like hell. Then it came to my turn to be painted and remember I was red raw from previous "treatment." I took off my towel and Jack hit me with that green fire. My God, then it happened. All the naphtha dropped on Vietnam or those German flame throwers that broke through the Salient had nothing on that fiery brush you had in

your hand, Jack.

With only one thought in mind and that was to put out the fire, I dropped hat and towel and raced like fury for the river. Lucky it had rained the night before, otherwise I would have set the dry grass on fire.

On my flight towards the river some 200 yards away, I passed Colonel Graham and the Padre and heard the Colonel say "my God what is wrong with that man." I was told later the Padre replied by saying "well he is going the wrong direction to our Church Parade."

ALL RECORDS BROKEN

Anyway, I broke all records getting to the river and although the bank was 10 ft. high, I put Tarzan to shame in the dive I made. I remember the water boiling around me and they tell me that for months after they were catching crocodiles with skins boiled from their bodies. Who made that liquid fire, Jack?

Was it a man by the name of De Sade or was it the beast of Belsen?

I have often thought a lot of money could be made if one was to go to a dog track or a racecourse and with a little dab with that brush and presto - a winner.

Perhaps we could give some to the Olympic Games runners and be sure of Gold Medals!

I am fairly sure the main ingredients would be as follows: One tin green army paint, one gallon white phosphorous, one gallon naphtha, one gallon sulphuric acid. Miss all together and issue to the R.A.P. Corporal.

Anyway, Jack, three parades later I was cured, if only by psychological effect. You know you could have sent that green hell up to Vietnam. One little dab on those A.R.V.N.S. tails and you would have the best soldiers in the world.

Goodbye for now.

WELFARE REPORT

Through the kindness of those good friends of ours in the office at Concord Repatriation Hospital, I receive advice about noon each Thursday regarding members of the Association who are patients there and their respective Wards, so that when doing the rounds during the evening, I have all the information on hand.

Only the medical history and the last Unit or Battalion from which one was discharged from the Army is kept, and no regimental particulars whatsoever. So if you did transfer to any other mob from either 2/1 or 2/2 Pioneers and have to go to hospital, and would like a visit, write or phone me at the following address: Welfare Officer, Harry Montague, 46 Pomeroy Street, Homebush, 2140. Phone: 76-6657.

LAST POST

It is with the greatest regret that I report the deaths of two old originals from the 2/1 Pioneers, Stan Barling "D" Co. and Jimmy "Titch" Young, "B" Co., recently.

Deepest respects were paid on behalf of the Association to their next-of-kin, and we have lost a couple of cobbers who will always be remembered.

H. MONTAGUE.

OBITUARY

We are sorry to announce the passing of Mr. Claughton, Snr., father of our esteemed Padre, Stan Claughton, of the 2/2 Pioneers.

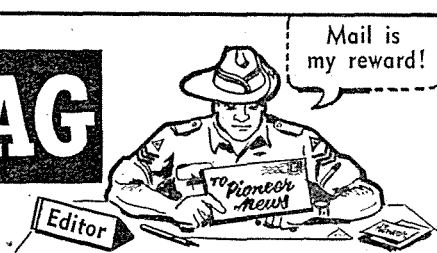
This old gentleman was most highly respected by all who had the honour to know him, and we of the Association join with the family and their many friends in paying our deepest respects to Stan and Jean Claughton.

H. MONTAGUE.



from the MAIL BAG

Editor: BOB LAKE
43 Amourin St., Brookvale, 2100 - Tel 93-4696



Start of another issue of the Mail Bag and the first letter to hand from an old stalwart of the 2/1, Ken (Mum) Kerr, writes a letter per medium of his good wife, June, that although ailments are at times a severe problem, he manages to continue with interests to keep him out of trouble and happy at his ripe old age of 72. Ken and June are residents out in the Lane Cove area and he really enjoys the doings of the Association per our little paper. Ken also enclosed a cheque and this is in the hands of the Treasurer. Thanks for your letter, June and for the subscription.

JOE HOCKEY, that master of trouble in his younger days, has slowed down a bit with the passing of time, but still manages to keep smiling, and keeping the Newcastle boys constantly on the alert. Joe has not been enjoying the best of health and has not attended a Tobruk Day at Newcastle for four years. However, Joe wishes to be remembered to all the mob and a special mention to C. Co., where he did most of his damage earlier in life. Thank you for the subscription, Joe, I can assure you that Doug knows just what to do with it.

JACK WILLIAMS, 2/1 and now at Sefton, Sydney, sends a short note mainly acknowledging our Treasurer's appeal for outstanding subscriptions and sends a nice cheque to keep the old paper above water. Jack does not say what he does to keep himself occupied so am afraid that we cannot pass this information on, many thanks, Jack, and Treasurer has the cheque where it is doing most good.

AUB BRAZIER, Hon. Pioneer and our official bugler at all occasions sends a thank you note for his good time at Anzac Eve and Anzac Day and the information that he has spent some time working in the Casino area since that time. Did happen to pass through Kyogle on a few occasions where Bill Hoffman is in command, however the local baths, which are Bill's particular baby, was closed and not knowing Bill's address, could not see him. Just shows you don't know much about Kyogle Aub, any dog or cat could have taken you to any of the Pioneers in that town!

MONTY MONTAGUE, our Hospital and Repatriation man that parades nightly at A.G.H. Concord, sends a short note with subscription from Alf Jakins and Bert Brittain, both patients at time of Monty's visit. At the time of going to Press, Monty reports that Bert had passed away. Our sincere sympathy to his family.

GEOFF CHEAL, 2/2 and now with the Bank of N.S.W. at Moama, N.S.W., don't bother with the maps, Moama is on the N.S.W. side of the Murray River, near Echuca, Geoff enclosed that information to stop us from going grey, however, he has sent a cheque comprising of half his life savings to help us on our way. Geoff quotes that on writing from the Queen City of the Riverina, and that it must be a pretty good place because, besides Magpies, Kookaburras, Tiger Snakes and Galahs, there are a few other Pioneers

there also. Ted Grumley of the originals, Archie Sinclair and Bill Fallon were three. As Geoff writes, quote "How we who reformed the unit at Wagga hated these originals, during training, we just about had our guts pulled apart in an endeavour to emulate the Originals, such emulation of course being forced upon us, the story being, if they could do it, we had to. Have met one or two of the originals since and you know they turned out to be quite human and not bad blokes at all." Unquote. I thought this a very entertaining letter and the extra copies of the News will be posted accordingly.

COL SHEA, 2/2 and now at Footscray, Melbourne, sends along a substantial cheque to keep things rolling, but did not write very much news with it. I suppose with Footscray out of the big time down there in the Aerial Ping Pong season, Col is a bit disappointed and not feeling his usual self. Cheer up though, Col, it must get better, for years now I have had to swallow the fact that most of the Committee of this Association hails from the St. George district and they used to kill us at football, but the worm has turned and its my turn now, maybe your turn will come next year. Jokes aside, Col, thank you for the subscription, I can assure you it must do good.

FERGUS ROBERTSON, 2/1 and now at Mosman, N.S.W., sends along a cheque and a few words of news, claims he is getting a bit long in the tooth for marching these days, but will try to get along to town next year. Fergus' cheque came with the apology that it would have been more, but that is all Mr. Crean has left with him. Fergy has been in hospital at Concord and passes his sincere thanks along to Monty for his visitations while he was a patient, and that he did also meet Jock Armour at the Repatriation Centre not long ago. Thanks for the letter Fergy and the cheque is in Doug's little hot hand.

ERIC (COONA) LINDSAY, of Coona-barabran, N.S.W. sends a cheery note with a subscription for the Treasurer and a cheerio to all his mates, some of whom he has not heard from for quite a while. Eric speaks of fellows, Jimmie Darra, Bob Fred Bellingham and Speed Gordon, who have not been too strong with the pen. Eric has taken up bowls and is looking forward to travelling around a bit so is hoping to contact a few of the blokes in his wanderings. This will be at weekends and holidays, as he hasn't made retirement as yet. Thanks for the letter Eric, and hope that some of those mentioned above get the message.

CYRIL AMIES, ex-2/1, now with a printing business at West Ryde, sends a short note and a subscription to Doug's appeal, but does not say a great deal, but apparently still enjoys seeing the News. Many thanks for the cheque Cyril, can assure you it will do most good.

KEN BOWDEN, 2/1, now at Balgowlah, is much along the same lines at Cyril, a very short note with a cheque. for the Treasurer and very little else written on the page, I suppose this is to be expected

from the Brig. who made great use of those field service cards to his sisters during the war years. Good luck Ken, and thanks again for the support.

MRS. LUCY CREIGHTON, of Chatswood, sends a thank you note for the receipt of the News at each edition and also enclosed a cheque for the Treasurer with very little other information. Thank you Mrs. C., glad that you enjoy our little paper.

MICK BYE of Goodooga, and boss of the Brahman Stud, sends along a letter with a little news. Mick is a pretty regular contributor to the paper with his letters and we are very thankful to him for same. As he quotes, he does not get away from the property very often and therefore his meetings with the boys is strictly limited, however, he does do a lot of work for Legacy and this does bring many familiar names to his attention. A Gymkhana is held on the property each year in the effort to support and raise money for Legacy, while Digger's Day at the Bowling Club is also hived up for the same reason. It is on this one day that Mick meets up with Bob Molyneux, who still lives at Lightning Ridge and is also a very keen bowler. At time of writing the Stud is enjoying a very good year and this makes a welcome change from the few previous ones that have been a bit rough. A good letter Mick and can assure you that the cheque is where it is doing the most good.

DES MARTIN, 2/2 now at Wodonga, sends a cheery note and a sub to the Treasurer and remarks that since his old mate, Red Jones is not around to keep him up to scratch, finds that finance matters are inclined to be a little lax. Des remarks of the problems of droughts and bad prices, plus the declining health of the old digger, are all adding up to a bit of a problem, however, he is still riding the range after cattle, as he remarks, people die in bed and he always hated walking. Wishes to pass along the information that the old colours, Grey, Purple and white triangle, purple cap are registered colours with the V.R.C., won a steeple race in July, however the writing is a little bit hazy here and I do not know whether Des owns the horse and the colours or whether it is a relative of his. Sorry, Des, just can't work these last two lines out. However, many thanks for the letter and cheque and hope that the colours go on to bigger things.

H. A. HUTCHINSON, of Woy Woy writes a line that he enjoys the News and doings although illness has taken the course that he cannot attend any of the functions any more, and must always venture out with a companion to accompany him. However, should any of the boys be up that way his address is 154 Burge Road, Woy Woy, he would love to see them. Many thanks for the letter old mate and cheque is with the Treasurer.

LARRY ROBSON, 2/1 and regarded as our Newcastle coast to coast relay man, writes a good letter of his last trip up the North Coast. I think Larry does this trip all the time, although I sometimes

MAIL BAG (continued from page 3)

wonder when he gets time to take any orders. However, here is the trip, Ted Eather known to all as "Bluey," on the Kempsey Kid, was contacted at the R.S.L. for a few hours on "Squash" — not both of you?? And Blue looks the goods. For those that don't know Blue is the Saw Doctor for the W. & G. Mill at West Kempsey. Fred Wheaton back at Coffs, fully recovered from the Anzac Day Reunion and working with his brother, Jack in the butcher shop at Coffs Harbour. Allan Crute of Woolgoolga, sends his regards, however Tom Morrow was not at home, out loading bananas. Next was Grace Leese at Grafton, wife of the late Harold, and she sends her regards to all she knows and still enjoys the "News." Caught Terry McGuire at the South Lismore Bowling Club, where the big bowling Gala was the main topic. Also spent half an hour with Alex George and wife Jean, where Alex has been made a Life Member of the R.S.L. for services rendered as Treasurer to the Sub-Branch. Alex Cameron was next, still with the D.M.R. and in working hours (if any Pioneer knows what that is, other than our Secretary and Treasurer) can be found anywhere between Woodburn and Cowper, sends his regards to all. Bill Payne has a gift shop in the main street of Maclean, Bill still plays his tennis and looks remarkably fit. Jim Casson was also on tack and is occupied with the worries of the Tick Control Office. After reading through this list, do you get what I mean about orders!! Larry has also got a special note for all Newcastle members, plans are in hand for another Smoko at the Cardiff R.S.L. on the 2nd March, 1974. A smorgasbord at about 7.00 p.m., mixed night, so bring the lovelys with you. It would be appreciated if you could let Larry know of your intentions so as to help with the catering. There is no excuses necessary, remember even if you don't drink the amber fluid, there are a lot of blokes the same way these days.

Larry also passed on the sad news of the passing of **Don Cotton** in March.

Jack Bertram, 2/1 of Newcastle, writes to say the Newcastle team have organised an informal get together at the Cardiff R.S.L. Club on 2nd March, 1974, and would be glad to see as many of the Pioneers and their wives as possible to make the night a success. When the date was mentioned to Peg Herron, she said to Bob Lake "that's our wedding anniversary week-end, so Max and I can live it up." At least you'll have two starters that week-end, Jack.

Jack states he has not seen many Pioneers around lately — Dick Seddon is enjoying his retirement and Jack Griffiths is as busy as ever.

Thanks for your letter, and keep us posted about the Newcastle get together. I'm sure you will have quite a few starters, if the Greta Show is any indication.

Allan McInnes, our well-known 2/2, and his wife, Mary, made a short visit to Sydney recently and our secretary and his wife were able to catch up with some of the news since Mary and Mac left Sydney in January. Mac's health had improved since his move to the Gold Coast and they were really enjoying their leisure hours.

Allan sends his best wishes to all and hopes one of these days to be able to join up for our Anzac Day functions.

Mary Lloyd, wife of Jack Lloyd, 2/1, was at the time of writing still holidaying in Ireland and from all reports to Peg Herron having a truly wonderful time. Thanks, Mary, for your lovely cards, they certainly made us very envious.

Graham "Sailor" Witham, 2/1, is also still overseas and enjoying a very peaceful holiday with friends in Lincolnshire, England. He sends best wishes to the Committee for a happy reunion in October.

John Hunt, "A" Coy., 2/1, of Cherm-side, writes in to say "it takes a reminder to spur us laggards on." He was pleased to receive the last issue of the Pioneer News and in particular, to see the photographic insert — he states "who are all those baldy and grey headed blokes — surely not the young fellows we knew so long ago."

John was in Glen Innes for a day of his holidays last month (August), but as usual, Tom Manual was out when he called.

John is leading a busy life, even though he only has his youngest son, Garth, at home. Garth was chosen as Captain of St. Paul's School, Bald Hills, Brisbane. We send congratulations to you Garth on achieving such a high honour. John's daughter is now a doctor at Princess Margaret Hospital, Perth. If all goes well, John said he would be down for Anzac Day, 1974.

Many thanks for your newsy letter, John and also for your donation.

Well that's about it for this issue fellows, glad that the response to the Treasurer's appeal was so good, it does go towards making our paper possible and I think you all agree, it is a good one.

LAKEY.

STREAMLING
ANNUAL MEETING

At the October Committee meeting it was proposed that the Annual Election of Office Bearers be streamlined to fall into line with modern meeting procedure, thereby saving members time at the Annual Meeting.

The Constitution states the Annual Meeting elect the President and Committee and the Committee nominate their Office Bearers. Therefore the Committee are called upon to nominate Office Bearers for 1974 at the March Committee meeting.

At the Annual Meeting the Chairman will call upon the Secretary to read the name of each nominated Office Bearer — the proposer and the seconder. Then at the completion the Chairman will call for any further nominations — if any he will put them to a majority vote — if no further nominations he will declare the nominations as made to be elected — and carried with acclamation.

Any member objecting to this change in procedure may write to the Secretary.

NEWCASTLE SOCIAL

2/1-2/2 MEMBERS, FRIENDS AND WIVES

CARDIFF R.S.L. CLUB

Macquarie Street, Cardiff

SATURDAY, 2nd MARCH, 1974

At 7.00 p.m.

SMORGASBORD DINNER \$3.00

Notify Social Secretary by 22nd Feb., 1974

NEWS ITEMS

● Whilst at Concord recently, I discovered old **Jack Hurst**, who was one of the originals of the 2/1sts at Greta, and after so many years what a meeting it was. We had quite a session and Jack immediately joined the Association. His legs have been anything but good, and after long treatment he was returned to the "Little Sisters of Joseph," Market Street, Randwick, which is his permanent address. Jack requests that if any of his old Battalion mates are ever out that way to call at the home — he would appreciate their visit.

● Also in my weekly visits to Concord, came across **Stan Pye**, of "D" Co. Stan had been at Nambucca Heads since returning to "civvy street," but is now living in Sydney. During our talks he was interested in news of his old cobbbers and certainly anxious to renew acquaintances with old Don Coy. mates.

● **Ted Skoyles** brought the good wishes and regards from one of our ex-R.S.M.s., **Arthur Smith**, who has a chemist shop in Bong Bong Street, Bowral, to all members of the Association. Arthur always leads the Anzac Day March at Bowral, which prevents him being with us on this occasion, but he hopes to get down for our next reunion.

● Met up with that old pal of the 2/2nd, **Frank Cole**, who resides in Warrawong, while he was also a patient in Concord. This fellow never misses a reunion or gathering of our Association. Frank requests that any of the members who are down that way call on him, and I can personally guarantee they will be made very welcome. Thanks, Frank.

● One of my old mates from 8 Plt., "A" Coy, 2/1, who marched into Greta when we were first formed, **Harold Adams**, was also in Concord. After not seeing one another for many years, it was a great pleasure to sit and talk about old times. Harold has retired from work, does a bit of fishing, housework and gardening, and has a nice quiet residence in Coolangatta Road, Berry, on the South Coast.

He would appreciate a visit from any old Pioneer who might be down that way, and I am sure Harold some of the old timers will certainly accept your invitation.

CLIVE McLACHLAN, "C" Coy, 2/1, is now the "Mine Host" of the Tourist Hotel, Queanbeyan, and would appreciate a visit from any Pioneer.

DON LAWSON, 2/2 and Vice-President of the Association, has been at Concord Hospital for nearly a month but is quite cheerful and sends regards to all his friends in 2/1 and 2/2.

TED CROKE, son of the late Jim Croke, 2/2, is now the Assistant Manager of the Homebush/Strathfield R.S.L. and would be pleased to welcome any 2/1 or 2/2. Also on the Committee of this R.S.L. is another member, "Ossie" Byrnes, "A" Coy, 2/1. So no doubt you would get quite a reception, for afternoon tea. Any enquiries, please H. "Monty" MONTAGUE.

CORRECTION

Caption on some photos of last issue were omitted as follows: No. 13 Vic. Whiteley. 14, Jack Griffiths and "Curly" Bentley. 15, "Our girls" at the Greta Barbecue, 1972. Photos may be obtained by writing to Paul Wiggins, 218 Connells Point Road, South Hurstville.