

PIONEER NEWS

Phone: 759-5491

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

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ANZAC FUNCTIONS, 1974

Well, here we are back again to tell you about our parades in April and we would like to see as many as possible attend them all.

WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

Wednesday, 24th April at 7 p.m.

The first of our parades is for our Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Cenotaph in Martin Place. Members of both 2/1 and 2/2 will assemble outside No. 19 Hunter Street, between 7 p.m. and 7.20 p.m., at which time we will proceed to the corner of Hunter Street and Pitt Street. At approximately 7.25 p.m. we march off to Martin Place, where the Ladies Auxiliary join us to lay the wreaths.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, 24th April, 8 p.m.

When we complete the Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Cenotaph we will proceed to the Castlereagh Hotel to attend the Annual Meeting. We are holding it straight away and the Castlereagh Hotel is on the corner of Park Street and Castlereagh Street. Everyone has a say at the Annual Meeting and as all positions for office bearers have been nominated, you need not be afraid of "copping a job." So don't forget — attend the Wreath Laying then the Annual Meeting — here you will have a few beers and biscuits on the Association.

ANZAC DAY MARCH

Thursday, 25th April

Same place — same time — but different people, so for the new member we give the details. We would like to see as many as possible, parade at their respective assembly points for the Anzac March. The 2/1 Battalion will assemble in Philip Street, near King Street end. The 2/2 Battalion will assemble in Macquarie Street, near the Sydney Hospital. Both the 2/1 and 2/2 will complete the March at Hyde Park, just two blocks away from the Castlereagh Hotel. After going to press there may be changes of assembly points, so check the newspapers for exact assembly points.

ANNUAL LUNCH & REUNION

Thursday, 25th April

Once more its back to the Castlereagh Hotel for our Lunch and Reunion, for both the 2/1 and 2/2 Battalions, and this is going to be a great day.

We assemble there at 11.20 a.m. for a free lunch, then the bar opens at 12 noon. At 2.30 we serve afternoon tea of fish pieces, beat balls, etc.

Come along and join your mates in a good day and then you can be home by 5 p.m. with the family.

See you there.

NEWCASTLE REUNION

The Newcastle Smoko was an unqualified success for all who attended this week-end, and all thanks must go to the two members that put so much time and effort into the organisation to get the ultimate result — a beauty. To Jack Bertram and Larry Robson, we salute you.

The evening meal, served at Cardiff R.S.L. Club, was attended by 49 people, Pioneers, wives and a couple of bachelors, no names, no pack drill, a very good meal and many thanks to Cardiff R.S.L.

Six cars travelled from Sydney with five of the car occupants booked at the Belair Motel, Kotara, and the remaining car elsewhere.

Thirteen people stayed at Belair, where Joyce McGregor had a little bit of room trouble, almost upset the management, and where Max and Peg Herron, celebrated or acted (whichever you like), their 31st Wedding Anniversary, they would not tell us although Max did complain about a lot of bed swapping.

A much more comprehensive coverage of this week-end will appear in the July issue.

Members and wives in attendance were as follows:

Larry Robson, R. Seddon, Pearl Seddon, Jack Griffiths, Jack & Jean Bertram, Ivan & Veronica Pepper, Digger & Mrs. Williams, Joe Hickey, Mick & Mrs. Flynn, Jack & Mrs. Collis, Bob & Joan Lake, Gordon & Olive Finlay, Bob and Joyce McGregor, George & Joyce Walker, Max & Peg Herron, Mick Dodson, Doug & Roma Shearston, Perc & Joan Shearston, Pat Noonan, Bluey Chase, Jock Russell, Ron Booth, Bricky & Doris Wall, Jack & Mary Lloyd, Bill & David Henry, Tom & Sylvia Cheetnam, Herb & Ann Wilson, Rick Gowan, Max & Sharon Alpin, Bob and Jean Juleff and Wendy Herring.

If I have missed anybody, my apologies, and I shall try to do better next time. See you all Anzac Eve.

GORDON FINLAY.

ANNUAL REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

For many years our esteemed Padre, Stan Claughton, 2/2, has conducted this Association's annual Remembrance Service at numerous Methodist Churches around Sydney.

Having recently retired from the Ministry, Stan and his good wife, arranged last year's service at their residence at Pennant Hills, on Sunday, 3rd November, so that members, their families and friends could again assemble to pay homage to those of both Battalions who have paid the Supreme Sacrifice.

The Padre and his wife cordially greeted the visitors, stating what a pleasure it was to see so many old friends making the trip for this special service.

Stan tendered several apologies, including a special one from that great stalwart of the 2/2, Don Lawson, who had just been discharged from Concord and was unable to make the trip.

The service was short and to the point, with Jim Field 2/2, reading the 23rd Psalm, Bob Dixon 2/2, read the Lesson and Harry Montague of the 2/1, recited "The Ode."

Later afternoon tea was served by Mrs. Claughton, with the help of the Ladies Auxiliary, and appreciated by all who attended.

At the end of the afternoon, a vote of thanks was tendered to Stan and Mrs. Claughton for their hospitality and kind invitation to their home for the service. It was carried by acclamation by all those who were privileged to attend.

HARRY MONTAGUE,
Welfare Officer.

RATS OF TOBRUK SOCIAL

On Saturday, 17th October, 1973, the Rats of Tobruk Association invited the Pioneers to their Social at Five Dock R.S.L. Bowling Club.

Mick Dodson, who is Vice-President of the Rats with Bob Scott, Secretary, Jack Pearce and Syd Kent as Committee-men, made everyone very welcome.

The dances were enjoyed by all and it was pleasing to see the Pioneers doing the light fantastic with their partners.

The Ballroom was decorated for the occasion and the Pioneer section was spectacular with the regimental colours of White and Purple on the grey background.

Mick Dodson welcomed the Gunners and the Pioneers and stated how pleased the Rats were to have them present.

Jack Anderson, President of the 2/1 Machine Gunners stated it was pleasing to join with the Pioneers and thanked the Rats of Tobruk Association for the wonderful evening.



Our first issue for 1974 and one to be very pleased about, a really good response of letters, especially so to our Treasurer's appeal for outstanding subs, a response which does prove that our paper is appreciated and that the members really do wish for it to continue, as it shall while we continue to receive the support shown here.

PETER (Dick) SEDDON, our Newcastle rep. with the pen has been quite active both with his social engagements, drinks and collecting the odd bob from the one or two between drinks. Jack McCracken is feeling quite well although a little unsteady on his legs, but still able to appreciate a Red Mill and a beer. Tom Towers of C. Coy. joined the group at that time, so another couple of schooners to allow time for talk.

Joe Hickey still bouncing around, 75 years now, and Dick considers him good for a few more years yet. Glido, Jack Griffiths, still fit, a pretty busy man, and still as dangerous as ever, while Tom Connelly and Charlie Wilby are still battling with the elements up at Moree way, while Bob Stevens, the barber, also of Moree, had been a patient at Concord for a couple of months. Sid Jopsen was through Newcastle in December, down for his son's wedding, again a couple of beers, and Sid is now living back at Port Macquarie where I guess he has renewed acquaintances with the R.S.L. boys once again. Ted Simpson has not been very well but is moving around again and in good spirits, lost a bit of weight and is off the hops for a couple of months. Jack Bertram is still kept very busy, does a lot of running around and is looking forward to the day that he retires. Larry Robson has not been seen, but would assume he is in good health. Claude Campbell not the best but Bob Juleff and Nugget Laurie both in the pink, while Bruce Mitchell, out at Greta still tops, and Herb Wilson not too bad, on crutches these days and has good days on occasions.

That is Peter's news, really covers some ground and does a good job for the paper and the boys, and of course we will have seen most of these chaps in March when we attend the Newcastle Smoko.

JACK COATES, 2/1. Now at Umina, out of Gosford, sends along a, what I consider a letter of quite some dissension, as to how B. Coy. was the best, how Norm Neal the best Coy. Commander, Harry Spreadorough the best Sar. Major and if anyone wants to dispute these claims he says Wheatson and Jopson will back him up. Jack had been to Narrabri to visit No. 1 son and family with two grandchildren, and passed the Greta Camp with him hanging out a window just as he did 33 years ago, and talks of ghosts that the trip renewed. Tich Young, Don Cotton, more B. Coy. and of Tich's photo having pride of

place in the bar of the old Q.C.E. Pub in Abercrombie Street, Redfern. Jack has retired from the Woy Woy football team and claims he will be on parade on Anzac Day, 1974. Jack closes with the news that No. 2 son, Doug, a fair three-quarter, has played Group 12 and Southern Division and may be on the lookout for another berth in the Country League, and he and wife married 28 years last October, married 10 days after discharge and tells his wife she rates with Steady and Tal, all Sar-Majors. I'll bet that made her day.

Thanks for a very good letter Jack, and subs with the Treasurer. Looking forward to seeing you in April.

GEORGE HOBLEY, West Australia, attended Anzac Day, 1973 and writes how he enjoyed seeing so many of the old boys once again a long trip of the period, where he was at Leeton, entertained by Mick Roberts and Jack Purcell, then Wyalong where he caught up with John Douglas, still scorching around like a cyclone keeping in front of father time. (You were more fortunate than I George, they had gone on holidays when we called in October). In Orange had lunch with Jack Hayden and his wife, and on his way back from Queensland had lunch with Ivan Pepper and his wife just out of Newcastle. Back in Adelaide Max Law and Ernie Hayden had a few hours with them, tried sorting out a few photos but even with the help of glasses, both eyes, and beer, decided the cameras used were too small. George and wife are now back at Bremer Bay, W.A., after a wonderful holiday, and would welcome any wandering Pioneers who may trip that way, where they would endeavour to extend the same hospitality that was shown them in their trip East. Thank you for a great letter George and Treasurer has same taken care of.

S. ABERCROMBIE very short note enclosing a sub and the best success for the paper and not much else, so thank you Sid, subs well looked after.

Allan Crute, of Woolgoolga, writes a letter to Peg and Max Herron thanking them for their congratulations on his award as a scouter, an interest that he shares with Max and enclosed a sub along with it. Allan has also had a visit from Doug and Roma Shearston, who enjoyed their visit, although the weather was not the best. Jack Bertram was another that called while on a bus tour and Allan did the honours of escorting the whole bus load around the enclosure. Also called in was the redoubtable Percy Penrose, who was responsible for another hour or so, so Allan can not complain of not seeing anybody; thanks for the letter, and Peg and Max send their regards.

GEOFF ROBINSON, 2/1, now of East Turramurra, apologises for the lack of subs and sets about remedying it, he quotes that looking at the November

issue, he was tempted to make a literary contribution, well we can always use literary contributions, so toss that better nature business away and lets hear from you, we will publish anything apart from very bad language.

MRS. E. LEVY, wife of the late G. Levy, sends a short note of thanks for her receipt of the news which she still enjoys, to browse through at her leisure.

PHIL RUBIE, 2/1 encloses his usual remittance to the Treasurer, and some nice words of praise to the executive of the Association and wishes us a lot more health, wealth and long life of same. Thanks a lot Phil and the same to yourself.

BERNIE REINERS, H.Q. Coy., 2/1, of Corryong, Vic., with his wife, Mona, and family were in Sydney during January to attend the wedding of their eldest son Brian, a Melbourne school teacher, to Barbara Kent of Lilli Pilli. The wedding was at St. Andrews Church of England, Cronulla, and a very lovely reception was held afterwards at the Cronulla Golf Club. Our congratulations to you, Brian and Barb, for a long and happy life together.

Peg and Max Herron said it was nice to see you and Mona again, Bern, they wished your visit could have lasted a little longer.

TOM JONES, 2/1 now at Doonside, encloses a subscription and the news that after many years has at last been granted the T.P.I. Pension, which helps to keep the wolf from the door, however Tom does not say much else, so unfortunately there is not much I can add to his news.

PETER PEILE, of Caringbah, recently a patient at the Rozlyn Private Hospital, at Arncliffe, sent a subscription per Monty to the News, giving you a mention here Peter, as it is our only form of receipt. Many thanks for your good wishes.

MRS. JAKINS, informing of the death of our old mate Alf and particularly requesting the continuation of the News, no problem whatsoever, it shall reach you regularly until such times as you decide different, our sympathy to yourself and family.

DAVE DENNY, resident of Lismore North Coast, sends a cheque and good wishes to all for 1974. Was out Collorenabri a while back at the R.S.L. Club and heard the name Kanga Robinson mentioned, was unable to get out to visit but did ring him and mention that he sounds hail and hearty and can laugh just as strong. Thanks for your news, Denny, and your good wishes returned by us all.

ALEC GEORGE (Glass Eye) to those who have fond memories of our football teams through the war years, still fit and strong and living a good life up at Lismore, where he has such stalwarts as Terry McQuire and Bill Lowe (who gets into hospital quite frequently of late),

Jack Bryant, Edgar Stratford, who still does a lot of work for the Sub Branch, Snow Weston, not so well of late, second hand information on Snow, as Alec has not seen him for quite a while, while Cliff Spicer and Bill Hood are both becoming a bit spread out, could be too much bowls, however, that's not a bad complaint, and no doubt all would agree, that's not a bad list of guys to have around your doorstep for a few hours. With a little luck, and we hope, a good push from Jean, we are all looking forward to seeing you and many others, on Anzac Day, 1974. Just don't let it slip your mind, Alec, and Treasurer has the subs from Terry, Bill and yourself.

TOM CONNOLLY sends along a sub and a notification of his change of address, actually a postal address as Tom gets around quite a bit, he is at present in the Moree area where, I guess there would not be too much moving with all the rain they have had up that way. Has seen a bit of Charlie Wilby and Bob Stevens and mentions that the festive season was quiet, quotes that with 30 points of rain they cannot get onto the blacksoil road to the highway, so I'd imagine with what they have had up that way, it could be quite some time before they go very far anywhere. Good luck brother Rat, keep up the good work and keep sober!

IAN HODGE, 2/1, who has the somewhat strange conversion from a Pioneer to a school teacher, writes from Moree, where he is now headmaster of the Moree High School. Has had this position for 12 months and thinks that he will be there for awhile yet. Like all teachers, Ian has had a fair bit of moving around and mentions towns like Deniliquin, Casino, Leeton, where Mick Roberts cut his hair for years and Casino where he spent the six years prior to his move to Moree. Does not know a lot of blokes around the area, he did have some time with Peter Bell, the late Ray Smith and Bill Hoffman, they were fellow Legatees at one stage, while Clancy Scholes' son-in-law is a part of the long arm of the Law at Moree. Chief game at Moree is the Rugby League team, where the school play the University Shield and under 16 State Champions, which gives him quite a bit of travelling in the winter seasons. Well Ian as you read this paper, you will see a few names from Moree, so you should be able to contact one or two in your afternoon sojourn to the Club. There are four children of the Hodge clan, 3 girls and a boy, the youngest girl 9 on 11th November, which is Armistice Day and the day that, as he quotes "a time we both agreed to call it quits." Small item of interest to you Ian, a lass named Lindy Allan, granddaughter of Cliff Handley, is employed here where we print the Pioneer News, she saw the letterheads of the school and wanted to know what it was all about. Thanks for the letter and don't let it go so long between notes next time.

OSSIE THURLING, now resident at New Lambton, writes a note to Max with a subscription and a sad little query that he does not see many Sig. names mentioned. Well as you know, what lazy b - - - sigs are, and they haven't altered, although there is a letter in this issue from Pat Noonan, who mentions a few. Sorry to know of your ill health, it is the one thing that mates cannot do much about, except to wish

you well and hope that recovery is not too far away. Your little trip up to the Gold Coast may provide the necessary prescription, especially if you should bump a few of the boys from Grafton, Lismore or Casino on your way. Many thanks for your letter, maybe we might see you at Cardiff at the Smoko in March.

VIC WHITELEY, Riverwood, Herne Bay, Mail Bag Editor some years ago, has once again accepted a position on the Committee sends a letter of his intention of heading along the Murray Valley in search of Dad McCallum, however, I happen to know that the search was once again in vain, don't know how many times Vic has done one of these trips, always on the hearsay of McCallum being at some place and it has always been "oh, he has gone to so and so about x months ago." I, Lakey, have also had two experiences of the same order, once when I went to Tallangatta, where he had moved to Wagga, and on my return trip to Wagga, he had gone to some unknown place over the Murray back into Victoria. However, was with Vic a few weeks ago, at a little get-together with Chica Taylor, another of the original transport drivers of the Battalion, and Vic told me "Again no success with McCallum." Thanks for the letter Vic, and welcome back. Will leave you to fill-in about Chica, could make interesting reading.

JACK TATTAM, old smoothie from Tamworth, and was known as the Music Maker of the Grafton Smoko and Picnic, held some years ago, writes that he has had a holiday around Queensland, where they spent a fortnight with Fred and Neil Davenport, who handed out the red carpet treatment and both thoroughly enjoyed same. Toured all round Noosa Heads with Fred acting as guide, also a trip over to Bribie Island. On the return journey called into Pat Lochran's place but he was away, A.W.L., so no visit. Travelled back through Kyogle, but did not find any of the lads, though I understand most of our Kyogle troops have moved away to towns not so distant, but nevertheless not Kyogle. Jack also called on Claude Campbell at Inverell, then made for home. Thanks for the news Jack, and new address has been taken care of.

ERIC (Bombo) REYNOLDS writes in that he and his good wife, Joyce, have had a trip to Perth on the Indian Pacific, which apparently they enjoyed very much. Stayed with friends in Perth and also had a trip up to Geraldton, which was at the best time as the country was a mass of colour with the wild flowers. Their stay at Perth was up to standard, Swan River a pretty sight. Swan beer quite good. Kalgoorlie beer (Hannan's) not so good, funny how Pioneers notice these little things. To all concerned the train is really good, although they were a little unfortunate as a good train had a mishap somewhere out in the desert and this put the Indian 14 hours behind schedule and with beer 35 cents a can, could even prove expensive. Bombo is back to work, where he had a slight altercation with a circular saw, but is O.K., no damage, and closes off with a thought, "How would the Aussies go in the Middle East again now?" I reckon I could answer that, no bloody good. Thanks for the letter Eric and Treasurer has subs in the right place.

PAT NOONAN sends a sub donation and an apology for its lateness, however Pat is a pretty regular attendant on Anzac Day, where these matters are often attended to by the city blokes, but on this particular day Pat was not fit enough to encounter and cope with such a vigorous campaign as Anzac Day, so was confined to a chair in the lounge room, where for the first time he witnessed the March on T.V. Pat also reports of a slight accident to Jack Stone, while doing some maintenance to his boat, apparently a small explosion, fire and Jack was burned down one side and one injured foot when jumping to the slipway. Also hopes to regain his watch in the bilge at a later date. Thanks for the news, Pat and hope you are fully fit for April, 1974.

GEORGE (Snow) TOMLINSON sends a sub to the Treasurer and an apology for its lateness, however Snow has changed his address where he and the family will settle in Dubbo and he will just get an easy job (what's that?). Often sees Arthur Brown and Bill Barnes who live around his way, but I am not sure that he means they live near Trangi and not his new home at Dubbo. Now that he has showed his ideas, he has made a statement that he would like to see some of the old faces again and is a big possibility that he may show up on Anzac Day, so all you 2/2 get your glad rags out and make it a day to remember. Thanks for the letter, change of address noted and don't forget April, 1974.

BERT HUTTLEY, 2/2, now in Bloomsbury, Qld., sends a sub to the Secretary and many thanks to the News, which was instrumental in his receiving a visitor, Jack Clement was from Sydney, Bert from the north, and a solid friendship was founded. Jack read of Bert's address in the News and on a trip through the north, just called in. As they had not sighted one another since Balikpapan, can guess there was quite a bit of earbashing went on. Bert mentions that Vic Norman lives at Proserpine, about 25 miles from him, and he had a visit from Bobby Lee and wife, both were in the same Platoon which just proves that you can never tell who may knock on any door, if they were Pioneers. Good letter Bert, don't rest on it for too long!

DON LAWSON, just a short note with subs included, apologising for his being out of circulation last year, not often that Don has missed out, but we know that he will be back again this year, bigger and better than ever, steering those 2/2 blokes on to brighter days and looking for the new ones to the fold, good health Don, see you in April!

BILL FALLON, 2/2, now at Barraba, sends a sub and a letter explaining his inability to attend Anzac Day in the city. Bill has only been to two, but works Bill has only been to two, but work on a property can be very demanding and we all appreciate this fact. In cattle business and possibly enjoying the best years since he took the block on, 20 odd years ago. Also wants to put the record straight, last issue Geoff Cheal informed us that Bill was at Moama, N.S.W., however, there is a correction, there, as it is his sister who is at Moama. On a trip to Queensland last year, Bill and wife called on Frank Howard and family at Somerset Dam, a good old yarn ensued and both look

well although Frank not enjoying the very best of health. Thanks for the news Bill and keep a good eye on those steaks on the hoof.

In October 1973, but too late for the November paper, Joan and I took a trip through the Riverina as far south west as Wentworth, where we were looked after like lords by Jim Robertson and wife Margaret, sons Ian and Sandy. We spent a very pleasant few days with them all, and probably saw the country at its best, as both the Murray and the Darling were or had been in flood, and while they were receding, there was still plenty of water. Our old mate Robbo (the Seal), while keeping a pretty cheeky grin and always with an answer, still would not qualify for a Kokoda track gallop, however he still manages a few beers, even though he has developed that habit they all have down there of drinking 7 oz. glasses. Spent a few pleasant hours at the Clubs, both Wentworth and Mildura, where we enjoyed beers and the women enjoyed ?? pokies. On the return trip I looked up Mick Tassell at Hay, he looks well, a bit beefier, could be the good tucker and I've extracted a promise from him to attend Anzac Day 1974. I sincerely hope he reads this just to keep him up to date. Travelled from Hay to West Wyalong where we tried to contact John Douglas, but unfortunately he was on a short holiday. This information was passed on to me at the Golf Club, where I was directed to his second home. Left Wyalong next morning and headed towards Newcastle, which I tried to make in the one day, failed, so stopped at Wyong, where I passed half an hour or so with Noel Peterson, however could not entice him up to the Club, so had to call it a day. Travelled on to Laurieton, filled up at Ivor Pepper's garage out of Newcastle, and spent the rest of the holiday with my sister and her husband, no Pioneers, so no news along that front.

That just about closes Mail Bag for this issue, so will wish you all good health, good writing, and see you all on Anzac Day. LAKEY.

NEWS ITEMS

● **TED CROKE**, who is the Assistant Secretary of the Homebush R.S.L., and son of the late Edward Croke, 2/2 Pioneers, gave me a very generous donation towards our Association, which was forwarded on to our treasurer. With his mother, Ted looks forward to copies of the Pioneer News with tidings of Edward's old Battalion mates, to whom best wishes are sincerely forwarded.

If any members of the 2/1 or 2/2 are at any time in the vicinity of Homebush R.S.L., please call in and young Ted would more than make them welcome.

● One of the Association's old stalwarts, **Jack Henderson**, 2/2, was for a while a patient at Blacktown Hospital. He related to me, on the occasion of my visits, the wonderful holiday he had recently had in Adelaide, and how ex-members of the Unit had made his stay very enjoyable.

However, it is regretted that, although home again, Jack has had to retire from work through ill-health. We wish him well and sincerely hope his health improves.

● Following a message from **Peter Peile's** wife, Erica, a visit was made to a hospital at Rockdale where our old

pal, an original member of my Platoon 8, A. Coy., 2/1, was a patient. Peter had hurt his back at work and was lying strapped to boards undergoing treatment. Not having seen him for quite some time, we had plenty to talk about and it did cheer him up debating about old times, especially our particular platoon.

Having responded somewhat to treatment after his stay in hospital, Peter is now home and can get about in a plaster jacket, but hopes it can be discarded in the near future.

Erica gave me a nice donatoin towards our News, which they both thoroughly enjoy, and we look forward to seeing you, Peter, on Anzac Day minus the "new suit."

● The Association's thanks were tendered by me to **Len Humphries**, B. Coy., 2/1, who is the Vice-President of Blacktown R.S.L., and who assisted me tremendously when acting on behalf of one of our members. Your help was very much appreciated, Len.

● A few weeks ago, acting on behalf of the widow of one of our members, I rang the War Graves Commission at Rookwood, seeking information. On introducing myself, and stating my business, the voice at the other end of the line said "One of my old mob, Monty, and mighty pleased to hear from you." It was none other than **Silas Todd**, who was W.O.II Caterer with the 2/1 in the Desert and Milne Bay, when he relieved Billy Woodhouse, who had become very ill.

Needless to say, everything possible was done for the lady in question and we are most appreciative for the help given, Silas, and will be looking forward to seeing you at our next reunion.

● At 58 Sherwood Road, Revesby, **Tommy Hugo**, one of the originals of C. Coy., 2/1, resides with his charming wife, Margaret.

As reported previously, Tommy has had both legs amputated and has been confined to his residence in a wheelchair.

Apart from Harry Corby and myself, they do not see any old members of the Unit, and I sincerely appeal to any member of the original Battalion who can spare the time to call at the above address to do so, they would be very warmly welcomed. My wife and I visited them on Christmas Day, and it made them very happy.

Whilst visiting Tom recently, Margaret (who originally came from Cootamundra) gave me a copy of that town's "Weekly Herald." On the front page was a particularly good photo of three old original members of the 2/1 Pioneers, Jack Price of Harden, Wal Coggan, and Ross Saunders of Scone, having a reunion at the Ex-Servicemen's Club after not having seen one another since being demobbed in November, 1945. They had been together since they first enlisted in March, 1940.

Margaret secured a good photo of the trio enjoying themselves at the bar, and it is hoped that we will be able to print it in a future issue of the News, containing our Anzac photos.

● **Wally Roberts**, B. Coy., 2/1, who comes from Mudgee was receiving medical attention at Bapworth Hospital, Darling Point.

At time of going to press, Wally had returned home and sends his best wishes to all. H. MONTAGUE.

HAPPY VACATION

Late last year I had one of the greatest vacations possible, thanks to the hospitality of our old Pioneer mate, Jack Tattam, and his wife, Pat, and family at their Tamworth home. Our old A. Coy pal must have driven hundreds of miles showing me the many towns and centres around that locality, which was tremendously interesting, as well as educational.

A call was made on Harry Barton, also from A. Coy., which resulted in quite a few get togethers. On another occasion we all went by car to Murrumbidgee where Con Bush lives, but unfortunately he was away on business and we missed seeing him.

Despite an appeal by Jack and Pat to stay longer, I had to go on to Queensland, and it was with regret that I had to decline their kind invitation. However, if any Pioneers are in Tamworth at any time, please call on these two wonderful people. They would be very warmly welcomed.

After leaving Tamworth, I went on to Brisbane where Fred Davenport and his wife, Nell, were waiting for me, and took me to their lovely home at Scarborough.

During one of our sightseeing trips, we called in on Allan and Mary McInnes at their new home on the Isle of Capri, Gold Coast, where a very warm welcome awaited us. Mac and Mary have settled down remarkably well and both sent their kind regards to all members of the Association.

Mick Reilly, B. Coy. was next on the visiting list and it was good to meet him again, also his wife, Gladys. Mick is a T.P.I. now, but manages to get about. He is secretary of the Rats of Tobruk up there and doing a good job.

A few days later we called on Charlie Richardson, our old friend from A. Coy., who is a radiologist at the Mater Hospital in Brisbane. He hopes to be down for the next Anzac Day, and we certainly look forward to seeing him once again.

Fred and Nell later took me to Nambour where Pat Laughren, C. Coy. and his wife, Nell, awaited us. My hosts had to return to Brisbane, but I stayed overnight with Pat and his wife and was made very welcome. I personally thanked him, on behalf of the Association, for his kind wishes he always sends on Anzac Day. Pat is now a T.P.I. but is able to get about quite a bit and still takes a big interest in all kinds of sport. Any Pioneers visiting Nambour at any time would be most welcome at the Laughren home.

From Nambour I went on to Rockhampton, then back to Brisbane, where the Davenports were again waiting for me, with more sightseeing and visiting. My thanks to these kind people for a very happy vacation and one I will never forget. HARRY MONTAGUE.

LAST POST

It is with regret we report the passing of Alf Jakins, of 7 Platoon, A Coy. Alf was held in high esteem by all who knew him and was deeply respected.

The Association's deepest regrets were passed onto his wife.

His passing was very sad and once more we have lost a wonderful friend, but his memory will always be remembered.

PIONEER NEWS

Phone: 759-5491

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

Phone: 759-5491

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Editors: R. LAKE & M. HERRON

President:

J. (Mick) DODSON

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

At 8.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 24th April, the Association Annual General Meeting was held in the Dining Room of the Castlereagh Hotel.

Forty eight members were in attendance and it was very pleasing to see the many members who had travelled so far from Country and Interstate.

Presiding at the meeting was Mick Dodson the Association President, and after the reading of previous Annual Meeting Minutes by the Secretary, he called upon the Treasurer to read his Balance Sheet. This showed the Association to be in a healthy state and Gordon Finlay in seconding the adoption of the Annual Balance Sheet, said we were indeed very fortunate in having such a conscientious person as Doug Shearston as Treasurer.

LETTER FROM ALLAN McINNES

In correspondence the Secretary read a letter from Allan McInnes, our Past President, who wished all members the very best on Anzac Day and congratulations to our President and Executive for their efforts over the past twelve months.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

The President then read his report as follows:

This is the end of my first year as the President of the 2/1 - 2/2 Pioneer Association. It began with the Anzac Day 1973 reunion. Even though Past President Allan McInnes was away he was a pleased man, for he had been striving for a long time for both Battalions to be together on Anzac Day reunions. Now that our ranks are reduced by members who have passed away, and those unable to attend due to ill health, the amalgamation of both Battalions for reunions was number one in my book.

The Association could not be successful if we did not have a good working executive and committee. Even then gentlemen, there is still more room for members to assist the committee in any way at all. We know a lot of members have other commitments, but if you can spare one or two days a year when the committee makes arrangements for outings and meetings, then it would be appreciated.

OUTSTANDING WORK BY SECRETARY

Secretary, Max Herron's work is outstanding in that he puts a lot of hours and hard work throughout the year into the running of the Association. Enough cannot be said in words, thanks for the work Max does for the Association. In the past twelve months Max has arranged for the Management Committee to meet on eight different occasions, one

Annual Meeting, three Committee Meetings, one Social Meeting and three Pioneer News Wrapping Meetings. This certainly shows that Max is kept busy in his work as Secretary.

There are many unit newspapers in existence but in the "Pioneer News" we have one of the top unit newspapers. We are very grateful to Bob Lake, Max Herron and the printers, Vaughan Douglas of Brookvale, for keeping the presentation of the "Pioneer News" at such a high standard.

Editors Bob Lake and Max Herron have the thanks of all the members for an excellent "Pioneer News." This paper keeps all members throughout Australia up to date with the running of the Association. It is through the "Pioneer News" that many members, Interstate and Country read of the activities of their former tent mates of the war years. Our reporters, Gordon Finlay, Harry Montague, Don Lawson and Bob Dixon assist our editors with news but that still leaves room for you gentlemen to assist with letters and stories for our paper, any contribution with news will be appreciated very much by our editors.

TRIBUTE TO WRAPPING COMMITTEE

While on the subject of the "Pioneer News" we must pay tribute to all those people who assisted in the wrapping of the paper during the last twelve months. By wrapping the paper ourselves it saves the Association money. Many thanks to Roma and Doug Shearston, Joyce and George Walker, Joyce and Bob McGregor Olive and Gordon Finlay, Peg and Max Herron, Graham Witham, Bob Burnside and Jack Dodson for the good work they have done with the paper wrapping. Words cannot express the gratitude felt for Peg and Max Herron for making their home available for the wrapping of the magazine and for the excellent supper provided afterwards.

DOUG SHEARSTON AT THE HELM

No association could be successful without a good treasurer at the helm. In Doug Shearston, we have just that man. It is a credit to him that he keeps the books balanced in such a professional way. In the past many members, especially country ones have assisted the Association with generous donations. Many have retired now and the burden is on the shoulders of fewer members. Even then Doug has kept the bank account on a nice level. Many thanks to

all members for their donations. Keep up the good work, gentlemen.

SUPPORT OUR SOCIAL SECRETARY

Our Social Secretary, Bob McGregor, though not a well man, keeps organising our reunions and socials even though he does not get the support of the members. So again gentlemen, please assist Bob by keeping those dates free of other commitments.

WELFARE OFFICERS ON JOB

Welfare is another important part of this Association. Harry Montague endeavours to visit all Pioneers in the RGH Concord and local hospitals. To members who are unfortunate enough to be in hospital, especially from the country, a visit from our welfare officer helps to bring one bright spot to those who are ill. Jack Collis, our other welfare officer, looks after our members from the Central Coast. Both Harry and Jack are available at all times to assist members who require information regarding pensions and other problems. Keep up the good work, Harry and Jack. Members keep informing the Association of the good work both Harry and Jack have done in assisting them with their problems.

NEWCASTLE MEMBERS

In and around Newcastle there are many 2/1 - 2/2 Pioneers who are very interested in the running of the Association. There is a close liaison between both Sydney and Newcastle, is shown by the Reunions we both have organised and attended. They, like Sydney members, can always find time to welcome any members passing through. As I have said many times, it is the friendship still carrying on, which developed during the war years. Many thanks and good wishes to Newcastle members and their wives.

LADIES AUXILIARY

I could not complete my report without mentioning the Ladies Auxiliary. This small band of ladies, though not called upon often during the year, are available immediately something crops up. Thank you ladies.

Many thanks to all those who have assisted me during my first term as President and my sincere apologies to anyone whom I have neglected to mention.

MICK DODSON.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Chairman handed over the meeting to Max Law, ex Secretary and Editor, who now resides in Sydney.

Max conducted the Election of Officers in a very capable manner, with the following result:

Patrons: Geoff Graham, Gordon Osborn.

President: Mick Dodson.

(continued on foot of page 2)

ANZAC DAY 1974 REUNION

CASTLEREAGH HOTEL

Gentlemen - Anzac Day March and Reunion is one day of the year we look forward to meeting our mates and talking of the days gone by while we consume a few glasses of amber. It looks like there was no trouble obtaining a leave pass, for once again the reunion was well attended, some staying later than normal. Maybe there was something in the lemonade, or they may have been genuine in stating that there was plenty of talk about.

Some people condemn not only us, but all who remember Anzac Day with reunions. If they could read our members' minds it would reveal how deep down we think of all our mates who died in action and those who have passed on since. All those men who went away from our shores to do battle against the common enemy and to keep our country free, who lost their lives would not have

us remember them in any other way than the way we do as now.

The March of the 2/1 was disappointing in this regard that through a misunderstanding there were no bands with-in hearing. As usual with the Pioneers, they overcame the difficulty of marching without the Band and did a good job of it. George Brooks proudly carried the banner for the 2/1 and did such a good job that Bob Lake looks like recruiting George again next year.

After a very good meal, all adjourned to the Lounge where the boys kept the girls behind the bar very busy. This good amber loosened their tongues and there was much noise in the lounge with the boys talking of what happened 30 years ago. During the afternoon some very good snacks were served up by the Committee, which was appreciated by all the members.

With the large attendance of the 2/1 and 2/2 at the reunion the Executive and Committee once again had smiles on their faces knowing that the Anzac reunion was successful. This year there were many of the regular faces missing, but this was offset by more newcomers and members who had not been to a reunion for a long while. Most of the regulars who did not attend the reunion were from the country areas and knowing how the floods caused much property damage, I only hope the members were not affected.

Each reunion we have at least one of the Executive or Committee missing due to various reasons. This year it was sad to report that Rod Pegg passed on - "Lest We Forget." In R.G.H. Concord, Bob McGregor was a patient suffering from ulcers, wishing us all the best for the reunion.

Colonel Norm Neal arrived during the afternoon escorted by Jack Lloyd and Gordon Finlay. This is Normie's annual inspection, a little different to during the war years, but one that all enjoy. Norm spoke to each one in the Castlereagh and went away happy that he had seen his boys once more.

Many thanks to the Executive, Committee and members who assisted in making our reunion a very successful one. We know there must be money to keep the Association operating successfully and many thanks goes to Doug Shearston who sat at the table collecting all afternoon.

That is all for this report, gentlemen, see you all next year!—MICK DODSON.

ANZAC DAY JOTTINGS

Anzac Day has been and gone once again. It was a good roll up with 145 in attendance. As Anzac Day falls on a Friday in 1975, we are hoping that next year will surpass this figure, perhaps

with more country and interstate members able to make the trip.

● Had a beer with Colonel Norm Neal, Ken Stuart, Stan Jones, Bill Jollie and Stan Clarke at the Imperial Services Club and then walked Col. Neal down to his old 1st War reunion at the Royal George. If any Pioneer happens to be up at Penrith, Norm Neal would like to see them - 18 Cronin Street, Penrith. (He admits to 83 years).

Back to the Castlereagh -

● 8 Platoon A Coy. were kicking on well still going 6 p.m.) Geoff Robinson, Norm Cooper, Bill Gordon and Eric Guthrie.

"Casey" Brown, Frank Gillian, Bert Holmes (he would never play football with that corporation), Brian Kybert (as distinguished as ever), Max Law, "Bombo" Brown (down from Brewarrina) and Mick Dwyer were an early group.

● Transport Section was once again in operation, led by Bobby Lake. Brian Jackson was down from Kyogle. Young Terry Bird, son of the late Joe Bird, was looking after Lakey and did a very good job assisting the Committee. Thank you, Terry. Others included Vic Whiteley Albert Brown, Roy Jardine, "Dora" Black (who did a strip tease to show me his tattoos), "Banjo" Martin, Bert Hearne and Norm McEvoy down from Evans Head. Cec Peake was also somewhere around. I have Joe Barker's name down too, but I'm sure you weren't with us, Joe.

● Let's not forget the three who really did all the work - Anne, Ina and Faye. Thank you, girls, from all present for the pleasant and efficient service.

● From C Coy - Bill Wright, Larry Robson, Bill Miller, J. Anderson, 'Stumpy' Curtin, Jack Russell, Beau Hannaford (how do you get that big Beau?) and Clem Cook.

● Spied more B Coy led by that old stalwart Mick Reilly, down from Queensland again, Russ Monahan, Bill Jollie, Arthur "Scotty" Burns from Wagstaff and Eric Appleton. Not many from B Coy, or else they kept well hidden.

● Mick Dodson had a busy day with so many from A Coy., besides his normal duties as President of the Association.

Sighted him once with Percy Penrose who had some "nice" snaps of Con Bush down from Murrumbidgee, George Bates, Fred Davenport and Jimmy Trotter.

● Another lot from A Coy, were led by Arthur Luddington with Bill Arthur, John Hunt (with a beaut beard), Lance Gayden, Henry Allan, Tich Turnbull and Ned Calderwood. Tom Carr, the old A Coy. cook, was also in attendance.

● Dick Chalmers, Bill Doney, Sam Lewis, Ned Jennings and Bricky Wall were another collection of C Coy, enjoying themselves. Brickey was off overseas again on the 27th April.

● Mick Dwyer and Bert Holmes are very keen to see Danny Sprouster turn up again. However, Hon. Secretary informs that Danny is no longer on the mailing list. Does anyone know his whereabouts?

● To get back to C Coy. George Paricos spent time in both 2/1 and 2/2 Pioneers and claims to be the first Greek to join the A.I.F. Weren't you born in Cairo, George?

ELECTION OF OFFICERS (from page 1)

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

Secretary: Max Herron.

Treasurer: D. Shearston.

Social Secretary: R. McGregor.

Welfare Officers: H. Montague, J. Collis
Publicity Officer: V. Whiteley.

Trustees: G. Crossman, F. Allan.

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

Editors: M. Herron, R. Lake.

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

Committee: Additional to the Committee is Max Law.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Bob Burnside stated it is an amazing achievement by the Editors of the "Pioneer News" in producing such an excellent paper and they are to be congratulated.

Don Lawson said it brought back memories to see Max Law back on the job with the Association. As past Secretary, Max was always trying to bring together the 2/1 and 2/2, and now he can see the result of his attempt, because they are now together for all time.

Bob Dixon was also loud in his praise of the work being carried out by the Executive and was pleased to see the joining of the two units once again on Anzac Day at the Reunion.

Jim Field has carried the 2/2 Banner with pride for many years, but states now he has to relinquish his position because of ill health. The meeting were unanimous of their praise for the effort Jim has put into his role as Standard Bearer for the 2/2.

Harry Montague, our Welfare Officer, gave a report of his visits to Public Hospitals in addition to Concord Repatriation Hospital. He also reported on the assistance he had given to members and their wives as far as pension matters. All members praised Monty for the fantastic job he is doing.

Vic Whiteley congratulated the President on his very comprehensive report which shows the Association to be in a strong position, and likely to be so for many years while ever we have men of Mick's calibre and spirit with us.

● Also C Coy. and, for him, first Anzac Day, Viv Lemesurier, 15 Platoon. Good to see you, Viv, and to see Ted Skoyles and Ian Kirkwood looking after you.

● Somehow or other I couldn't find and Don Coy. boys until late in the day. That PINT that Gillian bought me may have affected my eyesight. Anyway, Max Herron led me to a corner and boy - Jim Gray, Ray Hill, George Walker, "Bombo" Reynolds, "Bimbo" Bell, Bill Hodges, Max Law again, Bill Oliver, "Bluey" Jones, Bert Moore, Stan Clarke, Peter Craig, George Tolmie and Jack Lloyd (but he said he didn't belong to D Coy.) Ken McGregor wasn't a Pioneer but one of Bob's brothers. How about that - they were still there when I left.

● Arthur White (H.Q. Coy.), Arthur Murphy, Jock Copeland and Merv. Phipps were in another group doing a lot of talking.

● A late arrival but a very welcome member of our Battalion, Jacky Coates, down from Umina. Jack has a son playing very good football down the South Coast.

● Col. Norm Neal turned up as promised at 4 p.m. on the dot. Mick Dodson did the honours by taking him round to meet everyone. Norm's eyesight isn't 20-20 anymore, but at 83 he looks well.

● Ron Sandquest of Caringbah, was one of those industrious workers serving the meals from the kitchen. I thought he was a 2/1 Pioneer, but on conversing with him, I found he was a navy man during the War and the British Navy too. It was then I discovered he was a Scout Leader friend of Max Herron, who did not have anyone to march with, so he joined the Pioneers. We extend a welcome to you Ron and hope to see you again next year. Perhaps you may be able to entice Eric Monkton to stay all day with us at the Castlereagh Hotel.

● Bob McGregor our Social Secretary, had a lengthy stay in Concord Repatriation Hospital recently, but is now back at work. We extend best wishes to you Bob for an early return to good health, and we missed you around at the Castlereagh.

● Graham (Sailor) Witham sold all the raffle tickets at the Reunion on Anzac Day, which brought in a nice profit for the Association. The dozen bottles of beer generously donated by the Castlereagh Hotel licensee, was won by Paul Wiggins (our official photographer and son-in-law of Eric Hawkins).

● Doug Shearston, our Treasurer, was a busy man prior to the March and at the Reunion, collecting fees from all the members present. We are most fortunate in having the services of such a remarkable person who would devote the whole of his Anzac Day to the collection of subscriptions. Every time I saw him at the Castlereagh he was behind "his table counting out his money." We are very grateful to you Doug for the terrific job you are doing.

GORDON FINLAY,
Reporter, 2/1.

ANZAC FUNCTIONS WITH 2/2nds

I remarked last year in my Anzac Day report, how I found time galloping on. I underestimated the com-mo-dity, it positively hurtles on. I'm sure it was only a few days ago I gave Max Herron last year's effort. That being as it may, let me be on with the present.

The Wreath Laying on Wednesday night, 24th April, was again an inspiring occasion. Both units lined up, the two banners leading and in true Pioneer spirit, marched to the Cenotaph, where in company with the Ladies, the wreaths were placed. The Bugler sounded the Last Post and Reveille - and we so earnestly remembered our mates who have gone on ahead. We do wish more of you 2/2 boys would attend this service.

The Annual Meeting followed and all business was put through in a very efficient manner. At next years Annual Meeting we ask for more 2/2 blokes to attend. It is your meeting too.

Anzac Day. Very early at the form up point. I was delighted to meet a very upright gentleman in the person of Col. J. M. Williams, O.B.E., E.D., the second C.O. of the 2/2 Pioneer Bn. This man gave magnificent service to the boys in Java.

The boys gradually rolled up and a good number marched. We were led this year, due to the absence of Major Robbie, by Jim Drummond and Dick Wakely.

Jim Field was unable to carry the Banner due to sickness and was greatly missed in this capacity. Jim was unable to attend at all this year and believe me, his absence was felt.

Arthur Stafford did yeoman service in taking Jim's place, many thanks Arthur.

I missed my sprightly marching partner, "Jimmy-germ" during the March. However, Jim turned up a little later. Due to a series of mishaps earlier on in the morning the famous "germ" was thrown right out of his stride. We made up later however.

The Castlereagh was the objective of all concerned and the hot meal was really right on the spot.

Clackers Clark was unable to attend and sent word to that effect, also wishing his mates the best and a good day.

Don Lawson was in good form at this gathering also. Don, over the years has been one of the stalwarts of the 2/2, and its great to see him on deck again. Many more years of it, Don.

The ever green George Paracos was in fine form, as was Dicky Kenniwell. Dick, I believe has changed his business. Dick has established his boys in the carrying game and has now established himself in the quiet confines of the Government Stores. He always was an old fox!

Norm Dalla was very conspicuous by his absence, as was Monty Reed and Bobby Lea.

Jim Drummond and Max Law were in very earnest conversation for some time, I noted. I also observed that the merging of the two units is becoming more pronounced. This is really so, and its very gratifying to see. I had the great pleasure of welcoming one of my platoon mates from Victoria to our reunion - Wal Humphries. I hadn't seen

Wal for many years and it was good to yak over old times and names. What would a reunion be without the Nichols boys, George and Bill, they were both there and I might say in their usual good form.

I must make mention how united the two Unit Banners look when placed side by side at the head of the stairs. They present a great sight when you come in.

Reg Armstrong, Jimmy-germ and yours truly formed a small group and we managed to look after ourselves pretty well. Was very pleased to see Bluey Locane. Blue has had quite a lot of trouble with brain tumor, but is back on deck and doing well.

Dick Wakely too, has had his share of bad luck. While on a world tour ran into very serious sickness while in Austria and I believe we are lucky to have him with us. However that is in the past and Dick enjoyed himself, I noted.

This would not be a report without noting Stan Cloughton, our Padre. Stan was at the March and also enjoyed his meal and a yarn at the Castlereagh with the boys.

All in all it was a good day and I'm sure that every 2/2 man present was pleased to be there. I would sincerely like to see double the number at next year's do.

BOB DIXON.

JOTTINGS — By Vic Whiteley

Roy "Snowy" Jardine, H.Q. Coy and wife Phil, leaving for a 10-week trip to the United Kingdom to visit daughter, Julie. Julie is a permanent resident of the "Old Dart." Roy was scheduled to depart three weeks after Anzac Day so he should have plenty of "Arf and 'Arf" inside him now.

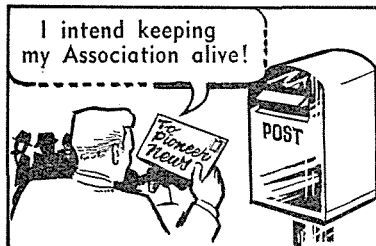
Gerry Collins, A Coy, was a guest of Concord Repat. Hospital for two to three weeks which covered Anzac Day. Gerry seems OK now but reckons he is not as fit as looks would have it. Gerry by the way, is Pension Officer at Penshurst R.S.L. and doing a terrific job.

On Anzac Day Banjo Martin was a starter with the M.T. Section at the Reunion - six or seven years since we have seen Banjo, who resides out Ramsgate way. Alan (Dora) Black is talking of retirement, after years of sweating it out at Mascot Airport. Joe (One Round) Barker called in but could not stop.

Bobby Lake, same old Lakey, Vic Whiteley, Bertie Hearne. Best is one person who missed out on his calling - a good drink steward wasted. Ordering three drinks for his party and making three trips to the table to ferry them across. Norm McEvoy we see every year - looks as though Norm could still pack down with the forwards. Terry Bird, son of Joe also attends every year and does a good job of assisting the Committee - no job too much trouble for Terry.

In the last edition of "Pioneer News" Lakey made mention of a Sydney visit by Charlie Taylor, ex H.Q. Coy, 6 Platoon. Charlie hasn't been sighted since the war days and a few ales with him in the company of Bob Lake, Bob Scott, Roy Jardine, Jack Pearce and Vic Whiteley made an enjoyable night. You don't just "mention" blokes like Charlie, but write books about them.

SAEDA.



from the MAIL BAG

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



The July issue of "Pioneer News" hits the press with a good supply of news from the respective members of both Battalions, with their little bits of news and occasional requests and good wishes to the Association for the coming year.

Allan McInnes, our ex-President of so many years and now in retirement at Isle of Capri, Queensland, sends a short note but a very sincere one of good wishes for the busy period that surrounds Anzac Day, to the Association and to the members and committee of same, for the ensuing year. Thanks Allan and feelings and expressions returned to both Mary and yourself.

Bob (Lofty) Hannon, ex 2/1, ex-resident of Manly and Harbord, N.S.W., and now firmly planted at Shepparton, Vic. sends a subscription to the paper and an apology that he would not be available on Anzac Day, owing to an invitation to spend a short term at Heidelberg Hospital, Melbourne. Bob sends all his regards to the boys of C Coy, the association, and wants me to tell him what has happened to Manly - that would take too much space, Bob, but let's say my guess is the coach, plus some internal problems in the football team. Have not seen Curly Bentley but will make it known through this paper, "Curly," Lofty wants the photo that you borrowed last year returned to him at 39 Knight Street, Shepparton, Vic. Best I can do old mate, hope it does the trick, best wishes to all from Lakey.

Dick Peter Seddon sends along a couple of letters dealing with Newcastle doings, tells of the death of Bob Stevens after a very long illness and his cremation service at Newcastle, where Jack Griffiths as president of the Rats (Newcastle) conducted the R.S.L. ceremony. Dick also was host to Blue Moxey for a few days and as died-in-the-wool B Coy boys, Dick Blue and Glido trotted off to Speers Point R.S.L. where another Pioneer, Ben Cooper is the President. Glido, aware of Buey's passion for the gee gees suggested a quick look at the races on the way, so with their usual "tin" backed the first two winners and proceeded on to Speers Point, where as Dick said, with two winners the President of the R.S.L. and the President of the "Rats of Tobruk" they had a very cheap afternoon, like you can't better it - "free." They even got into the races the same way. Peter has also renewed acquaintances with Roy Cheers, ex C Coy who is now a resident of Topi Topi, which is around the Myall Lakes area. Many thanks for the letter Peter, the subs from McCracken and yourself in good hands and the address of Roy Cheers (I am sure they used to call him Bluey), has been noted on the mailing list.

Tom Cheetham, 2/1, now of Adamstown, writes a letter of congratulations for the Newcastle show, held at Cardiff R.S.L. and of the very good night enjoy-

ed by all. Tom was unable to attend the Sunday entertainment owing to other commitments, and he missed quite a good day.

Tom was interested to read of Ian Hodge in the April issue. Ian was one of the regular "solo" team at B.H.Q., the others being Karl Drum, Alec Durie, Tom Morrow and Tom Manuel. Tom has kept in touch with Alec Durie "school teacher at Coffs Harbour." Tom Morrow banana grower at Woolgoolga, and was with them a few months ago, where the R.S.L. was the place of entertainment. Tom's wife, Sylvia, has had problems for some time, however an operation performed just recently should be the means to success, and with this in view, he hopes to see a few more of the boys when she fully recovers. Thanks for the letter Tom, sub in the treasurer's hot little hand and keep smiling.

Aub Brazier, our Honorary Pioneer and Buglar for our wreath layings and any ceremonies that we have had over the many years, sends a note of apology for not being able to attend our Anzac Day function, as he was situated at Newcastle and would be working on the Anzac Day. Aub sends his best regards to all the boys, and a good day for 1974. Thanks for the letter Aub and good luck.

Bob Long, 2/1, and a sick man for a long time, sends a letter of good wishes for the big day and doubts his ability to attend any future days, however, Bob is full of good cheer and keeps a stiff upper lip against his adversary.

Pat Loughren, 2/1 and long time resident of Nambour, the sunny side of Queensland, sends a good luck call to all at the big day. Pat had previously had a visit from Monty earlier in the year and what a yarn they had. Pat sends his regards to that special corps which was C Coy, and rolls off a list of names like Digger Williams, Joe Hickey, Ned Jennings, the Morahans, Clive McLachlan, Alex Cameron, Bill Robertson, Sandy Abercrombie, Jim Rhodes, Gordon Walsh, Geoff Graham, Alec George and many others, and offers the usual invitation, anyone travelling Nambour way are and will always be welcome. Many thanks Pat and subscription doing the best job.

Con Bush, ex Pioneer and now at Murrundi, sends a short note hoping to make Sydney next year, wishes all the best to his old mates and encloses a cheque for the association, many thanks to Con Bush.

Noel Peterson, that old stager from Wyong, sends a sub and the news that he has survived both Tobruk Sunday and Anzac Day with no hangovers where he was concerned, says some comment of "spirit willing but flesh weak," doesn't sound like old "Schooner" Peterson that I knew. Many thanks for the letter, Noel, keep sober!

Wal Roberts, B Coy, 2/1, per wife

Belle Roberts of Cassilis Road, Mudgee, sends a thank you to Monty for his visitations to Wal while he was a patient at St. Vincents Hospital and Babworth Con. Home, at Darling Point. Mrs. Roberts notified the secretary that Wal was a patient, and also that she had to return to her home for a period and that Wal would appreciate a visitor or two. Monty of course, attended to same in his usual manner, and had Wal perking up no end, with some photos of Greta to stir the memory. (We regret to say that Wally passed away, just as our paper was going to print, at his home in Mudgee. Our sincere sympathy to you, Belle, and your family).

Harry Waite, 2/2 and a new member of the association, now a resident of GyMEA, sends a thank you for the April and previous issues of the "News" posted to him on the words of Monty, who had contacted Harry at Concord. Harry had no knowledge of the association until a visit from Monty. Harry writes a cheery letter and hears of Harry Huggard through a mate occasionally and speaks of Charlie Richardson, whom he knew before World War II. Unfortunately, Harry's last spell in Concord has resulted in him being confined to a wheel chair, but claims he is quite well and happy, we hope that the copies of the paper bring back a few more names to jog his memory.

Mrs. Daisy McKewen sends a letter of thanks for the "News" posted on behalf of her husband, Cpt. Doug McKewen passed away on 26th December, 1972. Mrs. Mac wishes to continue receiving the paper and our secretary sends his apologies for not altering the stencil, however, this has now been attended to, and your wishes will be looked after. Thank you sincerely for the donation forwarded, and can assure you that they will be utilised to the fullest.

Allan McInnes, ex president of the Association, sends along a cheery letter of life on the Gold Coast, and his best wishes to all the boys of the Association. Tells of the very impressive ceremony held at Surfers Paradise on Anzac morning and a very successful mid-day march, with over 600 troops in attendance. The wreath laying took the form of books in lieu of flowers and a small library was laid on the day. Allan tells of a trip to Lismore where they had a few days with their new granddaughter, then travelled back through Kyogle to Toowoomba, Kingaroy, Bundaberg, Maryborough and the Sunshine Coast. At the committee meeting, held on Friday, the 21st June, 1974, we were all taken by surprise when Allan and Mary called on us, they were in Sydney for their son's wedding, so we received quite a bit of news first hand, and must say that the sunshine coast is certainly good for Allan. He looks a bit like a half boori. Thanks for the letter, Allan and we hope the big wing ding on Saturday night was a great success for you both.

Albert Mallett, 2/2, writes for both himself and Don McGill from the northern rivers district, where Albert is a traveller and Don a linesman on the P.M.G. Don was a little stirred up at their last meeting, where he was trying to get someone a telephone in the pouring rain, while the coloured boys were all getting full at the corner pub on "social." Both boys send along a cheque to keep the wolf from the door, and makes mention of the Henry Brothers, also Albert Hoare and Carl Ball, who never seem to get a mention, strange that you should comment on this as Bill Henry from Dolls Point, attended the 1974 Newcastle Reunion. Albert is a keen bowler and as such keeps tabs on Norah Brooks, 2/2 and Terry McGuire, on the green turf and I'd imagine at the Clubhouse too. Many thanks for the letter Albert, and keep sober with your company.

Larry Robson, 2/1, Newcastle, at it again, up and down that North Coast like a yo yo, where he looked up Bill Wade at Buledelah and Alex Durie at Coffs Harbour, also contacted Alec Cameron, Bill Payne, Maclean, Jim Casson, Grafton, Allan Crute, Woolgoolga and reports that all troops look well and fit. Has also seen Joe Hickey, Mick Flynn and an old C Coy, 2/1, Stan "Sploggy" Hodgetts, the latter unaware of the existence of the association, but now has the message. Has a whisper that Johnny Hunt and Fred Davenport are trying to organise a get-together in Brisbane in the near future and Larry suggests with good notice and the right week-end (would have to be long), could easily get quite a few starters, even from Sydney and Newcastle. Mick Flynn told Larry that Charlie Wilby spent Anzac Day with the Newcastle "Rats," and on spotting Mick, was heard to say, "Well there's one B . . . I know anyhow. Larry also passes on the information that Jean Bertram is back on her feet again after taking ill at the Rats Reunion at Adelaide and we of the association also pass on our good wishes to Jean in this regard. Many thanks for the news, Larry, my brother-in-law also received the information you left at the mill for him and thanks a lot for that, so long for now - keep sober!!

Jack Clark, 2/1 (old Dog Tired), now a resident of Rockdale, enclosed a sub for the association and the information that he spent the Anzac period at Bega, and marched with the troops down there where there was a roll-up of about 76 troops. From the ceremony to the R.S.L. where young and old turned to do good. Jack reports of quite a healthy two-up game in progress for approximately six hours, run by the Club, with the proceeds donated to Legacy. Sounds quite a good Anzac Day at Bega, glad you had a good day and hoping for you to be on deck in Sydney next year.

Eric Causer, Sig. Platoon, 2/1 and now on a property called Judys Hill, Macarthur, Victoria, sends along a letter and a sub (before Mr. Crean gets it). Eric has not been very fortunate with Pioneers down Macarthur way, so has nothing to report along those lines, however talking of his personal side, farming has not been all beer and skittles, and some rough times have been admitted, however, things did come good last year and hoping for a continuance of same, although anything can happen these days. Eric also enclosed quite a

brochure of a return to Balikpapan by members of the 25th Brigade and while it could be interesting to individual members, we do think it a bit too lengthy for publication. However, our secretary has this in hand and no doubt this will have been returned to you by the time this paper goes to press. Many thanks for the letter Eric, and no doubt Dennis George will think hard when he reads this issue.

Mrs. Dorothy Sheehan sends a letter informing the association of the death of her husband, George Sheehan, ex 2/1 officer and a man respected by all that knew him, both as an officer and on the sporting side where he showed much interest in the activities of the Battalion. George was also a member and a committeeman of the Kensington R.S.L. We do not mind your writing Mrs. S., we appreciate same and we offer our condolences to you, and while ever you wish to receive a copy of the "News" it shall be posted per mailing list.

Gordon Finlay looked up Sid Jopson at Port Macquarie on the Saturday following Anzac Day and Sid sends his regards to all. He also ran into Bill Tasker at Hurlstone Park R.S.L. early in May. Bill says he will be with us next year.

That's Mail Bag for this issue, I will not comment further on Anzac Day, as there are good reporters taking care of that, would like to say a cheerio to Margaret, Ian and Sandy, wife and sons of my old mate, Jim Robertson, with the thought that perhaps in the not so distant future, we may have the pleasure of seeing them up here in Sydney, no matter when, just phone!

Len Preedy, 2/2 of W.A. sends in two letters and we do thank you for interest you are taking in the Association. Apparently the Secretary has written to you in reply to your letters, as we have been told he is going to call in on you when he goes to Western Australia on the 16th August. Thanks Len, for all your news.

Good luck all.

LAKEY.

WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

Forty-five members attended the Wreath Laying Ceremony on Anzac Eve by marching from our Hunter Street rooms up to the Cenotaph in Martin Place.

The Marshall was Max Herron and the March was headed by the two Banners and the wreaths, carried by Mick Dodson 2/1, and Bob Dixon 2/2.

At the Cenotaph the wreaths were laid by Mick Dodson and Bob Dixon, with Mrs. Molly St. Vincent-Welsh, laying a sheaf of flowers on behalf of the Ladies Auxiliary.

Mick Dodson, the Association President, recited the Ode and a Buglar from another unit gave a rendition of the Last Post.

Members were then dismissed and after chatting with the Ladies, they proceeded to the Castlereagh for the Annual Meeting, while the Ladies went to a Restaurant for supper, with Peg Herron, Ladies Auxiliary Secretary.

It was pleasing to see such a gathering of members and their wives, which proves

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.

AWARD TO PEG HERRON

It was very pleasing to hear that Peg Herron, Secretary Ladies Auxiliary, had received two awards for her service to the Scout Association of Australia.

The first award was "The Certificate of Good Service," in recognition of ten years of valuable and faithful service, voluntarily given to the Scout Movement.

The second award was "The Thanks Badge," which is for especially outstanding service to Scouting over a period of fifteen years.

The citation stated Peg had not only been a constant member on the Group Committee, but had also been Secretary of the Group for three years, Assistant Secretary and Fete Secretary. For the past three years she has been District Badge Secretary, a position she still retains.

We extend to Peg, our heartiest congratulations on her fine effort of achievement and we also say "Thank You" for the interest she takes in the Pioneers and the amount of work she does in assisting the Secretary.

BOB LAKE.

LAST POST

● Mrs. Molly St. Vincent-Welsh has informed us of the death of Lieut. Tom Hulse, M.C., 2/2 Pioneers, at his home in Mansfield, Vic., on 10th March. Tom was awarded his M.C. for his outstanding leadership at Heath's Plantation in New Guinea and on several previous occasions. We extend our sincere sympathy to Mrs. Hulse and family from members of both 2/2 and 2/1 Pioneers.

● It was also with regret that we learn of the passing of Colonel Joe Lang, O.B.E., M.C., also of the 2/2 Pioneers at Redcliffe in Queensland, late last year at the age of 76. Col. Lang will be remembered by all members of the 2/2, especially those connected with the re-forming of the Battalion at Wagga and subsequent service with the Unit in New Guinea. Our sympathy is extended to his family.

● Our deepest sympathy is also extended to Mrs. Dorothy Sheehan, who informs us that her husband Lieut. George Sheehan, of A Coy, 2/1 Pioneers, passed away in Concord on 4th March, 1974. George was a member and Committee man of Kensington R.S.L. and will be sadly missed by his Club members, as well as his former mates of the 2/1.

● Our deepest sympathy goes to Marg. Ian and Sandy, wife and sons of Jim Robertson, of Wentworth, who passed away at home, after a long spell of illness.

● It was with regret and sadness that we heard from Bill Hoffman that Leo Ferris, 2/1, of Kyogle was killed on 11th July, while logging timber on his property. I know all Sigs and 2/1sts will join me in feeling very sad at hearing this news, for Leo was our officer and a perfect gentleman. To Leo's wife and family we extend our sincere sympathy.

— M. HERRON.

● Graham "Sailor" Witham passed away in June and at the June Committee meeting the President spoke highly of Graham as an ardent Committee worker. He will be sadly missed by all his friends.

COLONEL J. M. WILLIAMS, O.B.E., E.D.

COMMANDING OFFICER, 2/2nd PIONEERS

The following article is reprinted with acknowledgement to
"Barbed Wire and Bamboo."

Perhaps the career of Jack Williams could best be summed up in five words - **Fifty Years of Active Service.**"

Joining the C.M.F. in 1921, he served as a Lieutenant, was promoted to Captain in 1928, and received promotion to Major in 1938. Joined the A.I.F. in 1940 and helped to form the 17th Battalion with which unit he served in Palestine and at Tobruk as 2nd in Command; later with 2/15 Bn. as 2nd in Command at Tobruk, and with 20 AITB (Palestine) as Commanding Officer for a period of six months. He was then promoted to Lt. Colonel and posted to command 2/2 Pioneer Bn. in Syria. He reformed the unit and together with 2/3 M.G. Bn. and other troops, landed in Java in February, 1942 where, after a short but eventful campaign he was taken P.O.W. and sent to Burma to work on the infamous Railway. It was for his service during the Java campaign that he was awarded

the O.B.E. in 1947. In 1946 he had received the Efficiency Decoration (E.D.).

Commanding "Williams" Force on the Burma Railway, it was in this capacity that he became renowned for his bravery, initiative and qualities of leadership. His name was a by-word along the line, and through all the horrors and privations, the sickness and death and despair of those dreadful years, Jack Williams never faltered in his work and effort, and in his determination and endeavour to improve the conditions of his men. His very strength of character, his great courage under extreme cruelty and punishment, his determination of purpose acted as a beacon of faith and hope to those whom he led.

He had a brilliant military career, but it is safe to say that his work, example and service whilst a P.O.W. will always be equally well remembered.

Returning to Australia in September,

1945 with a list of 10,000 P.O.W. names, he was discharged in 1946. However, he was recalled to active service to give evidence at the major War Trials in Tokyo and was again discharged in 1947. Restless in retirement he joined the A.M.F. as A.A.G. (Personnel services) in 1947 and retired as Colonel in 1959. His busy life has included an eight month visit to Canada and U.S.A. to study Industrial Planning and Control in the General Electric Company. He was a member of the Institute of Production Engineers and served three years as Chairman on the Production Panel of the Australian Institute of Management. He was responsible for organising the 3/- per day sustenance claim for P.O.W. and presented the case to the Tribunal. He was elected and served two years as World Veterans Federation Councillor and attended meetings of the Federation in Paris, Bangkok and Copenhagen. He has represented the Ex-P.O.W. Association of Australia on the Australian Services Council and has been Patron of the Cumberland Baseball Association for 26 years, having been made a Life Member in 1971.

Joining the N.S.W. Ex-Prisoners of War Association in 1945 he was elected to the Committee in 1948, and was President in 1949 and again in 1951. Since 1951 he has held the position of President continuously for 22 years until last year.

In 1953 he formed the Federal Association (Ex-Prisoners of War Association of Australia) to which body he was elected Foundation Federal President in 1953, was re-elected Federal President for the year 1954-55 and again served in the position for a two year term 1965-1967.

The warm and sincere regards of every one of us are extended to Jack and Mrs. Williams, with best wishes for a long and happy retirement.

THE SERVICE PENSION AND YOU

To be entitled to the "Service Pension" one must have served in a theatre of war with the Australian Forces, and be over the age of sixty years (a female fifty five) and of course be subjected to the "Means Test."

Briefly, you are required to submit a statement of your financial position.

A returned married man having satisfied the Repatriation Dept. in this, with his wife fully supported, can have a home, irrespective of cost or value, and its contents, plus a motor car each as long as it is for private use, without prejudicing their claim.

Besides all this they can have \$18,740 in cash or in the bank and still receive a pension of \$20.25 each per week.

Obviously after that amount has been passed it tapers off and finally cuts out at \$60,880.

By way of explanation, if a married couple had say \$35,380 in cash they would get only \$12.25 each per week.

In the case where the wife who is not sixty but is being fully supported by her returned ex-serviceman husband (which is required by law before being able to get the old age pension) under the new regulations, she would get an allowance of \$20.25 per week, until she became eligible in her own right of age.

Additional allowances of up to \$10 per week is made for each child who is a dependant.

FRINGE BENEFITS

There are fringe benefits such as concessions for telephone, Council and Water Rates, Television and Radio licenses, free medical and hospital treatment for those who receive 72 per cent. and over of the maximum amount payable.

In the case of a single returned man, provided he fulfils the Departments re-

quirements on the Means Test, he too can have his own home, furniture, etc., motor car, \$10,000 in cash or bank and receive \$23 per week. This finishes up at \$34,720.

It does not matter how much money or property a T.P.I. man has, because his pension was awarded by a Commonwealth Medical Tribunal and therefore he does not have to submit any information for the Means Test.

TO APPLY FOR THE PENSION

To apply for the particular pension, the application forms can only be obtained from the Deputy Commissioner of Repatriation in the Capital city in which the member resides.

In receiving this special service allowance, it is not charity but what you have earned and are entitled to.

It is really surprising the number of enquiries received from members on this subject. They just did not know the opportunities available and because they were advised they now receive their just entitlements.

This Service Pension scheme was first introduced into Federal Parliament by the U.A.P. Government (Prime Minister J. Lyons) in November 1935. The Bill was passed and payments commenced on 1st January, 1936 and was then known as "The Australian Soldiers' Repatriation Act, 1935."

If you have any problems in this regard ring or write to me.

HARRY MONTAGUE.
Welfare Officer
46 Pomeroy St., Homebush.
Phone: 76-6657.

PLAQUES

FOR WAR SERVICE GRAVES

From widows and next of kin of our members who have passed on, we have received enquiries regarding Plaques showing the military details of the deceased ex-serviceman (as shown on graves provided by the War Graves Commission), but whose death was not accepted by the Repatriation Department as War Causes.

In this case the next of kin can apply to the War Graves Commission and at their own expense and arrangements, can purchase what is known as "Non War type Bronze Memorial Plaque" for erection on the grave. They are similar to the official type.

This application to the Director, War Graves Commission, P.O. Box 93, Richmond, Victoria, 3121, must state the deceased's name, regimental number, rank and unit. They will issue a document authorising the use of the Commonwealth Badge, which is required by the manufacturer of the Bronze Plaque.

In the case of the T.P.I., or one whose death is due to War Causes the War Graves Commission offer the official Plaque free of cost.

H. MONTAGUE.

PIONEER NEWS

Phone: 759-5491

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Farewell - Lt.Col. N. P. H. NEAL, MC, MM

BORN 28th MARCH, 1891 - DIED 18th OCTOBER, 1974 - AGE 83

At 2.30 p.m. on 22nd October, 1974, a representative group from the 2/1 Pioneer Battalion and some staunch friends from an earlier war said a sad farewell to yet another of our earlier senior officers. Lt.Col. Normie Neal had almost recovered from the second stroke he suffered in mid-year and was looking forward to taking up residence at the War Veterans Home at Narrabeen when he developed pneumonia. He was taken into R.G.H. Concord and died on the evening of Friday, 18th October.

Normie will be fondly remembered for many things, but principally for the devotion he showed to the Battalion over many years in leading the Anzac Day March, and making sure that he attended the afternoon smokes which followed.

Members of the Battalion will be interested to learn of the distinctions he achieved during his lifetime. It is a story of bravery, resourcefulness and pioneering during periods of both peace and war.

He was 24 when he arrived at Gallipoli on 24th August, 1915 as a Signaller with 1 Div. Sig. Coy and six months later was moved to France. Later, as a Sergeant he was awarded the MM for action at Pozieres - the first of his three awards for bravery.

On 18th October, 1917 as Lieutenant Neal he was awarded the MC and four weeks later, on 14th November, 1917 was awarded a bar to the MC. The citation for these awards record that he showed the greatest gallantry and devotion to duty.

Back in Australia he continued to serve as a Militia Officer until 30th November, 1925 with 55th Inf. Bn., by this time with the rank of Captain. In addition to part time soldiering he tried his hand at adventurous pastimes. With a friend named Clem Ryrie he took on flying and they were reputed to be the first to fly over the Blue Mountains and commenced a period of "barnstorming" around the West of New South Wales.

MEMBER LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Normie then went to New Guinea where he made a name as a pioneer and explorer with success in winning gold at Wau and Edie Creek. He served two terms as a Member of the New Guinea Legislative Council.

Back to Australia with war in the offing he was re-appointed to the Reserve of Officers in July, 1939 and, as we know, joined our Battalion in May of 1940 as Major OC B Company.

He served with us through the Middle East and Tobruk back to Australia and finally left us to take on special duties with the R.A.A.F. in August, 1942.



Lt.Col. N. P. H. NEAL, M.C., M.M.

With the R.A.A.F., by now Lt.Col. Neal he was responsible for planning and organising the ground defence of airfields for the island hopping campaigns, in particular at Arawe, the Admiralties, Aitape, the Noemfoors, Tarakan and Labuan.

He then returned to Army duty and at the end of the War was commanding 1st New Guinea Infantry Battalion.

MINING AT RUM JUNGLE

Later back in Australia and out of the Army, he spent a number of years in the Northern Territory with uranium mining at Rum Jungle and finally retired to live at Penrith in the mid sixties.

In his later years he suffered from failing sight and very successfully fought back against his first stroke. He had almost beaten the second one when the end came. He was a fighter all the way. The playing of the Last Post at the end of the service was a fitting tribute to this outstanding soldier.

Farewell - Lt.Col. Normie Neal.

GORDON OSBORN.

VALE

Lt. Col. Norman Harold Neal,
M.C. and Bar, M.M.

Tuesday, 22nd October, 1974 at North-ern Suburbs Crematorium, members of the 2/1 Pioneer Battalion joined in with the relations and friends of the Late Lt. Col. Norman Harold Neal, M.C. and Bar, M.M., to pay tribute in farewell to their Colonel and friend.

The Late Normie or Nuggett, as he was known to us all, looked forward to Anzac Day when a couple of his Officers took him to the Reunion of the 2/1 - 2/2 Pioneer Battalions. It was there that he enjoyed a chin wag with his boys.

About three weeks prior to his passing I saw him at the Private Hospital where he had just about overcome his disability he had been left with after the stroke. His words to me were: "Lad, I have beat these so and so's, I have got a long way to go yet before they take me." Unfortunately this was not the case.

The community has lost a well respected gentleman and we have lost a good old friend. "Lest We Forget."

Two of Normie's old mates from 1st Division Signals came down from Newcastle for the service to pay their respects to their old mate from World War I. They were Frank Woolleett and Eric Cuppit, who also brought Dick Seddon with them.

It was pleasing to see the 2/1 Pioneer Battalion well represented by: Gordon Osborne, Jack Lloyd, Bill Jollie, Frank Allen, Bob Lake, Gordon Finlay, John Morahan, Cyril Morahan, Max Herron, Fergus Robertson, Hilary Lester, Dick Seddon, Jack Dodson and several of the wives. If Normie could see his boys who farewelled him, he would have had a smile on his face.

JACK (Mick) DODSON.

• **JOHN "Bluey" CHASE**, Sig. Platoon, 2/1, passed away on 30th August at the Royal North Shore Hospital. Knowing his complaint was beyond medical help, one could not help but admire "Bluey" in his last days. He was a brave man, to the very end. To his widow, Carmel, and her children we extend our sincere sympathy in their sad loss. The funeral was attended by many of his old friends of the Sig Platoon, including Bob Burnside, Pat Noonan, Jack Stone, Jack Boyce and others, also a representative gathering from the Papuan and New Guinea Rifles. (Mrs. Chase and her family have tendered their sincere thanks and appreciation to all and sincerely requests that our Association be thanked for all they did during "Bluey's" hospitalization).

Q'LAND PIONEERS - possible get-together

At a recent visit to Brisbane I met several Pioneers, and as usual during the conversation, discussion took place about some of the reunions that had been held in N.S.W.

Some of the boys asked why we cannot have a get-together for the Pioneers in Brisbane and suburbs. Fred Davenport who travels each year to Sydney for Anzac Day, has suggested a barbecue which could possibly be held at his or any other place suitable. This get-together could be a lead up to a reunion following N.S.W. and Queensland Pioneers.

MAJORITY OF PIONEERS RETIRED

Now that the majority of us are not on the labour force, and relaxing, we look forward to these reunions to meet our old mates again. I know Sydney Pioneers will be behind any suggestion of a reunion and will give every assistance.

Would interested Pioneers please contact Fred Davenport, at 54 Palmtree Avenue, Scarborough, Queensland, on telephone 84-0892. Many Pioneers travelling in Queensland have called on Fred Davenport and his good wife, Nell, and have a lot to thank them for, in the way they have made the visit so pleasant.

Queensland Pioneers, it is up to you, and will cost you the price of a telephone call to contact Fred Davenport in regards to a get-together. I feel sure you will help Fred with his very good idea. Thank you fellows.

JACK (Mick) DODSON,
President.

PIONEERS MEMORIAL SERVICE

In keeping with the Association's Annual Remembrance Service, which is indeed the most sacred tradition every Armistice Day time, Stan Claughton, who was the Padre of the 2/2 Pioneers, and who is now retired from active clerical duties, with his charming wife Jean, invited members, their wives, families and friends to their residence at Pennant Hills to pay respects to our old coppers from both Battalions, who have passed on.

Welcoming each and all, they both stated what a great pleasure and honour it was for such a representative attendance to join together in paying tributes to those who we most sadly miss.

The religious service was short, and certainly covered the purpose for which we had gathered. Bob Dixon read the Lesson, Jim Field recited the 23rd Psalm, and at the conclusion I quoted the "Ode".

Really it was a very nice interesting session, and a splendid gesture by Stan and Jean in making their home available for such a sacred assembly, which was deeply appreciated.

Afterwards, light refreshments were served, and believe me, a lot of time

must have been spent in arranging such a spread.

Honestly this afternoon tea party was wonderful, and one could have been excused if they thought it was the Feast of the Passover, with all the food that had been provided.

Truly again, it was a glorious occasion and how we can thank Stan and Jean Claughton for their overwhelming hospitality is beyond me. So please accept our organisation's heartfelt appreciation for being our hosts in paying esteemed thoughts of all our old "Digger Cobbers" who we will never forget.

We will remember them.

HARRY MONTAGUE.

VALE

Lt. Leo Ferris, Signal Platoon,
2/1 Pioneer Battalion.

The death occurred in July, 1974, at Kyogle Memorial Hospital of Albert Leo Ferris, aged 58 years as the result of an accident.

Mr. Ferris was born at Upper Tia, via Walcha, N.S.W. and as a child lived in the Kingaroy district until 1926 when the family moved to Ruthven, via Lismore.

His parents were the late Mr. & Mrs. Alexander Frederick Ferris, of Lynch's Creek.

He attended school at Lismore and was the student selected to represent the school at the Sydney Harbour Bridge opening in 1932. In 1932 the family settled at Lynch's Creek and he completed his education at Kyogle High School.

He played inter-district cricket and was chosen in a team to play against N.S.W.

Mr. Ferris fought in World War II in the Middle East and New Guinea.

He was a lieutenant in the 5th Light Horse division and was one of the Rats of Tobruk.

Following the war he settled at Lynch's Creek and with brother Alex built and commenced sawmilling in 1946.

Some of his community involvements

were Lynch's Creek Sunday School, Junior Farmers, Indoor Bowls, Lynch's Creek Hall Committee, The Risk Bowling Club, Kyogle Methodist Mens Development Council, Legatee, Noxious Weeds Association and he provided assistance with work on the Lion's Road.

His funeral took place at Kyogle Methodist Church on July 13 and following a service conducted by Rev. J. McLean he was buried in Kyogle cemetery.

He leaves a wife, six children and three grandchildren.

They are: wife Nita; sons John, Jim, Bill and Peter; daughters Doreen (Mrs. Galvin) and Delma and grandchildren Wayne and Paul Galvin and Susan Ferris.

He also has three sisters, Nell Tulk (Lismore), Mary Coghlan (Back Road) and one brother Alex (Lismore).

Editor's Note: We are indebted to Bill Hoffman, Country Vice-President, for this obituary notice from the local newspaper. All Pioneers join me in extending sincere sympathy to Nita Ferris and family. Leo was my Sig. Officer and he was an officer, a perfect gentleman and a real friend. We will sadly miss him, and we will remember him.

MAX HERRON.

WELFARE REPORT

This section has been particularly busy over these last few months, visiting many of our old coppers who were confined to Concord and various hospitals in the city, also attending the very high number of funerals of late Association members. Ill-health and old age are gradually taking their toll of many of our mates.

Calls for advice and representations on behalf of our members was also given, and it is pleasing to report that the results were very good.

Wonderful assistance has been given me by that great fellow from the 2/2 Pioneers, Don Linton, who is secretary at the Repatriation Hospital at Concord, in problems on repatriation and medical centres admittance of our members. Many thanks to you, Don, for your help and co-operation.

Much could be written of my travels and interviews on behalf of members, but many of the hours spent were of benefit to those concerned. I am grateful to the various Government Departments for their assistance at all times.

● **HARRY WAITE**, R.S.M., 2/2, had another stay at Concord, but as cheerful as ever. He asked to be remembered to all 2/2nds.

● **DAVE MITCHELL**, C. Coy., 2/1, was also hospitalised lately and it was good to see the old coppers again. He still resides at Orange and although a T.P.I. is keeping on the move and sends best wishes to all.

● Another of the old brigade also in hospital for a while was **JOHN SPENCE**, B. Coy., 2/1. John was very ill for a time, but thanks to the good care and attention of the staff and his wife, Muriel, he is now recovered and back at his home in Wingham, near Taree. Like the rest of us, he looks forward to his copy of the News and sends his regards to all concerned.

● Came across **DAVE AUSTIN**, original of B. Coy., 2/1, who was also at Concord recently. Dave lives at Sutherland and as I had not seen him for nearly 24 years, you can imagine the earbashing that went on over the weekly visits.

● My very good friends on the Staff at Concord informed me of a new arrival from the 2/2, **EWAN CAMERON**. Ewan turned out to be the brother of that great fella from the 2/1, Alex Cameron of Maclean. Ewan lives at Blackhalls and has been placed on our mailing list as a new member.

● **DON SLATER**, A. Coy., 2/1, was also receiving medical attention at Concord recently. Being old 8 Plt. mates we had a great chin wag session, not having seen one another for a couple of years. Thanks for your donation, Don, it has been passed on to our treasurer.

● **SYD. KENT**, 2/1, was also in for a spell and introduced me to Ernie Hales, brother of Toby Hales from Kyogle. A great discussion arose on all our Kyogle blokes and it was good to hear of their doings.

HARRY MONTAGUE.

from the MAIL BAG

Once more an issue of our paper and another publication of the Mail Bag, with letters from Queensland, N.S.W., Victoria and West Australia - quite a good mixture and almost internationally Aust.

KEN STUART, now at Turrumurra, N.S.W. sends a letter including subs for the Treasurer and the news of his retirement from Qantas after 24 years with the Company. Ken and Jan saw quite a lot of the World in his service and still retains the use of travel rights after stand down. Ken quotes that they will want to visit San Francisco once more where they spent five very happy years, 1966 to 1971. As Ken says, you may knock the Yanks all you like, but they can be very nice people in their own country and can be very good friends, many of which they made in their stay there. At present Ken is just loafing around the house, however, will probably take up some not too strenuous position in the near future to occupy some of his spare time. Also states that he was in contact with Humphrey Jackson recently, who has also retired and planning to spend his spare time at Norfolk Island in the very near future. Thanks for a good letter, Ken and sincerely hope you spend a very happy retirement over a long period of time.

JOHN SPENCE, per medium of wife, Muriel, resident of Wingham, N.S.W., writes a letter expressing thanks for the Association and attention proffered to them both by our Monty, on a recent expedition to Concord, where Jack underwent a serious operation, which we thankfully report, completely successful. Were I to write all that Muriel says of Monty, I am sure the old fellow would even blush, but we appreciate all that you say, and we know that he does it for all Pioneers which makes him a little something special to all of us. Muriel also quotes that at this particular time Monty also found **LEN O'CONNER** and acquaintances were renewed with what is described as a Pioneer Reunion in Ward 630 for quite a period of time. Many thanks for the letter, Muriel and Jack, and sincerely wish you every success for a good and quick recovery.

BILL MACE, resident of Green Point, sends along a short letter enclosing subs and an apology for the lapse of time between same, apologies not really necessary, because all the boys come good on the occasion, especially when that little man starts knocking in the heads. Bill still enjoying good health and is employed on the Toll Gates, I presume, on the Gosford expressway, where it is a good job, but gets bleeding cold at odd times. Thanks for the letter Bill and all the best to yourself and family.

RAY "Joe" BLANCH, now resident of Beaudesert, Qld., sends the same good newsy letter we know to expect from the snowy fellow these days with subs for the treasurer enclosed.

Joe saw quite a few of the old Pioneers when he returned to Kyogle recently to attend the funeral of Leo Ferris. Circumstances could have been better and the names of all the boys were taken by our Country V.P., Bill Hoffman, who no doubt will forward to the secretary. While in the old home town, Joe and Mavis spent a few hours with brother Cecil and his wife. Joe is employed by Farmers Transport Coy., Beaudesert, and would welcome any Pioneer passing through to give him a call. For relaxation both Joe and Mavis spend their time on the Bowling Green, which they enjoy very much and play with great

enthusiasm. The three Blanch offsprings are all settled fairly wide apart, which provides a bit of travelling to the grandparents periodically. Son Bill at Sydney, one daughter at Southport and one that stayed close to the fold, at Beaudesert. Thanks for the letter Joe, and all the best from us at Sydney.

KEITH REYNOLDS ("Ghandi") sends a cheque from Wentworthville, N.S.W., four lines written on a sheet of paper saying "With regards and Best Wishes" and nought else, so I am afraid I can only repeat same and any further news would be completely accidental, one thing he will never break the postman's back with his heavy letter!

FRANK ALLAN, 2/1 resident of Wahroonga, N.S.W., sends a letter and enclosed a map of the Moresby-Iorabawa area, which he suggests would be appreciated by the Australian War Memorial at Canberra, and that same should be sent officially by the Association. Many thanks Frank and the enclosed will be dealt with by the secretary.

LEN PREEDY, 2/2, and now at Sheraton Park, West. Australia, sends a letter telling of a very successful bowls day, where he had the fortune to strike a couple of fellow Pioneers. Len enclosed the name **J. CRISPIN**, of Bently, and requesting that the paper be forwarded to him. Len is hoping for quite some 2/2 Pioneers to be present at the next R.S.L. Bowls Carnival to be held in Melbourne next Christmas. Now come on you 2/2 blokes, if Len can travel from West Australia, surely you blokes down there in the Southern City can arrange a get-together.

Keep the date in mind, it will only be a matter of weeks after you receive this copy of the paper.

RICHARD SEDDON, our Newcastle newsman, sends a short note this month with not a lot of doings from the Coal City, would appear that the weather has been rough for socialising, however, Dick has sent the address of **HERB WILSON**, of Mayfield, who does not receive the paper which shall be rectified as from now on. Good to hear from you Dick, our regards to "Pearly" and all the Pioneer "Girls" at Newcastle.

GEORGE PATTERSON, 2/1, resident of St. Ives, Sydney, sends a subscription to the Association and the news that business commitments prevent him from taking a more active part in our doings, however, he is still with us in spirit. George's time is spent half way per year between Hong Kong, Melbourne and Sydney, apparently he still enjoys the occupation and even shows regret that time will demand a little slowing down of his efforts. Trying to look well ahead, he hopes to be home next year at the right time and promises to renew acquaintances on our Anzac Day venture. Many thanks for the letter, George. Cheque in treasurer's hot little hand, where it will do most good.

As is usual at this time of the year, I have been on holidays, where Joan and I travelled up the North Coast for a couple of weeks at Laurieton. While there of course, we skipped up to Port Macquarie where drinks were partaken with Sid Jopson and Myrtle on a couple of occasions.

Strangely enough there were not a lot of the Pioneers to be found, we also called into the R.S.L. at Kempsey, where I enquired after Bluey Eather, however Blue does not do penance there any longer, although the Manager said he was still at Kempsey, but did not know where he was employed Also telephoned

the big fellow at Coffs Harbour, **FRED WHEATON**, had a yarn with him, and was informed that he had had **RAY HORNE** as a side kick for a couple of weeks, who in turn were surrounded by **BERT HOLMES** and Marj. for a couple of evenings. We were also surrounded by Bert and Mary while sipping at Port with Sid and family. Bert was staying at Lake Cathie and had arranged a couple of trips with the local fishermen from Laurieton, however we never met them again.

OS THURLING, H.Q. Coy., 2/1, writes from New Lambton with the news of the passing of two old Pioneers - the late Col. N. Neal and Charles Cooper, of Speers Point. Charlie had been President of Boolaroo-Speers Point R.S.L. Club for more than 20 years and was planning to retire at the end of this term. News of the death of Normie Neal, is reported elsewhere in the paper. "Ossie" is now retired and does not see many of the old crowd. Sorry you did not have any luck with your pension appeal, but maybe you'll have better luck next time. Your donation to the News has been passed on to the Treasurer. Many thanks Os, and for your good wishes.

ERN JANSEN, 2/2, of Croydon Park sent along a very welcome donation for which we thank you. Ern has been away chasing the sun and finds the News very interesting reading when he gets back. Thanks for the letter, Ern, and good luck.

DICK SEDDON, 2/1, of Hamilton also sent us a cutting from the "Newcastle Herald" on the passing of our late Col. Normie Neal. Dick was in Sydney for the funeral and said it was good to see such a roll-up of the boys to pay their respects to the old fellow. With a bit of luck, Dick expects to be down for Anzac Day, so hope you can make it.

GLENNIS PORTORS, of Lavington, has written a short note telling us of the passing of her father, Bill Portors, 2/1, who was killed in a car accident. Our sincere sympathy is extended to you and your family, Glennis.

DICK ALCHIN, 2/2, of Dalton writes a thank you letter to "Monty" and the news that he is now out of Concord and feeling O.K. Thank you for your donation, Dick, and trust by now you are back at work and in the best of health.

KYOGLE HIGH SCHOOL, through their Principal, has written to the Association thanking them for their generous donation of the book "A Pictorial History of Australian Railways 1854-1970" to their school library. Each year the Association, along with other organisations, donates a book to the Newcastle "Rats" to be placed on the memorial on Tobruk Sunday in place of a wreath. These books are given to various schools, and Kyogle High was the Pioneer's nomination for 1974.

ERIC "BOMBO" REYNOLDS, Don Coy., 2/1, of Coogee has recently returned from a trip to Melbourne where he and his wife, Joyce, were staying with their daughter, Alison, and husband for a few weeks. The weather wasn't the best but on returning to Sydney they spent five days at Jenolan Caves and thoroughly enjoyed its peace and quietness. Eric mentions seeing Roy Jardine, A. Coy., also Jack Lee of the 2/3 Pioneers, and says there's always a few words of Arabic spoken. He has been with McPherson's for 11 years now, still packing orders for the islands, mainly New Guinea. All the best to you Eric, and many thanks for your donation

which is in the treasurer's hot little hands.

BILL HOFFMAN, 2/1, of Kyogle sent a short note recently and a welcome donation to the News. Bill informs us that the funeral service for Leo Ferris, who was killed recently in a logging accident, was very well attended, at the Methodist Church, Kyogle.

The 2/1 Pioneers were represented by Bruce McNaughton from Grafton, Colin Scholes, Alec George, Bill Hood, Peter Bell, Jack Shearman, Ray Blanch from Beaudesert, Qld., Cec. Blanch, Ted Felton, Jim Hall and Bill himself. Together with other town organisations, the above carried wreaths from the church and acted as Pall Bearers Nice to hear from you again, Bill, and hope you can make it to Sydney next Anzac Day. Try and get some of those Kyogle fellows to make the trip with you!

JOHN TREVETHICK, 2/1, of Lane Cove, was recently appointed General Manager of David Jones' Shopping Centre at Parramatta. He is also on the Board of Directors of David Jones for the whole of N.S.W. Congratulations on your appointment, John.

MAX HERRON, H.Q. Coy., of Beverley Hills, wrote in to tell of his travels with Peg across to Western Australia by car in August. They toured all the way up the coast to Exmouth, staying at Geraldton and Carnarvon, on return they stayed at Wanneroo, ten miles out of Perth and while here visited Len Preedy at Shenton Park. Len and wife Joy, with son, Greg, took Peg and Max around the sights of Perth and Freemantle then down the south to many of the beaches.

After leaving Perth they toured around the south of W.A. and stayed at Bunbury, Pemberton, Albany, then up to Norseman and across the Nullarbor to South Australia. All told they travelled 8,400 miles. Max mentions that he thinks he has talked Len and Joy Preedy into

coming over to Sydney for next Anzac Day - so we will be looking forward to seeing you, Len.

That completes the Mail Bag for this issue, with best wishes for the festive season and a Happy New Year to all.

LAKEY.

LAST POST

● Since our last issue we have lost several of our well-known and respected officers and men and our very sincere sympathy is extended to their relatives and friends.

● **COL. NORMIE (Nuggett) NEAL** and **COL. GEOFF GRAHAM** both passed away during the last few weeks and their loss will be a great blow to our Association.

● **ALWYN JAMES "Nip" KEARSLEY**, C. Coy, 2/1, of Ourimbah was killed in an accident during September. "Nip" was a very popular member of the unit and his death came as a shock to all who knew him. Our deepest sympathy was extended to his family.

● Another original who also passed away in September was **REG SMITH** of B. Coy., 2/1. Reg died in Calvary Hospital at Kogarah and a private funeral was held at Rookwood. Our sincere sympathy was extended to his family.

● **ALBERT RICHARD ("Snowy") FOWKES**, 2/1, of Wentworthville, passed away on the 2nd November and his funeral was at St. John's Cathedral in Parramatta. He will be sadly missed by all his friends.

● **NORM EGAN**, 2/1, of Drummoyne also passed away early in November and our sincere sympathy is extended to his family. Norm was Secretary/Manager of Drummoyne R.S.L. Club and will be sadly missed by his Club Members, as well as former mates of the 2/1.

● **CAPT. R. PEGG**, 8 Pl., A Coy. 2/1.

● **CPL. JOCK McCULLOUGH**, 8 Pl., A Coy., 2/1.

● **"Sailor" WITHAM**, H.Q. Coy., 2/1.

● **REG SMITH**, B Coy., 2/1.

It is with the greatest of regret and sorrow the above announcement has to be reported of the loss to us of five of the old originals, who were most deeply respected by all whose memory will never fade.

The Association was represented at the funerals, floral tributes were sent, and our organisation's sympathies were personally tendered to the widows and next-of-kin.

We will remember them.

HARRY MONTAGUE.

"PIONEER NEWS"

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

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

Letters must contain surname, christian name and nick name (if any). Platoon, Company, Battalion and present address.

When forwarding a new address, please include your old address.

The cost of the "Pioneer News" is 50 cents per annum.

SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE

As Treasurer, may I take this opportunity to thank members of both Battalions for their generous donations on Anzac Day and per medium of letters received. April and May are undoubtedly our most expensive months, with catering for the Reunion, the Annual Meeting and a lot of other expenses to contend with. It is very gratifying to me to see the necessary funds being so readily given.

May I remind those members who have not paid their yearly subscription, that it is NOW DUE. With your subscription, please send some news of your family and your happenings. After all the "Pioneer News" is a good way of keeping in touch with friends. What may seem commonplace to you is often news to somebody who knew you many years ago.

DOUG SHEARSTON, Treasurer.

GENERAL NEWS

A few weeks ago I was having a chat to Mrs. Pegg, widow of the late Capt. Rod Pegg, who was then about to depart for London to be present at the wedding of their daughter, in that capital.

This lady earnestly requested me to forward on our newspaper, as she was and still is, a most ardent supporter of her late husband's old Battalion, which obviously I promised to do.

To reciprocate for such kind interests,

I forwarded a beautiful Wedding congratulations card to the happy couple, on behalf of our Association, and Rod's 8 Platoon, A Co. mates.

Recently a reply was received in acknowledgement from the happily married young lady, thanking us all for such kind thoughts and wishes, and considers this tribute as one of the greatest received, and will always deeply treasure our respects.

ATTENTION ALL BOWLERS

Gentlemen - if possible a day out for bowlers. We know bowlers enjoy their day's out, not only for the bowls, but the company and friendship that develops from these outings. This will be a Pioneers day, a date and place yet to be made.

I have no doubt that this can be arranged at Five Dock R.S.L. Bowling Club, or any other Club to suit all members. This idea will depend upon the response from you gentlemen. I have discussed this Bowls Day with Pioneers that I have met playing bowls at different clubs and they have all been for the idea. Now gentlemen, please give this a lot of thought and contact me at my home on telephone 72-4091. You also can assist with the Bowls Day by speaking to other bowlers in the Pioneers and interesting them in a days outing on the bowling green.

I feel sure that with your support we can have a successful days outing. It will be another way of having a mini reunion which could develop into an annual event. Don't forget the telephone number - 72-4091. Good bowling gentlemen.

JACK (Mick) DODSON,

RED CROSS NEXT-OF-KIN HOSTEL

The above organisation has a most comfortable Hostel which can be used by the next-of-kin of dangerously or seriously ill patients at Concord Repatriation Hospital, provided they live outside the metropolitan area or interstate. There is a charge of \$3.00 per day (at this date) for adults, and \$1.50 per day for children. Children under five are free. Children are only taken as an emergency, as accommodation is limited.

Full board (bed and three meals a day) is provided and this lovely building is managed by a very efficient housekeeper. Telephone is connected, and in the event of an emergency the relatives can be summoned to the hospital. It is only five minutes walk to the Medical Centre and a bus passes the door. Accommodation is normally arranged through the Red Cross Centre at the R.G.H.

Anyone knowing in advance of the necessity to stay at the Hostel can contact the Society's representative, Mrs. A. Stedman, Red Cross Centre, Repatriation Hospital, Concord, or phone 73-3341.

Next-of-kin of patients who are not listed on the dangerously or seriously ill lists, but who owing to special circumstances wish to be near a patient, can write or phone the above mentioned lady stating their reasons for desiring to be at the Hostel and their request will be given sympathetic consideration. Also Red Cross "dangerously ill" rooms provide accommodation for next-of-kin in bed sitting rooms within the hospital itself, when the condition of the patient requires them to be within immediate call. Facilities are also provided for snacks in each room, as well as accommodation for overnight stays.

Normally a Red Cross Hospital visitor is on call to be of any assistance. In her absence, a Padre on duty is always available.

For any further information on the subject, I will be only too happy to assist.

HARRY MONTAGUE,
Phone: 76-6657.